



WALSALL
ACADEMY

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

WHOLE SCHOOL



SPECIAL EVENTS

St. James' Palace – 6 November 2025



"Since completing my Outward Bound course, I honestly believe I've developed a level of confidence in myself that I never had before." These words, from Sadie, a Walsall Academy student and Outward Bound alumna, finished to rapturous applause from the gathered crowd of supporters, donors, teachers, trustees, and friends of The Outward Bound Trust, at the event at St James's Palace, to welcome the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward, as the new Royal Patron, succeeding Princess Beatrice, who renews her extensive support in her new role of Deputy Patron. Sadie was joined on stage by Leo, who spoke about his upbringing and how Outward Bound taught him resilience and to keep going, even when things get tough. Leo said he'd previously give up if something felt too hard or uncomfortable, but now he has learned to push through and keep trying, no matter what. Leo said he often tells himself that nothing is impossible, and Outward Bound taught him 'if you keep trying, you'll always find a way through'. Leo stated that: "One of the biggest things I've learned is resilience – and just the ability to keep going, even when things get tough. That mindset of not limiting myself, and believing there's always another chance, is something I'll carry with me into the future."



Culture Day: Celebrating Who We Are



On the final Friday before half term, Walsall Academy came together to celebrate who we are — our stories, our roots, our languages, and our traditions. Because the world is wider than Walsall... and we are part of it.

Throughout the day, students and staff immersed themselves in a celebration of identity and togetherness. We shared cultural food, celebrated the things that make us, us, and took part in a Sixth Form Culture Quiz and an energetic Dodgeball Tournament that brought plenty of smiles and friendly competition.

The highlight of the day was a spectacular Fashion Show Runway and Dance Extravaganza in the theatre, with every year group taking to the stage to showcase their creativity, confidence, and pride. The atmosphere was electric — a true reflection of the diversity and unity that define our Academy.

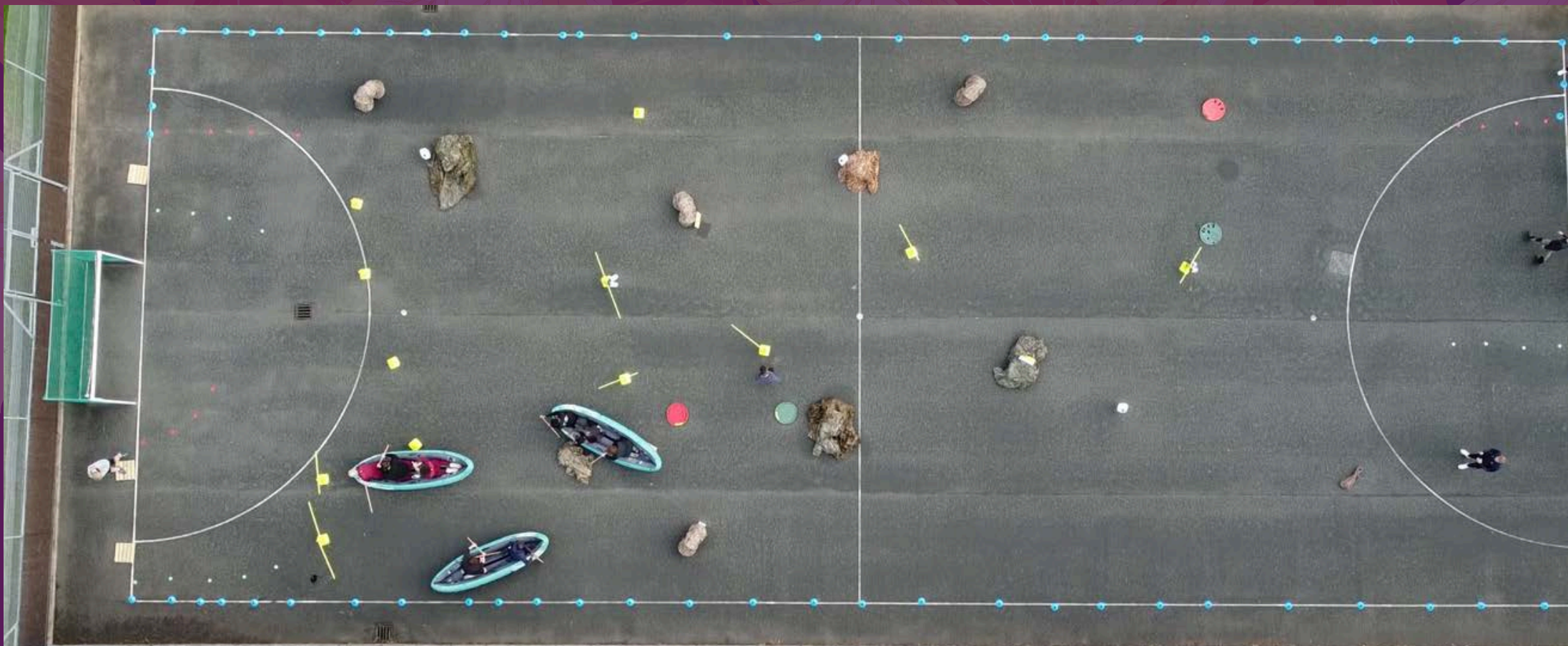
At Walsall Academy, every voice matters, every culture is valued, and every student belongs. We learn from each other. We listen. We share. We are proud of our differences — and proud of what unites us.

