



WASELEY NEWS

All the latest action



It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the Christmas edition of Waseley News. It has been a wonderful first term at Waseley which has truly set the tone for the new academic year. It has been purposeful, full of extracurricular learning and one that has shown the students and community what to look forward to in the future.

Over the summer break we received news of the excellent academic achievements of our students who received their GCSE and A level results. These were a testament to the hard work and dedication of the students and it was lovely to see so many of them go on to their chosen destinations.

We started September with a team building day in which students got the chance to test out their teamwork skills in a variety of different activities. It was a time when the student ambassadors in sixth form built that culture of helping each other and welcomed the new Year 7 pupils into our school community. The student body have been closer knit ever since and they enjoyed seeing their teachers run lessons in a different way. September also saw the Year 11 and Sixth Form students gain essential ▶

Holiday club - book now!

Meet the Pastoral Team

Get involved in DofE

Enjoy our student artwork

Enrichment opportunities

Studying in Snowdonia



Celebrations inside.....

Waseley Hills is part of Central Region Schools Trust



Welcome to Waseley



► revision masterclasses from Elevate Education alongside a parental launch evening that helped with how to support revision at home.

October saw a number of extracurricular activities give students the chance to widen their scope on the world. These included the Rubery in Bloom competition where Sixth Form and the CIVIC committee took pride in our community flower boxes. The return of DofE has brought a lot of excitement and anticipation for students willing to push themselves beyond the classroom. The staff McMillan Coffee morning

raised money for day patients and brought some much needed sugar into the staff room before the half term break!

The attendance for the school has drastically improved this year and the November attendance rewards organised by the expanded Student Support team were a lovely start to the return after half term. The launch of Waseley Youth Hub has been successful in providing free activities every Wednesday evening. We also saw trips to Aston and Birmingham City University for Year 11 alongside Year 13 braving Snowdonia as part of their coursework. I cannot hide the enjoyment of Waseley becoming Trust champions of football as both the girls and boys team in Year 8/9 shone in the football competition. More of these are scheduled throughout the year.

December has brought out the best in Waseley. The Christmas Jumper Day has raised over £200 for Save the Children and the annual Christmas Hamper Competition was better than ever providing food and treats for families in need this Christmas. The Christmas Card Competition, the Spanish Year 6 festivities for Lickey Hills Primary students, St Chad's Carol Service, Christmas Concert and the week long charity week have allowed our students and community to shine. Furthermore, 95 of our pupils have won the Poetry competition which will see their poems published in Young Writers.



In amongst all of these fabulous opportunities, Ofsted visited on a Section 8 monitoring visit and we are excitedly awaiting the go ahead to share with you the published final report. The hard work of students, staff and parents being validated and truly demonstrating the school improving in the way we aim. I would like to thank the parents and carers for their welcome this term, honest conversations and full support in keeping the Waseley standards as high as they have been.

Please take the opportunity to take on the Winter Reading Challenge and I wish everyone in the Waseley community a healthy, festive and happy Christmas break. I look forward to welcoming the students back in January and also seeing the start of the new build.

Tom Preston
Head of School



WINTER HOLIDAY CAMP 2024



Times: 10am - 3pm
Ages: 5 - 12 year olds
Costs: £8 per day / £20 per week

Tuesday 2nd January - Friday 5th January
at Wootton Bassett High School, Rugby, CV40 9EL



Free for children who receive benefit - related free school meals (the club will inc a free packed lunch)

● **SPORTS** ● **DRAMA** ● **MUSIC**
● **NERF BATTLES** ● **GLOW SPORTS** ● **ARTS & CRAFTS**

To book: www.pandesports.com

Call: 01527 529496

Looking for a fun-filled experience for your children aged 5-12 during the holidays? Our Holiday Club is the answer! Packed with engaging activities, it's the perfect place for your child to spend their holidays.

Plus, it's free for children who receive benefit-related free school meals.

Please go to www.pandesports.com to book your child on the above activity. Any questions please email Dave Phelan at Info@pandesports.com

Festive Fun!

This year, our Sixth Form Charity Committee hosted the annual Christmas Hamper Competition.

Around Christmas time, many local families lack the food and resources needed to enjoy Christmas. For this reason, we create hampers to give to food banks who then distribute them to families in need this Christmas.

Every student in the school gets involved in putting together their tutor group's hamper and prizes are awarded for the winning hampers in each year group.

Winners this year were as follows:

Overall - 10ZHA for their version of Santa

Year 7 - 7EKE for their well-stocked sleigh

Year 8 - 8KWH for the reindeer and sleigh

Year 9 - 9CGI and the candy cane house

Year 11 - 11SPA with their toy soldier





Niamh, Pepper and Martha presenting their hamper to the judges.



Sixth Formers presenting the hampers to New Starts staff.



Food bank drivers collecting the hampers from school.

More Festive Fun!



On Christmas Jumper Day, staff and students raised over £200 for Save the Children



Christmas Card Competition



The winners this year were Alice in Year 11 with her glittery snowman entry and Orla-Rose in Year 7 with Merry Christmas wishes. Well done to both!



Much Music Was Made!



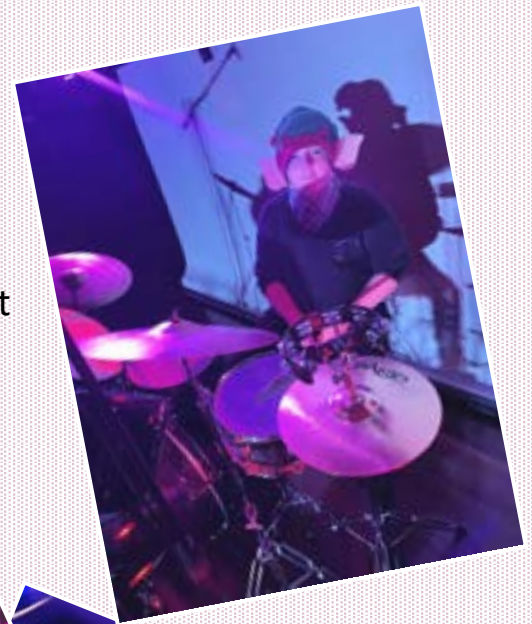
Waseley Hills Carol Concert at St Chad's Church

On Monday 11th December, Waseley Hills students filled St Chad's Church in Rubery with the sound of festive delights. Bands from Years 8 – 11 played popular Christmas tunes, the choir rallied the audience singing carols, and selected students delivered some fantastic readings. It was a brilliant event to show off the hard work and dedication of the Waseley Hills music students and we are hoping that this will be an annual event to help people get ready for Christmas.

