



Newsletter

28 March 2024

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TOLL BAR
SIXTH FORM





Egg-cellent Achievement!



Charitable students at Waltham Toll Bar have managed to provide over 400 Easter Eggs to the children at St Andrew's Hospice this Easter.

Students have really got behind the drive which was the concept of the school's student committee supported by senior Academy staff.

From Easter eggs to marshmallows the students have really committed to the charity event with some students bringing in over 10 items to donate.

Assistant Principal, Mr O. Fothergill, who organised the event said "It has been wonderful to see so many of our young people get behind a charitable initiative once again, Waltham Toll Bar is committed to supporting our community partners and providing our students with a sense of pride in where they are from. To have so many students want to get behind such an idea makes all of us at Waltham Toll Bar incredibly proud"

Student Ambassador Freddie Chapple (Y10) said "It's really important for us to spread some happiness and joy this Easter. I know a lot of the students really liked the idea and really got involved". Fellow Year 10 student Nuala Stephenson brought in a lot of items and said "I think it's really important we do our best to give what we can to organisations such as St Andrew's Hospice and I know they do amazing work, it has been great just being able to do something nice for others"



The Easter Egg donations are just one part of the Academy's charity programme which has so far seen over £3000 raised for local and national causes as well as over 2000 items donated to local foodbanks across the Academic year.



Year 12- Elephant Group



Our Year 12 students recently visited the University of Sheffield as part of the Sixth Form's ongoing partnership with The Elephant Group, enabling them to gain a sense of university life before they consider their own UCAS applications in the summer term. Students participated in skills workshops, heard from inspirational speakers, and had an excellent campus tour showcasing a number of academic faculties and wider university facilities. We are now looking forward to the Elephant Group summer school next term!

Year 13-Colin Pettigrew Visit

Our Sixth Formers were lucky to be visited by an aspirational alumni earlier this month when former Waltham Toll Bar student Colin Pettigrew joined us to discuss his career journey and current role. Colin, now Corporate Director of Children, Families and Cultural services at Nottinghamshire County council met with our Year 13 students to bring to life our Sixth Form values of aspiration, responsibility and compassion. Colin talked about the privilege and responsibility of being in a position to impact the lives of so many young people. He encouraged our young adults to recognise the value in such public positions as they continue their journey through higher education toward careers beyond. A smaller group of Student Council members were then provided the opportunity to take part in a Q&A session in which they discussed issues including the tough decision making he has to make at in such a high ranked position and how he negotiates the complex influences of management and leadership in public service.





Mr Whittle

Good, regular attendance is crucial to students achieving the best possible outcomes - and I was delighted to recognise students' exemplary attendance records this week.

Thank you to parents / carers for their support with children's attendance and punctuality. It has meant our figures this academic year are above the regional and national averages.

Congratulations to those students who achieved between 97% and 100% attendance this term, earning them an attendance breakfast. We had 116 do so in Year 7, with 27 of those achieving 100%; 131 (37) in Year 8; 84 (22) in Year 9; 92 (21) in Year 10: and 142 (31) in Year 11.

I am looking forward to seeing students maintaining these excellent rates of attendance throughout the summer term!

Regarding attendance, it is important Year 11s take the opportunity given by attending the Easter 'Achieve' revision sessions.

A comprehensive programme has been put together by the Year 11 team and my thanks to those staff coming in to give extra support to students over the holidays.

Please encourage your Year 11 child to attend the sessions, starting on Tuesday and running each week day until Thursday, 11 April. The full programme can be accessed via the website's home page.

I was delighted recently to host former, highly successful student Mr Colin Pettigrew.

Colin, who left the school 45 years ago, has had a distinguished, long career at the highest levels of social work and is Director of Children's Services at Nottinghamshire County Council.

He spoke to all sixth formers before hosting a session for those interested in a career in social work. It was most enjoyable, and his insight was appreciated by the students.

I was unsurprised, given how fantastic our young people are at WTBA, that Colin was also generous in a post on X (Twitter) reflecting on his visit, describing our students as "*an impressive group of young people*".

Talking of impressive sixth formers, I was delighted to meet swimmer Libby Munday and hear of her incredible dedication to her sport.

Libby travels to London next week to compete in the trials to represent Team GB at the Olympics in Paris later this year. You can read her full story [here](#).

She goes with our full support and backing. No matter how Libby does, she's already a winner. What an experience the trip will be for her and her family.

Congratulations too, to the platinum and Principal achievement award winners named above. You and your families should be very proud.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a safe and happy Easter and look forward to welcoming back students on Monday, 15 April.

Mr N.J Whittle

Principal's Award

Bailey-Jay Bennett, Louie Carr, Lucas Phillips, Nikitha Yaddhige all of 7D. Leo White-, Oliver Marks both of 7G.