Culture Day reminds us that identity is something to be celebrated — not hidden, not quiet, but lived. We are stronger together, richer because we are different, and one community with the world at our door.

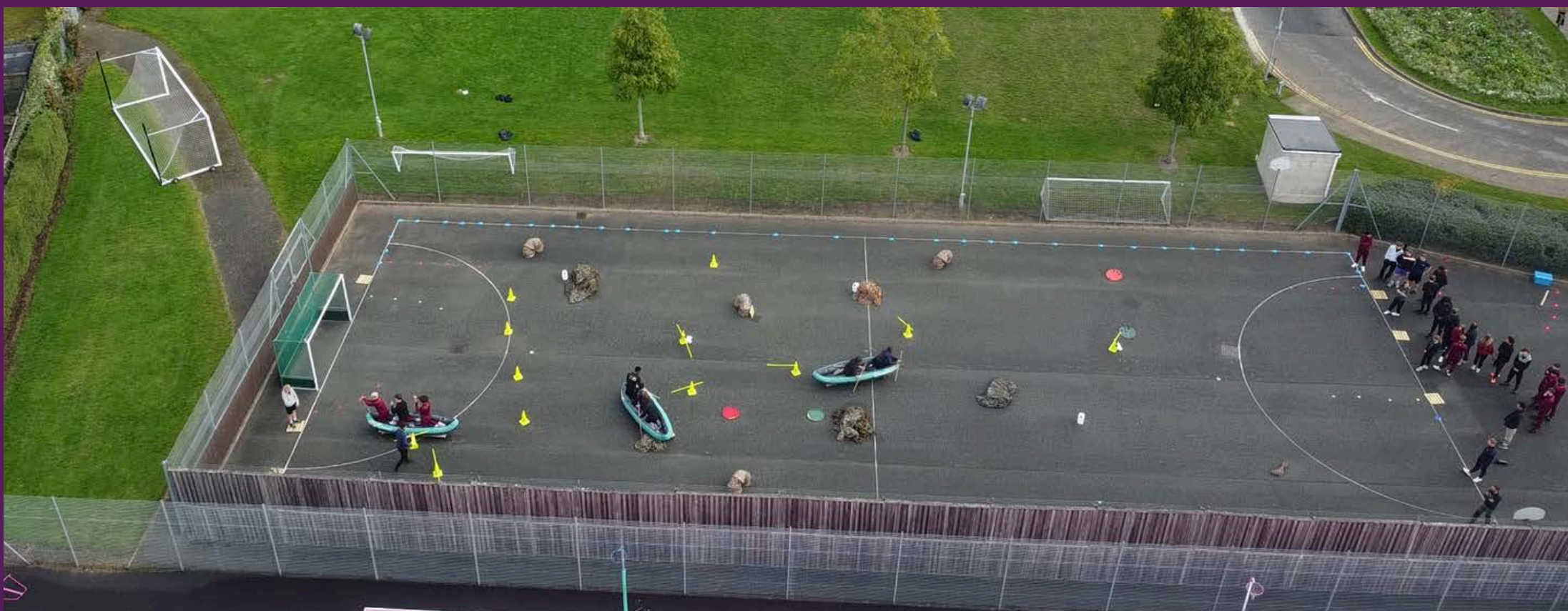
We are Walsall Academy.
And we are proud.