School Christmas Concert

Waseley Hills school hall was the venue for a fun-filled festive night of music on Tuesday 19th December with some repeat performances from the carol concert, just bigger and louder! It was a brilliant night for all.

The audience was entertained by Oliver, our student compere for the evening.



*Waseley Hills
music students
in action!*

Feliz Navidad Year 6!

The languages department was pleased to welcome year 6 students from Lickey Hills Primary on Tuesday 12th December to take part in a Spanish event.

The event was supported by our Year 11 Spanish students who did a fantastic job teaching new vocabulary and leading different activities including; Spanish food tasting at 'Restaurante Waseley', translating titles of well-known novels and fairy tales at the book stalls. Our visitors were also able to practise key Christmas vocabulary at the festival stalls.

The Year 11s skilfully shared various aspects of their subject knowledge and enthusiastically engaged different groups of Year 6 students. It was great to see this enthusiasm being imparted onto future foreign language students who gave resoundingly positive feedback for the event.



Los libros



La comida



Los festivales



WELL DONE YEAR 7

We are delighted to see a rise in Year 7's confidence around the school, learning the Waseley Way routines and being able to work independently, both in and out of class. They have settled into secondary school very well.

Year 7 tutors have checked pupils' logins for Satchel One, but please let us know if you are still having difficulties. Some departments have their own homework apps in addition to Satchel One and your child has been made aware of these.

We have seen high levels of attendance, and it was great to be able to celebrate this with hot chocolate and donuts.



Finally, on behalf of myself and all of the staff who support Year 7, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mrs Joshi, Head of Year 7

Celebrating Achievements

Big reward day!

Waseley staff delivered reward treats to all pupils based on their positive points up to half term.

It was a fantastic way to celebrate our pupils' achievements.

Well done everyone 🍫






'Every day attendance' celebrations were held after half term. Heads of Year organised donuts, cakes, cookies and juice.

Our recently expanded team of Student Welfare Officers (see photograph) were great and helped set up and manage the event.

Canteen staff arrived extra early to prepare fresh hot chocolate for students and we must not forget to thank our finance team for overseeing such a huge order. A real team effort!

Students thoroughly enjoyed the morning. Well done to everyone as we continue to promote and celebrate school attendance.



Every day in school really does make a difference for our learners 

WELL DONE YEAR 8

At the end of a busy term, I want to start by thanking you for your support since the beginning of the academic year. I have thoroughly enjoyed building relationships with students and parents and look forward to this continuing into the Spring Term and beyond!

Year 8 have worked hard this term to demonstrate our Waseley values – I have been impressed by how they settled into new routines, adapted well to some changes, and have demonstrated a fantastic team spirit. We have also seen an improvement in attendance across Year 8 and have rewarded students with hot chocolate and cookies for attending school daily.

This term, students have also had the opportunity to attend a workshop with an external agency on the issues around vaping; we really hope that students were able to take away some important messages from this.

Last week, Year 8 were also lucky to benefit from a guest speaker, a Veterinary Nurse. This is one of many planned careers-based assemblies. We will look at inviting more guests into the school to talk to Year 8 about their chosen careers, to give an insight into the job role and the qualifications needed.

Finally, I would like to thank you for supporting our Christmas Hamper competition. I was impressed by the kindness and generosity shown by Year 8; not only by contributing food items but also giving up their time to help make some highly creative hampers.

I look forward to seeing students return in January, dressed in correct school uniform, and fully equipped for learning, after a well-deserved rest. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

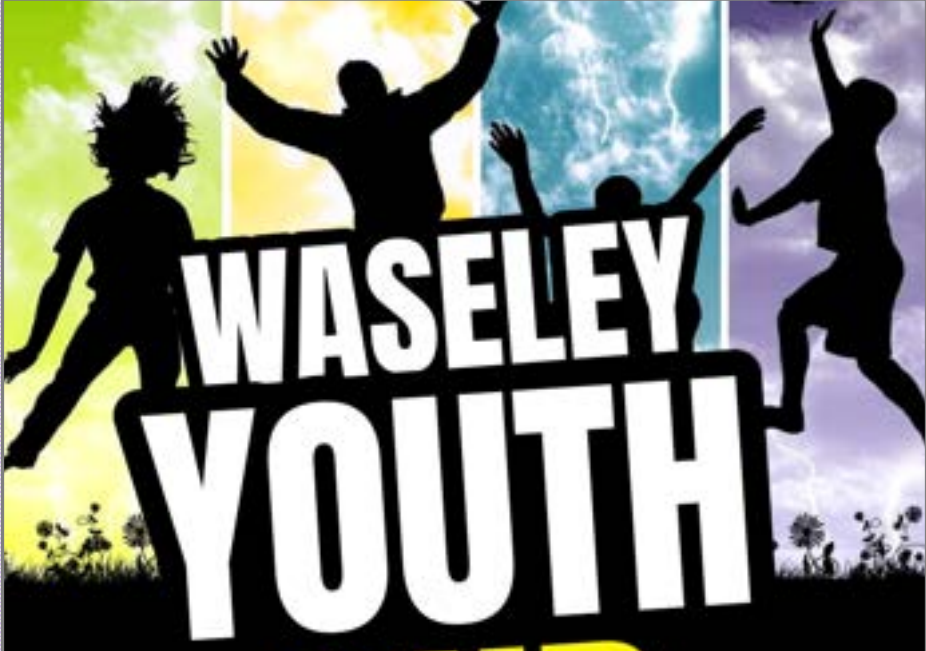
Kate Bradley, Head of Year 8

Welcome to the Hub!


Discover a world of fun and friendship at our Youth Hub!


Open to all children 11+, this hub is a vibrant space where you can engage in a variety of activities including sports, arts and crafts, music, and much more. It's a fantastic opportunity to chill out, express your creativity and make friends.

Best of all, it's completely free!



WASELEY YOUTH HUB

Presented By:  Waseley Hills High School
Active Youth Hub

In Collaboration With:  P&E SPORTS
www.pandesports.com


FREE TO ATTEND

EVERY WEDNESDAY
School Years 7 - 9 (6.00pm - 7.30pm)
School Years 10 - 11 (7.30pm - 9.00pm)

**LOCATION: Waseley Hills High School,
School Road, Rubery, B45 9EL**

Activities Include: Sports, Drama, Cooking, Music, Arts and many more.

**Any questions:
info@pandesports.com**



WELL DONE YEAR 9

Year 9 are an amazing group of students with so much potential. They have a lot to offer as individuals and as a group to the school community and beyond. Thank you to all of you for the support you have shown so far this year with their academic work and beyond the classroom.

