



WALSALL
ACADEMY

SUMMER NEWSLETTER

WHOLE SCHOOL



TRIPS AND VISITS

HLPS – Oriel College



Year 10 HLPS students recently enjoyed an inspiring visit to Oriel College, part of the prestigious University of Oxford. During the day, students learned more about the university application process, explored a wide range of degree courses, and discovered how supercurricular activities can help them stand out as future applicants. The visit also included engaging hands-on workshops and a tour of the historic college, giving students a real insight into university life and the opportunities available to them beyond school. Experiencing life at Oxford encouraged students to broaden their aspirations, challenge themselves academically, and begin shaping ambitious pathways for their futures.



HLPS – Visit to Walsall Mayor's Parlour



Year 9 and 10 students recently visited the Walsall Council House following their earlier trip to the Houses of Parliament, where they had the privilege of meeting the Mayor of Walsall. During the visit, students explored key areas of the Council House, including the Mayor's Parlour, the Ante Room, and the Council Chamber, gaining a valuable insight into the workings of local government.

Students also had the opportunity to ask thoughtful questions about the Mayor's responsibilities, the role of the council within the community, and how decisions are made to support local residents. The experience helped bring classroom learning about democracy and citizenship to life, allowing students to better understand the importance of civic leadership and public service.

The visit was a fantastic opportunity to deepen students' understanding of democracy, local government, and the ways young people can actively engage in civic life and contribute to their communities in the future.



Humanities – Exploring Tudor Power at Hampton Court



This term, our Year 12 History students enjoyed an enriching visit to Hampton Court Palace as part of their A-Level studies on The Early Tudors.

The visit offered students the chance to immerse themselves in the world of the Tudor court, exploring locations linked to some of the most significant events and figures of the period. From the impressive Great Hall to the busy Tudor kitchens and the former rooms of Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, students gained a deeper appreciation of court life and royal power under Henry VIII.

The day also included an engaging primary sources workshop, where students examined historical evidence to investigate how the role and significance of Hampton Court changed during the Tudor period. This session encouraged students to think critically about continuity and change across different reigns.

Students also explored the debate surrounding the so-called “Mid Tudor Crisis” during the reigns of Edward VI and Mary I, analysing evidence relating to political, religious and social challenges in mid-Tudor England.

The trip was a valuable opportunity to strengthen historical understanding beyond the classroom while inspiring thoughtful discussion and curiosity about the Tudor world.



Travel and Tourism and Business Studies– Paris



Year 12 and 13 Business and Travel & Tourism students recently took part in an exciting educational visit to Disneyland Paris. The trip gave students a valuable opportunity to see first-hand how a global tourism destination operates, supporting their studies in marketing, customer service, visitor experience and business operations. Students also visited Paris, where they enjoyed a river cruise along the Seine and explored some of the city's famous landmarks. The visit helped students gain a greater understanding of the importance of tourism to major cities, while also experiencing French culture and hospitality. Overall, the trip was both educational and enjoyable, providing memorable real-world learning experiences outside the classroom.



Humanities – Twycross Zoo



Year 7 students recently had a fantastic day at Twycross Zoo as part of their Geography studies on biomes and animal adaptations. The visit gave students the chance to see a wide variety of animals up close and explore how different species have adapted to survive in environments around the world.

Throughout the day, students discovered how animals are specifically suited to their habitats, from rainforest climates to hot deserts and colder environments. Seeing the animals in real life helped bring classroom learning to life and allowed students to make links between climate, ecosystems and survival.

There was plenty of excitement as students explored the zoo, learned interesting facts from the education sessions and enjoyed spotting some of their favourite animals along the way. The trip was both fun and educational, giving students a memorable opportunity to experience Geography beyond the classroom!



Humanities – Warwick Castle



Year 7 students recently stepped back in time during an exciting educational visit to Warwick Castle as part of their History studies on medieval power and control. The trip gave students the chance to experience first-hand how castles were used to defend kingdoms, demonstrate wealth and maintain authority during the medieval period. Throughout the day, students explored the impressive castle grounds, climbed the winding turrets and walked along the battlements while imagining what life would have been like for soldiers and nobles hundreds of years ago. One of the highlights of the visit was the spectacular birds of prey show, where students learned about the important role these animals played in medieval hunting and entertainment. The visit helped bring classroom learning to life in a fun and interactive way, allowing students to deepen their understanding of medieval history while enjoying a memorable day outside the classroom.



