

# SUMMER 2025

Walton Priory Middle School



# THE BEACON

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# A LETTER FROM OUR HEADTEACHER

## Miss Houlton

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of another school year, it is with great pride and joy that I reflect on the many highlights and achievements of the past term. The summer term is always one filled with celebration, growth, and fond farewells — and this year has been no exception. Our sports day was, quite simply, fabulous. The energy, teamwork, and good spirit shown by all our pupils was a pleasure to witness. Whether it was sprinting down the track, cheering on classmates, or giving their all to the field event, every child played their part. Events like this really showcase the best of our school community—determination, encouragement, and joy in shared success.



One of the standout moments of the term was the Year 8 residential to France. This was more than just a holiday; it was an opportunity for our students to broaden their horizons, experience a new culture, and spend quality time together as a year group before moving on to the next chapter of their educational journeys. From practising their French at the market to exploring local landmarks, the pupils represented the school beautifully and returned with lasting memories.

We were also delighted to welcome our newest pupils, who joined us in preparation for September. It has been heartwarming to see how warmly they have been received by their peers and how quickly they have settled into school life. This early start will no doubt help make the transition into the new academic year smoother and more enjoyable.

While we celebrate new beginnings, we also mark some heartfelt goodbyes. As we prepare to say farewell to our Year 8 leavers, we do so with a sense of pride and a touch of sadness. They have been a wonderful cohort, and we will miss their enthusiasm, leadership, and friendship. We wish them all the very best as they move on to high school, and we have no doubt they will continue to thrive and make their mark.

Meanwhile, our Year 6 enjoyed a fabulous week at PGL, filled with adventure, laughter, and the kind of experiences that build confidence and camaraderie. Whether they were tackling the climbing wall, trying out canoeing, or simply enjoying late-night chats in their tents, the week was a brilliant opportunity for personal growth and fun.

As the academic year draws to a close, I want to take a moment to thank all the staff for their unwavering dedication and to you, our parents and carers, for your continued support. The strength of our school lies in the relationships we build—between pupils, staff, and families—and it is those relationships that help our children flourish.

Finally, I hope you all have a magical summer, filled with laughter, relaxation, and special moments together. These weeks are a precious chance to unwind, recharge, and enjoy family time before we return to school in September.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday.

Miss Houlton

# NEWS AND INFORMATION



## TERM DATES

### AUTUMN TERM 2025

INSET Day: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September  
Term Starts: Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September  
Half Term: Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October - Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October  
Term Ends: Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December  
INSET Day: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December  
Christmas Break: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December - Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January

### SPRING TERM 2026

INSET Day: Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January  
Term Starts: Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January  
Half Term: Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February  
Term Ends: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March  
Easter Break: Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April  
Easter Sunday: 5<sup>th</sup> April

### SUMMER TERM 2026

Term Starts: Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April  
May Day: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May  
Half Term: Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May - Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May  
INSET Day: Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June  
Term Ends: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July  
INSET Day: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July  
Summer Break: Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July - Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JULY

18<sup>th</sup> - Last Day of School

### SEPTEMBER

1<sup>st</sup> - INSET Day  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Back to School for Students  
2<sup>nd</sup> - Welcome to Y6 Event 3.30-4.00pm  
3<sup>rd</sup> - Welcome to Y7 Event 3.30-4.00pm  
4<sup>th</sup> - Welcome to Y8 Event 3.30-4.00pm  
18<sup>th</sup> - Y5 E-Safety Briefing for Parents 3.30-4.00pm  
30<sup>th</sup> - Y5 Star Dome Trip

### OCTOBER

2<sup>nd</sup> - Y6 Local History Trip  
3<sup>rd</sup> - Y5 SEND Coffee Afternoon for Parents  
7<sup>th</sup> - Y5 & Y7 Parents' Evening  
8<sup>th</sup> - Y5 Geography VR Day  
9<sup>th</sup> - Y5 & Y7 Parents' Evening  
10<sup>th</sup> - World Mental Health Day  
14<sup>th</sup> - Y7 Rivers Trip  
16<sup>th</sup> - Walton Priory Open Evening 4.00-7.00pm  
17<sup>th</sup> - Y7 Rivers Trip  
23<sup>rd</sup> - Y7 Halloween Disco 5.30-7.00pm