We have enjoyed football success at Trust level in a cross-trust tournament where the boys team won overall, which was a truly fantastic achievement. We are so proud of the boys in promoting our school values of *Aspire, Invest and Respect* to the wider trust community. As we move into the new year and the spring term, we look forward to some of the year group embarking on the Ski Trip in February as well as all the students going through the exciting option process and making the transition into Key Stage 4.

The year group have embraced the charity week and the preparation leading up to the events. They have contributed to the vast fundraising opportunities with some fantastic entries to the Hamper Competition and creative submissions to the Christmas Card competition. Year 9 have also been instrumental in bringing to life the anti-bullying campaign through the Dianna Award, supporting Mr Mason, leading assemblies and being proactive in the relaunch of the house system via student council.

Lots of exciting things to come for Year 9 as we continue our journey at Waseley. Well done to all for Autumn and we can't wait to see what the new year will bring.

Eleanor Meredith, Vice Principal

Young Writers

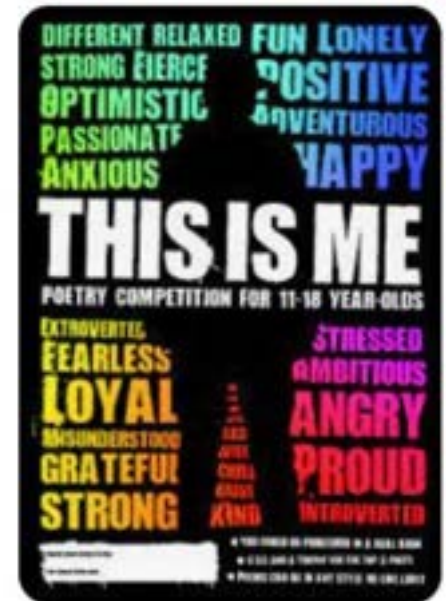
Waseley students have been entering a poetry competition where they have the chance to get their work published and win cash prizes for the best poem!

To coincide with National Poetry Day, Years 7, 8, and 9 have been creating their own poems. They have been exploring the theme of identity!

These poems were entered in the Young Writers competition: This Is Me. Pupils have the chance to get their work published and get a copy of their own poems in an anthology. There are also cash prizes and trophies up for grabs.

KS3 pupils approached this competition really positively and the English Department are proud of their hard work and dedication.

The results speak for themselves! 95 of our students are going to be published authors!



★ Congratulations ★

Some of your pupils have been selected for publication!

95 Waseley Hills pupils have been selected as competition winners!



Their poems will be published in the latest from Young Writers.



What an incredible achievement!



Certificates and letters to follow.



🕒 Awaiting Permission (95)

We have selected these entries to appear in a book!

WELL DONE YEAR 10

I would like to start by saying a huge thank you for the support and guidance that you have given to myself and our students in year 10. Since the students returned in September, they have made the transition to Key Stage 4 with real maturity and responsibility. We have seen an increase in attendance, and it was great to be able to share a hot chocolate and croissant with the students who continue to attend school daily.

In addition to this we have been fortunate enough to welcome Elevate Education into school again to deliver more sessions with our students on study skills. The students have also had the opportunity to attend a workshop with an external agency on the issues around vaping; we really hope that the students were able to take away some important messages from this session.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could ensure that your child attends school in the correct uniform and fully equipped each day as that will make a huge difference to learning. Finally, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mr Blount, Head of Year 10



COMMUNITY NETBALL

JOIN IN FOR FREE

Day	School Years	Time	Venue
Tuesday	7 - 8	5pm - 6pm	Waseley Hills High School
Tuesday	9 - 11	6pm - 7pm	Waseley Hills High School
Thursday	7 - 8	6pm - 7pm	Pershore High School
Thursday	9 - 11	7pm - 8pm	Pershore High School
Friday	7 - 8	7pm - 8pm	Arrow Vale Academy
Friday	9 - 11	8pm - 9pm	Arrow Vale Academy

To book go to:
www.pandesports.com

 **P&E SPORTS**
www.pandesports.com



Please go to www.pandesports.com to book your child on the above activity.
Any questions please email Dave Phelan at Info@pandesports.com

WELL DONE YEAR 11

I am very proud of Year 11 and what they have achieved this term. Our students have shown themselves to be aspirational, as they apply for post 16 opportunities. They have been preparing by attending institutions such as Aston and Birmingham City University. They showed exemplary behaviour when completing their mock exams, and are investing the time and effort to achieve, by attending intervention sessions and realising that every extra mark gained on an exam could make a difference.



Now is the time to dig deep and be resilient.

Pressures are building for GCSEs and it has been great to see the support from parents/carers at our Elevate parents' session, the online follow up and at post 16 and parents evening.



It has also been a privilege to have over 80 students invited to our attendance achievement 'hot chocolate and croissants' event for maintaining high standards of attendance. When we return after Christmas we shall be looking to reward attendance, and work ethic, with prom -related awards as we look forward to the prom on 27th June (deposits by 31st January please).

We hugely appreciate your support in ensuring students are dressed appropriately for school and come equipped to learn.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a happy Christmas and happy 2024 as our important team of students, parents and school work towards success.

Mrs Williams, Head of Year 11

Looking Ahead



Please find below a link to register for virtual work experience within the NHS. <https://medicmentor.org/university-hospitals-birmingham-trust-virtual-work-experience/>

The placements offer a variety of medical specialties, with a focus this month on palliative care. This enables students to gain a well-rounded perspective of working within the NHS. They are designed for students aged 14 and over who are interested in medicine to participate in our National NHS Work Experience programmes.

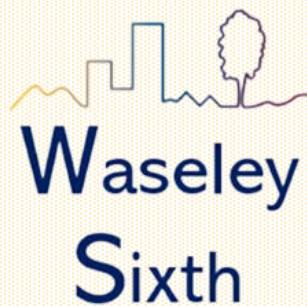
The virtual work experiences provide students with valuable insights and opportunities that may be otherwise difficult to access. Developed in collaboration with Birmingham Universities Hospitals Trust, this Virtual Work Experience has proven to be beneficial for thousands of secondary school students over the past year.

O2 are currently recruiting for L2 Field Engineer Apprenticeships. These are ideal for school leavers who want to enter a workplace environment whilst continuing with their studies. Please apply using the QR code below.



Year 11 BTEC

Our Year 11s have experienced enrichment activity delivered by our IT Support staff, students have seen the server room and how the network performance is monitored, range of equipment used to ensure all the connected devices are working as expected. Students were amazed to understand the different pathways and courses available for an IT career.



Waseley Sixth



Pioneer Day

Sixth form were very excited to take part in a team building day. They assisted the lower years and the Pioneer team throughout the day and had the opportunity to give the challenges a go themselves.

A great start to the new school year.

