

WASELEY NEWS

It's all **Good!**



So Many Events ...
Matilda Junior • Voice in a Million •
World Book Day • Entitled Sons

Great Achievements ...
Ofsted Results • Student Leaders •
Sporting Firsts • 100 Years Award

... and Tons of Support
Learning for Life • Exam Revision •
SEND Interventions • Cooking Club



Our Masked Readers !!



Waseley Hills is part of Central Region Schools Trust



Looking to a bright future

The Spring Term of 2025 will go down as one of the most exciting milestones in Waseley Hills High School history. A school that has stood for over 100 years is about to move into a new-build with the topping out ceremony of block 1 taking place this term. The school have also been assessed by Ofsted who have officially recognised that the school is achieving incredibly well. For a community that values education and the role of Waseley Hills, this is something that we are incredibly proud of.

Waseley received a full section 5 inspection in February during which all aspects of the school were scrutinised. Waseley was graded as 'Good' in all areas of the framework. This achievement is all the more impressive as, in the 23 years that Ofsted have inspected Waseley Hills, it has been graded as 'Good' in only 3 of those previous years.

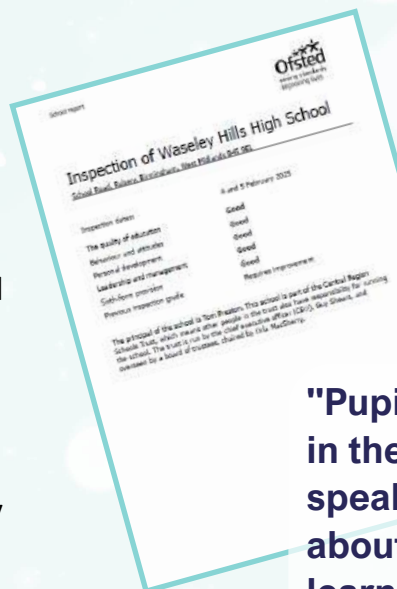
These gradings represent the incredible improvements we have seen at Waseley Hills and perhaps most pleasing was the shift in parental voice about how they feel about the school. 74% of parents and carers would recommend Waseley to another parent. This was just 28% three years ago.

The school's wholesale transformation is reflected in the report. Inspectors praised how the school has 'worked hard' to ensure the curriculum is improved, meaning that 'each subject is both ambitious and well sequenced'. The inspection report highlights leaders' 'high expectations' of students' behaviour, and praises how students 'benefit from strong relationships with both staff and their peers'. Students at Waseley Hills are 'courteous and respectful to others' and 'take pride in their work'.

We also saw the most impressive musical in Matilda Jr., another record number of Year 7 applicants for next year and another set of improved Year 11 and Year 13 mock examinations.

The future is bright at Waseley and this term has allowed the community to see the exciting possibilities ahead whilst celebrating the brilliance that is already happening day to day within the school.

Mr. T. Preston
Principal



"Pupils ... take pride in their work and speak knowledgeably about what they have learned"

"Pupils and staff feel proud to belong to this harmonious and welcoming school community"



Waseley Voices in a Million!



On Wednesday 19th March, we took 15 members of our Waseley Voices choir down to Wembley Arena to perform as part of the 'Voice in a Million 2025' schools concert. Students were exemplary and represented the school at the highest level, including during a banner parade in front of 10,000 people, doing Waseley Hills High School so proud!

It was a very long day but an experience they will remember forever and I would like to say a personal well done to all students involved. You are all superstars! *Mrs. Edwards, Head of Music*



Waseley Voices proudly display their parade banner which was designed by choir member Lola N. in Year 7



Matilda the Musical

In March our annual musical Matilda Jr took place. This is only the second time Waseley have put on a musical so we knew we had to do it justice! We have been rehearsing Matilda since October with rehearsals three times a week where students blocked scenes and practiced songs and dances.

Students worked very hard on this production to rave reviews, with some people coming twice! We also performed to primary schools who had a wonderful time. We are very proud of the children for their hard work and dedication and look forward to the next show!



Rebellion is nigh in Matilda JR., a gleefully witty ode to the anarchy of childhood and the power of imagination! This story of a girl who dreams of a better life and the children she inspires will have audiences rooting for the "revolting children" who are out to teach the grown-ups a lesson.

Matilda has astonishing wit, intelligence... and special powers! She's unloved by her cruel parents but impresses her schoolteacher, the highly lovable Miss Honey. Matilda's school life isn't completely smooth sailing, however – the school's mean headmistress, Miss Trunchbull, hates children and just loves thinking up new punishments for those who don't abide by her rules. But Matilda has courage and cleverness in equal amounts, and could be the school pupils' saving grace!





In the words of Head of Music, Miss Boyle, taken from the introduction of the official Matilda programme:



“It is with immense pride and joy that I present to you this production of Matilda Jr. From the very first rehearsal to tonight’s performance, our talented cast has demonstrated a level of dedication, heart and passion that I could not be more proud of. We have been working hard on this show since September and the students could not have welcomed me to the school in a more fantastic way. Each of these young performers has poured their energy and creativity into every scene, song and dance, and it shows in every moment of this show.

Matilda Jr. is a story of bravery, intelligence and standing up for what is right, and I’ve watched these incredible students embody those qualities both on stage and off. Their commitment to the characters, the music and each other has been truly inspiring. It is not an easy task to bring this vibrant, dynamic world to life, and yet they have done so with grace, enthusiasm and remarkable skill. This show would not have been possible without their hard work and the unwavering support of our amazing production team, Mrs Edwards and Mrs Loveridge. Special thank you goes to Mr Pattison and Mr Wood for their support for set design and the dedication of everyone involved. From the set designers to the backstage crew to the front-of-house staff, this has truly been a team effort.

I am so proud of each and every performer on this stage tonight. They’ve worked tirelessly to bring Matilda Jr. to life, and it’s an honour to watch them shine. Please enjoy the show - we certainly have enjoyed making it for you.”



The final evening was a truly special moment as the community came in enormous numbers to support a fabulous performance of Matilda Jr. The atmosphere was incredible and it meant such a lot to the cast and crew to be able to showcase their amazing standard of performance to such a wonderful audience. Moments like these will stay in the memories of students and parents for life so thank you for the excellent work from all involved.

World Book Day

WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**

6 MARCH 2025

World Book Day is one of our favourite times of year; you can feel the 'buzz' and the community spirit fuelled by the smiles and laughter of the whole school. All students were reminded that:

Reading and becoming 'Word Rich' paves the way to a successful future.

Reading is for everyone, and no one should feel that reading isn't for

them. Reading anything, anywhere at anytime is as inclusive as it gets!

Reading is proven to help with sleep and therefore, mental health.

