

13th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

This week has been an incredible amalgamation of festivities and academic progress for students. Yesterday saw students and staff partake in the national Christmas jumper charity drive and the annual Christmas Hamper tutor drive concluded on Wednesday. The donations from students were immense and the creativity in making these hampers look the part were another example of the excellence of our students and form tutors. Lookout for photos in next week's Waseley News. The food donated will go to our local foodbank to provide for our community. Thank you for your generosity and thought in giving to those less fortunate during the festive period.

Our GCSE Year 10 students took part in their GCSE climbing practical this week. They were exemplary in their behaviour and application and of course these activities count towards the coursework element of their course. The students thoroughly enjoyed learning to scale the terrain and the initial feedback from the PE staff is that students have performed well and this will boost their grades.



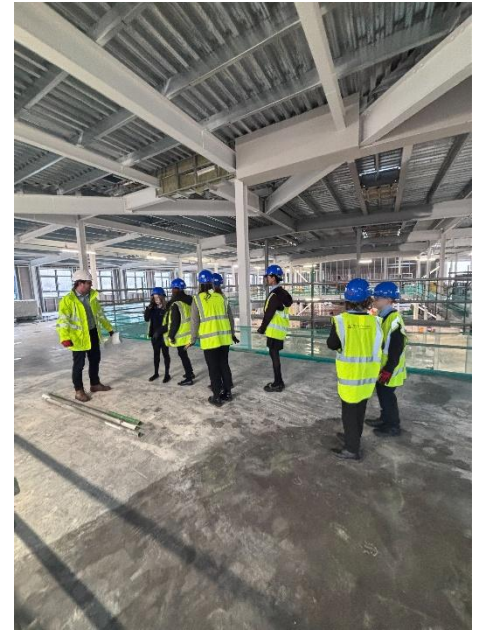
On Wednesday 11th December, we welcomed Lickey Hills Primary school's Year 3 students to Waseley for a Christmas themed Art and Design workshop. As you can imagine, the young students were full to the brim with excitement with the prospect of going to a 'big school', but they managed to harness their energy and use it to create some charming hand-crafted ceramic baubles and some beautifully coloured in Christmas cards. It was a pleasure to host Lickey Hills and we look forward to working together on future projects.



On Tuesday 10th December Virtual Decisions visited Waseley Hills high school and worked with 60 Year 9 pupils. Through the VR headsets pupils were presented with a real-life production where they could make decisions dependant on their thought process. The video would then take them on their own personal journey dependant on the decisions they made. After the VR part of the workshop pupils were encouraged to take part in discussion around their decisions covering a widespread range of safety topics including gangs, knife crime, sexting, child pornography, distribution of child pornography, county lines, classified and non-classified drug, as well as a range of supportive mechanisms to ensure safety of our young people. Pupils were engaged and supportive of the workshop and the feedback from students has been incredible to hear. The feedback from the facilitators was also lovely and very complimentary of our young people and their engagement. Waseley would like to thank West Mercia Police for the funding that has allowed our students this fabulous opportunity!

Our first edition of the student newspaper was published this week called the Waseley Window. This has been solely organised by Sixth Former Emily Chase as part of her EPQ (extended project qualification). Alongside Emily, her assistant Editor and team of 8 lower school students have developed the content, format and publishing and I am sure you will agree the standard is excellent.

Finally, we took some of our highest ETHICs point achievers to see the new build site yesterday. All of our students have had the chance to sign the wall that is now attached to the lift in block 1. This will remain a part of the building forever and the students could see it in situ yesterday. The photographs illustrate where this will be and we are hopeful that the students and staff for years to come will be able to talk about how they are part of the fabric of our fabulous new build. We intend to begin more regular site tours for students as rewards in the new year to give as many as possible a chance to see the sheer scale and size of the new building that they are due to move into in September next year.



Please be reminded that next week is charity week so please bring change for sweets and drinks at break and lunch as we raise money for Birmingham Children's Hospital. Friday 20th December is a half day in which students will leave site at 12:15pm and is also a non-uniform day to help contribute to the charity money raised.

Kind regards

Mr T Preston

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Preston', is written over a white background.

Principal

**For anyone who needs
some **support right now**,
you're not alone.**

Anxiety UK - 03444775774

CALM - 0800585858

Mind - 03001233393

HopeLine - 08000684141

Samaritans - 116 123



**Did you know? You can now call NHS 111 and
choose option 2 in a mental health crisis.**

NHS

**You can also text SHOUT to 85258 if you don't feel
like speaking over the phone.**

