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Walsall Academy Physical Education Magazine

This is the thirty fourth edition of the Physical Education Magazine. We hope you will enjoy reading about all of the fantastic achievements of the school teams, and our individual stars of the future.

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Athletics meets

Walsall Academy students produced an excellent series of performances at this year's Walsall Schools Athletics Meets, competing across a full programme of track and field events held throughout May and June. The meets brought together schools from across the borough, with athletes taking part in sprints, middle-distance races, jumps, throws and relays in a highly competitive environment hosted here at the academy.

The standout success came from the Year 9 squad, who delivered a superb all-round team performance. The boys' team claimed first place overall, a well-earned result built on strength and depth across the track events, while the girls achieved a commendable third-place finish against strong opposition.

On the track, there were several exceptional individual performances that proved decisive. Maurice was particularly impressive, powering to gold in the 100 metres with a superb sub-12 second time, setting the tone for the team's success. Alex followed this up with an outstanding run in the 400 metres, demonstrating excellent pacing and control to secure another gold medal. The relay team then completed a dominant display on the track, combining speed, precision baton changes, and strong teamwork to take first place and cap off an excellent day for the boys.



Beyond the headline performances, the wider squad played a crucial role in securing the overall victory. Consistent finishes across both track and field events ensured a steady accumulation of points, underlining the strength of the team as a whole and their ability to compete effectively across all disciplines.

There were also strong efforts across the other year groups. The Year 10 team competed well to finish fourth overall in a very competitive field, while Year 7 demonstrated great promise with a third-place finish, highlighting encouraging depth in the younger cohorts. Year 8 athletes also performed solidly, gaining valuable experience and contributing positively in a closely contested competition.

Overall, the athletics programme has been a real success for Walsall Academy, with students demonstrating determination, resilience, and excellent team spirit throughout. A special mention goes to the Year 9 squad, whose achievements mean they now progress to the Black Country Games Indoor Athletics Finals. This represents a fantastic opportunity for the group to test themselves at the next level, and the school looks forward to seeing them build on this success.



Cricket

We have enjoyed hosting the Walsall Schools Dynamo Cricket tournament this summer, welcoming a number of schools across the year 7, 8, 9 and 10 competitions. Our year 8's competed well and followed their impressive season when they were in year 7. In their competition, the team made a strong start with an impressive win over Streetly, built on disciplined bowling and sharp fielding. Tom produced a standout spell of spin bowling, generating excellent turn and control to consistently trouble the opposition batters. Captain Jude led superbly from the front, taking key wickets while also setting intelligent fields and maintaining pressure across the innings.

Support came from Amaan and Markus, whose accurate seam bowling ensured a tight line and length, restricting scoring opportunities and keeping the run rate firmly in check. The team's efficiency in the field proved decisive, with energy and commitment preventing easy runs and creating chances. The boys went onto compete well across the competition and demonstrated their impressive fielding skills throughout. Well done to all that took part.





Darts showcase Hits the Bullseye

The Academy recently hosted a fantastic Darts Showcase Event, bringing together students, staff and spectators for an afternoon full of entertainment, competition and plenty of memorable moments.

Designed to recreate the atmosphere of a professional darts night, the event featured player walk-ons, enthusiastic crowd participation and a packed schedule of activities that kept everyone engaged from start to finish. Proceedings began with a series of exciting mini-games, including a Highest Score Shootout, where competitors had three darts to post the biggest score possible, and a Bullseye Challenge, where precision was the key as players aimed to land closest to the centre of the board.

The audience played a huge part in the success of the afternoon. Spectators took part in a staff and audience competition, predicted the eventual winner using house cards hidden under seats, and helped create a lively atmosphere throughout. To add to the excitement, every Treble 20 and Bullseye was met with cheers, songs and celebrations, giving the event a genuine professional darts feel.

The main attraction was a series of thrilling 301 matches, featuring eight students who had earned their place in the showcase:

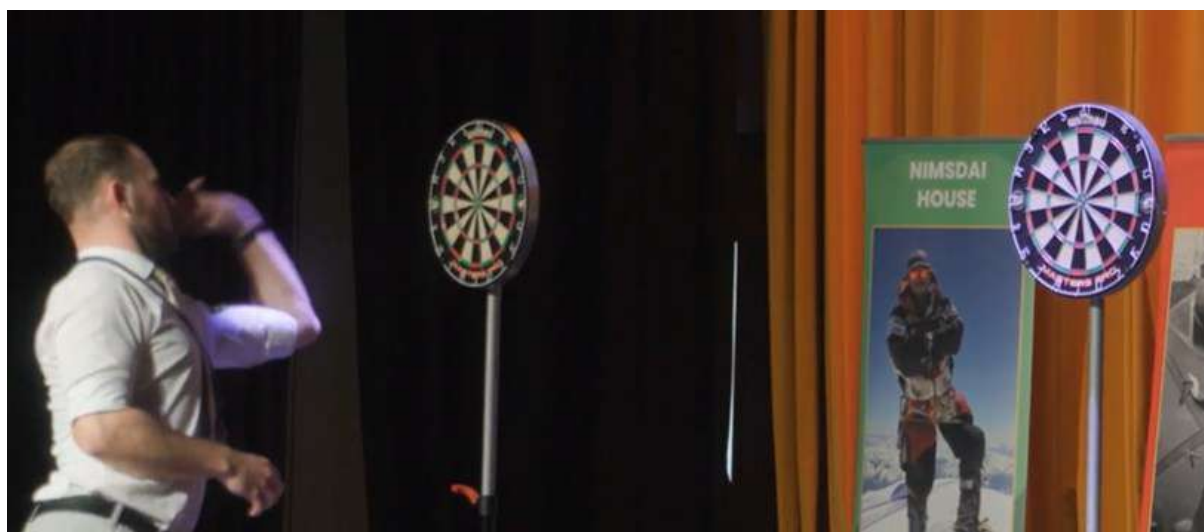


Each player demonstrated impressive skill, concentration and composure under pressure. As the competition progressed, the standard continued to rise, with players producing some excellent scoring visits, accurate doubles and memorable finishes. The matches were fiercely contested, and every competitor played their part in making the showcase an entertaining spectacle.

Beyond the competition itself, the event highlighted the growth of darts within the Academy. Students displayed resilience, confidence and sportsmanship throughout, while the supportive atmosphere ensured that every participant felt valued and celebrated.

The showcase concluded with an awards presentation, recognising the achievements, effort and commitment shown by all competitors. It was a fitting end to an outstanding afternoon that showcased not only talent on the dartboard but also the strong sense of community within the Academy.

Well done to all of our competitors for putting on a fantastic show and helping to make the Darts Showcase a huge success!



3x3 Basketball

The Academy proudly hosted the Walsall Schools 3x3 Basketball Tournament, welcoming teams from across the borough for an exciting evening of fast-paced and highly competitive basketball.

Our Year 9 A Team put together an excellent run in the competition, progressing all the way to the semi-finals. Maurice was a constant threat on offence, using powerful drives to the basket to score crucial points and put opposition defences under pressure. Jareal played a key role with his relentless defensive pressure and excellent playmaking, helping to create scoring opportunities for his teammates.

A special mention must go to Alex, who was the team's true "glue guy". He secured rebounds and made key baskets.



Our Year 9 B Team also delivered a fantastic performance, demonstrating the depth of basketball talent within the Academy. The team battled hard throughout the group stages and deservedly earned a place in the knockout rounds, competing with great energy and determination.

Taio was one of the standout performers of the entire tournament, finishing as the leading scorer across all teams. Alongside his scoring exploits, he was a dominant presence on the boards, collecting rebounds consistently and providing a strong physical influence in every game he played.

U14 Boys Basketball league champions

Our Year 9 Boys Basketball Team have been crowned Walsall 5v5 Basketball League Champions, completing an outstanding season with a thrilling victory over St Thomas More in the league final.

The championship game was a fitting finale to an excellent campaign, with both teams competing at a high intensity from the opening tip-off. The match was closely contested throughout, with neither side able to establish a significant lead as momentum swung back and forth in a showcase of quality school basketball.

With the scores level and the clock winding down, the final was set for a dramatic finish. Showing tremendous confidence and leadership, Alex stepped up when it mattered most, scoring a crucial basket with less than 10 seconds remaining to give the team the lead and ultimately secure the championship title. It was a moment worthy of winning any final and a reflection of the character shown by the team all season.

Congratulations to all of the players on becoming Walsall 5v5 Basketball League Champions and representing the Academy with pride throughout a fantastic season.



Boccia Leaders step up!

A group of our students recently took part in an exciting Boccia Leaders Course, gaining valuable skills in leadership, organisation, and teamwork. The course provided students with the opportunity to learn how to deliver boccia sessions, understand scoring systems, and support inclusive sport—an experience that was both engaging and inspiring.

Following the training, all students were awarded their Boccia Leaders certificates and an e-booklet to support their continued development. This marks the beginning of their leadership journey, with plenty of opportunities ahead to build on their skills.

The journey doesn't stop here! Students now have the chance to work towards Boccia Leadership Awards by getting actively involved in supporting events and sessions. We aim to set up our very own Boccia club, run by the students, which will in turn allow them to work towards their Bronze, Silver and Gold leadership awards.