Staff were out in full force to dig out their costumes for the day. From a chained-up Marley from Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' to Pennywise from King's 'IT', an array of genres and notable characters taught your children for the day. Our students had fun voting for their 'Best Dressed Department' and 'Best Dressed Member of Staff', with the Art Department and Miss Cleaver taking home a well-deserved win.



World Book Day

This year, Waseley participated in the Masked Reader, with some of our selected staff reading an extract from different books, sporting one of our house mascot heads! By the end of the day, the chants 'Take it off! Take it off!' echoed through the halls of Waseley in excitement for the big reveal.



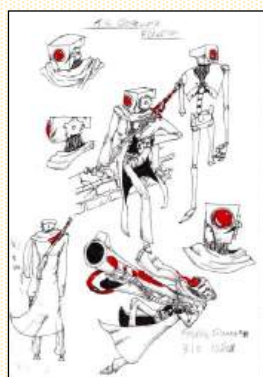
Mrs. Eades as Earth (Bear), Mrs. Williams as Fire (Dragon), Mr. Baker as Air (Eagle) and Miss Burke-Martin as Water (Shark)

Modern Foreign Languages became even more linguistic with their tricky tongue twisters and our brilliant pastoral team motivated students to search far and wide to match members of the team to a Roald Dahl book.

The excitement continued throughout the day with a Teacher Treasure Hunt, where our students raced around the school to match the teacher to their favourite book – fastest and most accurate winning a £10 gift voucher for Amazon. A huge well done James (7JBR) who had solved them all by 11:14am!

Our students were given time to enter the Trust's 'Brilliant Blurb', 'Character Creation' and 'Have Your Say' competitions. They drew from reading experiences at home and in school to participate, showcasing their incredible talents in writing and drawing. Well done to all who entered! Our Waseley winners included:

Brilliant Bookmark – Lola (7ZHA) Character Creation – Freddie (10DED) Have your say – Tanya (10SDU)



Finally, to leave you all with one last thought:

Books are the quietest and most constant of friends; they are the most accessible and wisest of counsellors, and the most patient of teachers. Charles W. Elliot

Keep on reading, Waseley!

World Book Day Dinner!



- Chicken, Bacon & Minted Pea Pie
- Cheese Potato & Leek Pie
- Minced Beef & Onion Pie
- Mash, Roasties, Buttered Cabbage, Mushy Peas, Roasted Roots & Gravy
- Custard Stuffed Apple Pie



Fishing for Information!

On 25th and 26th February 2025, we took 2 groups of Year 10 students to Morrisons in Rubery.

This was arranged by Morrisons Community Champion Jane Williams to support the students' understanding of high level fish preparation skills which they can use in upcoming practical assessments which contribute towards the final GCSE grades.

Students worked with Andy, the fishmonger, and learnt how to prepare a range of fish such as monkfish, squid, mackerel, sea bass, hake and tasted some products they hadn't tried before.

The activity really enriched their social justice as not only did they discuss food preparation skills which they will use moving forward, but they also had inputs on food provenance and food safety which directly relate to the theoretical aspects of their course.



We freshly prepare your fish in Grimsby and Cornwall. So you can enjoy more fish delivered fresh from shore to store. Our

expert fishmongers will skin, de-bone and fillet your fish for you. We'll give you free ice for your fish to keep it fresher for longer and all of our fish bags are microwavable and oven proof. At our Fishmonger's counter we'll cut and prepare as much or as little as you want.



Positivity Pays!



The Ethics Exchange shop is getting more and more popular with lots of students visiting each break time to collect the prizes that they have been working hard to achieve.

Over 590,000 Ethics points have been spent in the Ethics Exchange. Over 1,000,000 are yet to be traded in!

Stationery continues to be popular with Pukka pads being a particular favourite. Large chocolate bars are proving to be a very popular choice of awards, but we have recently had an influx of students purchasing the Period 6 gym/football passes. It was also great to see students spending their Ethics points on tickets to see the amazing Matilda performance.



Want the chance to win a prize every week? Just be in school every day to be entered into the live draw every Friday lunchtime in the Main Hall!

Olivia was this term's first attendance raffle winner - bagging herself a £20 Amazon voucher for just being in school every day!



Our 2-week Interhouse Ethics challenge came to a close in the second week of February. Remember - all students in the winning house receive a treat! Will Air, Earth or Water catch up with Fire before the end of the school year? Students can earn Ethics points by being punctual to lessons, being prepared to learn and by doing their very best!



If you have any other ideas for prizes to be added to the Ethics Exchange, please contact the Whole School Council who will consider all your suggestions.



Getting Ready for GCSE Exam Season







Year 11 impressed us once again with their approach to their mock examinations. Seeing students revising together before each exam, testing themselves with flashcards and discussing the papers once they had finished made us very proud! They coped exceptionally well with this final experience of exams before the real GCSE exams in May and have been working hard to learn from their teacher feedback.



Year 11 are being rewarded for sharing their revision pictures with a weekly Amazon gift card! Winners are announced every Friday with the most impressive, creative or effective revision taking the prize. So far, we have seen students casting their notes to their TV screen to teach their friends at home, studying in the company of a life-size skeleton and some stunning setups with colour coded notes and diagrams. The top ethics earners and intervention attendees are also rewarded every Friday with vouchers to buy pizza and cookies in the school café.

On Thursday 19th March, over 80 Year 10 families attended the Ensuring Success Evening to discuss all things headed their way over the next 18 months as they undertake their GCSEs. Miss Donovan and Mrs Williams shared revision tips, wellbeing advice and talked about the challenges ahead for students and those who will be supporting them through it.

The resources from the evening are available on the school website and via the links below. Parents of Year 11 students will find these particularly informative.



Read the Complete Guide to Exam Rules, Etiquette and Support from our Waseley Hills High School Exams Officer


Unexpected Problems

Sickness
If you are sick on the day of your exam, please ring into school as soon as possible (0121 4535211). Our exams officer will let examination boards know. You will need a medical certificate from the GP as this is requested by examination boards.

Lateness
All morning exams have an official start time of 9.00 am and afternoon exams start at 1.30 pm. If you are aware your child might be late on the day of your exam, please ring into school as soon as possible (0121 4535211). If a student arrives late, we must report the lateness to the awarding body, and they may decide misconduct which can result in marks being deducted or a student's work not accepted.

What if there is a problem during the exam?
All our exams are run by a team of experienced invigilators, with the support of our exam officer. If a student is distracted, becomes unwell or has any concerns during the exam they must report the problem to an invigilator who will deal with the situation.

Repeated need to use the toilet during the exam, without medical notice, may be declared by awarding bodies as misconduct, resulting in warnings or loss of marks. Pupils **MUST** use the toilet before an exam begins.



GCSE exams in 2025 start on May 5 and finish on June 26. GCSE results day is Thursday, August 21 2025.

