

Dear Parents and Carers,

10th January 2025

There is no better gift than the joy and pleasure a book can give; we were thrilled to gift all Year 7 and Year 8 students with a book this Christmas. Carefully wrapped by our team of Year 12 elves and delivered by Santa's substitutes, we hope that all recipients enjoyed their holiday read.

Just before we broke up for Christmas, we had the pleasure of taking our budding Year 10 artists down to London to visit both the Design Museum and The National History Museum. Our students were a credit to the school, they showed a great attitude and their behaviour was impeccable! The Design Museum had a special exhibition dedicated to the work of Tim Burton - you will know him for his cult classics including Beetlejuice, Edward Scissorhands and The Nightmare before Christmas. The students were in awe as they entered the Hintze Hall at the National History Museum; it is the largest public gallery in the Museum. A blue whale skeleton is suspended from the ceiling as a reminder of humanity's responsibility to protect our planet. Curiosity and excitement lead the students to explore the vast collection that the museum has on display and they took plenty of photographs that they can use to help inspire their art projects back in school.



It has been amazing to welcome back students and staff this week to start 2025 at Waseley. The students have returned to school brilliantly and have started the work in classrooms well this week. Our sixth formers, some of whom have sat A-level examinations this week, have been exemplary. The politeness and courtesy shown between staff and students as they ask each other how the Christmas holidays were whilst on transition between lessons has been lovely to observe. The students have also been very mature in their approach as we have had the customary snow showers around school as temperatures have dropped.

We are excited with what 2025 can bring to Waseley not least as it will mark the opening of our new build, but we also spent time analysing the examination results of last year's cohorts and compared them to the mocks our examination year groups sat before the Christmas break. The national data for exam results was released just before the Christmas break and showed that Waseley was significantly ahead of all the local secondary schools last year. We are excited to see that the Year 11 and 13 cohorts are ahead of their counterparts for performance in their first mock season when compared year on year. In welcome back assemblies we shared this positive start to the year with the students as it provides a real platform for them to kickstart on as revision for the real exams begins. The next instalment of Study Sensei from Elevate happens next week as we continue to help prepare the students for revision techniques to allow them to fulfil their potential and flourish in the real exams this year. The Year 11s received their mock examination timetables which begin on 3rd February so please support them with their revision plans and study timetables over the next three weeks.

Congratulations to the Year 10 GCSE Dance students who this week received their first coursework grades and they were of excellent quality. The students are progressing extremely well and we look forward to them showcasing their talents further in the course.

We put a real emphasis on the importance of students looking smart and presenting themselves as the best versions of themselves. It was great to see so many students return with improved uniform standards so thank you for your efforts in pushing standards high over the Christmas break. Can we remind parents and carers to check if their son/daughter has borrowed uniform to return it so that we can continue to ensure high standards which research has shown leads to improved behaviour and education for all in schools. Please could you support in ensuring that appropriate school shoes and coats are worn during the colder months ahead.

As part of our continued drive to celebrate success we awarded 146,723 ETHICS points for our students in Autumn term this year. Please ensure that you are logged into Classcharts to share the success with the students and receive the updates regularly.

A reminder that it is Year 13 Parents Evening next Thursday 16th January 4-6pm and that booking is through Arbor.

Please also note that the academic mentoring Parents Evening takes place on Wednesday 29th January and this means the school will be closed for all year groups from 12:10pm and appointments will begin from 1pm-6pm for Parents and Carers. Further information regarding how to book appointments and the format for this will follow.

Thank you for your continued support,

Mr T Preston

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T Preston', written in a cursive style.

Principal