German and History – Berlin 2026



Berlin 2026: History, Culture and Resilience

In February, a group of our A level History and A level German students had the fantastic opportunity to visit Berlin, Germany's vibrant capital city. Despite a city-wide public transport strike during our stay, the trip proved to be an unforgettable and eye-opening experience that brought history, culture and language learning to life.

During the visit, students explored some of Berlin's most famous landmarks and attractions. Highlights included a guided visit to the Reichstag, panoramic views from the Berlin TV Tower, an open-top bus tour of the city, and visits to both the DDR Museum and the German Spy Museum. Students also enjoyed time at the Mall of Berlin, experiencing everyday German life and culture first-hand.

One of the most powerful and thought-provoking parts of the trip was the visit to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp Memorial. This provided students with a deeper understanding of the horrors of the Holocaust and the importance of remembering the past. The visit encouraged reflection and helped bring to life many aspects of the history studied in lessons. Throughout the trip, students embraced every opportunity to practise their German. Whether ordering food, buying souvenirs, asking for directions or interacting with local people, they spoke confidently and enthusiastically, demonstrating the value of learning a language and showing how much progress they have made.

The challenges presented by the transport strike required flexibility, resilience and teamwork from everyone involved. Our students rose to the occasion brilliantly, adapting to changing plans with positivity and maturity while making the most of every opportunity available to them.

Beyond the educational benefits, the trip helped to strengthen friendships, build confidence and develop independence. Students supported one another throughout the visit, creating lasting memories and strengthening relationships across the group.

We were incredibly proud of the way our students represented Walsall Academy. They consistently demonstrated our values of respect, responsibility, resilience, kindness and positivity, receiving praise for their excellent behaviour, manners and engagement throughout the trip. They were outstanding ambassadors for both the Academy and their families.

Berlin was a truly memorable experience, filled with history, culture, language and personal growth. We would like to thank all parents and carers for their support in making opportunities such as this possible. Educational visits like these broaden horizons, enrich learning and create experiences that students will remember for years to come.



Year 10 French – France May 2026



From 18 May to 24 May, 28 Year 10 students embarked on a French adventure to Le Mans. Students were immersed in French culture from sightseeing, theme parks and even a few days experiencing a day in the life of a French student. Students had the opportunity to try French cuisine as well as practicing the language whilst additionally learning colloquial terms from their French peers. The sun beamed across Le Mans all week, which meant our wonderful students brought back with them to Bloxwich in time for them to enjoy their own half-term. Well done to Year 10 for being so open minded, adaptable and adventurous. Vous etes magnifique!



German A Level – Keele Goethe Intsitut Roadshow



A-Level German Students Attend Goethe-Institut Careers Roadshow

Our A-Level German students recently attended the Goethe-Institut Careers Roadshow at Keele University, where they explored the wide range of opportunities that language learning can unlock. Throughout the day, students heard from representatives of organisations including Siemens, the Goethe-Institut and the UK-German Connection, gaining valuable insights into how German language skills can support careers in engineering, business, education, international relations and many other sectors. They also learned about the benefits of studying languages at university, including opportunities to spend a year abroad and develop global skills that are highly valued by employers. The event highlighted the strong economic, cultural and educational links between the UK and Germany and demonstrated how language skills can open doors to exciting experiences and career pathways around the world. Students engaged enthusiastically with the speakers, asked thoughtful questions and gained a greater understanding of how their German studies can support their future ambitions. The roadshow was an inspiring experience and reinforced the message that languages are not just subjects to study, but powerful tools that can create lifelong opportunities. We would like to thank the Goethe-Institut, Keele University and all participating organisations for providing such a valuable and motivating event for our students.



Outward Bound – Year 8 May 2026



In May on what was hoped to be a sunny weekend 48 year 8 students undertook a weekend of character development at Outward Bound Aberdovey. The weather was changeable but the students rose to the challenge, paddling, climbing and camping out in Snowdonia.

Outward Bound – Year 10 EL Course



The year 10 students who were invited to be part of the expeditionary learning course undertook their immersion course at Outward Bound Ullswater in March. The course is designed to develop the students habits of work and learning and involved several challenging tasks including a 36 hour adventure race using canoes and on foot to cover 56km across fells of the Lake District.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Charity – African Impact and Glebe



Supporting Communities Near and Far

Thanks to the generosity of our students, staff and families, funds raised through our Easter non-uniform day have been shared between two very worthwhile causes.