RSA8 Social Action Project



RSA8 2025 sprang into action as Waseley Hills hosted all the Year 8 students from the Trust for the Launch Event on 5th March. Students from our Trust schools Ipsley, Gospel Oak, Churchill and Holyhead joined us to collaborate in a social action project to promote change to better the lives of our community.

The students had the opportunity to listen to the experience and journey of an active charity worker Alexis Cowie who has been pivotal in making a huge impact on the lives of young people in Malawi. They were then given the time to think about what their own school community was like and what they could do to make peoples' lives better. The students were keen to get into their projects and left the day feeling driven to create their own 'social action for change'.



All the students were a credit to themselves and their schools and developed teamwork and problem-solving skills throughout the day. We can't wait to see what ideas they come up with.



Watch out for the sharing event and final pitch of the projects in the summer term.



The overriding objective of Friends of Sick Children in Malawi is to improve the healthcare and wellbeing of children admitted to or seen and treated each year at the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital (QECH), Blantyre, Malawi.

Through our website we aim to give a focus to the needs in Malawi, the funding we have raised and hope to continue to raise, and the current situation on the ground through the eyes and experiences of our colleagues in Malawi who work at the QECH and support the work of Friends of Sick Children locally there.



Fieldwork in Stratford

In the week leading up to the 28th February everything seemed to be going well weather-wise: high pressure, meaning clear skies and some crisp winter sunshine. The umbrellas would not be required! So the Waseley Hills Geography Department was satisfied that the gamble of taking 60 Year 11s to Stratford-upon-Avon for their urban fieldwork had paid off. And paid off it was, as the students performed admirably in collecting their data to answer the question, "Has the regeneration of Bell Court been successful?". They left no pedestrian uncounted, no piece of land-use uncategorised, and no environment un-surveyed.

Behaviour was impeccable, and the morning group even had the experience of meeting a knight. The fact that Stratford seemed to be the only place in the country experiencing persistent fog couldn't dampen the spirits.

Mr. Burton, Head of Geography



GCSE students completed their Urban Fieldwork Investigation at Stratford-Upon-Avon. This involved pupils confidently collecting primary data in the field to test if the redevelopment of Bell Court had been successful. Pupils developed and completed a range of data collection techniques including an Environmental Quality Survey, Photo Survey and Pedestrian Count. Pupils worked studiously to collect data at a range of sites in order to develop valid, unbiased conclusions. This will be developed with detailed analysis and evaluation back in the classroom.

Mr. Baker, Assistant Principal

History Matters

At the entrance of a block in Auschwitz-Birkenau, there is a quote by George Santayana stating that, 'Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.' That is why each year we take time to commemorate the millions of lives lost during the Holocaust and allow ourselves to understand the importance of fighting against prejudice and breaking down barriers that may exist between us.



Through Holocaust Memorial Day, we are reminded of the susceptibility of human nature to hatred and corruption and the consequences of prejudice and propaganda that led to the loss of over six million innocent lives. On this day, we are reminded that genocide on this profound scale not only affected those who lived through these dark times but continues to have a ripple effect through many generations.

This year, 27th January marked the 80th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest and deadliest Nazi concentration camp. To show their respect, many influential figures from across the world and the remaining Holocaust survivors gathered to light a candle in hopes 'for a better future', but also to not forget the atrocities of the past.



Left to right: Bromsgrove Town Crier Kevin Ward, District Council Chairman Bakul Kumar, Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Sir Nicholas Lechmere Bt DL, County Councillor Adrian Kriss, and Council Leader Karen May.

We commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day at Waseley with activities co-ordinated by the History department aimed at showing respect and understanding for what was suffered. Four students from Year 9 were honoured to be part of the Holocaust Memorial Day Service at the council offices in Bromsgrove. There were 10 other schools from across Worcestershire involved. We heard from Councillor Adrian Kriss about his own family experiences and the loss of his grandmother in Auschwitz in 1942. He described how he and his family had recently returned to the town in Germany from where his mother and grandmother were taken by the Nazi's.

In school, each year group had an assembly explaining why Holocaust Memorial Day was important and how people could commemorate past events. Each assembly had clips of individual stories from Holocaust survivors about their experiences. Students across all year groups showed great respect and reverence for the topic and really showed how much they all care.

Entitled Sons and their famous Mum!



As part of PSHE and Learning for Life, we are dedicated to helping students enjoy the best mental health. Entitled Sons, four brothers accompanied by their dad, came to Waseley to entertain us and to give students advice on being healthy and happy, and what to do if they feel they need some help.

The band discussed mental health and the causes of mental health problems - stress at school, relationships, who to turn to for help and the importance of speaking up. They also talked about a time when one of the brothers had his own mental health issues. He spoke about dealing with bullying at school relating to his own experiences.



Some of our staff were more than a little starstruck by the guys' famous mum Sarah Beeny!

Another focus was the importance of healthy relationships and respect within all kinds of relationships, whether this be family, friendships or romantic relationships. They explained the characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships, highlighting the importance of respect and tolerance, and why diversity should be celebrated by us all.



'These Days' official video



Student Leadership in Action

Our student leadership is made up of committees - Eco, Diversity, Charity and Civic - led by Sixth Form Ambassadors and the Whole School Council. The Whole School Council has a representative from every form group and meets regularly to discuss key school initiatives and to provide support to our committees.

Let's take a look at the work of our Eco Committee in the words of Year 13 student, Jack W:

Our Whole School Council has met with Aspens Catering to discuss the meals and menus currently offered within school and will have the opportunity to consult on the new menu.

Driving Environmental Change at Our School

At our school, we are committed to making a real difference in the fight against climate change and environmental degradation. Through a series of impactful initiatives, we have been working together as a community to reduce waste, conserve energy, and promote sustainable habits.



Recycling Drive

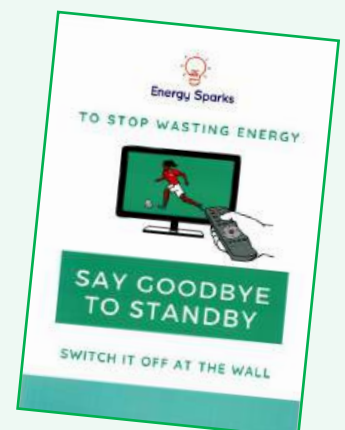
One of our key initiatives is our recycling drive, ensuring that every classroom is equipped with a recycling bin. This makes it easy for students and teachers to dispose of recyclable materials properly. To keep this initiative running smoothly, our dedicated Sixth Form students take responsibility for emptying the bins each week, reinforcing a sense of responsibility and teamwork. By embedding recycling into our daily routines, we are reducing waste and encouraging everyone to think more consciously about their environmental impact.

Encouraging Walking and Cycling

Another significant effort we have undertaken is working closely with the lower school students to encourage walking or cycling to school. This initiative not only promotes healthier lifestyles but also helps to reduce carbon emissions from cars. Through interactive sessions, we educate younger students about the environmental benefits of choosing sustainable transportation. By fostering these habits early on, we hope to create a generation that prioritizes eco-friendly commuting.