Crew Wars



Crew Wars is a day when the students for the three schools following the EL inspired courses come together and further develop their crew ethos. In total 96 students took part in activities designed to develop communication, resilience, critique and problem solving. The students were split into new crews with students from each school. Using the support of The Outward Bound Trust Academy fields and some great VR headsets the students were transported to the Scottish Highlands and the Dovey Estuary to complete challenges. They also completed an A-Frame walk and a team decision exercise based on a cave rescue. This was a fantastic day of collaboration using the Expeditionary Learning ethos.



CURRICULUM FOCUS

European Day of Languages

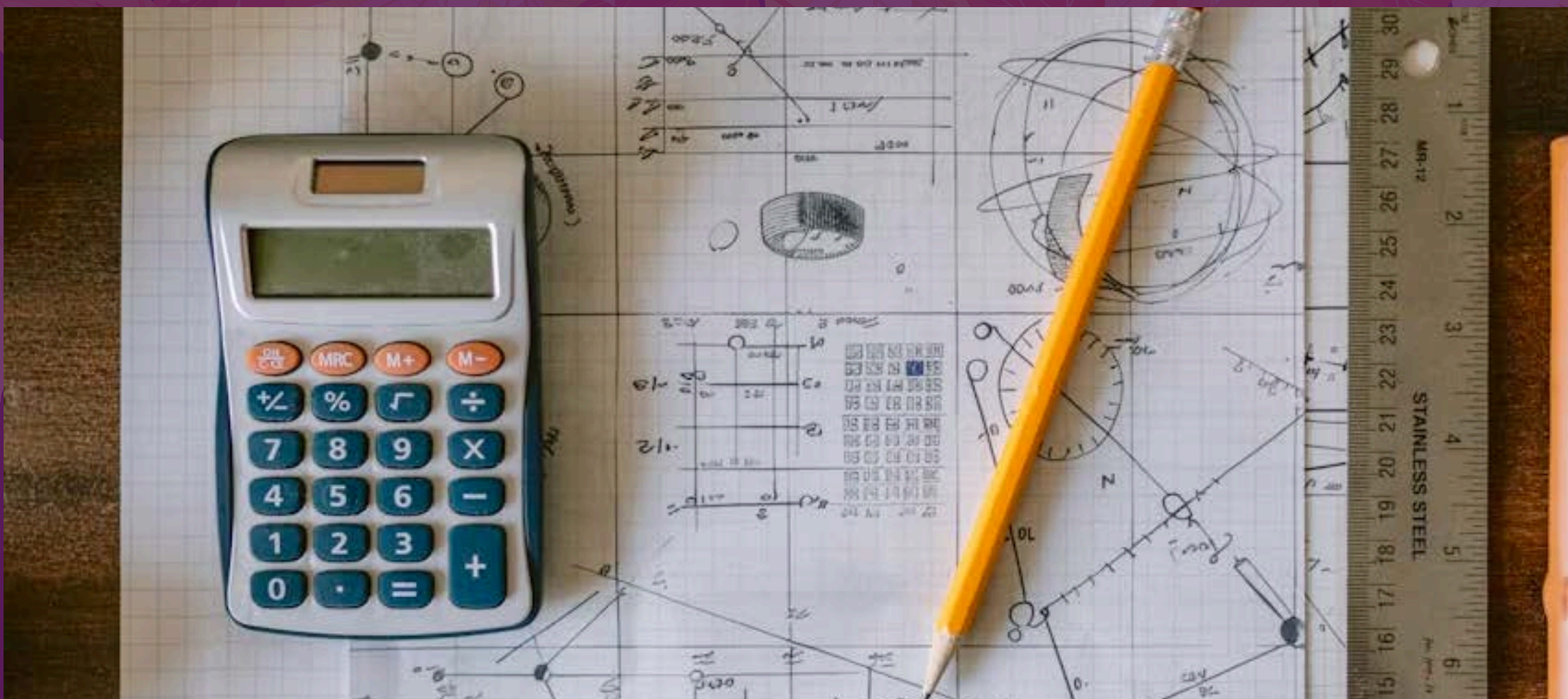


Every year on 26 September, schools and communities across Europe celebrate the European Day of Languages. This event promotes the rich linguistic and cultural diversity of Europe and encourages people of all ages to learn new languages. With over 200 languages spoken across the continent, it reminds us how language learning helps build connections, understanding, and respect between different cultures. Celebrating this day highlights the importance of communication in an increasingly global world – and the fun and opportunities that come with learning another language!

