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# Walsall Academy Physical Education Magazine

**This is the twentieth 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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# Football Update

The Year 7 Football team produced a fantastic performance in their first ever game together when they played Norton Canes. There was a lot of competition for places in the team, and the players that represented the Academy displayed their talents by winning 7-1. Their second game was in the National Cup against North Birmingham Academy. This was a thrilling game which finished 1-1 at the end of normal time and extra time so the game had to be decided by penalties. Walsall Academy's players held their nerve and won the penalty shoot-out 2-1.

The Year 8 team also made a great start to the season, making the step-up from playing 9 a side to 11 a side easy with a convincing 5-2 victory over Norton Canes. A special mention must go to Jesse who played extremely well all game and scored an excellent goal by placing the ball in the top corner away from the goal keeper. In their second game they played against St Thomas More in the league. The boys produced another excellent display and secured a 5-2 victory, despite the poor weather conditions.



Year 9 started their season off against St Thomas More with an excellent 4-0 victory. The boys produced an excellent performance from start to finish, with the highlight of the game being Joel's spectacular goal from the half way line. They have also played in the National Cup against Cardinal Wiseman Catholic School where unfortunately luck wasn't on their side. Despite dominating for portions of the game, they couldn't seem to put the ball in the net and narrowly lost the game 3-1.

The Year 10 team started their season with a fixture in the West Midlands Cup against Kingswinford Academy. The boys produced a fantastic performance, with them creating lots of goal scoring opportunities however the opposing goalkeeper played excellently. The final result was 4-2 to Walsall Academy, and they are looking forward to playing in the next round of the competition.

# Football Update

The Year 11 team played their first fixture of the season against Pool Hayes in the West Midlands Cup. The weather conditions meant that it was very difficult to play nice football, and at the end of the first half there was nothing to separate the two sides. In the second half Walsall Academy started to dominate, and Callum scored an impressive hat-trick which meant the final result finished 5-1. The team are also looking forward to the next round of the cup, with their target firmly set on making it to the final.

The U14 girls football team played against Summer Hill school in the first round of the National cup. This was an extremely well contested game with very few chances created due to excellent defending from both teams. Unfortunately the game finished 2-0 in favour of Summer Hill, but the girls should be extremely proud of their performance and they look to build on this in their next fixture in the West Midlands Cup.



The Sixth Form played their opening game in the National Cup against Codsall High School. This was always going to be a very tough fixture due to Codsall having a Football Academy however the Walsall Academy boys worked extremely hard and at half time the game was 3-3. In the second half Codsall had the better of the chances and the game finished 5-3 in their favour. This could have been a different story if the Codsall keeper hadn't made a superb save from a Walsall Academy penalty, but there were lots of positives for the team to take into their next fixture.



# Rugby Update

The Year 7 Rugby team have made a very promising start to their season. None of the boys had played Rugby before joining the Academy, however they have huge amounts of potential. This has been showcased with impressive performances against Aldridge and QMGS. The boys have several games to prepare for the upcoming U12 County Festival taking place during the Spring term. Mr Hitchen is very hopeful they can go very far in the competition.



Year 8 have had a good start to the Rugby season with tough fixtures against the likes of Queen Mary's and Rawlett School. The boys have performed excellently so far with some aggressive, powerful Rugby being put on show. With many new faces attending training and matches and getting better every week, the future looks bright for Year 8 Rugby.

The Year 9 Rugby team have already played several fixtures already this season. Excellent performances against Rawlett, Queen Mary's and Clayton Hall have prepared them well for their upcoming County Cup tie against Bloxwich Academy. In these displays the boys are showing solid technical ability and are now trying to be more expansive when in possession of the ball. The fact that several of the boys have joined Willenhall RFC bodes well for the development of the team moving forward.



# Rugby Update

The Year 10 team have been typically dominant in their opening fixtures this year, they continue to play an attractive, open game with plenty of physicality. The likes of Dionte and Jai-Sharn continue to lead the way with their strong runs from midfield. The boys have been drawn against King Edwards School which will no doubt be one of the toughest fixtures of the year, but we have enough talent and ability in the squad to progress deep into the competition.



Unfortunately the Year 11 team have lost both of their games so far this year, against tough opposition in Rawlett and Clayton Hall. However both of these games were friendlies and have hopefully prepared them for their upcoming County Cup fixture against Trentham Academy. Due to several of the boys excelling in this age group, they have been selected to play for the U18 team in several of their fixtures.

The Sixth Form team has had a tough set of fixtures to start the rugby season with fixtures against Queen Mary's and Lichfield Cathedral. The boys have performed well but still have plenty to work on for the upcoming season.



# Netball Update

Walsall Academy's Netball teams have made a strong start to the Netball season. Session 3 has been well attended and we have been able to enter a team for each year group into the Walsall Borough League. Our first matches of the season were against Pool Hayes at home. All teams secured convincing wins demonstrating high levels of skill and team work.

We then went on to face Streetly Academy; our most difficult opposition in the league.

Unfortunately despite an excellent work ethic from the girls we were defeated by the well-practised Streetly teams.

Our most recent matches were against St Francis of Assisi. Despite only forming at the start of term our Year 7 team performed very well beating St Francis 6-2. The Year 8, 9 and 10 teams were also successful gaining valuable league points. The Netball teams will go on to play the other Walsall Schools over the remainder of the Autumn and into the spring term; we look forward to following their success.



## Development trip

On Thursday 19 September, the PE Department took a group of selected students to Old Trafford to watch Manchester United play in the Europa League.

This was a great experience for the students as the Europa League is a big competition and one that Manchester United take very seriously. Despite not being the most entertaining game, Manchester United managed to score in the 73rd minute through Mason Greenwood and held on to win the game 1-0.

Each student that attended the Development trip thoroughly enjoyed the experience and are eager to be invited on more trips like this one in the future.



## Duke of Edinburgh Award

Congratulations to all of last year's Silver and Gold award students who successfully passed their expeditions in the summer term; well done. This term an excellent number of students have signed up to start their journey on either the Bronze, Silver or Gold award which is pleasing. Students are in the process of deciding what activities they are going to complete for the volunteering, physical and skill sections. We look forward to tracking their progress this year. Expedition training for Silver and Gold starts after half term where students will prepare for a training day on the Shropshire hills on Sunday 8 December.



This is the twentieth 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 L Bull  
PE Department