Half of the money raised was donated to African Impact to further support the development of the new Livingstone Youth Community Centre in Zambia. Exciting progress continues to be made, with the roof now complete and work underway on classrooms, community spaces and facilities that will provide education, youth support and opportunities for young people for years to come. After many years of fundraising and planning, it is wonderful to see the project becoming a reality, with hopes that some of the first programmes will begin later this year.

The other half of the funds was donated to the Glebe Centre in Walsall, part of the West Midlands YMCA. The centre provides vital support to people experiencing homelessness and hardship through hot meals, food parcels, clothing, practical assistance and access to services that help people rebuild their lives.

Thank you to everyone who supported our Easter non-uniform day and helped us make a positive difference both in our local community and around the world.



Charity – Mental Health Cake sale

Something I do to help my mental health is listen to music !

"Something I do to help my mental health is doing breathing exercises !"

"Something I do to help my mental health is spend time with my friends !"

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT !

Hey _____

I just wanted to say thanks for being there for me. It actually makes a big difference, even if you don't realise it. I really appreciate how you _____

Something I do that helps my mental health is _____ It helps because _____

Thanks for helping me feel more like myself and reminding me I'm not on my own.

From: _____

"I really appreciate how you are always there for me !"

"I really appreciate how you help me to laugh during tough times!"

"I really appreciate how you care for your friends !"

If you filled in a postcard and the recipient has not yet received it, please see Miss Betts or Luke.

A big thank you from the Mental Health Team to everyone who took part in the "Thank You for Your Support" postcard initiative. We've received so many lovely messages, which have been warmly shared with staff, friends, and families – your kindness and support are truly appreciated!

D of E Buckingham Palace



Recognition from the Palace

A huge congratulations to our fantastic Design Technology Technician, Mr Woodward, who had the honour of being invited to Buckingham Palace on Wednesday in recognition of his outstanding services to the Duke of Edinburgh Award over many years. Through countless hours of volunteering, dedication, and selfless commitment, he has given up his own time to support and inspire young people, helping generations of children experience the great outdoors and develop confidence, resilience and unforgettable memories. A truly well-deserved recognition for someone who goes above and beyond. We are incredibly proud!



CURRICULUM FOCUS

Art – Bringing Portraits to Life with Colour!



This week, our Art room was buzzing with creativity as students became portrait artists for the day! Using vibrant colour pencils, the children explored how to draw realistic facial features, focusing on expressive eyes, detailed lips, textured hair, and carefully shaded skin tones.

Students experimented with exciting blending and layering techniques to make their artwork pop with colour and depth. From soft highlights to bold shadows, they discovered how artists use colour pencils to bring portraits to life.

The concentration, imagination, and enthusiasm shown throughout the lessons were fantastic. Every student approached their work with confidence and creativity, producing unique and eye-catching pieces that showcased their growing artistic skills.

We are incredibly proud of the amazing effort and talent displayed this week and cannot wait to see how their portrait work continues to develop!

Humanities – Scholars Programme 2026



**The
Scholars
Programme**

Year 10 students have recently taken part in the inspiring The Scholars Programme, where they worked alongside a PhD tutor in weekly university-style tutorials. Throughout the programme, students explored the fascinating topic of architecture and the design of flood shelters, developing their research, discussion and critical thinking skills.

During the sessions, students investigated how architects and engineers create buildings that can protect communities from flooding, while also considering sustainability, design and the impact of climate change. The programme encouraged students to think independently, take part in academic discussions and experience what learning at university level is like. Students showed excellent commitment throughout the programme and gained valuable skills in analysis, presentation and teamwork. The experience has been both challenging and rewarding, helping to build confidence and inspire future ambitions beyond the classroom.

Business – Livery Competition



On Monday 2 March, two of our A-Level Business students proudly represented Walsall Academy and the Mercers in the prestigious Livery Entrepreneurs' Challenge, held at Haberdashers' Hall in London. This event provided an excellent opportunity to network with fellow sixth form students while participating in a highly engaging and realistic business simulation. Throughout the challenge, students were required to make strategic decisions on key aspects such as pricing, marketing, recruitment, and training, aiming not only to maximise profits but also to achieve strong staff and customer satisfaction ratings. Following two competitive practice rounds, our students demonstrated determination and skill, earning their place in the final with confidence. Although the overall standard of competition was exceptionally high and they were not ultimately victorious, they represented the Academy with great professionalism and enthusiasm, and gained invaluable experience from the event.