In the Academy, our Year 7 groups celebrated this important date in their MFL lessons by creating models of famous European landmarks out of recycling, learning to greet one another in 12 different languages and testing their knowledge on interesting cultural facts. 68 students all took part in a Guess the Language quiz during lunchtime, trying to match 30 quotes in 30 different European languages to their English translations. Our winning student, with 26 correct answers, was Jacob Davies in 70! Finally, our wonderful staff also joined in the fun and appeared on Broadcast, surprising our students with their own (often hidden!) foreign language skills!



Sparx Maths Leaderboard



We are delighted to recognise the outstanding efforts of our top-performing students on Sparx Maths so far. Congratulations to Zikora Y9, Kehinde Y10, Jayden Y9, Jack B Y8, Ilinca Y8, Kwaku Y7, Arjun Y7, Joshua Y7, Grace Y7, and Ella Y8 for their exceptional dedication and consistency in completing all their homework and undertaking additional independent work. Well done to you all!

T-Level Week: Students in Action!

In the Autumn term we enjoy celebrating T-Level Week, and our students have been hard at work showcasing the real-world skills that make these qualifications so valuable. As part of their ongoing project with the flooring company Amtico, the students have been tasked with developing ideas to help improve the company's sustainability.

They've been holding scheduled meetings, chairing discussions, and collaborating as a professional team to plan and deliver their project. Students have demonstrated teamwork, communication, and problem-solving skills that make T-Levels such an important step towards successful careers.



T Level Education – Wall Display



T Level Education students have been busy making a wall display for SR18 on the topic of the NSPCC's "Talk PANTS and help keep children safe" promotion. The students need to know about Safeguarding as part of their course and produced a very creative display to show off their knowledge and understanding. Come along and have a look at it!



Since 2013, Pantosaurus has helped over six million parents to Talk PANTS and help keep children safe from sexual abuse.

Developed with children, parents, carers and teachers, Talk PANTS helps children understand that their body belongs to them, and they should tell a safe adult they trust if anything makes them feel upset or worried.

T Level Education – Guest speakers

T Level Education students have had a range of guest speakers within Education who have shared information about their roles and responsibilities within their role. Here are some of the staff at Walsall Academy who gave up their time to speak with the class:

- Luke Blackham- Lead Counsellor
- Miss Ashwell- SENDCO
- Mrs Hearsey- role as a Nursery Manager
- Mrs Woodward- School Nurse
- Mrs Lowe- Deputy DSL

T Level Education – Practical work experience

The students are getting ready for their taster sessions at Lower Farm Primary School and Little Bloxwich Primary School this week. They will be starting their practical work experience in November.

T Level Education students on placement engage in practical work experience that is essential for their education. They typically spend at least 315 hours on their placement, which can include up to 35 hours of work taster activities such as job-shadowing and visits to different employers.

This experience allows students to put their learning into practice and develop their technical skills and knowledge for the industry their placement is in. It is a crucial part of the T Level qualification and helps students progress into employment, apprenticeships, or further education.

SESSION 3

Art

Students attending Session 3 Art have been busy creating stunning pieces of artwork as part of an exciting collaboration with Weston Park Art Gallery. Throughout the sessions, students have explored a range of techniques, materials, and themes, producing work that truly showcases their creativity, skill, and passion for the visual arts. We are thrilled to announce that a selection of these talented students have been chosen to have their artwork displayed at Weston Park Art Gallery. This is a fantastic achievement and a wonderful opportunity for our young artists to have their work exhibited in a professional gallery space. Their amazing pieces will be admired by the public, celebrating the creativity and artistic talent within our school community. A huge well done to all Session 3 Art students for their hard work and dedication and congratulations to those whose artwork will be on display. We are incredibly proud of you!



KS3 Culture Club celebrates German traditions

Our KS3 Culture Club, led by Frau Kaur, has been a huge success this term, with fantastic attendance and enthusiasm from students eager to explore German culture beyond the classroom. One highlight was creating traditional Schultüten – colourful cones filled with treats, given to children in Germany on their first day of school. Students enjoyed learning about this and other customs through hands-on crafts, games, and cultural activities. The club has proved incredibly popular, offering a fun and creative way to deepen understanding of German life and traditions.

We're already excited to see what's next for our budding linguists!