### NOVEMBER

6<sup>th</sup> - Y8 Halloween Disco 5.30-7.00pm  
11<sup>th</sup> - Y6 & Y8 Parents' Evening  
12<sup>th</sup> - Y6 Gladstone Pottery Visit  
13<sup>th</sup> - Y6 & Y8 Parents' Evening  
13<sup>th</sup> - Y6 Gladstone Pottery Visit  
14<sup>th</sup> - Children in Need  
24<sup>th</sup> - Y6 Mock SATs start  
28<sup>th</sup> - Y8 Black Country Living Museum

### DECEMBER

2<sup>nd</sup> - Choir Concert at Victoria Hall  
5<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Fayre  
10<sup>th</sup> - Y6 St Michael & St Wulfad Church Visit  
18<sup>th</sup> - Whole School Enrichment Day  
18<sup>th</sup> - Last Day of Term  
19<sup>th</sup> - INSET Day



# NEWS AND INFORMATION



## Improvements at Walton Priory

Over the summer, whilst school is closed to the pupils, work will be taking place to improve Walton Priory. You may have noticed scaffolding on the building, this is allowing access to the roof, which is being replaced in large sections. We are also having the Computer Room enclosed, at the moment it is open plan. To improve learning in lessons, we are building the walls to full height and fitting a door. Mr McNaught will be very busy painting all of the cloakrooms and adding new smart yellow pegs. He will also be using the money that was raised for the sports hall refurbishment to paint and update the hall. If he has time he will also be re-carpeting some central spaces in school. We can't wait to share the outcomes with you.

## Celebrating Our Wonderful SEND Coffee Afternoons and Open Days!

What a fantastic year it's been for our SEND coffee afternoons and open days! These events have gone from strength to strength, creating a warm and supportive space for parents and carers to come together, share ideas, and work alongside us to enrich the school experience for all our children.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended, contributed, and helped shape these sessions. Your insight, feedback, and enthusiasm have been invaluable.

Quite simply, we couldn't have done it without you! The impact of your involvement has been clear to see – from improved support strategies to the smiling faces of children who feel more understood and included every day.

We're excited to let you know that there's more to come! Keep an eye out next academic year for even more opportunities to connect, starting with a Year 5-specific coffee morning/afternoon in the autumn term. We can't wait to welcome both familiar and new faces!

Together, we're making a real difference. Thank you once again for being such an important part of our school community.



# NEWS AND INFORMATION

## Important Safeguarding Update - After School Clubs

As part of our ongoing commitment to safeguarding, we have recently reviewed our attendance procedures for after school clubs.

From now on, if your child is registered for an extracurricular activity on Arbor but does not attend, you will receive an email notification as soon as the club register is taken. Please note that we will no longer make phone calls in these instances.

This change is designed to ensure timely communication while keeping our safeguarding measures strong and efficient.

Thank you for your continued support.

## Student Absence Reporting

Letting us know about your child's absence using Arbor still continues to be a success. We would love for this to become the primary way for you to let us know about same day sickness absences, so please head to the Attendance section on your Arbor app or portal next time you need to report an absence. Please contact the school office if you need any help with this.

## Property

Just a reminder to make sure property is labelled with a name. We have a number of items – especially PE jumpers – which become lost due to no name.

Remind children to check lost property if they have mislaid anything.



## Stone Minds Matter

**Working together for children's mental health**

**Stone Minds Matter**

**What We Do**  
Stone Minds Matter is a community-driven initiative dedicated to supporting children's mental health across the Stone area.

**Did you know?**  
Mental health issues in children have increased 50% in just three years. In 2023, one in five children aged 8-16 were likely to have a mental health problem – six children in every classroom of 30 pupils. With mental health services overwhelmed and no extra funding, Stone's schools are stepping-up together.

**Our mission**  
We bring schools together across Stone to:

- Share good practice
- Ensure smooth transitions across all school phases
- Provide year-round mental health care

**Every child matters  
Every mind counts**  
Help us build a healthier future, together.  
For further information contact Claire Thomas  
c.thomas@cca.staffs.sch.uk

# NEWS AND INFORMATION

## Online Safety Information Sessions

In the 25/26 Academic Year we will be offering Information Sessions to parents/carers on a termly basis.

Each session will be 30 minutes long followed by 15 minute Q&A, if required. Topics will be as follows:

### **Autumn: Wednesday 1st October 2025 - 4.00-4.45pm - Online Safety Briefing**

This session will cover all aspects of children's online lives and will cover the risks associated, the latest trends and data and guidance on how you can support their online lives.

