



Waseley Hills High School

Aspire, Invest, Respect

Waseley Hills High School
Mr I. Mellor, Executive Principal
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Dear Parents and Carers,

15th March 2024

We are fast approaching the Easter holidays and look forward to sharing our next instalment of Waseley News with you next week summarizing another fantastic term. This week saw the announcements that all staff had been waiting for in the World Book Day competitions last Thursday. We had the joy of creating a 'book buzz' for World Book Day. Our students were challenged to make three small changes to create new habits:

1. Spend their book token on a book that they will love.
2. Read something they love for at least 5 minutes a night.
3. Have a conversation with a teacher about what they are reading.

We tickled the students' curiosity with an extract from a story in every lesson with staff reading to their classes for 10 minutes in every lesson, exposing our students to exciting new reads to investigate! Modern Foreign Language became even more linguistic with their tricky tongue twisters and Spanish fairytales. 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 in Waterstones. Waseley staff got into the spirit and dressed to impress our students displaying an array of fictional characters from our favourite fictional fancies. Students queued up at the polling station to crown Miss Kendall as the Best Dressed member of staff, and English as the Best Dressed department. Let's keep the 'book buzz' alive and spend those book tokens!

This set the tone for the penultimate week of term where our science department housed 10 eggs that have hatched into chicks inside an incubator. We have a live webcam broadcasting the progress over the internal tv screens around the school and students have very much enjoyed seeing the process on their way to and from lessons. The chicks are being used to teach students about life cycles and statistical testing.

There have been a number of extra-curricular activities taking place this week, including our fantastic sixth form winning another competition, this time in Psychology. They took on 427 other students from across the country in a quiz as part of their Psychology masterclass. Well done to them for beating all the other schools and making the most out of this important opportunity in the build up to their exams. Year 7, 8 and 9 science quiz teams brought home the trophy as Trust champions! A huge well done to them for defeating the other Trust schools and adding to the recent winning streak across the school. It is a pleasure seeing the students starting to believe they are the winners we know they are and watching their confidence grow. Year 12 attended the UCAS discovery day event at Worcester University where they explored their post 18 aspirations. Our Learning for Life curriculum saw all year groups have assemblies on knife crime delivered in partnership with our local police force on the back of parental voice requesting support with this topic. Alongside this our Year 10 and 11 students have had masterclasses with Cameron Parker an inspirational speaker who has impacted over 1,000,000 young people across the world on mindset and how to take steps towards making aspirations a reality. Student feedback was that this was really well received and has helped them see what's needed in the final run up to exams.

The staff have had a busy two weeks with external reviews. The SEND department welcomed Lorraine Petersen (OBE) who scrutinised the provision for SEND students. Lorraine has visited 12 of the 13 trust schools and recognised us as best practice. An enormous achievement for Mrs Stokes our SENDCO and Miss Snell our MAB Lead alongside the phenomenal SEND department. We have also conducted a Safeguarding review with an external consultancy company who commented on how impressed they were with our students and the cohesiveness of the school. It

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was lovely to see the amazing safeguarding team, led by Mrs Meredith, who deal with the most difficult of cases, get the recognition and validation for their exceptional hard work and care.

As part of continuing to strive for improvements we would like to gain your insights and feedback as parents and carers. This was fundamental in the autumn term for shaping the future of Waseley and our Spring Term Parental Voice is now live. We look forward to hearing your thoughts. Please click the link below (or copy and paste it into your browser) then enter your child's school email address and password to load the questionnaire.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=UTeH7weljkS2mO4DGypXkrSGiTWVxVNNlpn2nYqOtDFUMkNLRINHTE42NOVWRUpQOE4yREpMU002NC4u>

Please be aware that the First Aid team are conducting their half termly Medication Audit. Parents and Carers can come into school next week to collect any medication they may require for over the holidays. Any outstanding medication will then be disposed of.

Ahead of Child Exploitation Day on Monday 18th March we wanted to sign post you to some resources and support for helping to keep your children safe online, in partnership with Prevent. Please see the separate attachment. Students will be doing some work in tutor time next week around this topic and it would be good if you could follow up conversations at home to support this important issue. If you do have any concerns, then please get in touch with one of the Safeguarding team at school.

Finally, we welcomed Mrs Hadley, Mr Dathan and Mr Hamilton to Waseley to plan out the yearly activities in which we share facilities, expertise and continue to work together to support the progress of our community. They enjoyed seeing some of their past students thriving and we have booked in a number of opportunities to share between the school in the future.

Thank you for your continued support, have a lovely weekend.

Yours sincerely



Mr Preston

Head of School