TRIPS AND VISITS

BTEC Business – University of Birmingham



On Thursday 2 October we took our Year 12 Double Award BTEC students and Year 13 T Level students to visit the University of Birmingham for an inspiring day of learning and exploration.

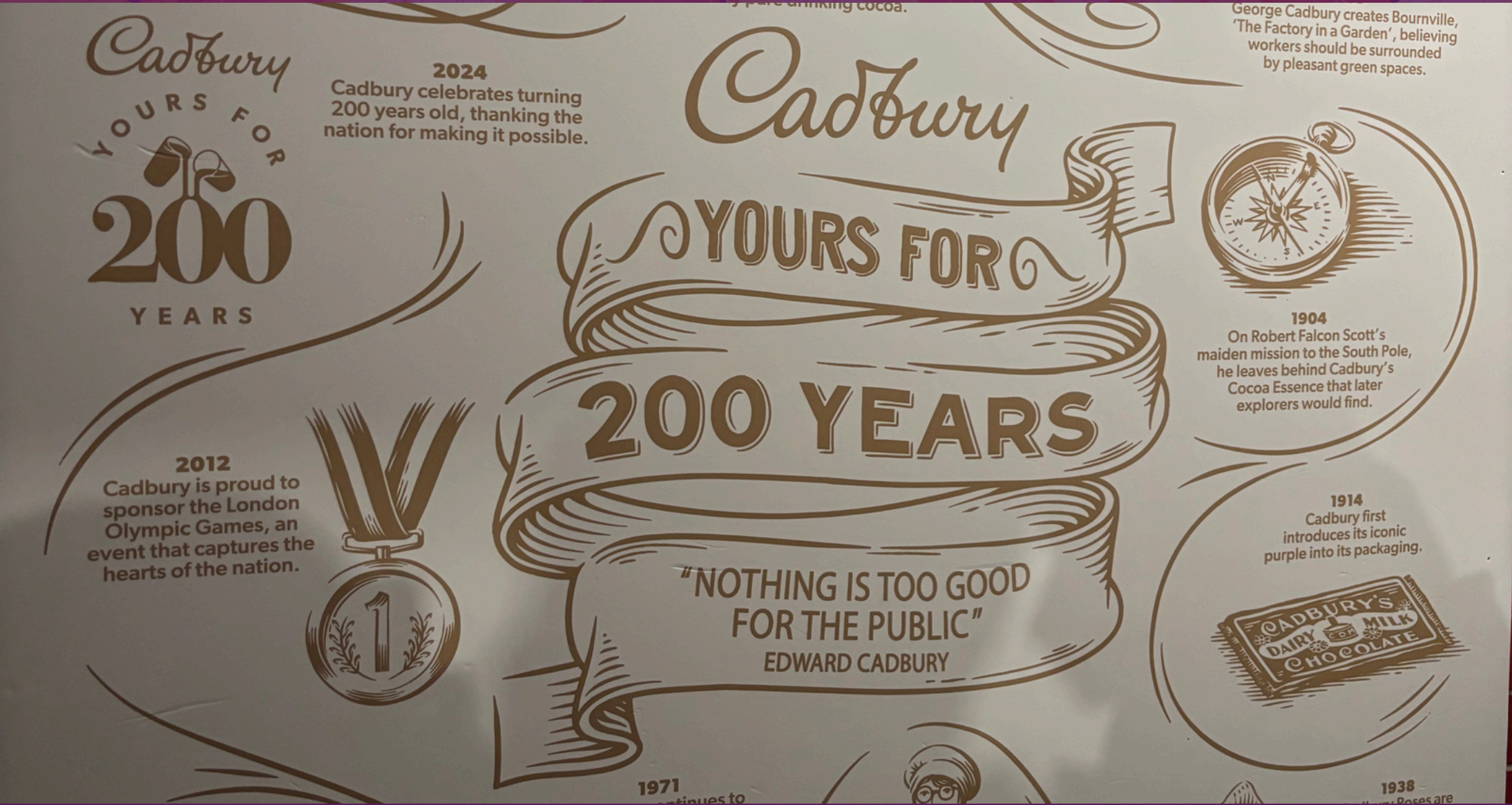
For our Year 12 BTEC students, this visit was directly linked to their current unit on Event Management. They had the valuable opportunity to meet real-life events managers, ask questions, and gain a first-hand understanding of how professional events are planned, managed, and delivered. From viewing the campus venues to learning how events are catered, the students were able to see classroom theory come to life.

