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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.

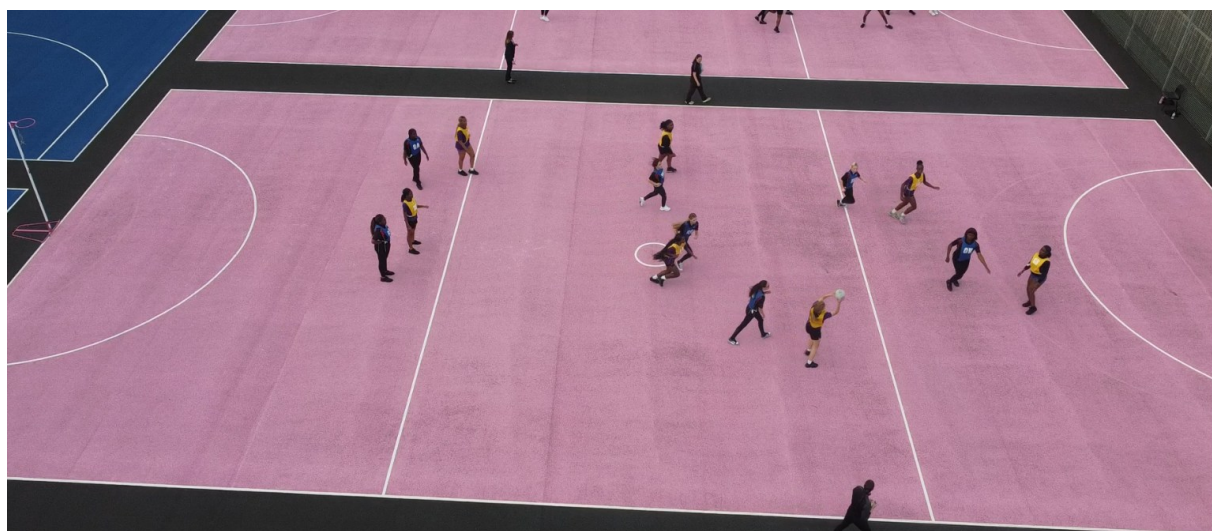
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Darts club!

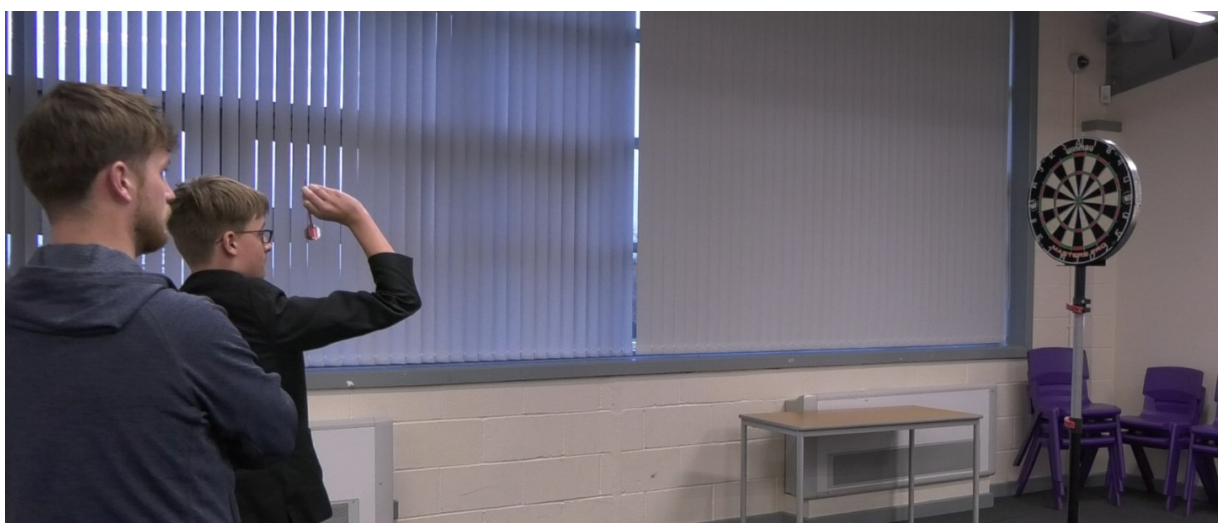
Walsall Academy has a brand-new sporting club and it is off to a flying start! The newly launched Darts Club is proving to be popular with over 40 students from across multiple year groups showing incredible enthusiasm for one of the world's fastest growing precision sports.