### **Spring: Wednesday 28th January 2026 - 9.30-10.15am - Guide to Online Gaming**

This will include latest trends and emerging threats and will focus on developing your understanding of online gaming, the associated risks and steps we can take to support our children.

**Summer: Wednesday 6th May 2026 - 4pm - 4.45pm - Guide to Social Media and Livestreaming** This will include latest trends and emerging threats and will focus on developing your understanding of social media and livestreaming, the associated risks and steps we can take to support our children

No pre-registration is required before any session. • A meeting link/instructions will be shared with you before each session and a recording will be provided following each session.



## Young Leaders in Service Award



Young people who volunteer, mature into adults who serve. Through the Lions Young Leaders in Service Awards, Lions clubs encourage youth in the philosophy and habit of service to the community. This recognition opportunity benefits youth by developing life skills, providing an acknowledgement from an international association that can be used for college and job applications, and increasing visibility and awareness of Lions Clubs International and its various youth programmes.

Walton Priory will be running this programme in 2025/26 so please look out for further information. In the meantime, more details can be found by following [this link](#) and you can contact the local Lions Club by clicking [here](#).

## 2025/26 Form Tutors and Heads of Year

### **Year 5**

Mrs Clarkson - Head of Year  
5HS - Miss Steele  
5KM - Mrs Murray  
5KSo - Mrs Woods  
5RMc - Miss McClarence  
5SH - Mrs Hodgkinson

### **Year 6**

Mrs Stringer - Head of Year  
6AS - Mrs Scarrett  
6JS - Mrs Stringer  
6JW - Mrs Williamson  
6SC - Mrs Clarkson

### **Year 7**

**Mrs Pope - Head of Year**  
7GC - Mrs Cole/Mrs Messenger  
7LM - Mrs Messenger/Mrs McGregor  
7MCo - Mr Coughlan  
7SB - Mrs Bowen  
7WP - Mr Parke

### **Year 8**

**Mrs Pope - Head of Year**  
8AC - Mr Chandler  
8AW - Mr Walford  
8BB - Mrs Braddock  
8CW - Mrs Wallace  
8EP - Mrs Peach  
8LB - Miss Bartlett



# NEWS AND INFORMATION

## Celebrating Innovation in Science

### Celebrating Innovation in Science: Year 8 Teams Shine at the SustainabiliTEA Project Finals

A huge well done to our incredible Year 8 teams who competed in the SustainabiliTEA Project Finals at Alleyne's High School!

As part of this challenge, pupils were tasked with researching and developing a sustainable and ethical tea bag. In a project that combined creativity, scientific method, environmental awareness, and entrepreneurial thinking.

Our teams rose to the occasion with amazing, ingenious concepts and branding that truly impressed the judges. From eco-friendly materials to thoughtful packaging and powerful messaging, their ideas reflected a deep understanding of sustainability and innovation.

We're so proud of the hard work, teamwork, and imagination that went into every project.

Congratulations to all involved: you've brewed up something truly special!



## Kinship Carers

A kinship carer is a friend or family member who raises a child when their parents can't. Kinship, the national charity for kinship carers, offers free online and in-person workshops and peer support groups open to all kinship carers, regardless of their legal arrangement.

Please visit the [Kinship website](https://www.kinship.org.uk/) for lots of support and useful information.



# MESSAGES FROM HEADS OF YEAR GROUPS

## Y5 - MRS CLARKSON

Well, that year passed by very quickly!

As we approach the end of your child's time in Year 5, I would like to personally thank every parent and guardian who has supported us this year. This is an incredible year group of kind, hardworking children who are a credit to you.

They have settled very well into their life and learning at Walton and will, no doubt, go on to be brilliant in Year 6. They have contributed to our school in so many ways and have had some wonderful experiences having made that huge jump from First school.

Wishing you all the very best summer break and we look forward to a new school year in Year 6, full of fun and opportunities.

## Y6- MRS STRINGER

The summer term started with preparation for the dreaded SATs via support in school, well-attended SATs breakfast clubs for the children as well as parent arithmetic workshops. Most of the children agreed that SATs week itself wasn't too bad, and that is testament to the hard work this year group have put in. Whatever their results, they can be proud of the tremendous progress they have made.

