

ISSUE 32

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Walsall Academy Physical Education Magazine

This is the thirty second 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.

Inside this issue:

Athletics

Cricket

Rounders

Handball



U13 Girls Handball Champions

Walsall Academy faced off against the hosts, Brownhills, in a thrilling final—and delivered a dominant performance to secure the victory and lift the trophy!

From the first whistle, Walsall Academy set the tone with disciplined defending and rapid transitions. The defensive trio of Georgia, Michelle, and Isla formed an impenetrable wall, stifling Brownhills' attacking efforts and limiting their chances on goal. Their coordination and communication were key in shutting down plays before they could develop.

When Brownhills did manage to break through, Gabrielle stood tall between the posts, making crucial saves with calmness and confidence to keep the scoreboard in Walsall's favour.

But it was Nea who stole the show. Named Most Valuable Player, she led the team intercepting passes, launching fast breaks, and scoring with powerful and precise shots that the keeper had little chance of saving.

Walsall were proud to defend the title as U13 Walsall Schools Champion. Congratulations to the entire squad for their outstanding effort and sportsmanship, and a big thank you to Brownhills for hosting a brilliant final.



U13 Boys Handball Champions

The Walsall Schools Boys' Handball Finals saw Walsall Academy deliver a commanding performance throughout the round-robin tournament, going undefeated and securing a series of convincing wins to take home the title. Their tough, disciplined defence was a standout feature, with players blocking shots and shutting down opposition attacks with relentless energy. At the heart of this defensive was Jareal, who shared Most Valuable Player (MVP) honours. Playing the front defensive role, he expertly shadowed attackers, intercepted passes, and prevented clear shots on goal with intelligent positioning and anticipation.

On the offensive end, Maurice was unstoppable. Also named co-MVP, he led the entire competition in scoring, consistently finding the net. His ability to finish off fast breaks and create chances under pressure made him a constant threat.

The team's success was built on more than just individual brilliance. Alex and Rio were instrumental in launching counter-attacks, delivering pinpoint passes that created scoring opportunities and kept the opposition on the back foot. Congratulations to the entire squad for an outstanding tournament.



Y10 Athletics meet

Walsall Academy was proud to host this year's Year 10 Walsall Schools Athletics Meet, welcoming talented athletes from across the borough, including Streetly, Pool Hayes, and Queen Mary's, among others. The event was a fantastic showcase of sporting spirit, determination, and teamwork. Our students rose to the occasion with a string of outstanding performances across both track and field events.



On the track, Tom delivered a standout performance in the 400 metres, powering through the final stretch to claim a well-deserved gold medal. In the 800 metres, Michael showed great composure and endurance, securing a Bronze medal in a tightly contested race.

Our success extended into the field events, where Sam soared to victory in the high jump, clearing the bar with confidence and consistency. Tom continued his medal haul with a Silver in the long jump, demonstrating his versatility across disciplines. The team also celebrated Silver medal in the javelin and Bronze in the shot putt.



Y10 Athletics meet



In the girls' competition, Walsall Academy particularly excelled in the field events. Paris claimed Gold in the high jump, while Jandelle matched that achievement with a Gold in the long jump. There were also strong performances in the throwing events, with the Academy securing Silver in both the shot put and javelin.

These results reflect the hard work, dedication, of our athletes, who represented the Academy with pride. A big congratulations to all those who competed and thank you to the staff and sixth form sport volunteers who made the event a success.



Y9 Cricket

We're thrilled to share some fantastic news from the cricket pitch. Our Year 9 boys have done the Academy proud in the Walsall Schools Dynamo Cricket Competition, being crowned champions!

After a nail-biting final against Pool Hayes, our team emerged victorious by just two runs in a thrilling finish. The match got off to a strong start thanks to Reggie, who opened with a powerful boundary to set the tone. Ben and Ishmael followed up with some smart batting, each chipping in with boundaries to keep the scoreboard ticking and the pressure on the fielding side.

A real highlight of the innings was the partnership between Ben and Ishmael. Their excellent communication and awareness allowed them to sneak in three quick runs, capitalising on loose fielding and showing great teamwork.

With the ball, Ben, Reece, and Joe took some crucial early wickets. As the game came down to the final over, Pool Hayes were chasing hard but our boys held their nerve and defended the total brilliantly, sealing the win by just two runs!