Business – Zen Travel Business Talk

This term, our Year 10 students had the opportunity to welcome guest speakers from Zen Travels, who visited to share their knowledge and experiences with our business students. The session gave students a valuable insight into how businesses operate beyond the classroom and how real-world situations can influence decision-making. The speakers explained how external factors—such as changes in the economy, customer behaviour, competition, technology, and wider world events—can have a significant impact on smaller businesses. These factors can create challenges but also opportunities for businesses to adapt, grow, and stay successful.





Year 10 students have been developing their teamwork, communication, and resilience skills through a Group Dynamics challenge using an A-frame walk. Working together to coordinate their movements and overcome obstacles, students demonstrated determination, problem-solving, and effective collaboration. The activity encouraged them to support one another, adapt to challenges, and reflect on the importance of working as a team to achieve a common goal.

T Level Education and Early Years – Forest School



T Level Education and Early Years students recently completed a Forest School project exploring the benefits of outdoor learning and child development. Using natural materials collected from our Forest School area, students created collaborative artwork and designed outdoor learning activities linked to wellbeing, creativity and inclusive practice. The project allowed students to apply professional skills from across their course, including communication, planning, safeguarding and child development, while experiencing the value of learning beyond the classroom. Our classroom display proudly showcases the creativity, teamwork and reflective practice demonstrated throughout the project.

SESSION 3

Eco Club Thrives outdoors!



Eco Club has enjoyed a busy and exciting term, joining forces with Campfire Club to make the most of our wonderful outdoor space. Students have loved cooking, learning and eating outdoors, developing a greater appreciation for nature while enjoying time together in the fresh air.

Our school pond has also sprung into life, with tadpoles and other wildlife delighting students and staff alike. To support the pond ecosystem, we were incredibly grateful to receive two established waterlilies donated by Mr and Mrs Etheridge. These will provide essential shade and shelter for froglets and other pond creatures, helping to create a healthy habitat for our school wildlife.

We would also like to extend a huge thank you to The Walsall Wheelbarrow Company for their generous donation of a fantastic wheelbarrow in our Academy colours of purple and yellow! The wheelbarrow has already proved invaluable, helping Eco Club members transport and spread our homemade compost as we continue to develop and enrich our growing beds.

Thank you to everyone who has supported Eco Club this year. We look forward to seeing what new wildlife visitors and gardening successes the coming months will bring!



German Culture Club



German Club has had a busy and exciting start to the summer term, with students taking part in a wide range of cultural and creative activities.

One of our highlights so far has been learning about German Easter traditions. Students decorated a traditional German Easter tree using hand-painted eggs and created their own Easter cards featuring German poems and festive wishes. We also explored the fascinating history of Brezen (pretzels) and enjoyed tasting them alongside real German Frankfurters, traditional Bavarian smoked cheese and Obatzda spread. Many students were surprised by the authentic German flavours! To celebrate the First of May in true German style, students designed and built their own miniature Maibaum (May tree). We are incredibly proud of the final result, which you may have spotted displayed in SR15.

More recently, we joined in with the excitement of the Eurovision Song Contest and watched parts of the show together. This year brought a funny coincidence: Germany's entry was sung in English, while the UK entry included a line in German!

With the UEFA tournament approaching, students have also been learning about the history of football in Germany and have started watching the film *Das Wunder von Bern*, which tells the story of Germany's 1954 World Cup victory.

Alongside all of this, students have continued enjoying German board and card games, practising new vocabulary, and, of course, making their way through plenty of bags of Haribo sweets!

We are looking forward to even more exciting activities in German Club over the rest of the term.

Mathematics



It has been an exciting half term in Mathematics. We were delighted to see so many Year 7 students take part in the UKMT Junior Maths Challenge, demonstrating excellent problem-solving and reasoning skills. A special congratulations to the students who achieved Silver Awards: Anna C, Holly H, Noah S, Joshua C, Poppy C, Laila F and Darcie J.

To celebrate National Numeracy Day, Key Stage 3 students explored how mathematics is used in everyday life. Activities included discussions around oracy in mathematics, where students practised explaining and justifying their thinking. Others had the opportunity to take part in a Summer Fete Planning Challenge. In teams, students were given select information and an assignment brief and they had to discuss and justify financial decisions whilst exploring revenue, costs, and profit. Students also had the opportunity to investigate how mathematics is used within their local communities and submitted a fantastic range of entries for our drawing competition, showcasing real-world applications of maths. We have been impressed by the enthusiasm and creativity shown throughout these activities.