Students have been testing their skills in classic darts training games including killer, around the world and doubles games. Killer is particularly popular with students battling it out to knock each other's numbers out one by one. There's tension, drama, tactical throwing and plenty of cheers when someone hits a clutch shot under pressure.



The club has been open to all and it has been great to witness the development of the beginners group who are now finishing legs with style. More experienced players are testing their skills in singles and doubles games, creating a competitive environment.

After the success of the Boxing Showcase, the PE department is looking forward to the next big event, the Darts showcase. This is set to take place later this year and give our young darts players the chance to compete on stage, under the lights, in front of a supportive and excited Walsall Academy audience.



Boccia

Walsall Academy once again demonstrated its commitment to inclusive, high-quality competitive sport as our Boccia squad travelled to the Walsall Schools Boccia Competition at Wolverhampton University's Walsall Campus. It was a day that showcased not only the technical demands of the sport, but also the drive, maturity and teamwork of our players, who represented the Academy with pride, skill and determination.

From start to finish, the squad embraced the spirit of competition with players calm, focused, and committed to each throw. Boccia is a sport that rewards strategy and precision and the Academy squad showed all this in abundance throughout the tournament.



One of the driving forces behind the team's performance was Henry, an experienced Boccia player who has represented the Academy in multiple competitions over recent seasons. His leadership was evident from the moment he arrived. Whether it was offering tactical advice, supporting teammates between ends, or demonstrating flawless technique under pressure, Henry set the tone for the entire squad.

In several matches, he produced perfectly weighted shots to edge out opponents by the narrowest of margins. His ability to stay composed and deliver in clutch moments continues to make him a standout figure for the Academy's Boccia programme.

Alongside Henry's leadership came the impressive emergence of Corey, who was competing in his second major event for the Academy. His improvement was clear for all to see, and opponents quickly realised that Corey's calm, thoughtful approach made him a dangerous competitor.

Well done to the squad who all represented the Academy brilliantly on and off the court.



Staff vs Students Futsal

The Staff vs Students Futsal Tournament, organised and delivered by our Sixth Form students as part of their BTEC Level 3 Sport coursework project was a great occasion. The staff vs students edge always brings out the passion in both sides and it was a fantastic event with great sportsmanship displayed by both teams.

From the first whistle, the intensity was high. The students came out flying, especially the Red Team, led by Andrew who pushed the staff side all the way with pace, flair, and fearless attacking play. The staff, however, showed their experience, defending with grit and picking their moments to strike.





After a thrilling back and forth contest, the match finished level, setting up a dramatic penalty shootout that had the entire hall holding its breath. Mr Bull, with ice in his veins , stepped up and buried the winning penalty to give the staff team the victory. Huge credit goes to the outstanding Sixth Form organisers of Tom, Noah, Harry and Connor whose professionalism, planning and leadership created a top quality sporting event enjoyed by all.

A brilliant competition, a brilliant atmosphere, and a brilliant finish (for the staff!)

Badminton Tournament

Badminton at Walsall Academy has experienced a real boom this year, with the Wednesday Badminton Club becoming one of the most popular weekly activities on the extra-curricular calendar. Students from across the year groups have brilliantly taken part.

The club's energy and enthusiasm created the perfect platform for our Sixth Form BTEC Sport students; Lara, Ben, Sophie, Alfie, Callum and Chayton to step forward and organise a full competitive tournament as part of their BTEC Sport coursework. Their leadership was outstanding; clear planning, smooth organisation, and a confident presence that ensured the event ran like a professional competition.

