



Waseley Hills High School

Aspire, Invest, Respect

Waseley Hills High School

Mr. T. Preston, Principal
School Road
Rubery
Birmingham
B45 9EL

20th September 2024

Dear Parent and Carers,

As part of the Central Regions Schools Trust, we at Waseley believe that the enrichment opportunities for our young people are just as important as the exams that our students take at GCSE and A-level. This week was certainly one in which this core value was shown with a fantastic Personal Development Day on Wednesday this week. As you will see from the photos, the students thoroughly enjoyed being able to build attributes of character such as resilience and confidence as they took part in 6 different workshops throughout the day. The Pioneer outdoor learning external company ran team building activities on the field which tested the students' abilities to work together to overcome obstacles and finish challenges. The sixth form lead ambassadors helped run these sessions bringing together our community spirit and many of them who were year 11 last year commented on how much they got from being able to lead parts of the session alongside the Pioneer experts. Students also took part in our "Your Voice Matters" programme in which they fed back to the school ideas and thoughts about how we can improve and work together to get the best out of their time at Waseley. This also included a survey which we use to provide support to those who might find certain aspects of school difficult. There was a Mental Health and Wellbeing session teaching our young people how to build mental resilience, healthy habits and where they can get support along their journey. It was also an opportunity for teaching staff to design activities that fostered skills such as creativity and communication skills. These included escape room challenges, engineering challenges and careers focussed activities. It was lovely to see the students completely immerse themselves in the day and thrive at the chance to push themselves in a different way to normal classroom style learning.

Yesterday saw our first Community Event organised and run by our fantastic Student Wellbeing team. This brought together over 20 exhibitors from the local community to share opportunities from Dance classes, Rugby club training, Art clubs, Rubery library facilities, SENDIASS, West Mercia Police, Touchstones bereavement service, St Chad's Church, NHS Wellbeing and Emotional Support Team team among many more. It was lovely to see so many local residents and families come along and the feedback was excellent. Thank you so much to all of the brilliant organisations who came along and created a lovely atmosphere yesterday evening.

Elsewhere in the school, all four houses have had their first House Assembly this week. The videos of SportsFest and other house challenges from last year have motivated students to get as many house points as possible already. The Fire assembly was a particular highlight in which they celebrated being awarded the house cup and were given Fire badges to wear as part of their uniform as a reminder of them being reigning champions this year. Needless to say, the other houses are up for the competition of winning the cup this year. A reminder that students gain house points for attendance, punctuality, meeting the school expectations, excellence in homework and schoolwork and participating in community events and clubs/extracurricular activities.

We had an amazing turnout for the auditions of this year's school musical production of Matilda Jr. There were four times as many students auditioning than last year and had to do this over three nights so everyone gets chance to be part of this fabulous show.

T 0121 453 5211

E office@waseleyhills.worcs.sch.uk • W www.waseleyhillsschool.org.uk

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Please see a few reminders below:

Tuesday 24th September 3:30pm – 4:30pm is our Year 7 parent coffee afternoon. A chance for any year 7 parents to come and speak to form tutors as to how their young people are settling in. Any parent that want an update from their child's tutor are always welcome to ring and all year groups will have a parents evening throughout the year.

Thursday 26th September sees the unveiling of the Art in the Park project in which our current Year 10s took part in an Art workshop in Rubery alongside community artists Fran and Andy Decomyn. This is at 4pm in St Chads park and all are welcome.

School Apps:

sQuid Pay – to be used for canteen and trips

Arbor – to be used to report absences and academic reporting

ClassCharts – behaviour and rewards, detention notifications, student timetable and homework

Please can all parents and carers ensure they have downloaded all three apps to remain fully informed of what is happening at Waseley.

A reminder to parents to encourage the students to continue their excellent start to the year with punctuality and in particular going to the toilets regularly at break time and lunch times. The Year 7 students will still have an additional 10 minutes next week at break and lunch to enjoy the cafe on their own, but also provide more time to use the toilets to prevent missing out on lesson time for toilet call outs. Can we also remind parents and carers to avoid parking on school site, including staff car park. We thank those that have made it a much safer exit for our students by finding alternative places to collect their children.

Have a lovely weekend,

Mr T Preston



Principal