After the half-term break, the transition days saw them meeting their new teachers and getting used to moving around the school from lesson to lesson as is required in Key Stage 3. We were proud to hear many encouraging reports from the staff about the children's positive attitudes and willingness to participate.

Sports Day is always such a pivotal event in the calendar for the children and again, our Year 6s excelled in their effort, resilience as well as heartening support of each other.

After the runaway success of last year's trip, we again had our residential trip to Boreatton Park as our "last hurrah" with this year group.

We will sincerely miss them as they move on next year and wish them all the very best.



# MESSAGES FROM HEADS OF YEAR GROUPS

## Y7 - MISS WOOLLISCROFT

As the academic year draws to a close, I've found myself reflecting on what a truly rewarding and memorable experience it has been to serve as temporary Head of Year for our wonderful Year 7 students. It has been an absolute pleasure and a real privilege to take on this role over the past year.

One of the greatest joys has been the opportunity to get to know the students on a deeper level and to build solid, meaningful relationships with so many of them. I've watched them mature, grow in confidence, overcome challenges, and support one another — and I couldn't be prouder of how far they've come.

I've also really valued the chance to connect with so many parents and families. Your support and partnership have made a huge difference throughout the year.

Another highlight has been working alongside a fantastic team of class tutors, whose dedication, care, and commitment to the students has been truly inspiring. It's been a real team effort, and I'm grateful to each and every one of them.

Although it saddens me to be stepping away, I'm delighted to pass the baton to Mrs Pope, who will be taking over as Head of Year 7 and 8 as she becomes Head of KS3. She brings warmth, experience, and a real passion for student wellbeing.

And of course, I'm still around — the students know my door is always open if they need me. Wishing you all a wonderful summer break, I look forward to seeing everyone in September!

## Y8 - MRS POPE

### A Fond Farewell to Our Year 8 Pupils

As the school year draws to a close, it's time to say goodbye to our incredible Year 8 pupils as they move on to the next exciting chapter in their lives. Watching them grow, mature, and develop over the years has been a true privilege, and I am incredibly proud to have been their Head of Year.

Together, we've shared so many positive experiences – from classroom achievements to creative projects, school trips, and everything in between. Each of these moments has added to the unique character and spirit of this year group. They have shown resilience, kindness, and a growing sense of responsibility that will carry them far in their future journeys.

To each and every one of them: I will miss you. You have left a lasting impression on our school community, and I know you will go on to do brilliant things. Continue to be curious, courageous, and kind – and never forget the importance of being true to yourself.

Wishing you all the very best on your next adventure.

# HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT

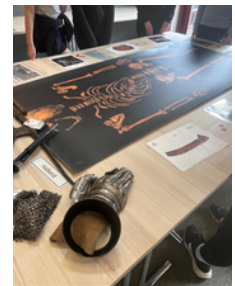
## It's been another busy term in Humanities

### Bosworth Battlefield

In May, we took all of Year 7 to Bosworth Battlefield. This is the site of the battle between Richard III and Henry Tudor, which ended the Plantagenet Dynasty and brought in Tudor rule. Our pupils had been learning about this as part of our unit on the Wars of the Roses.

Pupils and staff had an excellent and educational day. We had a tour of the site and re-enacted (safely) the key parts of the battle; we studied artefacts found by archaeologists at the site, we toured the visitor centre and museum, and we even worked out how Richard died by examining his wounds and the weapons used.

Pupils impressed teachers and Bosworth staff with their knowledge and behaviour. Well done Year 7.



### Geography Competition

In June, we took a team of Year 7 and a team of Year 8 Geographers to participate in the Middle School's Geography Quiz. This was held at Perton Middle School, the winning school from last year.

Both teams put in a sterling performance and achieved high scores. Despite this, we did not win.

We will obviously try again next year! Well done to our teams for representing the school so well with your answers and your exceptional effort.



### Coming Soon.....

In October, Year 7 will be going on a River Studies trip to the Wolseley Centre, Stafford. This will enhance their classroom learning experience. Year 5 will have their in school VR Experience focussing on North America.

In November, Year 6 will visit the Gladstone Pottery Museum participating in a craft workshop and museum tour.

In December, Year 8 will be visiting the Black County Living Museum.