Meanwhile, our Year 13 T Level students received insight into project planning. They were introduced to a live brief, where they'll be challenged to design and plan their own event, before presenting their ideas back to the University team in December. This not only develops their technical skills, but also gives them a taste of real-world industry expectations.

The day also included a tour of the University campus, giving students the chance to experience university life, explore the facilities, and see what opportunities lie ahead.

Overall, the trip was a fantastic opportunity for our students to gain practical knowledge, build confidence, and connect their learning to future career paths in business and events.

Cadbury World



On the last Wednesday before half term we took some of our business students on a trip to Cadbury World in Birmingham. We had an informative talk from one of the businesses employees where we learnt about the company's history, its wide range of products, and some of the challenges Cadbury has faced over the years. We also saw how their production line works and discovered how they make their famous chocolate. One of the most interesting parts was exploring Cadbury's marketing and advertising techniques, and how they've evolved over time. The trip was a great opportunity to see what we learn in class applies to real-world business — and, of course, to enjoy a little chocolate too!





This half term, Year 8 humanities students visited Dovedale to explore the water cycle in action. The trip gave everyone a chance to see key geographical features such as drainage basins, river channels, and evidence of erosion. Students observed how water moves through the landscape — from rainfall and surface runoff to rivers and groundwater flow. Despite a few muddy shoes, the day was a great success and helped bring classroom learning to life in a beautiful outdoor setting!



HLPS trip to Cambridge University

Year 11 HLPS students rounded off their Walsall Oxbridge tour with an inspiring visit to Newnham College, Cambridge! The day was packed with exciting activities — from team-building challenges and hands-on workshops to insightful talks from college members. Students gained a real taste of university life and discovered what studying at Cambridge is all about.

Our students were outstanding throughout the day. Their behaviour was exemplary, and they threw themselves into every activity with energy and enthusiasm. They asked thoughtful questions, contributed brilliantly to discussions, and showed a real curiosity about higher education. It was fantastic to see them pushing themselves and supporting one another.



Coalbrookdale



Year 10 History students recently visited the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Coalbrookdale as part of their preparation for the History Around Us GCSE exam. The visit gave students the chance to explore this historically significant site first-hand, applying what they've learned in class to real-world primary sources such as buildings, machinery, and historical documents. They evaluated the usefulness of these sources in helping us understand the development of Coalbrookdale and its role in the Industrial Revolution, gaining a deeper appreciation of the site's importance in shaping modern Britain.

Throughout the day, students showed exceptional focus and enthusiasm, making the most of the opportunity to link classroom knowledge with the physical evidence around them. They asked thoughtful questions, engaged with the guides and resources, and demonstrated mature historical thinking. Their behaviour and curiosity were a credit to the Academy, with several members of the public commenting on how engaged and respectful they were during the visit.



University of Birmingham Library



A Level History students recently visited the University of Birmingham Library to support their coursework research. During the visit, they had the opportunity to explore a wide range of primary sources, including original documents, letters, and rare publications, as well as access to academic journals and historians' interpretations. This hands-on experience allowed them to deepen their understanding of their chosen topics, critically evaluate different perspectives, and strengthen the arguments in their coursework with high-quality evidence.

Beyond the research itself, students gained valuable insight into how academic libraries work and how to navigate scholarly databases and archives — a skill that will be invaluable in their future studies. The visit not only enriched their current projects but also gave them a taste of university-level research, helping them build the confidence and independence needed for success at higher education.



University of Birmingham Introductory Practice



In late September, we were honoured to welcome trainee German teachers from The University of Birmingham's 2025-2026 cohort to Walsall Academy as they complete their Introductory School Experience. This valuable partnership continues to strengthen our links with the university and supports the future of Modern Foreign Languages education.

Our students benefit from fresh enthusiasm and creative new approaches in the classroom, while trainees gain an authentic insight into our vibrant school community. We are proud to play a part in shaping the next generation of German teachers and look forward to continuing this successful collaboration.

Willkommen und viel Erfolg!



West Midlands Safari



Year 10 Travel and Tourism students recently enjoyed an exciting visit to West Midlands Safari Park. The trip gave pupils a behind-the-scenes look at how a major tourist attraction operates, including customer service, marketing, and visitor experience. Students also had the chance to explore the park and observe how tourism and wildlife conservation work together. It was a fun and informative day that brought their classroom learning to life in a real-world setting.