Prefects



We are immensely proud of our prefects. They

volunteer their time to assist at break times and in subject lessons and are true role models to our younger students.

Here at Waseley, Student Leadership is at the heart of our Sixth Form. Between our School Council and Lead Ambassadors, our students take control and strive to make Waseley a better place for everyone. In order to do this, we have

made a wide range of committees available to our Sixth Form students to lead, with the aim of inviting the whole school to join these committees in the very near future.



This year already our committees have planned and completed a wide range of activities. Our Civic Committee brought back Rubery in Bloom while our Charity Committee hosted Tea and Talk for World Mental Health Awareness Week and are planning our charity week for December. The Social Committee have planned a day out for Year 13 and are currently planning our Summer Ball. Our sports committee have made PE available to all of our sixth form students, as this is not a timetabled lesson. Finally, our Eco Committee is currently looking at our Trust-wide carbon zero challenge.

In Sixth Form all students are prefects, meaning that we have students prominent in a variety of locations around the school at break and lunch time. This allows us to be available to younger year students, looking out for them and offering support if needed. This makes the interaction stronger between our whole school community. Furthermore, Year 12 prefects have given up an independent study hour to go and support younger students in their lessons, allowing them to provide their past experiences of the subjects to the younger students, supporting them in their lessons.

Charity Committee

Our Charity Committee has played an integral part in our school community. Democratically, we must choose a charity that involves the input of every single student in the school. So far, we have held a Tea & Talk for World Mental Health Day in the Sixth form. We prepared tea and coffee and provided cakes and biscuits for the students while discussing mental health. We hosted a quiz to test students' knowledge of mental health facts and understanding of taboos.

On World Mental Health Day, Sixth Form acknowledged the day by hosting a 'Tea and Talk' event in the common room. The event was marked by our ambassadors, led by Keelan and Ellie, running a quiz and ice breaker question session for Years 12 and 13. The aim was to highlight the importance of us all looking after our mental health and supporting each other as a Sixth Form community.

Year 13 celebrated completing their mocks with a teambuilding trip to an escape room.

The teams took part in 4 immersive escape rooms; The Hellevator, the legend of Miyalock, the betrayal of Cluetankhamun and Captain Riddle's Forgotten Fortune. The teams had to solve puzzles to escape the rooms within 60 minutes.



Rubery in Bloom

On Wednesday 5th October, with the help of the Rubery in Bloom Committee, members of our Sixth Form planted pansies in the flower boxes located around the school site. The Sixth Formers took a great shine to getting their hands dirty! So much so, that plans are in place for a second batch of flowers to be planted in the spring to have our school blooming with life. A big 'Thank You' to Rubery In Bloom for sourcing the flowers and compost and to our Sixth Form Students for taking the time to make our school look even more friendly and inviting.

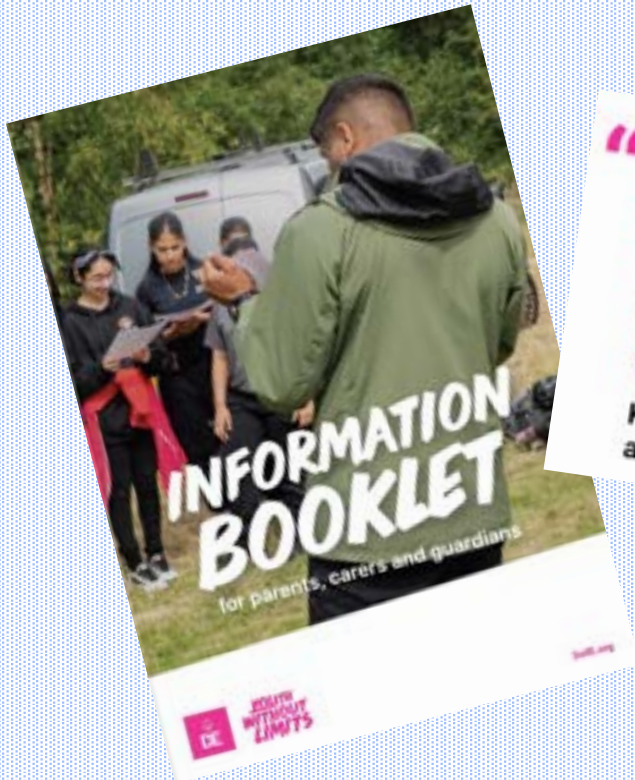


We welcome applications from existing school members, and any newcomers who would like to become part of our supportive community. If you are undecided then you can apply and reserve a position in our Sixth Form, giving you time to discuss your options with us as part of the application process.

Please use the link below and select 'click here' to begin the short online application form.

[Waseley Sixth Form Application Form 2024 Entry \(office.com\)](#)

DofE is Back!



“ Employers know that the DofE turns young people into great employees... it is as relevant today as it was 50 years ago. The DofE is a great way for young people to differentiate themselves and develop the maturity needed to do well at work.”

Karren Brady, Vice-Chair West Ham Football Club and BBC's The Apprentice regular

There was a huge turnout for the launch event for DofE at Waseley! Thank you to all who attended; it was amazing to see so many of you. If you are interested but could not attend, please speak to Miss Burke-Martin or Miss Brazil.

We are running the Bronze Award for years 9,10 and Sixth form. This is a fantastic opportunity to choose the things you love to do or try something completely new, help your community, test your limits, enhance your skills, and grow your confidence.

For the hundreds of thousands of young people who take part each year, the benefits of achieving a DofE Award at any level are endless. DofE is about helping you along the path to a productive and prosperous future. As many of our participants say, it's life-changing.

Achieving an Award will give you skills, confidence and an edge over others when you apply for college, sixth-form, university or a job. Beyond your academic achievements, interviewers want to see evidence of so called 'soft skills' that you have developed through extra-curricular activities, such as communication, commitment, leadership and teamwork. Your DofE Award is a fantastic way to demonstrate and evidence these skills in practice.

You'll also make a difference to other people's lives and your community, be fitter and healthier, make new friends and have memories to last you a lifetime.

If you are interested, please scan the QR code and register. We will be enrolling students on return to school in January and we hope to see you there!

DofE Expression of interest





Waseley Team Building Day at the beginning of term was hosted by Pioneer Leadership supported by our Sixth Formers. All students took part in outdoor activities as well as surviving on a desert island and completing a virtual escape room.

This was a great way for staff and students to build strong working relationships and was a great boost to everyone's spirits.



Action from Snowdonia

A team of five year 13 geographers braved Snowdonia in November to complete the data collection for their Non-Examined Assessment, a task that makes up 20% of their final grade. Assisted by Mr Ball and Miss Kendall, they set off on a grey Monday morning, driven by Mr Marples from Arrow Vale, destination FSC Rhyd-y-creuau.