The Big Switch Off

Energy conservation is another focus of our environmental efforts. We launched 'The Big Switch Off' campaign, where all non-essential electronic devices are switched off at the end of the school day and during half-term breaks. The majority of our school's electronics are powered down, significantly cutting down on unnecessary energy use. To track our progress, we use Energy Sparks, a platform that provides insights into our energy consumption and helps us measure the impact of our actions. This initiative has been instrumental in making students and staff more mindful of energy waste, inspiring them to adopt similar habits at home.



Sponsoring a Sea Turtle

In an effort to raise further awareness about environmental conservation, we are in the process of sponsoring a sea turtle. This initiative not only symbolizes our commitment to protecting marine life but also serves as an educational tool to highlight the threats facing our oceans. By supporting conservation efforts, we hope to inspire our school community to take an active role in protecting our planet's ecosystems.

These initiatives are just the beginning of our journey toward a greener and more sustainable future. By working together, we can continue to make meaningful changes that benefit both our school and the environment. Let's keep the momentum going and strive to be even more eco-conscious in our everyday lives!

A Valentine's Day
bake sale raised the funds for
school to sponsor an
endangered animal.



Planting for the Community

*Eco Committee students
with Councillor Peter
McDonald and the
council's parks team*



On March 4th, Bromsgrove District Council and Waseley Hills High School collaborated in a project to plant over a dozen locally-sourced apple, plum and cherry trees in Brook Road Park in Rubery. Waseley's Eco Committee Sixth Form students got digging alongside the town's Councillor, Peter McDonald, and the council's parks team.

Oliver, Harry and Josh helped to plant the trees which will begin to root and establish over the spring before they begin bearing fruit for the community over the next few years. Josh explained the school's involvement, "On the committee we work to raise awareness for environmentally friendly measures throughout the school. We help spread the message to the younger ones and do things like this for the community. It's something we can do to help counteract the amount of paper we use in our school and create something which is sustainable."

Money raised by a recent Civic Committee bake sale will fund brightening up our school with 'Waseley in Bloom' spring flowers and the committee will also be supporting 'Rubery in Bloom' within the community by assisting with planting up the many boxes next to road signs around the town.

Student Leadership in Action



Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. It is observed by Muslims worldwide as a month of fasting, communal prayer, reflection and community. It is also the month in which the Quran is believed to have been revealed to the Islamic prophet Muhammad.

Eid al-Fitr is celebrated by Muslims worldwide because it marks the end of the month-long, dawn-to-sunset fasting of Ramadan.

The Sixth Form Diversity Committee has been leading a number of activities to foster inclusivity and representation within the school. This includes religious holidays such as Ramadan and Eid.



The Diversity Committee organised some creative whole-school activities for celebrating Ramadan.

They provided the students with 'mehndi' hand painting designs and created a beautiful display in the front entrance for all our visitors to see.

This was a real demonstration of student agency, leadership and respect for each other.

In India, henna, known as "mehndi," was used as a ceremonial adornment for weddings, festivals and other important occasions. Over time, henna spread to various cultures, each incorporating its unique designs and meanings into its application.

"Ramadan Kareem" is a common Arabic greeting during the holy month of Ramadan meaning, "Have a generous Ramadan" or, "May Ramadan be generous to you".





100 Heroes Award

Our student Charity Leaders are continuing to make real-world change and build upon the fantastic amount they have already raised for Birmingham Children's Hospital. Last year, they raised an incredible £10,000 for the charity and this spring were recognised for their achievements with a '100 Heroes' award.

The money they raised provided the necessary funds to refurbish the play and distraction equipment in the waiting area of the day surgery ward, enabling children who are waiting for surgery to feel as calm and happy as they can be.

It was an incredible achievement and demonstration of what we can achieve when we come together as a Trust-wide community.





IN BRIEF



Our Mathematics department visited Lickey Hills Primary School to run a masterclass for the

Year 3 and 4 students on patterns made by square numbers.

The Lickey Hills students were amazing in their enthusiasm and intelligence in finding the patterns and applying them to different scenarios. It was lovely for the students to be able to meet their future Maths teachers and start to build up excitement for their journey to Waseley.

Science Superstars!

Despite having a reduced team of 4 people, compared to the 6 in the other CRST school teams, the Waseley Hills Science Quiz team triumphed in this year's KS3 Science week quiz.

They answered questions on a range of Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics before a tricky True and False round where they correctly determined the number of cells in the body and the smallest particles in the universe.

They showed amazing team work and staff commented on how articulate and polite they were. Big congratulations to Holly and Cole (Year 9), Lilah (Year 8) and Peter (Year 7) who brought back the Science Trophy meaning we retain the title for the second year in a row!



Pollution Project

Yes!! Shout out to Year 8 who have been cutting their own stencils, creating inky backgrounds and printing to make an artwork in response to their pollution project - looking specifically at activism art and plastic pollution.

Living Eggs

In March, we welcomed our very own new chicks into the world and students and staff alike 'flocked' to see them. We had taken delivery of 10 eggs and an incubator from the Living Eggs company on Monday and they were already starting to hatch the next day. By Wednesday, we had 9 little chickens.



The chicks were moved out of the incubator and taken around the Science rooms for students to hold and weigh. We had 5 yellow cockerels and 4 brown hens which the students named Kiwi, Brutus, Wonky, Kentucky, Nula, Tilly, Sophie, Hazel and King George II!

Our chicks were collected after just 7 days while they were still cute and fluffy but chicks continue to grow at an amazing rate and, in just 4 weeks, will already look like small hens.

For more information about keeping and raising chicks, visit [Living Eggs - Living Eggs](#)



A Night at the Theatre

In January, we took 50 students ranging from Years 9-11 to watch *Blood Brothers* at the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre. This is a text we study for GCSE so excellent revision for our GCSE cohorts but also open to those interested in theatre or those showing aptitude in drama in Year 9.

Some of these students have never been to the theatre before so this was a first for them. They said how much they loved it and can't wait to go to the theatre again!

Students were congratulated by the theatre for being the best-behaved school and the show was loved by all, with a few jumps and screams

during the ending!
A fantastic evening
all round.



Spanish Tapas

Spanish enrichment club at Holywell for Years 3 and 4 came to a fabulous end with a Spanish tapas buffet, including treats such as Spanish omelette, chorizo and Manchego cheese, as well as some homemade churros and magdalenas.

Students skilfully practised Spanish phonics and food vocabulary to request items from their tapas menus and subsequently give a review using a range of positive and negative opinion phrases practised throughout Spring term 1.

Students were an absolute delight and very willing to try new sounds, learn new words and engage with cultural experiences.