Well done to all that took part and we look forward to seeing your new skills in action.



Badminton Tournament

Our KS3 and KS4 girls travelled to **West Walsall E-ACT Academy** to take part in a competitive badminton tournament.

Both teams approached the tournament with enthusiasm and a willingness to learn. As the matches progressed, the girls quickly reacquainted themselves with the rules and tactics of the game, growing in confidence with every performance. The players demonstrated excellent determination throughout the day, showing significant improvement in their movement, shot selection and overall understanding of match play. It was particularly pleasing to see the girls becoming increasingly tactical, adapting their play and competing strongly against experienced opposition.

The **KS4 team** produced some of their best badminton in the latter stages of the tournament, playing several highly competitive matches and coming agonisingly close to securing a number of impressive victories.

Unfortunately, both age groups were placed in particularly challenging pools and were unable to progress to the knockout stages. However, the results do not fully reflect the effort, commitment and improvement shown by the players across the day.

All of the girls represented the Academy superbly, displaying excellent sportsmanship, grit and determination from the first serve to the final point.

Chess

Walsall Academy recently hosted its first-ever House Chess Competition, bringing together students from across different year groups in a highly enjoyable and competitive event. The competition proved to be a great success, creating an opportunity for students of all abilities to showcase their strategic thinking, concentration, and problem-solving skills.

Throughout the competition, matches were played in a fantastic spirit, with participants demonstrating both determination and respect for one another. It was particularly pleasing to see students from different year groups competing together, contributing to a strong sense of community and shared enthusiasm for the game.

After a series of closely contested matches, Igor emerged as the overall winner. Igor displayed excellent composure, tactical awareness, and consistency throughout the competition, making him a deserving champion.

We have keenly been following Igor's progress and are very proud to share that he went on to receive a second place finish at the Warwickshire Chess Association's Solihull Open. Well done Igor!

Overall, the event was a great success and marks an exciting starting point for chess at Walsall Academy. We look forward to running more competitions like this in the future and continuing to provide opportunities in chess.



HOUSE CHESS

COMPETITION!



WEDNESDAY
20TH MAY



REPRESENT YOUR HOUSE.
THINK. PLAN. MOVE. WIN.



HARGREAVES



NIMSDAI



HAHN



EARHART



SACAGAWEA



TENZING





ALL YEARS
AND STAFF
WELCOME

YOUR MOVE.



A photograph of a young man with short brown hair, wearing a green long-sleeved shirt. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. A silver medal with a red, white, and blue ribbon is hanging around his neck. The background is dark and out of focus.

Sports hall athletics

Walsall Academy's Year 9 athletes proudly represented Walsall Borough at the Black Country Indoor Sports Hall Athletics Competition on Monday 1st June, held at Aldersley Leisure Centre in Wolverhampton. Competing against twelve teams from across Walsall, Wolverhampton, Sandwell and Dudley, the event provided a high level of competition across a wide range of track and field disciplines.

The competition featured a fast-paced and demanding programme, including team relays over one, two and eight laps, alongside individual sprint events over two, four and six laps. In the field events, athletes competed in shot put, vertical jump, standing long jump, speed bounce and standing triple jump, requiring a combination of speed, power and technical ability.

Both the boys' and girls' teams performed with great determination and commitment throughout the afternoon, demonstrating excellent teamwork and resilience across all events. The boys' team delivered a number of standout performances, including impressive victories in both the one lap relay and the eight lap relay, where strong baton changes and sustained pace proved decisive. They also achieved several podium finishes, placing in the top three in events such as shot put, vertical jump and the two and six lap races. Their consistent efforts across both track and field resulted in a highly respectable fifth-place finish overall.

The girls' team matched this level of effort and enthusiasm, also achieving a number of strong individual and team performances. Bella was a standout performer, playing a key role in securing first place in the eight lap relay. In addition, the team recorded top three finishes in the obstacle relay, the four lap race, and the 4x2 lap relay, highlighting their strength across multiple disciplines. Like the boys, their consistency and teamwork across the competition led to a commendable fifth-place overall finish.

Overall, the competition provided a fantastic experience for all involved, and both teams can be proud of their efforts competing against some of the strongest schools in the Black Country.

Handball

On Wednesday 13th May, our U13 Girls Handball team travelled to WV Active Aldersley to compete in a highly competitive tournament against four other schools. The girls represented the school brilliantly, demonstrating excellent teamwork, determination, and skill throughout the afternoon.

Defensively, the team was outstanding, with well-organised formations preventing numerous opposition attacks. Tanya Makufa was particularly impressive, making several crucial blocks and helping to keep opposing teams at bay. Strong defensive play also led to a number of turnovers, creating opportunities in attack where Amelia Evans and Mila Gash excelled, scoring many of the team's goals.

