



Message from the Principal

It is a privilege to open the final families newsletter of 2022. I am sure you will see from this edition that it has remained as busy as ever at Waltham Toll Bar Academy and we remain passionately committed to recognise our academy's mission statement of '*creating opportunities*' for all students.

Over the last term we have been working hard to increase even further the opportunities offered for students. For example, there have been a number of educational trips and visits with more planned for 2023 including a trip to our capital city. There are also twelve more extra-curricular clubs and activities on offer for students this term with more planned for 2023.

I am delighted that we have introduced our new rewards policy. Our academy will always have the very highest of expectations of all students and when they do well it is right that they are acknowledged and recognised. All students have now had assemblies on the new rewards and how they can collect 'achievement points'. Rewards breakfasts have also taken place for those students with exemplary attendance.

We have held a number of evening events including a special GCSE certificates evening when we welcome both past and present sixth form students back to collect their certificates. It was lovely to see some familiar faces and hear about how students are progressing at post-16.

We are an academy committed to being right at the heart of our community. This is why I am so pleased that our facilities are now used by eleven separate community organisations in the evening and at the weekend. We really want to encourage this further.

All in all, it has continued to be an exceptionally busy, purposeful and productive time. I am committed to working with the entire school community to provide the very best educational provision for every single student.

As we look forward to the new year, term will recommence on

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and partnership and wish you and your families a peaceful and enjoyable time over the festive period.

Every good wish,

N.J. Whittle

Principal



Spanish Tapas

Year 10 and 11 GCSE Spanish students got to flex their linguistic skills while tantalising their taste buds at Bar Castelléjar in Louth. After ordering food in Spanish, they enjoyed a range of delicious tapas dishes including Paella, Patatas Bravas and Tortilla Española. ¡Muy delicioso!



Primary school visit

Pupils from Waltham Leas Primary Academy visited Waltham Toll Bar Academy to learn about the eye.

Year 6 pupils worked together to carry out an eye dissection with teachers from the biology department

Even students who were, at first, apprehensive overcame their fears and took part with enthusiasm.



Science Teacher Mrs Wardle said: “It was fabulous to witness the talent the students from our local primary schools.

“It was such a pleasure being able to share our skills and resources with the local primary school community.”

Primary school visit

Science staff were very impressed with the pupils' work ethic and look forward to their next practical session with them.

Science Teacher Mrs Devany said: "They overcame reservations of doing an eye dissection.

"All were enthralled with the discovery of the lens and in amazement of the lustrous Tapetum and its ability to internally reflect light waves on the retina."

Curriculum Leader for Science Mr Wilkins said: "The staff delivering the eye dissection are very knowledgeable and it is very nice to be able to support our local primary schools and provide opportunities that they may not have in their own setting."

Year 6 Teacher Phoebe Aisthorpe said: "The children had an amazing time and were on such a buzz after. So much learning and lots of fun."



Careers in Fashion

Year 10 Textiles students were given an overview of the fashion industry and advice on how to make a career working with fabrics from Amy Abera.

Amy has extensive experience working alongside many famous high street brands. Students will benefit greatly from her insight in this industry.



Thank you to Amy for taking time out from her busy schedule to speak to our students.

The new library

We opened the new library this month with a visit from local author Stu Rowson.

Stu has spent nearly 25 years working in media, with the majority of that at the BBC.

He was worked in the BBC children's department for a number of years.



Students spent time in his company listening to his background in print and television media and read extracts from his novel.



Certificate Evening

At Waltham Toll Bar Academy and Sixth Form, we are very proud of every one of our leavers.

On the evening of Tuesday 13th December, the Academy opened its doors to welcome back students who left us this summer.





Certificate Evening

We were thrilled to see so many familiar faces drop in to meet former classmates and teachers, share some festive treats and collect their official GCSE or A Level exam certificates.

For anyone who was unable to join us, the certificates are now available to collect from the Academy reception during school hours.





Givemas

Throughout December, our Sixth Formers have been actively promoting a spirit of 'giving back' through their student-led Givemas campaign.

As a counter to the overly commercial culture of the season, our Ambassadors came up with the idea of running a series of events and activities which provided opportunities for students to be charitable or help others.



The Givemas programme has included carol singing at our local care home, a festive bake sale, fundraising for chosen charities and spreading messages of positivity and goodwill to all.



Givemas



We are very proud of our Ambassador team and tutors who have worked so hard to make this year's Givemas campaign such a success. We have raised hundreds of pounds for charities, including Teenage Cancer Trust and Save the Children, donated vital groceries to local food banks and collected toys and gifts for the Women's Aid refuge.



Thanks to all students and staff for their contributions and enthusiasm for embracing the spirit of giving to others at this time.



Christmas Carol Service



The academy held a carol service at All Saints Church in Waltham.

Members of the Tollbar Choir and Toll Bar Sixth Form Choir performed wonderfully throughout the evening.



Rev. Rachel Fowler thanked students for all of their hard work, which went into rehearsing and performing for their loved ones at the church.

Principal, Nigel Whittle said: "It was a wonderful evening and we are very proud of the effort that our students always put into these events.



It was a great way to end the term and welcome in the Christmas period."