This term saw the introduction of Academic Mentoring afternoons for our KS3 pupils and their parents and guardians. All year groups completed an intensive week of reflection activities, carefully supported by their tutors during culture time.

Pupils reflected on key aspects of school life including attendance, academic engagement and achievement, and importantly their engagement in enrichment activities. Key stage 4 and 5 pupils received tailor made sessions from external speakers Elevate, learning a range of examination techniques that they were then guided to apply on the Academic Mentoring afternoon, giving them the opportunity to practise their independent revision in the run up to their mock examinations.

Key Stage 3 pupils attended 10 minute meetings with their tutors to review their reflections and set targets to maximise their academic and personal development.

Parents and carers were invited to complete a feedback survey following the event and shared how proud they were of their child's achievements, the strong relationships that have been forged with their tutor, and how informative the meetings were to help them support their child in their next steps. Thank you to Pupils, Parents/Guardians, Tutors and Heads of Year for making the Academic Mentoring Afternoon such a positive experience.



On Friday 14th March staff from Aimhigher West Midlands came into school to deliver an aspiration and attainment-focused workshop for our Year 7 and 9 high prior attaining pupils. The 50-minute session focused on the importance of 'Aiming Higher' and exploring future pathways to success.

Students charted their journey from KS3 to GCSE, A-Level and beyond to explore how university degrees can be pivotal in successfully achieving their goals.



The HPA (High Prior Attainment) programme continued full steam ahead this week. A group of Year 8 students were taken to Oxford University where they got to participate in an Explore workshop, see the facilities and obtain advice on how to take part in super-curricular opportunities to boost their personal statements for the time when they need to apply.



The group tasks challenged students to think creatively and start the process of building themselves as well rounded individuals to hopefully give them the chance to study at one of the world's best universities.



We have been very fortunate to work with Morgan Stanley for a fourth consecutive year. On Wednesday 12th March, our Year 7 students were able to learn and discuss the importance of

interpersonal skills required in employment and developing team building. They developed their organisational and communication skills as teams planned a sustainable, but profitable, business. The Year 7s have already worked on their corporate image and promotional items. They will soon be working closely on their social media posts and working on Profit and Loss sheets ready to present to the Morgan Stanley 'Dragons' in June.





Waseley students don't just want to hear their own teachers and staff give them advice about life chances and ways to ensure they get the best out of their time at school, we believe that our pupils should have access to the experts that have lived and made real their dreams.

On Thursday 27th February we welcomed Cameron Parker, an internationally recognised motivational speaker, to hold sessions with our Year 10, 11 and 13 cohorts. These assemblies in developing resilience for academic success always go down well with students and leave them motivated to make the best out of the opportunities offered to them.

Cameron's vision aligns with our Trust's, with social justice at the heart of what he shares with the young people he meets. He promotes having ambitious goals and putting the effort and work into achieving them. As he puts it, "We can't achieve Champion's League goals with Sunday League behaviours" – essentially aim high but expect to work hard!



During his visit, Cameron also mentored individuals and small groups to break down the specific steps they need to take in order to achieve their specific ambitions and goals.



Student voice at Waseley Hills is really important in order to meet the needs of our pupils.

After completing a unit in the PSHE curriculum, Years 10 and 11 in particular were keen to look further into the world of finance. So, we invited HSBC in to lead an interactive workshop about banking, saving and talking all things money.

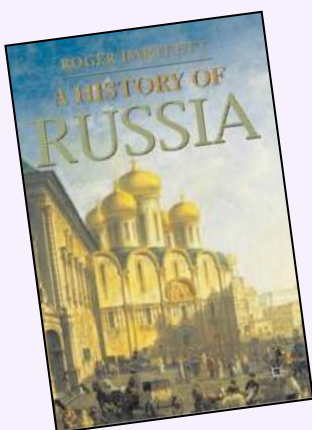
Some great take aways from the sessions for pupils and some staff too!





Emma Jones, of the Waseley History Department, went to Manchester at the start of March to give an exciting lecture to other History professionals which centred on feedback processes following an assessment.

Teachers Talk Connect is an annual conference organised by Teachers Talk and focuses on sharing best practice in the classroom with like-minded and passionate professionals! The lecture was very well received and was an invaluable opportunity to showcase some of the brilliant teaching and learning that is happening in the Waseley History Department!



As part of their research into educational reform in Imperial Russia, Year 13 have been corresponding with Professor Roger Bartlett.

It is really wonderful to have academic discussions and input into their coursework and we are very grateful to Professor Bartlett for his time.

ROGER BARTLETT is Professor Emeritus of Russian History at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London. He is also the author of many history books, including *A History of Russia*.



Our Year 12 students went to the UK University and Apprenticeship Fair in Edgbaston on Thursday 6th March.

They were able to talk to prospective employers and universities and also had the opportunity to explore potential apprenticeships and discuss the changing landscape of further education.

The students' feedback was very positive and hopefully some will have been inspired to think about their next career steps.



The handbook produced by UK University & Apprenticeship Search Fairs is packed with 92 pages of information on how to make the right higher education and career choices.

Just scan the code below for all the info. you will need to get started.





**WASELEY
NEWS**



Meet the Pastoral Team

Mrs E Meredith - Vice Principal
Miss S Oakes - Assistant Principal

Mr A Blount - Head of Year & Associate Assistant Principal

Mrs N Joshi - Head of Year

Mrs K Bradley - Head of Year

Miss J Burke-Martin - Head of Year

Mrs J Williams - Head of Year



Mrs K Mcleod - Lead Student Welfare Officer

Mr B Williams - Student Welfare Officer

Mr G Shaw - Student Welfare Officer

Mrs T Stanford - Student Welfare Officer

Mrs A Ross - Student Welfare Officer



Mrs R Masters - Student Wellbeing
(Safeguarding)

Mrs S Taroni - First Aid Assistant



Mrs C Round - SENDCO

Miss J Moore - Education Welfare Officer
Mrs L Whitcombe-Troth - Attendance Officer

SEND Department

We are delighted to offer bespoke interventions (individually and small groups) to our pupils with SEND needs

- ♥ WAM (Worcestershire Autism Mentor): understanding Autism and how it influences lifestyle (pupils must have a diagnosis of Autism)
- ♥ Me!: understanding social barriers to communication and developing strategies of support
- ♥ IDL (International Dyslexia Learning): supporting learners with literacy and numeracy from foundation skills to enable students to better access classroom learning
- ♥ ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder): understanding ADHD, barriers to communication and engagement and support with dysregulation
- ♥ Zones of Regulation: identifying emotion, causes of distress and providing strategies to support regulation
- ♥ TalkAbout: enabling positive social engagement with peers, how to make social relationships
- ♥ ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant): comprehensive intervention to develop and support emotional literacy
- ♥ Learning Village intervention: to support a small group of learners with phonics and comprehension

Our SEND Team is now looking forward to working with Primary Schools, Y6 into Y7 children and their families, to ensure a comprehensive transition to Waseley Hills High School.