# HUMANITIES DEPARTMENT

## Eco Competition

**In June, for the first time, pupils from Walton Priory Middle School participated in the Perkins Eco Competition.**

We were invited to enter during the winter, and we began by organising an in-school competition amongst the Year 6 pupils. The theme of this year's competition was animals in danger due to climate change and current events. Year Six amazed us with some fantastic entries, but in the end we picked our winner: The Black-Footed Ferrets of North America.



Our group, with help from the D&T, Geography and Science Departments, then made a working model, wrote a speech and made some exceptional props to highlight the problems faced by Black-Footed Ferrets. On the day, our team performed exceptionally well, reaching second place overall. It was very close at the end, with our team being pipped at the post. Even second place gained us a prize of £300, which will be spent on Walton's Commitment to Sustainability. More on this to follow

It goes without saying that we are incredibly proud of our competitors, who spoke and performed confidently, and were able to answer all questions from other teachers and business professionals. And a huge thank you to Perkins for asking us to enter and treating us so well on the day.





# PE DEPARTMENT

It's been a busy and brilliant term in PE!

We are thrilled to welcome back Mr Coughlan, who has made a full recovery. It's wonderful to have the team back at full capacity – it genuinely makes me super happy!

**We were incredibly proud to see 100 students and 7 staff take part in our 100 Miles in May challenge, raising an amazing £7,237, half goes to UHNM and half will go towards the forest school shelter. A huge thank you to everyone who supported – your generosity and effort made a real difference.**



In May, nearly 50 KS3 students represented the school at the District Athletics at Rowley Park, we had four students go through and represent the district at the County Games. A special mention to Y7 Ruben who came 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 800m. KS2 followed in July, where we took a strong team of 40 competitors. Both events showcased fantastic team spirit and determination.

Our School Sports Day was, as always another highlight in the PE calendar – a huge thank you to all the families and friends who came along to cheer on our students, in the afternoon. The support made the day extra special for our WPMS community. We hosted a KS3 rounders tournament with the brilliant support of our School Games Organiser, Susie Stinton. Meanwhile, KS2 girls showed great skills in their summer football fixtures, and the KS3 boys' dodgeball team represented us proudly in their tournament.



Finally, a huge shoutout to our KS2 swimming team, who absolutely smashed it at their swimming gala.

Well done to all our students for another active and successful term – we're so proud of you all!

Don't forget to follow us on Instagram [@wpms\\_pe](https://www.instagram.com/wpms_pe), where we post photos from school sporting events and celebrate achievements outside of school too.

If you'd like to be featured, email your photos and a short description to [office@waltonpriory.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@waltonpriory.staffs.sch.uk) – we'll share them on Instagram or even feature them on our "Wall of Fame"!

Have a great summer, keep active but please stay safe!

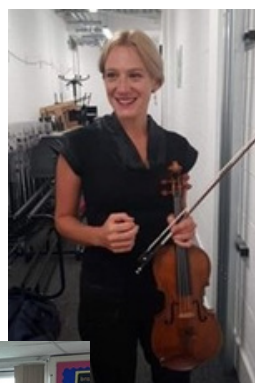
**Miss Woolliscroft, Mr Coughlan & Mr Walford - PE Department**

# MUSIC – PART I

It has been a busy term for music.....

## Halle Orchestra

This term, a number of KS2 and KS3 pupils were treated to an extraordinary musical experience, thanks to the Character and Arts Foundation Trust. Pupils had the privilege of watching the renowned Hallé Orchestra perform a stunning and eclectic mix of classical pieces, demonstrating how music can powerfully tell stories without words. These experiences are truly invaluable, and we hope they have inspired our young musicians to broaden their musical tastes, and perhaps even consider learning an instrument!



We also had the honour of welcoming violinist Liz Rossi to Walton Priory. Liz, a Hallé Orchestra member and tutor at the Royal Northern College of Music, took us on a magical journey through the world of minimalist music. Pupils were captivated as they improvised alongside her in response to John Adams' *Short Ride in a Fast Machine*. A few lucky pupils even had the rare opportunity to play her exquisite 1750 Carcassi-attributed violin, an unforgettable moment!

