



Waltham Toll Bar Academy

Ref: NJW/NM

20 December 2024

Dear families

As we bring this first term of the academic year and 2024 to a close on the run up to Christmas, I wanted to bring you up to date with life at Waltham Toll Bar Academy and extend my sincerest thanks to you for your continued support throughout this year.

A reminder that we send out a fortnightly families newsletter to all. This is always packed full of updates over the previous two weeks as well as a celebration of year group and individual student rewards points and personal successes. If you are not receiving this for any reason, please contact enquiries@tollbaracademy.co.uk or your child's year team directly. All of the newsletters are published on our website under the 'news' tab.

In addition, we are trying to make greater use of social media to celebrate our students successes and communicate with you and our community. Please do follow the news stories on Facebook, Instagram and X. Our new Sixth Form media crew have also recently started posting on Tik Tok gaining immediate engagement.

What follows in this letter is merely a snapshot and flavour of only some of what has been happening at WTBA and some general updates.

Enrichment continues...

I am delighted that we offer over sixty different enrichment activities, all free of charge, after school Tuesday – Thursday. [Click here](#) to see what is on offer.

I was able to respond to recent student feedback and a request for a Cheerleading club and I am delighted we are now running a Cheerleading club in partnership with a local club - 'Fierce Elite'. If we know of requests and interests, we will work hard to make them happen. If there are any special or particular requests for enrichment, please contact Mr Fothergill.

New outdoor education department

Our commitment to providing a broad, rich and enjoyable curriculum for all children is as alive as ever. Following the establishment of the new performing arts department last year (culminating in the first whole school production of Matilda) we have launched our new outdoor education department. This team will focus on providing an array of opportunities outside of the classroom and has already led a recent adventurous activities week to Ullswater in the Lake District. The team will also be out supporting and working in our local primary schools providing enjoyable activities and building relationships with children even before they join us.

Whole school remembrance service

On Armistice Day I was so proud that our whole school community gathered together for a second time to pay our respects to those who lost their lives in combat. It also provided a poignant opportunity to thank and be grateful to those involved in armed conflict around the world today. It was humbling to see our entire school together as one big family to mark the day.



Proud to be part of the

Lincolnshire Gateway
Academies Trust

Waltham Toll Bar Academy
Station Road
New Waltham
GRIMSBY
DN36 4RZ

Telephone: 01472 500505

Email: enquiries@walthamtollbaracademy.co.uk

Principal: Nigel Whittle



Good school attendance

I am proud of Waltham Toll Bar students for attending school regularly and I am pleased to report that attendance is currently 1.5% up on the same period last year. I am also pleased that Toll Bar is 1.1% above the national average for attendance and 1.7% above the local, regional average. Well done to all the students for continuing to attend school regularly.

Alumni

Waltham Toll Bar is a school with a rich history and long-standing reputation for excellence. I am so proud that many former Toll Bar students are now working with us at the school as staff members holding a variety of positions.

We are really keen to build our network of former students and hear about what you do now. If you would like to become involved with our Alumni, please email alumni@tollbaracademy.co.uk. Thank you to those who have already been in touch – we will be in touch with further information soon!

Interfaith week

I was delighted to welcome five different primary schools to Waltham Toll Bar Academy to celebrate the end of Interfaith Week. More than 50 Year 4 and Year 5 children from Enfield, Lisle Marsden, Springfield, Scartho Juniors and Waltham Leas joined RE and Art staff, and some familiar faces from our Year 7 and Sixth Form, to learn about different faiths. They also got to explore different artefacts and to work together on a piece of art work.

One of our core values as a school is to 'Champion Partnerships' and I was so pleased to welcome so many local schools to Toll Bar.

Maths Challenge

At Toll Bar we've had lots of 'firsts' – first ever musical production, first whole school assembly, first outdoor education programme, and so on. Last week saw another first with the Primary maths challenge. It was a great evening and a brilliant way of engaging younger children and their families with Maths.

Our motto as a school is to 'create opportunities and develop confidence to excel together'. We are committed to providing as many different opportunities as possible and will continue to introduce new initiatives and activities for our young people.

Options evening

My thanks to all our Year 9 families who joined us for Options evening on 25 November. This was an important evening to begin thinking and planning the GCSE courses students will study. I was particularly grateful to see such good attendance at this event and hope families found the discussions with our teams useful. All option choices have now been made and further information will be shared with you and the students in the new year.

Work experience information evening

Similarly, thank you to all our Year 10 families who attended the briefing on work experience. This will be the third year Toll Bar has offered this opportunity for students and one of the only schools locally to do so. We had hugely positive feedback from the last two year groups who took part and it was great to hear how much of an insight into the world of work it gave them. If you have any questions or queries about work experience, please contact Mr Ward or Mr Cowie.

I am especially grateful to families for attending these kinds of events. Since the start of this academic year, we have run a session for families nearly every week including Year 7 settling in evening and the Year 11 maximise evening along with the normal parents' evenings. They have all been extremely well attended – thank you for your support.



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Mock examinations

Year 11 students will soon be completing their mock examinations in January. These are important in assessing where students are now in order to help and support them ahead of the real examinations in the summer term. We will continue to provide the highest levels of support and guidance for them including some anxiety, resilience and positive mindset workshops with an external expert. Separate communications have been sent to Year 11 families – if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Results from the mock examinations will be available for all Year 11 families in advance of the parents evening on 10 February 2025 to allow properly informed discussions with subject teachers.

Toilets

I can confirm that student toilets, in addition to break time and lunchtime, are now open between every lesson throughout the day for students to use. I am also pleased to confirm that we are in the process of designing plans to renovate and refurbish the current toilets for students and also build more toilet facilities to ensure students do not have to queue. I will keep you posted on these developments over the coming months.

Pastoral teams

The year group pastoral teams are here to support you and assist with any queries or concerns. If you have any concerns or issues about anything which happens in school, please do not hesitate to contact us. The pastoral teams and I will always listen carefully to you. If you have any particular concerns in the future, please do raise it with your child's year team.

Useful contact details

A reminder of some useful contact details for our pastoral teams below. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or queries – if we know, we can act.

Year Group	Head of Year	Assistant Head of Year
7	Mrs R Knight KnightR@tollbaracademy.co.uk	Mrs J Barker BarkerJ@tollbaracademy.co.uk
8	Mrs R Shaw ShawR@tollbaracademy.co.uk	Miss F Bates BatesF@tollbaracademy.co.uk
9	Mr J Tye TyeJ@tollbaracademy.co.uk	Mrs Abul-Hawa Abul-HawaR@tollbaracademy.co.uk
10	Mr J Ward WardJ@tollbaracademy.co.uk	Miss F Bates BatesF@tollbaracademy.co.uk
11	Mr R Cowie CowieR@tollbaracademy.co.uk	Mrs S Pauley PauleyS@tollbaracademy.co.uk

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support over 2024 and wish you and your whole family all the very best for the festive season.

Yours sincerely,



N.J. Whittle
Principal