Parenting Workshops



The Starting Well Partnership offers an exciting array of parenting groups and workshops. All sessions are free to attend and run by trained staff and volunteers from the Starting Well Partnership.

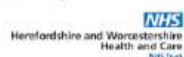
Some of the workshops available include:

- Fussy Eaters
- Sleep
- Understanding Your Child's Behaviour
- Understanding Your Teen's Brain & Development

These workshops run across the county. Book by scanning the QR code to visit www.trybooking.com/uk/eventlist/startingwellpartnership



Provided by:



In partnership with:



EVERY CONTACT SHAPES A LIFE

Do you have a child with additional needs?

Or, do you need signposting and support for the whole family



Join us at WPCC or find out more about how we can support your family at

www.worcestershireparentcarers.org.uk

Or scan the QR Code



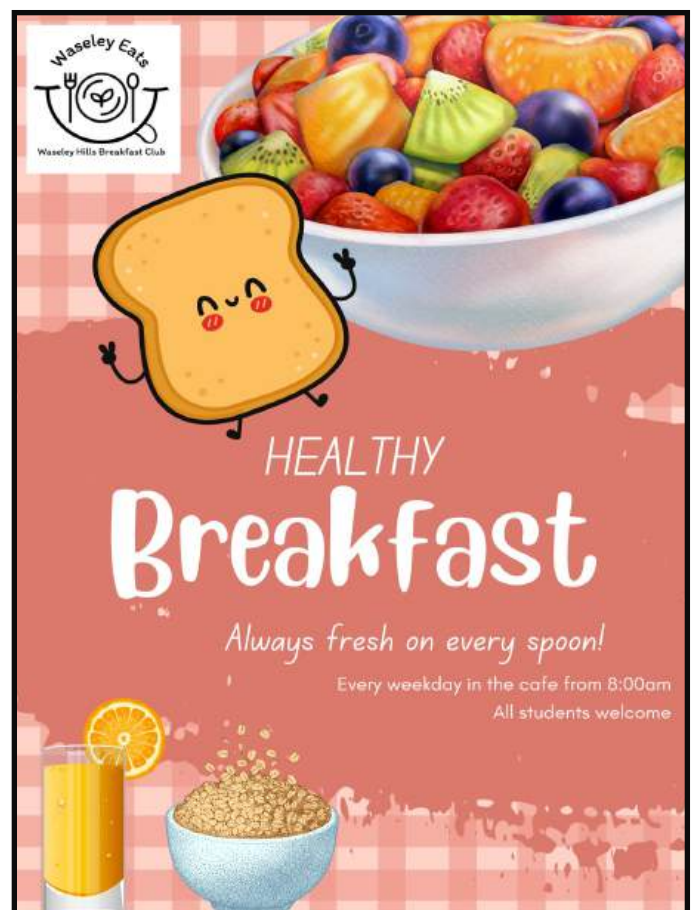
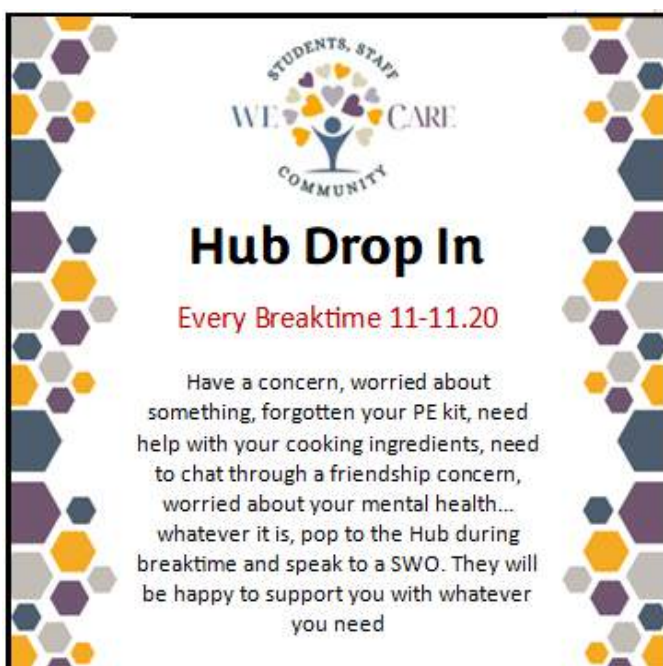
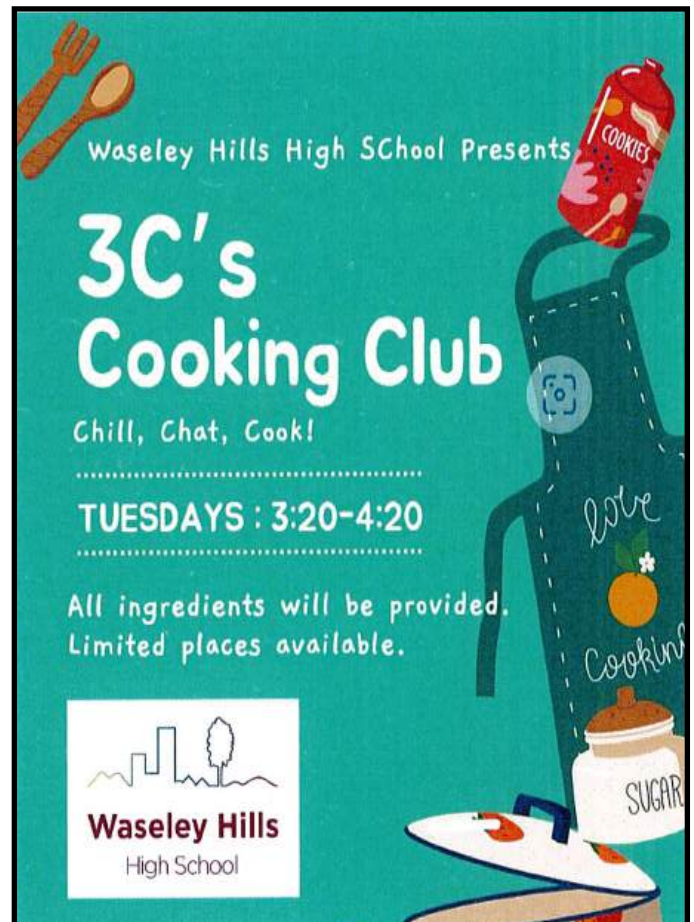
Chill, Chat, Cook, Eat



Spring term saw the start of our new 3C's Cooking Club (Chill, Chat, Cook). The cooking group is a project in which students commit to six weeks cooking alongside adults after school.

The aim is to develop their cooking knowledge and physical skills whilst enjoying being alongside others!

Mr. Shaw is still running a Breakfast Club in the Café from 8-8.30am. Attended by a mix of students from across the year groups, Breakfast Club offers a selection of toast, fruit and cereals. It is absolutely free and anyone is welcome. Just drop in.