Year 7 students recently visited the Roman ruins at Wroxeter as part of their study of life in Roman Britain. The trip gave them the chance to explore one of the largest Roman settlements in the country, using the site itself as a primary source to investigate what daily life would have been like nearly 2,000 years ago. As they explored the remains of Roman baths, streets, and buildings, students applied their classroom learning to real-world evidence, helping them understand how historians' piece together the past from physical remains.

During the visit, students also began to think critically about how Roman town life compares to life in medieval towns, building important skills for later in their historical studies. This trip gave them their first taste of learning outside the classroom — an exciting and valuable experience that will become a key feature of their Humanities education in the years to come.





In June a hardy group of year 9 students undertook a weekend of developing resilience and leadership at The Outward Bound Trust in the Lake District. The weather for the previous three weeks had been clear skies and warm. This was not to be the case for the weekend. The rain did not put off the students, adventure was the goal and they achieve mountain summits, nights spent in tents in the pouring rain all with a smile and a hearty ration pack to keep them going. The Sunday started clear and became increasingly warm with students undertaking rowing challenges and jumping off the small cliffs into the lake. A great weekend of character development.

Year 11 Paris Trip



32 of our Year 11 student travelled to Paris this half term to put their language skills into action! We left the Academy in the early hours of Friday 10 October and travelled down to Dover to take the ferry to Calais. From Calais we travelled south to Lachelle where we visited a chocolate factory and took a guided tour through the production of chocolate from cocoa bean through to decorated goodies! Later that afternoon we visited a huge shopping centre where students were able to practice their language skills buying souvenirs and gifts. Day 2 took Walsall Academy to Disneyland! We rode rollercoasters and watched parades throughout the day, then waited until night fell to see the incredible drone and fireworks display. On Day 3 we drove into the centre of Paris and walked along the Seine to take a boat cruise, seeing all of Paris's famous sights from the water.

Our Year 11s were wonderful ambassadors for the Academy throughout the trip. Their behaviour was impeccable and their willingness and efforts to test their French skills was superbe! WELL DONE YEAR 11 – we were very proud of you. A final merci must go to Mr Willett and Mr Palmer for joining the trip and giving our wonderful students such an unforgettable experience.



WHOLE SCHOOL EVENTS

Books, Bakes and Big Hearts for Macmillan



Walsall Academy once again showed its incredible community spirit at our annual Macmillan Coffee Afternoon, combined this year with a Book and Bake Sale held in memory of Ms Perks, our much-loved Art teacher. Students and staff filled Hospitality with delicious homemade cakes and a wonderful selection of new and pre-loved books, all sold to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. The event created a warm and joyful atmosphere, filled with kindness, conversation, and remembrance. Thanks to everyone's generosity, we raised over £500 — a fantastic total for such an important cause.



Summer Sizzler brings sunshine, smiles, and school spirit!



Walsall Academy ended the year in true style with our much-loved Summer Sizzler! Students enjoyed a non-uniform day followed by a fantastic afternoon of fun, friendship, and fundraising. Highlights included brilliant musical performances in the theatre, an energetic staff vs students football match, and a brand-new tug of war event that quickly became a crowd favourite! The tokens awarded for a free ice cream celebrated excellent attendance, while the inflatable assault course and teacher in the stocks brought plenty of laughter. This year's event raised over £1000 for Cancer Research UK, donated in memory of Ms Perks, our much-missed and inspirational Art teacher. A truly special day of joy, community, and remembrance.



