



Newsletter

26 April 2024

- Mr Whittle
- Libby's Olympic Success
- Teacher's Rafting Medal
- Women's History Month
- Waltham Youth Council
- Library Facilities Available



TOLL BAR
SIXTH FORM





Mr Whittle

Summer term is always particularly busy.

GCSE written exams start shortly while Year 9s are currently choosing options. There is plenty going on elsewhere too.

We hope our Year 11s and their families feel supported. The after-school intervention programme has been running since February and revision sessions took place throughout the Easter holidays. My thanks to students who have attended and staff for supporting them.

We understand it is a difficult time and, as well as the academic support, we have an excellent pastoral team to support if required. Please encourage your child to use the assistance available.

It is also an important time for Year 9 as they consider what they should study at GCSE.

Assemblies have laid out the options and actions they need to take. Parents were sent an email explaining the process and many attended an online meeting on Wednesday.

Students will choose their five preferred GCSE options from more than 20 next week. Videos highlighting each subject can be accessed via the button on the Academy's home page.

Any questions on this should be emailed to enquiries@tollbaracademy.co.uk

Congratulations to the 10 students below, the latest to achieve the Principal's Award. I shall look forward to meeting them next Thursday.

I would also like to recognise the successes of sixth former Libby Munday and Technology teacher Mr Butterfield.

Libby, who we highlighted before the break, swam a personal and season's best at the Olympic trials held at the London Aquatic Centre. Congratulations to her and her family.

Well done also to Mr Butterfield, who showed me his silver medal this week, hard-earned in rafting at the Euro Cup held in treacherous river conditions in Bulgaria. Good luck to him and the Great Britain team in the upcoming World Championships in Bosnia.

Both are inspirational achievements and highlighted further in this newsletter.

It is also the first opportunity in this publication to thank students and families who supported our Easter Egg appeal for St Andrew's Hospice. You may have seen that hundreds were delivered following your generation donations.

Thank you for reading this update. We appreciate your continued support.

Mr N J Whittle
Principal

The following have achieved the Principal's award and will be meeting with him at break time on Thursday 2 May. Ava Robertson 7D, Bailey-Jay Bennett 7D, Ella McGovern 7F, George Cook 7G, Hetal Stani 7G, Leo White 7G, Lucas Phillips 7D, Nikitha Yaddehige 7D, Olivier Marks 7G.

Year group totals:

1st place: Year 7 - 176, 564

2nd place: year 8 - 166,678

3rd place: year 9 - 102,000

4th place: year 10 - 90,936

5th place: year 11 - 51,251



Libby's Olympic trials

A personal best was recorded by Toll Bar Sixth Former Libby Munday in the trials for a place in Great Britain's Olympic swimming team

The 17-year-old recorded the feat in the 200-metre backstroke after reaching the junior final and finishing sixth in the British Swimming Championships, held at London's Aquatics Centre.

She also recorded a season's best in the 100-metre backstroke event. For Libby, it was all about the experience. She had been excited to have been invited and given the opportunity but had not expected to make the Olympic team.

"It was a fantastic experience, surrounded by the country's elite swimmers," she said. "I was delighted to reach the junior final and record a personal best in the 200 and season's best at 100."

The event at the London Aquatics Centre – built for the 2012 Olympics – was streamed live on BBC iPlayer so family and friends watched her success. Mum Angie said that made her appearance even more special.



"For Libby, being able to watch and be with the country's elite was the equivalent of a young footballer being surrounded by players from the Premier League," Angie said.

"She then had two days off before a 3.40am alarm on the Monday when she was back to full training".

Libby was also congratulated on her success by Lincs Inspire, which runs Grimsby Swimming Pool, where she finds time to be a lifeguard (pictured above).





Teacher's Rafting Medal

Mr Butterfield (front left) on his way to silver in Bulgaria.

Technology teacher and Great British rafter Mr Butterfield struck silver in a top European event.

His national masters' team came second in the annual Euro Cup at the weekend, held in Bulgaria.

They battled against strong opposition and fierce river conditions to post two second places and two thirds across four disciplines against 10 other men's teams. Two women's teams also competed.