WASELEY CARES



Mrs Meredith
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mr Blount
Deputy
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Williams
Deputy
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs McLeod
Deputy
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Masters
Deputy
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Joshi
Deputy
Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mrs Ashley
Deputy
Designated Safeguarding Lead

THERE IS SUPPORT ALL AROUND YOU

AT WASELEY HILLS

All members of staff undergo safeguarding training on a regular basis and understand the importance of protecting the young people in their care.

Students across the school have access to trained Anti-Bullying Ambassadors who can be identified by their badges.

We work closely with a number of outside agencies to support students and staff - Malachi, Birmingham Children's Trust and Worcestershire Children First are just a few of them.

Students in Year 11 are supported with additional tutoring and specialist GCSE interventions.

The PSHCE programme keeps students healthy and safe and prepares them for life and work.

Behaviour support is available to students who are at risk of suspension and permanent exclusion.

Free period products are available from the PE Department, Reception, Learning Support and Student Services.

Your Form Tutor is your first point of contact followed by Student Welfare Officers then your Head of Year

If you are concerned about your own wellbeing or the wellbeing of others outside of school hours, please contact

CHILDLINE 0800 1111 SAMARITANS 116 123

Safeguarding Information

Mobile Phone Safety at School

Mobile phones and Airpods are only allowed on school site if put out of sight at the bottom of bags. This is to ensure that students can contact parents for travel arrangements to and from school but also to ensure that issues associated with social media and bullying online are not present in school. We will continue to confiscate phones seen on site and thank you for the support we have been receiving from parents and carers who understand that this is in place to help students focus on their learning in school.

Access to our School

Full Access - Unaccompanied



Black Lanyard:
Sixth Form Student

Burgundy Lanyard:
Member of Waseley/
Central Region Trust Staff

Green Lanyard:
Visitor whose credentials
have been checked and
approved

 Waseley Hills High School
Aspire, Invest, Respect

Restricted Access - Accompanied



Visitors on a red lanyard must be accompanied at all times by a member of staff.

If you see anybody with a red lanyard walking around unaccompanied, please report this **immediately** to the nearest member of staff.

No Lanyard - No Entry to School

Nobody (except students) should ever be seen in school without a lanyard.

If you see anyone walking around without a lanyard, please report this **immediately** to the nearest member of staff.

 Central Region
Schools Trust
Powered by the M4

Hi-Vis - Know the Colours



Waseley
Hills
Staff



Tilbury
Douglas
Staff

West Mercia Police are offering free parent workshops on online safety/exploitation.

[Exploitation and vulnerability training | West Mercia Police](#)



TEAM PE **Sporting NEWS**

Football First

Year 10 boys continued their football campaign with a strong 2-1 victory against a very tough Trinity High School on Wednesday 5th March in glorious sunshine. Waseley started the game very strong catching Trinity napping in the first couple of minutes, leading the game with just 3 minutes on the clock. There were countless opportunities created by our team which were met with an outstanding performance from the Trinity goalkeeper and defence to keep them in the game. Trinity grew into the game approaching the midpoint of the first half and managed to pull the game back to 1-1.

Waseley again started strong in the second half with further goal-scoring opportunities for our attacking players within the first 10 minutes. Pressure was beginning to tell on the Trinity High School team and an unfortunate mistake from the home team keeper led to Waseley regaining the lead 2-1 heading into the final 10 minutes. It was a spirited fight back attempt by Trinity High School, however, our boys managed to hold onto the 2-1 victory against a well-organised and strong Trinity team.



Star Kick Boxer



Congratulations to Sam H, Year 9, who has successfully qualified to represent Great Britain in the European Kick Boxing Championships being held in Portugal over a 10-day period in July and August.



Sam has been kick boxing for 3 years and fights for a team called CMA Freestyle in Halesowen. Multiple other fighters from his team are also off to the European Kick Boxing Championships this summer.



Sam has been chosen to represent Great Britain in 3 different disciplines - Points Fighting, Continuous and Low Kick. We wish him all the best for his training and good luck for the competition!

Join In

Joining a club outside of school is great for extending your skills, meeting new friends and taking part in competitive experiences. In addition, if you take part in GCSE PE in Years 10 or 11 and are thinking you may select GCSE as an option, this is a great opportunity to gain competitive match experiences which are essential and compulsory to be included in your written your coursework.

STRATFORD THUNDERBIRDS NETBALL CLUB
WARWICKSHIRE'S MOST SUCCESSFUL NETBALL CLUB

Summer Season Open Trials

PERFORMANCE AND DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS

TRAIN AT STRATFORD GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL OR THE CROFT PREP

PLAY COMPETITIVE MATCHES AND TOURNAMENTS

Saturday 8 February
Stratford Girls' Grammar School, CV37 9HA

9.00 am - 10.30 am: Year 3, 4, 5
10.40 am - 12.10 pm: Year 6 & 7
12.20 pm - 1.50 pm: Year 8 / 9 / 10 (Beginners)
2.00 pm - 3.30 pm: Year 8 / 9 / 10 (Intermediate)
3.40 pm - 5.10 pm: Year 8 / 9 / 10 (Performance)

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY CHAMPIONS | WEST MIDLANDS REGIONAL CHAMPIONS | ENGLAND NETBALL NATIONAL FINALISTS | 4 X INTERNATIONAL PLAYERS 2024 | 30+ JUNIOR TEAMS

LAST FRILLS AVAILABLE FOR THOSE WHO CANNOT ATTEND ABOVE TIMES. USE OUR QR CODES OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO ARRANGE A TRIAL.

REGISTER VIA LINK:
[BIT.LY/THUNDERBIRDS TRIALS](https://bit.ly/thunderbirdstrials)

TEAM PE Sporting NEWS

Judo Champion

The British Schools Judo Championships is an annual competition which allows students to represent their school or college at a high level and gives them the opportunity to become the British Schools Champion.

Over 700 students entered from all over the country, including both adaptive and visually impaired students. Paige D. represented Waseley Hills in the year 6/7 females over 53kg category. Not only was Paige the lowest grade but also the lightest in her group. She faced some very tough competition, including some ranked players, but fought with great determination and was placed 3rd.



Dancing to Number One



Congratulations to Jacob Y. who took part in the United Dance Organisation's Street Dance Competition in March. UDO's competitions offer dancers of all ages, abilities and styles the chance to perform and compete at nearly 60 events spanning the UK, Europe, America, Africa and Asia.

Jacob clinched 1st place in the Under 16 category, an incredible achievement!



Dance Studio



Do you want to be part of the after school action with P & E Sports' new dance sessions?

Ask Waseley PE staff for more information about the new dance sessions to be held on Mondays from 3.30-4.15pm in the studio. All you need is your PE kit.