Rounders

Our rounders teams have delivered outstanding performances this season, securing victories in the Year 7, Year 8, and Senior Walsall Schools Rounders tournaments. With just the Year 9 competition remaining, the teams have already demonstrated remarkable skill, determination, and teamwork.

Each squad brought their own strengths to the field, working together seamlessly to outplay their opponents. From tight fielding and strategic batting to consistent bowling, the collective effort was evident in every match. While there were some standout individual contributions, such as Jude's challenging bowling in Year 7, Nia's powerful batting in Year 8, and Laurance's fast, accurate deliveries in the Senior team, it was the team work that truly made the difference.

The players supported one another, adapted to challenges, and showed great sportsmanship throughout the tournaments. With three trophies already in hand, we now look forward to the Year 9 team stepping up to complete what could be a phenomenal clean sweep. Let's keep the momentum going—well done to everyone involved!



Rounders



Inter-Academy Handball and 3x3 Basketball

We were proud to host this year's Handball and 3x3 Basketball competitions, welcoming our sister schools from Thomas Telford, Madeley, Sandwell, and UTC for an exciting afternoon of sport.

In the Year 8 boys' handball, Walsall Academy delivered a brilliant performance, finishing second overall on goal difference after going unbeaten. Jareal anchored the defence with smart positioning and relentless pressure, earning co-MVP honours. Maurice led the scoring charts and shared MVP recognition for his attacking play. Alex and Rio were key in launching fast breaks and creating scoring chances — a fantastic team effort all around.

The Year 8 girls' handball team also finished second, showing the strength of handball in this year group. Georgia, Michelle, and Isla formed a solid defensive unit, while Gabrielle made crucial saves in goal. Nea, named Most Valuable Player, led the team with interceptions, fast breaks, and powerful, precise shots at goal.



Inter-Academy Handball and 3x3 Basketball

In the Year 7 boys' 3x3 basketball, the team showed great promise in their first competitive outing. Noah was a dominant presence in the key, pulling down rebounds and scoring both a free throw and a basket. Brogan led the scoring with 5 points and contributed strong defensive play. Frederick worked tirelessly on both ends of the court, and Wesley added 2 points with a positive attacking mindset. A fantastic debut for the team.

The Year 7 girls' 3x3 basketball team also impressed, finishing third overall. They put in a great performance and were especially strong on the boards, consistently winning the rebounding battles against their opponents — a solid showing that highlights their potential for future competitions.



Inter Academy 3x3 Basketball



Set For Success

Our Year 9 cohort has successfully completed their first year on the Set for Success programme, delivered in partnership with the Youth Sport Trust and supported by Paralympian athlete mentor Mel Clarke. Mel, a former GB archer who competed at both the Beijing and London Paralympic Games, played a key role in inspiring our students by sharing her powerful story of resilience, determination, and elite sporting achievement.

A major highlight of the year has been the planning and delivery of their social action projects. Students chose to focus on topics they felt passionate about, including mental health, healthy eating, and the importance of physical activity. They collaborated to develop resources and workshops aimed at raising awareness and creating positive change within the school community, particularly among our Year 7 students.

The cohort attended the Empowerment Event at Molineux Stadium, hosted by the Youth Sport Trust. This celebration brought together students from across the programme to reflect on their journeys and share their achievements. Our students delivered a confident and inspiring presentation on their social action projects, showcasing their ideas, challenges, and aspirations for the future. Their professionalism and passion were clear for all to see, and Mel Clarke was especially proud to witness the growth and dedication they've shown



IN PARTNERSHIP



BARCLAYS

SET FOR SUCCESS

Sports Festival

Our students from across Years 7-9 travelled to Wolverhampton University's Walsall Campus for an unforgettable Sports Festival and a day of modern sporting challenges.

The event featured a carousel of engaging sports, including New Age Curling, Boccia, Seated Volleyball, and 10-Pin Bowling. Each station offered students the chance to showcase their skills, try something new, and support one another in a fun and friendly environment.

Team captains Henry and Zak led by example throughout the day. Henry demonstrated exceptional control and strategy in Boccia, while Zak's leadership and enthusiasm in Seated Volleyball helped rally the team and keep spirits high.

But it was in New Age Curling where the team truly excelled. With impressive accuracy and precision, they delivered a standout performance that had spectators and staff alike applauding their efforts.



This is the thirty second 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