Expectations were managed; the Met Office had forecast rain for the entire



week. After months of planning, my disappointment that the intrepid team would not be able to experience Snowdonia in its full glory was hard to mask with my encouraging smiles and wishes of bon voyage.

However, I should never have doubted the great British weather (or believed a weather forecast). Photos soon started to flood in that showed the joyful clear skies and wide, pristine beaches of Criccieth. The students were able to see a large variety of coastal landforms close up, collecting data both in Criccieth and Llandudno before 30,000 people descended for the annual Christmas Market. To cap it all, they even met a seal!

Well done to Adam, Dan, Ella, Jake and Ruby for their hard work and excellent behaviour, and thanks to Mr Marples, Mr Ball and Miss Kendall for enabling the trip to go ahead.

Mr Burton

Subject Lead, Geography



Rhyd-y-Creuau is a historic Georgian country house built in the early 1800s, set in the beautiful landscape of the Snowdonia National Park. The 2.2 hectare estate includes a football pitch, woodland, biodiversity garden, a stream, campfire area, two ponds including a 10 minute well-being walkway.

The centre is popular with those wishing to explore the mountains and adventure activities of the Eryri (Snowdonia) National Park which surrounds the centre, including Zip World Fforest which is a short walk away.



Meet the Pastoral Team

Student Welfare Officers

Mrs Dipple

We are very excited to announce that our pastoral team has grown considerably over the last term. Early Summer Mrs Mcleod joined Mrs Dipple in the student welfare team. Mrs Dipple has worked within Waseley for just over a year. As a qualified nurse, she is able to offer a huge skill set in terms of looking after our pupils with health needs, supporting first aid and wellbeing, keeping everyone safe in school.



Mrs Mcleod

Mrs Mcleod has a wealth of knowledge about mental health and wellbeing and has been working in the Trust for over 5 years. Although Mrs Mcleod is initially based with Mr Blount and his Year 10 team, she is supporting the whole school and has recently introduced the Mental Health in School Team to Waseley. She is excited to push forward with Waseley's Way to Wellbeing. The first stage of this plan is the launch of Student Wellbeing Leads this term.



" I have recently moved to Waseley from another school in the Trust. I am passionate about ensuring all pupils have a voice, experience fun and feel and acknowledge they are cared for. Already, I have witnessed the amazing things that happen at Waseley including school council, learning for life, how pupils care for one another as well as the amazing chocolate rewards at the end of last year.

I love to read and visit the amazing beaches in Cornwall with my dog Luna and my teenage daughter. I have recently graduated from the University of Buckingham with a Masters in Pastoral Leadership and want this to be a vision for young people – work hard, enjoy learning and take every opportunity offered to you – even if it is outside your comfort zone."

Mrs Stanford

In early Autumn Mrs Stanford joined the SWO team as Year 7 link. She has previously worked in SEMH provision and with the Starting Well Partnership offering support and guidance to many families, children and young people.



“I have recently joined Waseley Hills High after working as an Outreach Worker for the Starting Well Partnership. However, the majority of my working life has been in special schools supporting pupils and families. I am passionate about supporting pupils in all areas including their emotional and social wellbeing so that they feel as happy as they can be during the school day. I truly believe if we all work together this will allow all pupils to be the best they can be, in my short time at Waseley how fantastic the pupils are!

I enjoy spending time with my family including my two sons, whether this is out for a meal, taking a walk together or just catching up with a cuppa.”

Mr Williams

Mr Williams has also joined us and is the current link to Year 11. We are excited to have Mr Williams and his incredible skill set. He is an award-winning poet with a keen interest in drama, creative arts, and supporting children / young people with complex needs.

“Hi, I am Mr Williams. I have previously been known for my work as a poet. I have written and created award-winning poems and use this creativity to engage and support young people. I am very excited for my new role at Waseley Hills and will be bringing my enthusiasm for the creative arts with me. I will be supporting the work of the pastoral team and I am excited to be working with the amazing pupils at Waseley!”

Mr Shaw

To round off the team, we have Mr Shaw who has moved from his EWO role over to his new Link Year 8 pastoral role. Mr Shaw will be using his in-depth knowledge of attendance to support the whole school and ensure students are the best that they can be at any given time. Every day really does count!

Mrs Trafford

Mrs Trafford has also made the move into the pastoral team as Student Wellbeing Lead (DDSL). Mrs Trafford supports Mrs Meredith in coordinating various networks around our vulnerable students and families including working closely with a number of external agencies.



Wellbeing

Wellbeing Stall Open Evening

Our Open Evening was a great success. Our Student Welfare Officers were on hand to welcome prospective new students to Waseley. They offered help and advice on transition to all including parents and families.



The MS block was alive with enthusiasm around the activities on offer – the gratitude board was a huge hit with pupils, staff, families and friends writing down what they were grateful for that day. Freebies were on offer including stickers, smiley face pins as well as motivational quotes to make sure everyone felt a part of our happy and inclusive school community.

Mental Health Awareness Day



Mental Health Awareness Day was celebrated in school at a special assembly. The assembly was led by Mrs Mcleod and Mrs Dipple. The main message of the assembly was "IT'S OK NOT TO BE OK!" It followed the ITV national campaign to Get Britain Talking about mental health. We know how important this is not only for the person experiencing the difficulty at the time but in order for people around them to help and support. Various agencies, support networks and charities were mentioned as well as key people in the school that are available for all to speak to. Students went away at the end of the week with a signpost bookmark to remind them of key support networks that are open to them!

Mental Health Support

Mental Health in Schools Team

We are extremely lucky to have secured a member of the Wellbeing & Emotional Support Teams to be working with our pastoral team at Waseley. These teams are a part of the Hereford and Worcestershire Health Care and work within the CAMHS (Child, Adolescent Mental Health Service) offering low-level CBT (Cognitive Behaviour Therapy) intervention to our pupils and support for our families. They work closely with Mrs Mcleod in developing a whole-school community approach to mental health and wellbeing. Our assigned Educational Mental Health Practitioner, Lisa, will begin working with us in January! Although this is a Worcestershire service, they are open to working with all our school community. We are very much looking forward to welcoming them into our school after Christmas.



"Hi, my name is Lisa. I'm from WEST which stands for - Wellbeing Emotional Support Team.

I'm an educational mental health practitioner, 'EMHP' for short. I work in schools with young people who may feel anxious, worried or low in mood.

I work with them to help them feel better by teaching them skills and tools to manage their mental health wellbeing.

I can offer 1-2-1 or group sessions, and you can be referred for support from the mental health lead. If you see me around school, feel free to say hello!"