# MUSIC – PART II

## The Music Partnership



We are extremely fortunate to have the continued support of The Music Partnership, who are passionate about delivering high-quality music provision to schools. This term, an energetic ensemble of five talented musicians visited us to present An Introduction to Music at WPMS. Our incoming Year 5 pupils were treated to a live showcase featuring a wide range of musical styles performed by our music teachers. Pupils even had the chance to join in, playing ukuleles, P-Buzz trombones, and samba percussion. A special shout-out to our current Year 4s: you were amazing, and we can't wait to welcome you into our music classroom in September to make even more music together!

## Instrumental Tuition - September 2025

We hope you've seen our recent message about instrumental lessons starting in September. This is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to discover and nurture a lifelong talent.

Learning a musical instrument is not only fun, it builds confidence, perseverance, discipline, and teamwork. It can spark a lifelong love of music, create new social opportunities, and even open doors to exciting careers in the arts.

While all pupils receive classroom music lessons as part of the curriculum, we're thrilled to offer specialist instrumental tuition for those wanting to go further.

Lessons take place during the school day; Instruments available: violin, cello, trumpet, trombone, flute, clarinet, saxophone, guitar, piano/keyboard, and drums;

Small group sessions encourage collaboration and peer support; Instruments can be borrowed free of charge from Entrust Music Service; Lessons are paid for in advance for the academic year; Pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium receive a 50% subsidy from the school

To register your interest, please complete the following form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/ivWvYs3mKE>



And finally, a heartfelt thank you to all the parents, pupils, and staff who support the Music Department. Your enthusiasm and encouragement help our young musicians thrive. We've got many more exciting projects and opportunities lined up for the new academic year, and we'd love for more of you to get involved.

Have a wonderful summer, and don't forget to tune into the BBC Proms, a daily dose of world-class music to keep you inspired throughout the holidays!

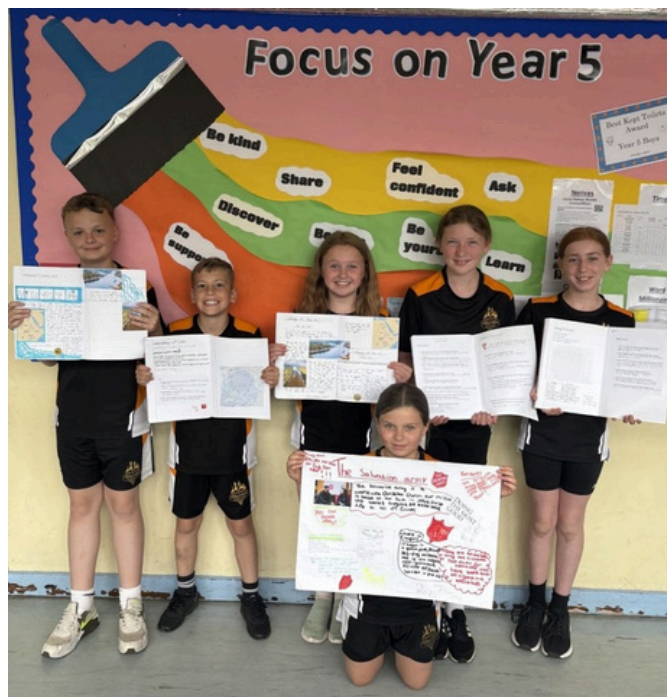


# KS2

## Creative Work Topic in 5EF!

5EF have enjoyed creating some beautifully presented work and fact files within Geography and RE.

During our Geography lessons, we have been learning about 'Extreme Environments' ranging from the scorching heat of the Sahara Desert to the chillier regions of the Arctic Circle. We have learnt about the different countries, temperatures, climates and the different daylight hours, the people that inhabit there and the huge array of adapted animals. The class enjoyed completing a 'map jigsaw' where they had to join up all the correct countries that are part of the Arctic Circle too.



In RE, we have been learning about how religion and charity work can be very closely linked. We have been exploring all the wonderful work that The Salvation Army do for people in need all over the world. Here at Walton Priory, we are inspired by the commitment and kindness of these volunteers, so much so, our latest work has encouraged some children to want to give more to charity and help others. One pupil even did extra research work in her own time. We have spent time discussing the importance of kindness and how it really is cool to be kind!

# MATHS

In April, our school proudly took part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge – a nationwide competition that tests mathematical reasoning, problem-solving and logical thinking.

We are thrilled to share that our students performed brilliantly, showing great talent and dedication.

A total of 61 students earned certificates this year, a fantastic achievement.