Just select your song and your crew

TEAM PE Sporting NEWS

Handball

On 10th March, Waseley took part in a Trust-wide handball tournament at Arrow Vale school. Students from Years 8 and 9 played against five other schools from across the Trust in both boys' and girls' tournaments. Both teams performed excellently, coming home with a strong third place behind two very strong handball teams from Holyhead and Churchill. Waseley organised and ran the tournament with tremendous help from our Year 10 sports leaders and Year 7 sports journalists. They were excellent representatives of the school and showed fantastic leadership. Other schools commended them on their efforts throughout the day.

Trust Handball Tournament Boys

First match:

Waseley vs Arrow Vale 3-1

- 3 great saves from Travis/Jacob
- Great team play and skills with dribbling and shooting from striker
- 2 goals from Ryan G



Second match:

Holyhead vs Waseley 4-1

- Holyhead very tough opponent
- Defended well until the last 5 mins, 3 quick goals
- Waseley keeper and defenders kept them in the game

Third match:

Waseley vs Churchill 2-2

- More goals from Joe, Ryan and Jacob
- What a save from Churchill – top right
- Waseley look strong but Churchill sneak a late equaliser



Fourth / Final Match

Waseley vs Ipsley 1-2

- Lost to a good Ipsley team. Looked like basketballers how they dribbled
- Good skill by Waseley midfielder to create shot for striker just missed

Trust Handball Tournament Girls

First match:

Waseley vs Holyhead

- 2 great saves from Kaitlin
- Amazing pass from Ruby
- Pass from Lilah



Second match:

Waseley vs Arrow Vale

- Beautiful save from Kaitlin
- We defended the other team from scoring (Ruby, Izzy, Evie)
- Another save from Kaitlin

Third match:

Waseley vs Churchill

- 2 Incredible saves from Kaitlin
- Lilah scored a perfect goal!!!!
- Waseley team had some good passes and misses for goals

Final match:

Waseley vs Ipsley

- Good save from Kaitlin
- Perfect pass from Ruby
- Goal attempt from Izzy
- Evie scored!!
- Good pass from Amelie to Ruby
- Goal scored from Izzy
- Then a goal from Evie!!!
- Perfect catch from Ruby
- Goal from Evie
- Lilah intercepted the ball



FINAL SCORE: WASELEY WON 1, DREW 1 AND LOST 2

FINAL SCORE: THIRD VS ALL THE SCHOOLS

TEAM PE Sporting NEWS

Waseley Hills Gym is open and the Girls' Enrichment Club has been enjoying creating and completing their personal exercise programmes every week. Jogging beachside using the 'scene view' option on the treadmill is a real hit.



"Having recently seen the posters of the new gym around school, I was eager to see if it would live up to expectations. There are many different machines stationed around the gym, along with cardio machines such as treadmills and cross trainers. A range of free weights, body bars and medicine balls means there is always something new to try.

I thoroughly enjoy the weighted machines, as you can easily find out how heavy you can lift. I would highly recommend trying it out. " *Jennie-Rose N.*

Got to be fast!

Only the first 15 to get their forms filled and filed will qualify for each session.

Pick up an application form from Reception today, get it signed and return it as fast as possible to Reception to be in with a chance of bagging a session.

Sessions run from 3.30-4.15pm and all you need to bring is a drink, a small towel and yourself in full PE kit!

Girls Tuesdays. Boys Thursdays.



THE ENTITLED SONS

PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS

THURS 30TH OCT
02 ACADEMY 3, BIRMINGHAM

WWW.THEENTITLEDSONS.COM
 £10 | ALL AGES SHOW (under 16 accompanied by adult)

Funded by UK Government

Bromsgrove District Council
www.bromsgrove.gov.uk

WASELEY HILLS HIGH SCHOOL SCHOOL & COMMUNITY GYM

Waseley Hills High School
Academy Member, Partner

BROMSGROVE RESIDENTS £12 PER MONTH	NON-BROMSGROVE RESIDENTS £15 PER MONTH
£20 PER COUPLE	£25 PER COUPLE

P&E SPORTS
www.pandesports.com

SCHOOL ROAD, RUBERY, BIRMINGHAM, B45 9EL

7 DAY FREE TASTER MEMBERSHIPS AVAILABLE

TO JOIN OR FOR MORE INFO:
WWW.PANDESSPORTS.COM
 01527 529496

The Oasis

SCHOOL LEAVERS GET PROM READY

Free Makeup Transformation
 Get a prom transformation by one of our make up artists on the day of your event.

Free Makeup Consultation
 Learn personalised tips and techniques on how to create the perfect prom look at home.

BOOK NOW

Subject to availability.
 Contact 0121 602 7613 for more.
 The Oasis Salon, Halesowen College, Whittingham Road, B63 3NA

Save THE Date

FOR THE EVENT OF THE YEAR,
Waseley Hills Y11 Prom!

THURSDAY | JULY 3 | 2025

6:30 PM - 11 PM

School Information 2025

Term Dates

Summer Term 2025

TERM STARTS	Monday 28 th April 2025
BANK HOLIDAY	Monday 5 th May 2025
HALF TERM	Monday 26 th May 2025 - Friday 30 th May 2025
TERM ENDS	Friday 18 th July 2025
STAFF TRAINING DAY	Monday 21 st July 2025

Autumn Term 2025

STAFF TRAINING DAYS	Monday 1 st /Tuesday 2 nd September 2025
TERM STARTS	YR7 & YR12 ONLY - Wednesday 3 rd September 2025 ALL YEARS TOGETHER - Thursday 4 th September 2025
STAFF TRAINING DAY	Friday 24 th October 2025
HALF TERM	Monday 27 th October 2025 - Friday 31 st October 2025
STAFF TRAINING DAY	Friday 28 th November 2025
TERM ENDS	Friday 19 th December 2025

Contacting School

Absence

Please contact the school on **0121 453 5211** and select **Option 1** to record a message or you can report the absence via the Arbor app. A useful website if you are unsure whether or not to keep your child off school is [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

School Apps

We recommend downloading the following apps to remain fully informed of what is happening at Waseley:

Arbor - to report absences, for academic reports, for messages to the office, for the café, school trips and any other payments to school

Class Charts - for behaviour and rewards, detention notifications, student timetables and homework

Reception is open 8am to 4pm Monday to Friday during term times - **0121 453 5211**

You can email us at any time on office@waseleyhills.worcs.sch.uk



Follow us on Facebook, X, Instagram and via the school website: www.waseleyhillsschool.org.uk



T 0121 453 5211 • E office@waseleyhills.worcs.sch.uk • W waseleyhillsschool.org.uk

Waseley Hills, a high school operated by Central Region Schools Trust,
a charitable company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. Company Number 08166526.
Registered Office: Suite B06 Assay Offices, 141 Newhall Street, Birmingham B3 1SF