Journal Jazz

Journal Jazz launched to Year 7 this week. A selected number of pupils attended. Journal jazz is a place where pupils can explore different types of mindfulness through the creativity of journalling. Mrs Mcleod was impressed by the creativity of the pieces students have already started to produce!



Safeguarding Contacts

At Waseley, all members of staff undergo safeguarding training on a regular basis and understand the importance of protecting the young people in our care. We also work closely with a number of outside agencies to support students and staff - Malachi, YMCA, Birmingham Children's Trust and Worcestershire Children First are just a few of them.

Within school, we have a dedicated team of safeguarding specialists led by our DSL (Designated Safeguard Lead), Vice Principal Mrs. Meredith.



Mrs E Meredith



Mrs J Williams



Mr A Blount



Mrs K Bradley



Mrs R Strafford



Mrs L Dipple

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

FEARLESS (www.fearless.org) – Part of Crime-stoppers – resources and a reporting pathway for young people to pass information anonymously.

BEN KINSELLA TRUST (www.benkinsella.org.uk) – National knife crime charity with learning resources and support pathways.

NSPCC (www.NSPCC.org.uk) – Information and resources for young people, parents and professionals with some topic specific materials.

St GILES TRUST (www.stgilestrust.org.uk) – Supporting young people and families in adversity, including exploitation and criminality.

CATCH22 (www.catch-22.org.uk) – National support and advice service recommended by the National Crime Agency for numerous topics including exploitation and criminality.



Call us free 24/7 on
116 123
samaritans.org

Enrichment

Student leadership lies at the heart of improving our schools and enabling young people to realise their potential. It builds the necessary skills, confidence and motivation for young people to engage directly in the wider improvement of the school and, in particular, in the improvement of the learning experience.

Waseley Hills Student Leadership programme include, our whole school student council, led and managed by our Sixth Form students. Our council ensure that student voice is heard and helps to develop and shape the experiences our students have whilst at school. Developing within this leadership structure are our new committees, including **students from all year groups to develop activities based around Charity, Eco, Sport and Civic Duty.**

Students from all year groups are encouraged to apply to represent their respective forms on the student council where they will:

- be involved with the strategic changes in the school
- represent their form groups
- be a leader amongst their peers
- have their voice heard
- develop their communication and leadership skills
- be involved in organising social events such as school discos and fundraising activities
- make changes that are important to themselves and their tutor groups.



Enrichment

Enrichment is becoming a major strength of Waseley Hills High School and Sixth Form. We believe our students experience a wide-ranging curriculum which is both academic and enriched with experiences beyond the classroom. Enrichment helps students to develop interests and abilities, provides valuable learning experiences outside their studies and promotes independence. Enrichment at Waseley ranges from after-school sports clubs, homework clubs to reading clubs. In addition to our fun and physically based enrichment opportunities, we also provide additional enrichment opportunities for our key stage 4 students on academic support and coping with exam stress.

All departments contribute to our program ensuring we offer an extensive range of activities to engage all. Students are consulted regularly through student council leaders on further opportunities they would like to be made available. Throughout the academic year, there are numerous trips, visits, and external speakers from a variety of backgrounds available to our students to attend. We also believe that promoting leadership opportunities for our students contributes to the school wide community and provides opportunity to develop interpersonal skills in a fun and active way.

With the high number of enrichment activities taking place at the school and due to a significant increase in the number of students now taking part in enrichment activities inside and outside of school, we are now asking parents to complete one online consent form which will be used for all subjects and clubs

inside school Please contact the school office at

office@waseleyhills.worcs.sch.uk if you need to change any details. Please refer to school's website for up-to-date information on the widespread enrichment offer at Waseley.

Sports Leaders and Sports Captains

Alongside enrichment opportunities we have launched new Sports Leaders and Sports Captains roles for students of Waseley. Students will have the opportunity to plan, coordinate and assist in the delivery of inter-house sporting and academic competitions across all year groups. Sports Leaders initiative is a new and exciting offer for a select number of Key Stage 3 students to assist the PE department and gain practical experience of the planning and delivery of some aspects of PE lessons and sports coaching sessions with Mr Mason. Details will be shared with parents/carers ASAP. Students will be selected by their respective heads of year for this fantastic opportunity.

SMSC In Waseley

At Waseley Hills, we recognise that the spiritual, moral, social and cultural (SMSC) personal development of pupils plays a significant part in their ability to learn and achieve. We therefore provide a curriculum that encourages pupils to explore and develop their own values and beliefs, spiritual awareness, attitudes towards others and appreciation of the diversity and richness of their own and other cultures. All curriculum areas have a contribution to make to pupil SMSC development and we plan for this in every subject of our curriculum. Our school values, as well as British values and current affairs, are taught through the curriculum, tutor time, assemblies and general life of the school.

All departments will be sharing information on SMSC within their respective curriculum areas soon...

PASS Survey

This term all students have been invited to complete a PASS survey in school. Pupil Attitudes to Self and School (PASS) is an all-age survey that will help understand a student's mindset towards school and whether they are confident, ready, and motivated to learn. PASS helps to identify barriers to learning in order to ensure student wellbeing and positive outcomes at a whole school, class, and individual level. PASS assesses students' attitudes towards themselves as learners and their attitudes to school in order to understand internal and complex reasons behind behavioural issues, low attendance levels, poor attainment and mental health and wellbeing issues.

Mr. Mason, Teacher of PE & PSHCE Lead

PSHE
Association



All About Art



This term, Year 10 Art students visited IKON Gallery in Brindley Place, Birmingham. The visit was a great experience of contemporary art first hand, guided by the gallery staff. It is the starting point for our next mini project in January- what a great opportunity for our students to experience artwork and take photos for their own sketchpads. There were three exhibitions, Mali Morris explores abstraction in her geometric paintings with interesting



processes we can try at school. Dean Kelland has been artist in residence in the prison service for several years and his work explores the psyche of the inmates, their experience of masculinity and identity and works as a therapy to support rehabilitation. There was also personal work from the prisoners involved in therapy. Our students showed both maturity and empathy during their visit towards all the creative makers. The new education officer praised their interest and engagement and has asked us to return for workshops next term. Creative partnerships are really important to us so we will be taking up this offer.



Thanks to our Trust for funding the transport to support our students.



BIRMINGHAM CITY
University

**NATIONAL
SATURDAY
CLUB**

Birmingham City University is running an exciting Craft & Making Saturday Club giving young people the opportunity to develop their creativity and explore the world of activism and powerful storytelling through craft and making. They will learn new and exciting ways to voice their thoughts and opinions.