We were awarded:



46 Bronze certificates



1 Gold certificate

14 Silver certificates



A special congratulations goes to **Isaac B** in Year 8, who was not only the best in his year group but also the Best in School, earning a prestigious Gold award. This is a remarkable accomplishment and a testament to his hard work and mathematical skill.

In Year 7, **Noah SB** led the way, earning Best in Year and a Silver award for his impressive performance.

And from Year 6, we'd like to celebrate **Aubrey M**, who achieved Best in Year with a Silver award – a fantastic result at such a young age.

The UKMT Junior Maths Challenge is known for its challenging questions and high standards, so these results are something all participants can be incredibly proud of. Well done to everyone who took part and represented our school so well – we look forward to even greater success next year!

# YOUNG TEEN FICTION AWARD

Four Y8 students, Mrs Hickling and Miss Bartlett had the wonderful experience of attending the 'Young Teen Fiction' award's ceremony, this term, at RAF Cosford.



The ceremony is in its 20<sup>th</sup> year, and is a project run by Staffordshire Libraries to get students to critique new teen fiction on offer and consider who they believe most worthy of the ultimate award.

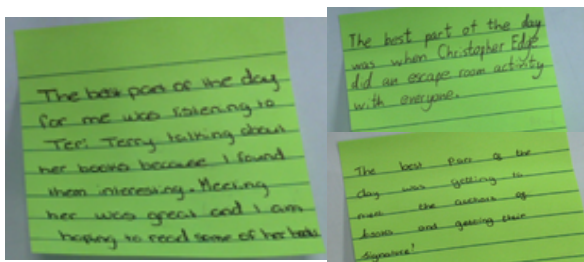
Students were firstly asked to 'speed date the collection' to create a shortlist. A group of students in each school then read the shortlist and voted for their favourite. The winner was revealed at the end of the day - they become the prime speaker at the next year's ceremony.

Our four students joined in reading the shortlist and joining in our 'Book Club' this term to meet and discuss their thoughts. We sent in our vote, and got ready to attend the exciting day!

On arrival guests were walked through the wonderful RAF aeroplane museum and taken to the lecture theatre for the day's schedule. Two inspirational lectures by the authors were enjoyed, one of which became an hour-long, real life 'escape room' where WPMS had to work together to get out of the theatre! Hilarious! Mrs Hickling and Mrs Bartlett soon realised that without the students, their clear lack of logic would have meant that we would have been kept captive forever! Thank goodness for young minds!



At lunchtime, the students had an hour to view the museum, enjoy drinks and snacks and go to the pop-up bookshop. They then had the opportunity to get their books signed and talk to the authors before enjoying the adventure playground outside! The afternoon consisted of the Young Poet Laureate's readings and the 'big reveal' of the year's winner!



It was a truly inspiring and magical day. We will await one of our students to take the advice given in the lectures, become a world-famous author, and dedicate one of their novels to Walton Priory! Here's hoping! We will look forward to attending again next year and enjoying another Book Club in the Summer Term.

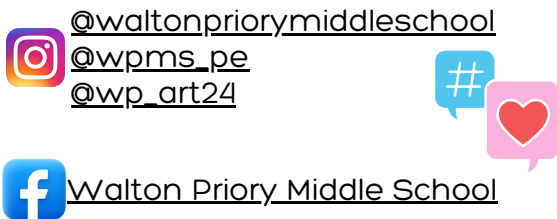
Best wishes, Miss Bartlett and Mrs Hickling

# UNTIL NEXT TIME...

## GIVE US A FOLLOW

A goal of ours last year was to improve our social media presence so that parents/careers and the local community would be able to stay up-to-date with everything that is happening in school on a daily basis!

The school has an Instagram, X and Facebook page where we post regularly with insights to lessons, upcoming trips and general news from within the school. The PE and Art Departments also have an Instagram page!



## GET IN TOUCH

We are extremely proud of our students' achievements in and outside of the classroom. If your child participates in any sports or clubs, we want to hear about it!

This might be emailing a photo of your child in their activity environment to [marketing@waltonpriory.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:marketing@waltonpriory.staffs.sch.uk) or sending them into school with a recent certificate, medal or trophy!

The same goes for any previous WPMS students, even though you've left, we would love to hear about any achievements.



This serves as a great mechanism to encourage pupils to be curious about different opportunities outside of school.

# AND...