HOUSE NEWS

Cake Sale



Last week, for Mental Health Awareness Week, we hosted a huge House Bake Off competition! There were two parts to the competition. First, staff members baked some incredible cupcakes to sell and raise money for charity. They put in so much effort to make them look amazing — and they sold out incredibly quickly! In fact, the Year 10 Catering class, alongside Miss Berg, had to bake even more just to keep up with demand. The second part of the competition was over to the students, who were challenged to bake and decorate their own cakes. These were judged by our very hungry judges: Miss Lea, Mr James, and Miss Ball who took their job very seriously!! As you can see, the standard of entries was extremely high! Everyone who took part has received extra house points, but the overall winner — scoring a perfect 5 out of 5 for both decoration and taste from the judges — were Mila and Sienna Gash. Amazing effort, girls! Please speak to Mr Taylor to collect your prize. A massive thank you to all the staff and students who helped make this event happen and raise over for a local charity! Your effort, enthusiasm, and support made the event a huge success.

Chess



Before half term, I hosted the inaugural House Chess Tournament, which proved to be a great success and attracted a number of highly talented players. The competition featured 10-minute games, with points awarded to the winner or to the player in the stronger position when time expired. As the tournament progressed, students with the highest scores were paired against one another, making the matches increasingly competitive and exciting. There were some outstanding performances throughout the event, particularly from Ethan Willets-Pitt, Igor Zaleski, Peter, and Dylan. After a series of closely contested games, the final came down to Peter (Sixth Form) versus Igor (Year 9). Following a tense and nail-biting match, Igor emerged victorious, ultimately becoming the first-ever House Chess Champion. Well done to everyone who took part. Based on the positive feedback, this is definitely an event we will run again in the future — and we hope to see even more competitors involved next time!

Darts



🎯 House Darts Showcase – What an Event! 🎯

What an incredible House Darts Showcase we've just had! The atmosphere was electric from start to finish, with a wide range of mini-events that gave everyone the chance to get involved and show their skills.

A huge congratulations to Ned Marrable, who dominated the Bullseye Challenge and the High Score Shootout (just 3 darts to score as high as possible – no pressure!).

The crowd got their moment too, with Emmie Holmes taking the win in our exciting spectator competition 🙌

It wasn't just the students bringing the heat – staff stepped up as well, and Mr Bull certainly lived up to his name by taking victory in the staff Bullseye competition! 🎯

We then moved into our 301 matches, where players battled it out with big scores and clutch finishes on a double. Massive congratulations to:

- 🏆 Reece Holmes
- 🏆 Tyler Roberts
- 🏆 Mitchel Davies
- 🏆 Joseph Coulson

A special shoutout goes to Junaid, who earned the Best Fan Award on the night thanks to his incredible dancing and for bringing amazing energy to the crowd 🕺🔥

The energy in the theatre was incredible – great music, lots of laughs, and a fantastic sense of positivity throughout.

The crowd brought the noise, and the players absolutely delivered!

Due to the huge success of this event, we're already planning to bring it back even bigger and better next year

🔥 So definitely one for all of you to look forward to!

🏆 It was extremely close but the Overall House Winner: Hahn! 🏆

Thank you to all the students who participated, the amazing crowd, and the staff who helped make it happen.

Until next year... 🎯

Escape Room Challenge (HLPS)



This involved the HLPS students having to work in their houses to complete different challenges to escape! Students worked in their House teams in challenges that involved different subjects like Math's, English, Science and Teamwork. The students did amazingly and all managed to escape!