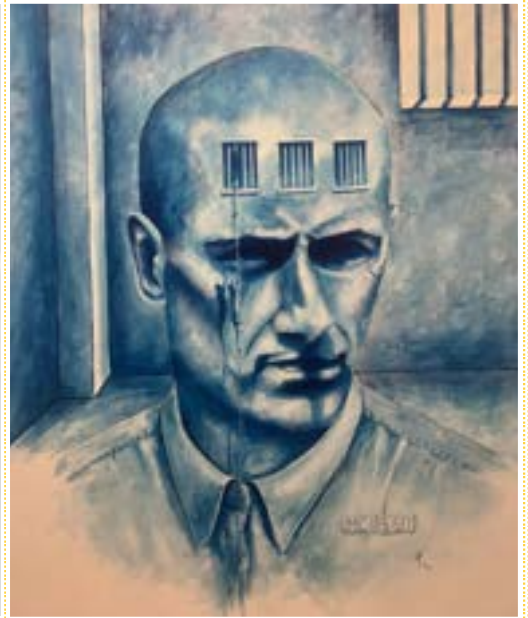
Club members will learn hand-making skills and techniques in collage and drawing, printmaking, hand embellishment, metal, and jewellery work and stop motion animation. They will have the chance to explore their city by visiting exhibitions, and with observational trips in Birmingham and London.

Using donated and waste materials, Club members will create a range of artistic activist outcomes, including protest tees, protest or storytelling banners, jewellery with a message and short animated storytelling films. Through this process they will learn to share ideas, collaborate, and communicate their thoughts creatively.

Start date November 4th 2023 running until May 2024.

<https://saturday-club.org/join-a-club/>





Congratulations to the Art students from last Year 11 whose work can now be shared. Progress can be seen in the 12% increase in students achieving higher level 7-9 grades this year as well as an overall 1.15 grade increase per student. An exhibition slideshow is available to view on the Art Instagram but here is a preview! We are very proud.



Keep up to date with our students' artistic talent by following us on Instagram.





Charity News

Friends of Sick Children in Malawi was founded 15 years ago by a former Maths teacher in this school and her husband. At the time, equipment, such as wheel chairs and incubators, were being cobbled together from bits and pieces, drugs and other medical resources were very scarce, and the teacher who worked at the hospital had to walk 12 miles to the hospital to provide the children with a basic education while they were patients.



Waseley Hills High School has taken an interest from the start, and donated money raised through coffee mornings, as well as knitted blankets, hats and whatever else was needed for premature babies. These were knitted mostly by our students in Learning Support. The money that we have raised contributes substantially to the salary of the teacher, as well as her travel expenses, so that she doesn't have to walk the long distance to school. We have at least one fundraising event every year.

<https://www.friendsofsickchildreninmalawi.com/>

Our annual staff McMillan Coffee Morning in October was as popular as ever. Staff were invited to the staff room from break onwards for coffee and cake. The home-made ones went first as we have some keen bakers, and there was some very professional cake decorating from Ms Harley. We raised a total of £120.00 for our local McMillan Hospice, which will go towards equipment for day patients.



Many, many thanks for the delicious cakes and generous contributions.



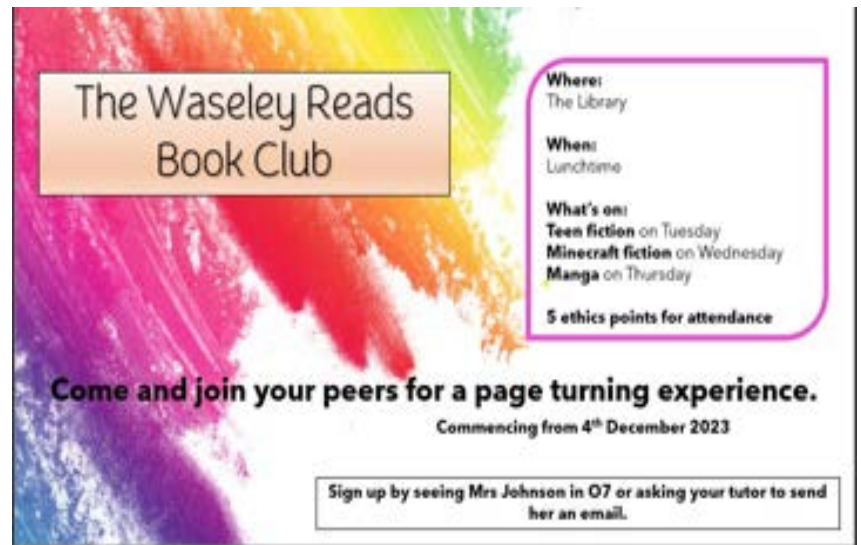
The wonderful handbag, conch and rose cakes were made by our PE Lead, Miss Harley!



Reading Matters

Introducing the launch of our brand new book club, exclusively being offered to KS3 at lunch time every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday lunchtime.

Mrs Amato, our fabulous school librarian, will be delving into the world of Minecraft and Manga - opening up a fantasy world of adventure. Mrs Johnson will be turning the pages of drama-filled teen fiction that will expose us to speculation, shock and gossip!



The Waseley Reads Book Club

Where:
The Library

When:
Lunchtime

What's on:
Teen fiction on Tuesday
Minecraft fiction on Wednesday
Manga on Thursday

5 ethics points for attendance

Come and join your peers for a page turning experience.
Commencing from 4th December 2023

Sign up by seeing Mrs Johnson in O7 or asking your tutor to send her an email.



Readers of all levels are welcome to come and join a community of book-lovers, adventure-chasers and drama fanatics for a relaxing journey into the world of reading.

Please see or email Mrs Johnson to register your interest.

Email: LJohnson@waseleyhills.worcs.sch.uk



The Waseley Way to Wellbeing!


Alongside Waseley news, each term Waseley Wellbeing will be released celebrating the amazing achievements that Waseley is making towards our whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing. Each issue will be packed with hints and tips, local events, in-school events, as well as providing contact names of local and national helplines, crisis numbers and support for all. Please take a look by clicking the link to the online edition – always available if and when you need it!

[Go to this Sway](#)


Winter Reading Challenge!

What with the cold weather and festive holiday, winter is the best time to snuggle up with a great book. It sure helps with the boredom of trying to keep warm on a cold day, too! So, have a go and see how many of the sunshine challenges you can complete.


If you would like to write a review of any books you particularly enjoyed, please send it to samato@waseleyhills.worcs.sch.uk and it could feature in the next edition of Waseley News.




Read a book, short story, or poem with a cold theme.




Read a book whilst sitting by the fire.




Read a book to a parent, friend, or sibling.




Read the TV guide to find that winter movie.




Read one chapter a day for a week.




Read an article on your tablet / phone.




Read the articles from Waseley News.



Read a magazine or newspaper.