The tournament itself delivered everything you'd want from school badminton, determination, agility, tactical awareness and some truly impressive performances across the board. Students showed passion and pride throughout every match.

Among all the impressive displays, one standout moment belonged to Vidura, who emerged as the overall tournament winner. His composure, accuracy and tactical intelligence shone through.



Badminton Tournament



Boxing Showcase

The Walsall Academy Boxing Showcase delivered an unforgettable evening of sporting excellence, drawing a sell-out crowd that packed the Theatre. From the moment the first bell rang, it was clear this was more than a series of boxing bouts, it was a celebration of hard work, character, and the vibrant community spirit that defines our academy.

Across the night, fighters displayed bravery, discipline, respect and determination. Every bout brought its own excitement, with students giving their all. Highlights included the fiercely contested matchups between George and Chace, Olly and Bailey and Emmanuel, who stepped into the ring twice and fought with incredible resilience. Other gripping encounters featured Samuel versus Kelvin, Sullivan against Archie, and Noah taking on Callum.

The showcase reached its peak with a crowd favourite finale, the highly anticipated staff bout between Mr Wadsworth and Mr Albutt. Their entertaining clash had the audience on their feet, cheering every jab and hook.

Behind the excitement was a dedicated team whose efforts ensured the evening ran with professionalism and care. Coach Lee and Mr Bull provided exceptional coaching and refereeing, keeping every contest fair and focused. Mrs Woodward oversaw medical checks and first aid with expertise. Our judge team of Mr Harris, Mr Roberts and Mr Wadsworth delivered precise scoring throughout the night, while Mr Goodall, with his trademark enthusiasm on the microphone, kept the crowd engaged from start to finish.

A huge thank you goes out to everyone who attended, supported, or contributed to this event. Your energy made it truly special.



Boys Football

Year 7

The Year 7 boys have had a strong first season for the Academy. Under Mr Bell's management, they play a high tempo style football that has resulted in a number of good victories, with a notable win being the Inter-Academy tournament win. Layton and Mackyle have led the way with the scoring however the team as a whole have shown attacking brilliance with 8-0 and 11-0 victories recorded this season. The side are still going strong in the cup and look to end the season on a high.

Year 8

Few teams show character like Year 8. From narrow cup matches to resilient league wins, this squad has developed a reputation for digging deep and producing big moments when they matter most.

October opened with a dramatic 5-4 win over West Walsall, where Harry (2), Dougie, and Charlie rose to the occasion in a thriller. Only days later, they earned a hard-fought 3-2 ESFA win over Netherstowe, with Bobby, Harry (pen), and Dougie delivering in clutch moments.

Consistency built quickly. In mid October they secured a gritty 1-0 league win, Bobby again finding the decisive moment with composure.

Year 9

Year 9 have been ruthless and at times have looked unstoppable this season.

Their early-season dominance included a huge 10–1 win in the league, with Rio bagging four and earning a Man of the Match performance that set the tone for their campaign. They followed that with a commanding 9–2 National Cup, Ish scoring a hat-trick and leading from the front.

Defensively organised and lethal on the break, Year 9 have looked like a team with real ambition. A clean 5–0 win over Summerhill showed their professionalism.

Year 10

Year 10's season has been a rollercoaster of high-energy performances, dramatic scorelines, and individual brilliance.

Their early win over Shire Oak (6–4) was packed with fireworks. Arjun scoring four and taking home a deserved Player of the Match. Even in defeats, Arjun continued to shine, scoring in the National Cup and consistently leading from the front.

A 1–1 draw with Shelfield showed maturity and defensive organisation, with Hayden finishing clinically.

