



Message from the Principal

Dear Families

It has been another packed half term at Waltham Toll Bar Academy and we have continued to work hard to provide a rich range of opportunities for all students from Year 7 right through to our Sixth Form.

As a school we are committed to creating opportunities for all our students to develop confidence and excel together. This newsletter contains just a flavour of those opportunities provided over the last couple of weeks, indeed as I write students are returning from the RE department trip to London. Along with the Year 7 and 9 residential trips this has been amongst the first trips post-covid and we have plans for many more in the future!

Alongside providing enrichment and personal development opportunities, our school prides itself on ensuring all children achieve academic excellence. I have been impressed by the work ethic and dedication of Year 11 and Year 13 students as they begin preparations for examinations which will be here before we know it. The February half term revision school schedule is packed with sessions offered for students every day and it is great to see so many students signed up.

One thing families and parents/carers have told me since I started as Principal at Waltham Toll Bar Academy is how much they value the academy's high expectations of behaviour and conduct. After half term we will be continuing to ensure the highest of standards from all students including the introduction of start of day uniform checks at the gate and further information will be sent regarding this at the start of term.

Earlier this week I was saddened to pass on the news of the loss of a member of the Toll Bar community. Miss Booty was a longstanding teacher, Head of House and colleague who will be greatly missed. The thoughts of everyone in the academy are with her friends and family.

Thank you for your continued support.

Very best wishes,

N.J. Whittle

Principal



DJ Workshop

On Monday 30th January, Y10 and Y11 students participated in a hands on workshop with professional DJ Santino Roberts. The students received an exciting demonstration, displaying what was capable on the DJ decks, followed by an overview of how Santino get into his current role. Students were then fortunate to then participate for themselves, exploring how you could use the decks to their full potential.





Futurechef Cooking Club

As part of the Futurechef Afterschool Cooking Club the yr 7 pupils took part in a National Futurechef Bake Off Competition. This involved the pupils planning & making a savoury dish of their choice which followed the competition guidelines. Pupils researched the savoury tart then made their selected pastry product as part of the afterschool club activity. All the entries from the schools across the UK are currently being judged by a panel of chefs with the winners yet to be announced.



Pupils that took part are:

Ruby Bowns

Poppy Langridge

Aiyana Nijjar

Asante Masanganano

Mia Lowe

Alicia Silberga





Pop-up Restaurant

The Year 10 Hospitality & Catering students met with chef Mark Lloyd to launch the 6 week pop up restaurant project. They will be set weekly tasks by Mark to complete, culminating in a restaurant evening on Saturday 25th March.



Pupils & Mark will take over the school canteen for the day to produce a 3 course sit down meal where guests will pay what they think the meal & service was worth. The project will teach them a business mindset & also give them experience of hosting a hospitality event for 100 guests.

Any profits made from the event are being donated to St Andrews Hospice.





Working Lunch

Friday 20th January saw the launch of the Sixth Form's 'Working Lunch' programme of sessions, designed to deepen our students' knowledge of different career options as well as developing their broader skillset. A wide range of opportunities is planned, with a 'menu' that includes careers talks, debate club, mental health sessions and bespoke meetings to help students access preferred destinations and onward careers.

The inaugural session saw our aspiring teachers meet to evaluate their progress on the Bishop Grosseteste University Pre-teaching Award, and plan their forthcoming peer teaching. Our newly appointed Year 12 Sixth Form Ambassadors also gathered to plan their calendar of activities for the forthcoming term. On Friday 27th January we were joined by colleagues from Humberside Police to discuss career options within this sector, and a further session with Forrester Boyd will enable students to explore careers in accountancy.

Leader of the programme, Katie Clorley said "This is an exciting development in our enrichment offer. We have consulted with the students to create a diverse range of sessions and invited guests, and students have found them really useful so far".





Football

Our Sixth Form Football Team, comprised of students from both Year 12 and Year 13, enjoyed success in the quarter-finals of the Humberside Cup on Friday 3rd February.

In a highly competitive match against South Hunsley, the Team emerged as 2-0 winners, with goals from Yahya Mazel and James Bell. They now progress to the semi-finals, where they will face St Mary's College, Hull. We wish them the best of luck in the next round!





Sixth Form Open Evening

We are soon to host our Spring Open Evening, an opportunity for our students to explore their post-16 options, and in particular, the benefits of continuing their studies here at Waltham Toll Bar Academy.

This event will take place on Thursday 2nd March across our Sixth Form site and Academy, and guests are invited to join us between 5.30pm and 7.30pm. We very much welcome attendance from our current Year 11 students and their parents/carers, but also wish to extend our invitation to Year 10, so that they can begin to explore our offer and discuss with experts the options available beyond GCSE and A Level.



Our own teachers, student ambassadors and support staff will be on hand to offer advice, along with representatives from higher education, training and apprenticeship providers. We are also very excited to be joined on the evening by a representative of The Elephant Group, who will be working with us from September 2023, to ensure that our Sixth Form students are able to access the most prestigious and sought after university destinations.

Please do join us to find out more about this fantastic new venture!



Attendance

We would like to thank families for their support in helping us to emphasise the importance of school attendance to our students. Many students at Waltham Toll Bar Academy have an excellent record of attendance and are punctual each day, which is vital in helping students to achieve their full educational potential.

To help us support those children who are struggling with regular school attendance, the academy is launching a new attendance initiative. We have revised our procedures and will be working closely with parents and carers to support students in improving their attendance and punctuality. This is because research has shown regular attendance and good punctuality are crucial factors in pupils achieving their full potential. Waltham Toll Bar Academy is committed to providing a full and efficient education to all, and encouraging our children to strive for excellence. Therefore, for a pupil to reach their full educational achievement, a high level of attendance is essential.

We wish to work in partnership with parents and carers and so are seeking your full support in ensuring that your child attends the academy every day and on time. We are always pleased to work together with parents/carers in resolving any difficulties and are also committed to improving attendance levels at Waltham Toll Bar Academy.