Read a short story or poem with a festive theme.



Read a recipe whilst making a winter treat.



Reading for Relaxation

Reading is proven to reduce stress and increase relaxation.

Reading books, particularly fiction, fully engages the mind and imagination. Any activity that possesses meditative qualities in which the brain is fully focused on a single task is proven to reduce stress and enhance relaxation.

As if stress reduction, improved mental health, and healthy brain function weren't enough, reading can also help individuals become

more empathetic and increase their self-awareness. Reading fiction can increase your understanding of others and improve relationships. As readers become engrossed in a storyline, they empathize with characters and learn their motivations and behaviour patterns. This increases a person's understanding of human behaviour which is knowledge that carries over to life outside of a novel.



Furthermore, when readers select novels that are set in locations with cultures other than their own, they further develop an awareness of diverse human populations and perspectives.

With all of these benefits, there is no doubt that reading is truly the powerhouse of leisure activities. When you're done reading this why not pick up a good book!

Why not take a look at our Virtual Book Club. We only meet online.



TEAM PE Sporting NEWS

Win for Waseley

To kick off the first Trust Co-design PE sports events, Year 8/9 girls and boys took part in a 6-a-side football competition.

This new event started off extremely well for Waseley with a win and gold medal for the boys and a silver medal and second for the girls - but only by goal difference!

The next event is handball. After Christmas, Mr Mason will be selecting his squads for the 26th February contest to be held at Arrow Vale.



Y11 Girls Volleyball Club

"We get to hang with our friends for free. It destresses us from exams and we listen to music we enjoy."

Millie, Lucy, Tia and Franky



"I have been learning how to referee a handball match. You have to have patience because participants get frustrated and their emotions take over."
Amelia

"Brings out the true power within us." Harrison

Sport After School

Tuesdays: Y 7-9 Netball with Miss Harley

Wednesdays: Y 11 Netball with Mrs Bridgeman

Thursdays after school is the Y 11 Volleyball squad with Mr Phelan



TEAM PE Sporting NEWS



Getting Active

New for this term, we have core PE timetabled for years 12 and 13. We feel the benefits of sport and fitness will enhance our students' wellbeing along with the health benefits PE brings.

Sixth Form are proud to have formed a new rugby 7's team.

Year 12 have put together a squad and training will soon be underway in earnest to begin games later in the season.

Sport at Lunch

Mondays and Tuesdays:
Y 10/11 Basketball with
Mr Blount

Tuesdays and Thursdays:
Y 10/11 Basketball with
Mr Phelan

New Sports Leadership Course

We have partnered with P&E Sports to offer a select group of students, including your child, the chance to participate in a Level 2 Qualification in Sports Leadership. This course is a unique blend of academic learning and practical experience, designed to nurture a range of valuable skills.

The programme focuses on enhancing abilities such as:

- Effective communication.
- Building self-esteem and confidence.
- Developing teamwork skills.
- Managing personal and professional tasks.
- Problem-solving techniques.
- Adapting skills to different environments.

An integral part of the course involves hands-on activities where students will lead various sports coaching sessions. These will take place in settings like local primary schools, extra-curricular activities at our school, and community sessions during evenings at our school.



"I like PE because it's athletic and it's fun and I learn new sports."
Ollie

"I do a lot of fun sports. I get to play with friends who are not in my class. I think the PE teachers work hard."
Aaron

"My team mates are fast and we compete well together."
Nahum

COMMUNITY SPORTS
WASELEY HILLS HIGH SCHOOL

Starts: w/c 20th Nov

FREE TO ATTEND!

Waseley Hills High School
School Road, Rubery
West Midlands
B94 9EL

Monday: 5:15pm-6:15pm, Table Tennis (School years 5,6,7,8)
 Tuesday: 6pm-7pm, Table Tennis (School years 9,10,11)
 Tuesday: 5pm-6pm, Badminton (School years 7,8,9,10,11)
 Thursday: 8pm-9pm, Boys Basketball (School years 9,10,11)
 Friday: 5:30pm-6:30pm, Dodgeball (School years 5,6,7,8)
 Friday: 6:30pm-7:30pm, Small Sided Football Matches (School years 5,6,7,8)

Quick sign up at: www.pandesports.com

P&E SPORTS
www.pandesports.com

Waseley Hills High School
Aspire, Invest, Respect

Central Region Schools Trust
Founded by the ESA

Attention all sports lovers aged 9 and above! P&E Sports is thrilled to announce our Community Sports Program. Dive into a range of exciting weekly sports activities without any cost! Whether you're looking to hone your skills or just have fun, our program offers a perfect platform to stay active and engaged. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity!

Please go to www.pandesports.com to book your child on the above activities.

Any questions please email Dave Phelan at Info@pandesports.com

Uniform Reminder for the New Year

Please be aware that full uniform should be worn every day of the school week. PE kit should only be brought in to change into at school on the timetabled days.

If you don't have the correct uniform or footwear, you will be sent to student support where you will be temporarily provided with the correct item. You will need to return the item at the end of the school day.

- ✓ Plain black formal lace-up, velcro fastening or slip-on shoes must be worn
- ✓ Maximum heel height is 1 inch



- ✗ No logos or branded shoes
- ✗ No trainers (including black trainers or Air Max)
- ✗ No boots
- ✗ No open toe shoes
- ✗ No canvas shoes

If students are not wearing the correct footwear, they will be expected to borrow a pair of shoes from the Student Welfare Officers stock - the shoes will be treated with a hygienic spray after each use.

Only pleated black, knee length skirts are permitted.



No tight fitting or short miniskirts are permitted.



**No rings; No necklaces; No bracelets; No false nails; No nail varnish;
No false eyelashes; No trainers**

**No nose studs (spacer acceptable) ; one pair of small ear studs;
If we see it, we will confiscate it.**

Subtle make up only.



Any prohibited jewellery will be put into an envelope and given to your Head of Year

There will be a weekly check!

See the website link for a full equipment list and acceptable uniform.

<https://www.waseleyhills.worcs.sch.uk/parents/uniform-information>

Term Dates 2024

Spring Term 2024

STAFF TRAINING DAY	Monday 8 th January 2024
TERM STARTS	Tuesday 9 th January 2024
HALF TERM	Monday 12 th February 2024 – Friday 16 th February 2024
TERM ENDS	Friday 22 nd March 2024

Summer Term 2024

TERM STARTS	Monday 8 th April 2024
HALF TERM	Monday 27 th May 2024 – Friday 31 st May 2024
TERM ENDS	Friday 19 th July 2024
STAFF TRAINING DAY	Monday 22 nd July 2024

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 especially if you have any news and pictures you would like to share in our next newsletter.



Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and via the school website.