Football Tournament



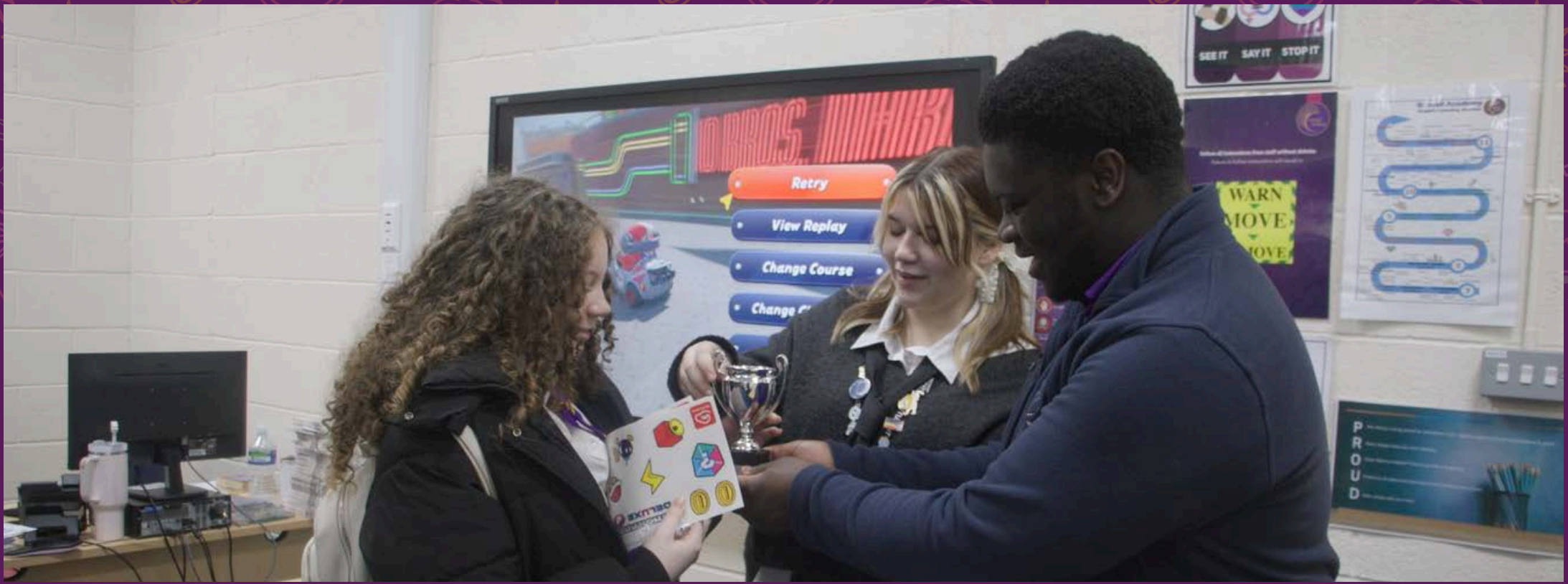
We hosted a large scale House Football Tournament for Year 9 & 10. Over 50 boys attended and loved every second. It started off with a tense penalty shootout where students represented their Houses – Sacagawea came out on top. Then we went into a large scale game which allowed the boys to earn House Points for their Houses if they were part of the winning team. The event was a huge success and will definitely host more next year.




**SPORTS
FOCUS**



Manga Club – Walsall Academy Manga Club Triathlon Roars to Life



Walsall Academy Manga Club Triathlon Roars to Life!

The first annual Walsall Academy Manga Club Triathlon roared to life in spectacular fashion on Tuesday 10th February, bringing together creativity, competition and fun in an unforgettable after-school event.

The triathlon-style tournament challenged students across three exciting events, each designed to test a different skill. First up was a high-speed Mario Kart time trial, where competitors raced against the clock, demonstrating lightning-fast reflexes, tactical use of power-ups and impressive track knowledge. The atmosphere was electric as students cheered each other on and battled their friends for the top spot.

Next came the Manga Quiz, a true test of knowledge for even the most dedicated fans. Participants tackled questions spanning iconic series, famous creators, character backstories and key plot moments. The depth of understanding on display was outstanding, with students showing not only passion but remarkable attention to detail. The quiz itself was created by one of the club's sixth form members, Daniel Yeboah!

The final event brought out the artists. In the Drawing Challenge, students were tasked with sketching the face of their favourite character. From bold shōnen heroes to expressive shōjo protagonists, the standard of artwork was incredibly high. The judges were particularly impressed with the creativity, shading techniques and confident line work shown across all entries. The judges were sixth formers Rachel Adeniji, Izabelle Sims, Maddison Collier and Isabelle Jennings.

Throughout the afternoon, students coped brilliantly with the fast-paced structure of the competition. What was very heartening to see was how supportive the older club members were of their younger peers, something that the Manga Club prides itself on.

Shortly after 5pm, following careful scoring across all three disciplines, the results were announced, and the trophy was awarded to a worthy winner: Faith-Lee Archer! (Year 9)

As this was a House tournament, all competitors were awarded House Points, recognising the effort they had put in throughout the afternoon.

This fantastic competition would not have been possible without the invaluable support of our dedicated sixth form volunteers, whose organisation, judging and encouragement kept the event running smoothly. Special thanks must also go to Miss Bray-Cotton, Mr Watson and Mr Albutt.

Manga Club takes place every Tuesday afternoon in SR23, from 3.30-5.00pm!