Platinum Award

Atlas Drury-Myers-7J, Evelyn Riley 7I, Florence Waters 7D, Frederick Gardner- 7G, Jack Richmond-Youngs-7c, Jessica Woolliss-7G, Kian Larkin-7G, Lacey-Jayde Williams-8C, Matilda Cuthbert-10B, Niamh Gardner-8K, Noah Stephenson-7G, Olivia Parker-7H, Sebastian Lambton-7D.



Libby's Olympic Chance

Olympic swimming trials are the reward for years of dedicated training by a Toll Bar Sixth Form student. Libby Munday (17) will compete against the nation's elite in London for a place in the Great British swimming squad that will travel to Paris in the summer.

The modest student, who specialises in the back crawl over 100m and 200m, is not expecting to make the cut but is excited to have been invited and given the opportunity. "It is the experience that I am most looking forward to," she said. "All the country's elite swimmers will be there and I'll be able to watch them.

She will represent Kingston upon Hull Swimming Club at the British Swimming Championships, taking place at the iconic London Aquatics Centre on Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park between 2 and 7 April. It will be a long way from when she started swimming at the now demolished Grimsby Swimming Pool on Scartho Road, aged nine.

Libby, taking A-levels in PE, Biology and Psychology, trains twice on a Monday and Wednesday, once on a Tuesday and Thursday and at home on a Friday. She's also started training at Sheffield's Ponds Forge Olympic-size pool on a Saturday.

Libby thanked parents Angie and Simon Munday for their unstinting encouragement and the hours they had put in to support her. She also thanked the Academy for its support, particularly Head of Year 11 Ryan Watson for being flexible during GCSEs.

She does not have to look far for inspiration at the school. Head of PE Amy Pharaoh, who has taught Libby for three years, is a former Commonwealth and world champion in bowls and captained the England team at the World Bowls Championships on Australia's Gold Coast last year. Amy said: "We are just so incredibly proud of Libby. She is a great sportswoman, not only a fantastic swimmer. "I know the level of dedication she has had to show, though I've not been training at those times in the morning! "Things will be happening in her friendship groups that she may feel she is missing out on and to keep that level of motivation can be difficult. But, doing as well as she's doing, makes it all worthwhile.



"She is a great inspiration for all young children who may be just starting out at a Lincs Inspire pool in North East Lincolnshire. The sport is so accessible." Principal Nigel Whittle congratulated Libby on her success. "To swim at the Olympic trials is a wonderful achievement and a huge credit to Libby and her supportive family," Mr Whittle said. "We are proud to have Libby as a member of our sixth form and support her where we can. We are also excited about what the future may hold and wish Libby all the best in London and going forward."

You can read Libby's full story [here](#).





Book Club

The school book club has grown across the year and the students are really enjoying taking part.

The book they have chosen for next term is 'Monster' and they are really looking forward to reading it and holding discussions throughout.

The group meet every Friday in the Library supported by dedicated Academy staff. The students choose their own literary works and then evaluate and discuss them in a fun and relaxed atmosphere.

The club is part of the school strategy to promote the love of reading across all students.



Attendance Rewards

Following the success of our Attendance Wheel of Fortune initiative, this week saw a 'double bonus wheel'. We currently have 2 separate wheels, the first of which recognises those students with 100% attendance for the week before, and the second wheel recognises those students who, regardless of their attendance, have had 3 or more successive rises in attendance. This week saw over 40 students recognised for their good and improved attendance.



In addition to the Attendance Wheel of Fortune, we also invite students with 97% attendance or more to an end of half-term celebration breakfast. This week we have invited 560 students across all year groups to our breakfast celebrations with members of their Head of Year Team.





Upcoming Diary Events

Summer Term 1

16 April	Y9 HPV Vaccinations
18 April	Y9 Online Safety talk for Parents
23 April	Shakespeare Day
24 April	Y12 Parental Review Evening
2/3 May	Y12 Crandale Residential
08 May	Y11 Masterclasses begin
13 May	External A Level Exams Begin
13 May	Fair Trade Day
20 May	Y10 Work Experience Week

Summer Term 2

14 June	Y9 Construction & Heritage Skills Fair
17-28 June	Y12 Exams and Study Leave
18/20 June	Y10 Geography Fieldwork
19-21 June	Y7 Conover Hall Residential Trip
24-27 June	Matilda Performance's
24-28 June	Y10 Madrid Residential Trip
26 June	Y12 Taster Day
27 June	Y12 UCAS Exhibition—University of Hull
28.6.2024	Sports Day—King George V Stadium
1-5 July	Y12 Work Experience
1-4 July	Y10 France Residential Trip
3-5 July	Y7 Conover Hall Residential Trip
10-12 July	Y12 Geography Residential Trip
12 July	Sports Award Evening
16-18 July	Y10 Geography Fieldwork
15-18 July	Formal Celebration Assemblies