Steve, with the support of the Academy, travels to Nottingham every Wednesday to train. His dedication is paying off.

"We went to the same event last year but made a huge improvement this time," he said. "The water was a lot bigger this time. It was that big – and dangerous – the events team decided not to run the last feature".

"We went to look at it and said if that's what we have to do then so be it but were pleased they changed it. We were overwhelmed to get silver behind Bosnia. It all came together over the two days."

The disciplines were sprint, head-to-head, slalom and endurance.

"You get different points depending on the discipline and we went into the last race only three points above third. But we held our nerve and came second in the last race, ahead of the second team from Bulgaria".

"Beating the hosts was a nice feeling. We are gelling as a team. The more we spend time in the boat together the more we get to know each other and pick up when somebody's struggling and needs extra support."

Steve's been rowing in the team for just over 18 months and has competed in various competitions across Europe.

His love of the sport began when his Geography teacher took students kayaking off Cleethorpes beach after school.



Steve, who is self-funded, trains with his teammates at Holme Pierrepont Country Park, the home of the National Water Sports Centre at Nottingham.

He thanked Principal Nigel Whittle and colleagues at the Academy for their support.

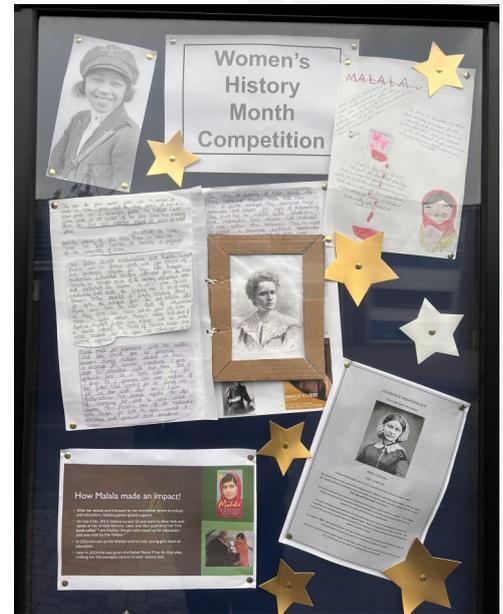
"I would not be able to compete if I didn't have their backing. I do appreciate it," he said.



Women's History Month

Women's History Month is celebrated every March. It is an opportunity to look at the past from a fresh perspective and consider how women have sometimes been left out of the historical record, either intentionally or unintentionally.

To commemorate the month, many students took part in a competition to highlight the actions of women throughout history up to the present day, and consider the lasting legacy of what these women have achieved.



Waltham Youth Council

Waltham Youth Council – Making a difference for young people in Waltham.

Do you live in Waltham?

Are you aged 12-18?

Do you want to provide a voice for young people of Waltham?

Do you want to be involved in decision making for local services such as sport facilities, parks, or events?



If you want to make a difference for the young people of Waltham, please complete the Youth Council application form on the parish council's website or email:-

clerk@walthamparishcouncil.org.uk

The first meeting will take place in the Summer Term.

Website:

<https://www.walthamparishcouncil.org.uk/your-parish-council8b27f16d>



Library facilities available

Why reading books for pleasure is so important for your child

My name is Mrs Hodgson and I am the Librarian at Waltham Toll Bar Academy.

Part of my role is to help encourage our pupils to read for pleasure. Research shows that teens are reading less than ever before. The main reasons for this are due to other distractions such as television, social media, gaming and the internet.

But why does reading matter?

Did you know that reading books for pleasure has many positive impacts? This includes:

Improving mental health and the ability to sleep.

Developing writing skills.

Learning about the world around you, including different religions and cultures.

Your vocabulary grows and you become more articulate.

Improves your memory, imagination, focus and analytical skills.

You become more empathetic towards other people.

It is proven that avid readers get better exam results.

And most importantly, it is fun!

Waltham Toll Bar's library is open every break and lunch time. Pupils are allowed to borrow books so please do encourage them to do so!

If your child has any questions about the library, please ask them to speak to myself or Miss Foxon (our Assistant Librarian).