Year 11

Year 11 have taken on some of the toughest opponents in the region — and they've battled fiercely in every fixture. A narrow **3–1 West Mids Cup loss to Pool Hayes** and a challenging trip to Shelfield tested their limits, but the group has shown determination and resilience throughout.

Even in tight games, individual moments of leadership and standout defending have kept the squad competitive. With fixtures still ahead, Year 11 remain hungry to finish the season on a high.

Senior Boys Football

No team at the Academy has scored goals at the same volume of the Sixth Form squad.

Their brightest performance came with a 9–0 league win, where Oliver grabbed a hat-trick and John added a clinical brace.

Another huge 9–0 win in the Walsall league confirmed their identity: high-pressing, free-flowing, and absolutely ruthless in front of goal. The side have had a good run of performances and are playing a friendly against Aston Villa's youth development squad in preparation for the later stages of the West Midlands cup.

This is a team built to entertain — and they rarely disappoint.





Boys Basketball

Year 7

The Year 7 squad have already carved out a clear identity playing at fast pace with high energy. Their defensive intensity has become their trademark, with the team using raw pace and aggression to harass opponents, swarm ball handlers and force turnovers.

This fast tempo style was on full display in their 8–6 victory in their first league game, where their constant pressure suffocated the opposition's rhythm. Every defensive stop fuel for their quick fire transition play.

With MVP TJ leading by example through hustle plays, aggressive drives and outstanding defensive work, Year 7 have announced themselves as one of the most exciting young basketball groups the Academy has seen in recent years. We look forward to seeing them develop over the course of the next few seasons.



Boys Basketball

Year 11

The Year 11 team has grown into a physically commanding, tactically mature squad, and several standout performers have played huge roles in shaping their season. Sam, Proph and Deron have led the way and guided the team. Proph's leadership at the guard position alongside the strength and size of Deron and Sam in the paint has helped this team put in some strong performances.

Year 8

The Year 8s have produced some of the most dramatic basketball of the season, none more so than their nail-biter victory in the recent league game.

With the match tied and the final seconds draining away, the ball found its way into the hands of Michael and as the buzzer sounded, the shot dropped through the net to secure the victory.

This Year 8 team has talent across the floor. They compete, they learn and they rise to big occasions. Michael's game-winner is only the latest chapter in what is becoming an excellent season.



Boys Basketball

Sixth Form Boys Basketball

Walsall Academy Sixth Form boys produced one of their strongest basketball performances of the season in a thrilling matchup against a powerful and well drilled St Mary's side. Although the result was a narrow defeat, the display from our squad was nothing short of outstanding with incredible work rate and attacking flair.

From tip-off, the intensity was sky high. St Mary's arrived with size, structure and experience, but Walsall Academy matched them stride for stride, responding with speed, creativity and relentless effort at both ends of the floor.

The standout performer on the night was Dilan, who delivered a commanding offensive display and finished as the game's top scorer. Calm under pressure and constantly in attack mode, he repeatedly broke down St Mary's zone defence, driving into gaps, finishing inside and knocking down shots with confidence. Supporting him superbly were Angel and Emmanuel, whose pace and decision making on the fast break caused St Mary's problems all game long. Their ability to push the ball early, sprint the lanes and convert quick, high percentage looks kept the scoreboard ticking and forced St Mary's to retreat rapidly in transition.

While the guards provided speed and scoring, the frontcourt duo of Peter and Wilfred delivered the physical presence and defensive grit needed to stay competitive against a strong opposition. Peter recorded four blocked shots, swatted away drives with authority, and secured several huge rebounds. His timing and positioning protected the rim brilliantly and gave the team vital defensive stability. Alongside him, Wilfred battled fiercely on the boards and brought relentless defensive energy. He took on the tough assignment of slowing down St Mary's best scorer, forcing them into difficult attempts and wearing them down over the course of the game.

Boys Basketball

With two minutes remaining, the game was still completely up for grabs. The Academy boys dug deep, pushed hard, and continued to attack with belief. In the end, St Mary's found a crucial late basket that tipped the contest, but nothing about the performance felt like a loss. Although the result didn't go our way, they walked off the court with heads held high after a strong performance.