Supporting Walsall FC – Albert Adomah

Albert Adomah

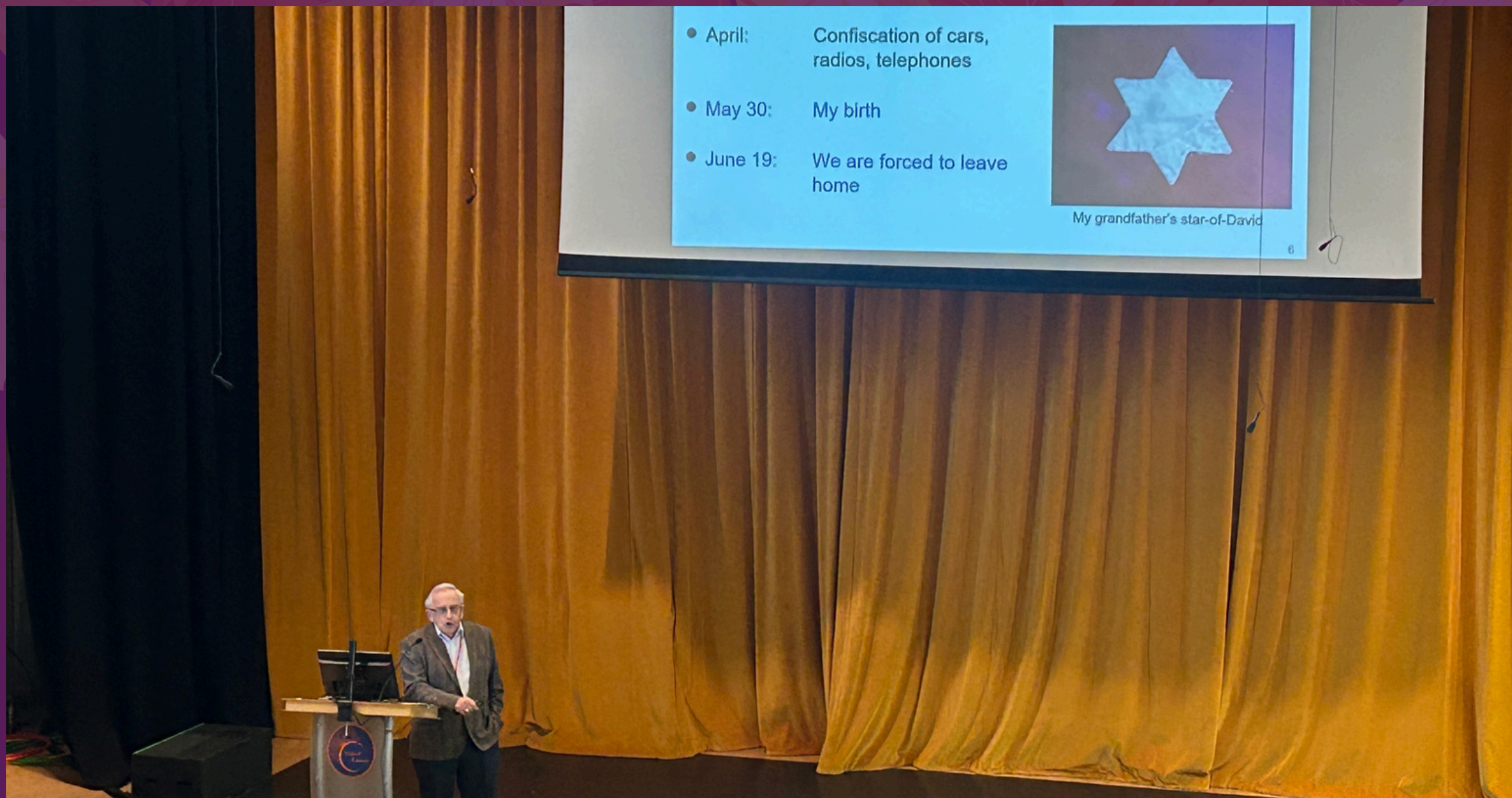
@WFCOfficial @uncs37



We were delighted to receive a special message of support from Albert Adomah, proud Ghanaian and Walsall FC legend, as we celebrated our third Culture Day. Albert spoke warmly about what makes him proud of his Ghanaian heritage – from the food and vibrant clothing to the strong family values that shape his identity. He encouraged our students to celebrate their differences, embrace who they are, and recognise the strength that comes from a diverse community. His words were a powerful reminder that our cultures enrich us and bring us together.



Holocaust survivor Dr Tom Keve



Year 9 students had the privilege of hearing the powerful and deeply moving testimony of Holocaust survivor Dr Tom Keve, during a special visit organised in partnership with the Holocaust Educational Trust. As part of their current studies on the Holocaust and the impact that persecution had on the lives of millions, students found Dr Keve's personal story especially meaningful. He spoke candidly about his childhood in Hungary during the Second World War, describing the fear, uncertainty, and unimaginable hardships he and his family faced under Nazi persecution. His reflections on resilience, identity, and hope offered students a rare and invaluable insight into a period of history that must never be forgotten. Students listened with great respect as Dr Keve emphasised the importance of standing up against hatred and discrimination in all its forms. His message highlighted not only the horrors endured by millions during the Holocaust but also the responsibility each of us has to challenge prejudice and foster compassion in our communities.