A special mention must go to Navneet Nahal, who produced a superb performance in goal, making a number of important saves and providing confidence to the team throughout the tournament.



Wimbledon Rewards Trip

A group of our Year 11 students recently enjoyed a memorable trip to The Championships, Wimbledon, in recognition of their outstanding performance in their BTEC examinations. Their hard work was rewarded with the opportunity to experience one of the world's most prestigious sporting events and soak up the unique atmosphere that makes Wimbledon so special.

The students spent the day at the iconic All England Lawn Tennis Club, where they were able to explore the famous grounds, witness the traditions that have made Wimbledon legendary and enjoy the excitement of top-level tennis. The highlight of the day was watching world-class players compete on Court 1.





Year 12 Explore Career Pathways

Our Year 12 BTEC Sport students recently had the exciting opportunity to attend a Sport Discovery Day at the University of Wolverhampton (Walsall Campus). The day was designed to give students a real insight into university life and the wide range of courses and careers available within the sport industry.

The event combined both practical and classroom-based sessions, allowing students to experience different aspects of studying sport at a higher level. Throughout the day, students engaged in a variety of workshops that looked into career pathways, sports science and sport and exercise therapy.

The taster day provided a fantastic opportunity for students to deepen their understanding of the sport industry while experiencing a university environment first-hand. It also helped them to begin thinking about their next steps after sixth form, including possible degree pathways and careers in sport.

Overall, the day was both informative and inspiring, with students returning motivated and more confident about their futures in the sport sector.



Year 12 Outdoor Learning

As part of our year 12's BTEC Sport course, students have been studying an Outdoor and Adventurous Activities unit. They have recently took part in two activities to put the theory into practice, including a trip to Birmingham Depot and numerous days out at Cannock Chase. The unit focuses on developing students' understanding of outdoor and adventurous activities, including participation, safety, leadership, and reviewing performance. It is designed to give students hands-on experience.

Birmingham Depot – Bouldering Challenge

climbing skills while also learning about safety procedures, risk assessment, and the role of instructors. Students were challenged both physically and mentally as they worked to complete routes of varying difficulty.



Cannock Chase – Orienteering Adventure

The trips to Cannock Chase saw students applying their knowledge in an orienteering activity, where they used maps, navigation skills, and teamwork to locate checkpoints across the course. This activity highlighted the importance of communication, decision-making, and leadership in outdoor settings.



Volleyball

Our combined Year 9 and 10 Boys Volleyball Team produced an excellent performance at a tournament hosted by St Francis, finishing as runners-up after an exciting day of competition.

The team displayed great skill, teamwork and determination throughout, competing strongly against some tough opposition. In an incredibly close contest for first place, our boys narrowly missed out on the title on points difference, highlighting just how competitive the tournament was.

At the net, Taio was a dominant presence, making a number of excellent blocks to deny opposition attacks and gain crucial points for the team. His timing and positioning were outstanding, helping to put pressure on opposing hitters throughout the tournament.

In attack and defence, Alex and Maurice were instrumental in the team's success. Their powerful and accurate returns, combined with consistent passing and well-placed shots, made life extremely difficult for opponents. Both players demonstrated excellent court awareness, keeping rallies alive and creating opportunities for their teammates to attack.

The entire squad worked tirelessly, showing strong communication, effective rotations and a positive attitude in every match. Their second-place finish is a fantastic achievement and one they should be very proud of.

Congratulations to all of the players on a superb performance and for representing the academy so well.

Fishing club

Fishing Session 3 this half term has gone from strength to strength. The group has grown in both size and confidence, beginning their journey on the local Great Wyrley and Essington Canal before spreading their wings and taking on larger lakes. They have discovered a real passion for carp fishing during sessions at a lake in Alveley, near Bridgnorth.

It has been fantastic to see the young people develop not only their fishing skills but also their teamwork, communication, and willingness to help one another. They have shown great respect for the environment, learning about the importance of caring for the lakes, wildlife, and surrounding habitats while enjoying the sport.





The progress made this half term has been outstanding, and the enthusiasm shown by the group has been infectious. We anticipate that this club will continue to grow from strength to strength when it returns in September, welcoming even more young people to develop new skills, build friendships, and enjoy the many benefits that fishing has to offer.

This is the thirty fifth edition of the PE Magazine and we hope you have enjoyed it. We are looking to get students more involved in the process by supplying pictures, writing match reports etc. So if you want to get involved and supply a story/report save the file to memory stick or disk ready for editing and pass onto the PE Department.



If you want to be a part of the next magazine, come to Session 3 and get involved in PE and Sport.

Mr Clifford
Head of PE