Girls Netball

Year 7

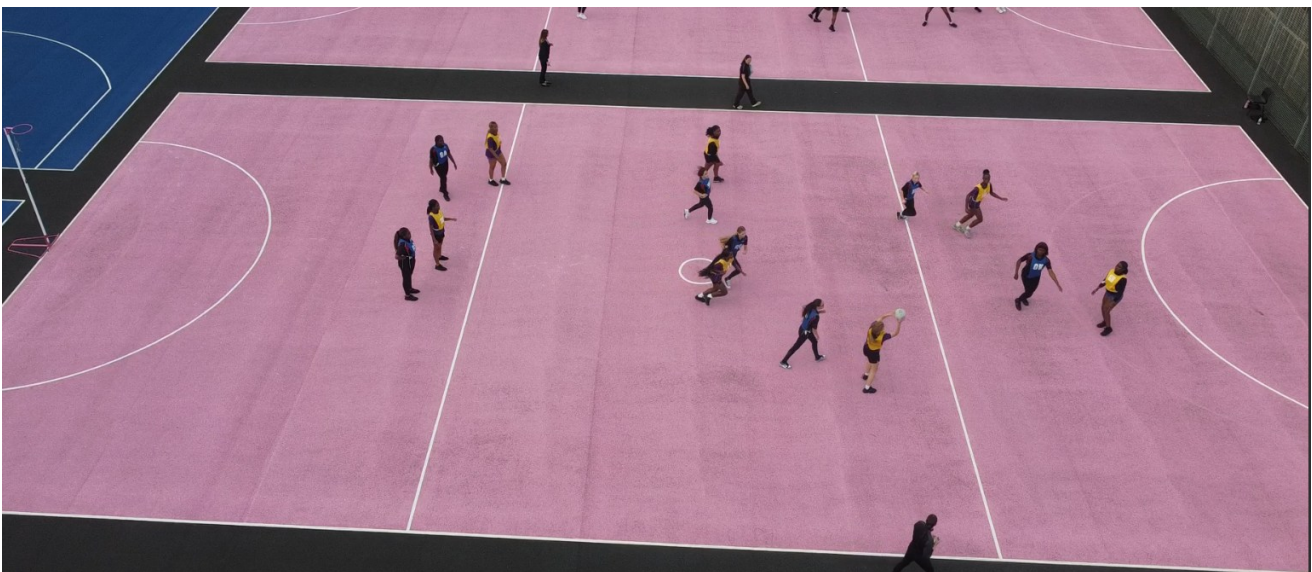
The Year 7 squads have performed well in their league games, with a a few notable matches including their 12–2 victory. Quick passing, excellent movement lead to a dominant performance and great scoreline.

This continued into the next game where the team recorded an astounding 18–0 scoreline, a performance that blended control, discipline and ruthless finishing. Every player contributed, showcasing the depth and talent emerging in this newest cohort.

Year 8

Year 8 have grown into one of the most technically strong groups in the academy. Their passing combinations, spatial awareness and ability to play at pace have stood out across every fixture.

Their 9–4 victory in the league, with Tanya earning GOTG, reflected not just skill but maturity and used quick attacking transitions to pull away on the scoreboard.



Year 9

Year 9 have combined athleticism with excellent communication to deliver some outstanding netball this year. Their 7–1 win, with Maria and Michelle sharing GOTG honours, showcased their strength at both ends of the court.

Maria's vision and passing range, paired with Michelle's movement and finishing, gave defenders no chance.

Year 10 and 11

Year 10s 12–2 win in the league was a statement performance, clinical shooting, strong defensive rotations, and excellent through court transitions.

Meanwhile, Year 11 secured a confident 5–2 victory, showing exactly why they are one of the Academy's most reliable and experienced Netball groups.



This is the thirty fourth 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