



Newsletter



HEAD'S INTRODUCTION

This has been another really busy and eventful term in the life of our school. At the start of term we published our Ofsted report and celebrated that the school had progressed out of the Special Measures category it had previously been placed in. This is testament to the ongoing hard work of students, staff and parents, in our partnership of high expectations and pride in everything that we do. Most importantly, the team inspecting the school recognised that there is the capacity to sustain and accelerate ongoing improvements and I am delighted that we have been successful in strengthening this capacity by welcoming to the school Mrs Redshaw, as Deputy Headteacher responsible for supporting students to achieve the best possible academic outcomes. Mrs Redshaw brings to Walney a wealth of experience and success in school leadership and will ensure that the GCSE results that students leave Walney School with provide the key to unlock ambitious future pathways. In welcoming Mrs Redshaw to the Walney community, we also say goodbye to Miss Gill, who is leaving the area to join a school in Grantham. I am sure you will join me in offering Miss Gill both our thanks for everything she has given to our school community and our best wishes for the future.

It is starting to feel like winter is behind us. It is great to see the mornings and nights are getting lighter, which is good news for our Year 11, who are working so hard with teachers, both before and after school, preparing for their GCSE examinations. The arrival of Spring also sees the chance for all our talented sports teams to begin evening fixtures against other schools – we look forward to reporting back to you their ongoing successes in the Summer newsletter. Also, please keep your eyes open for further information about our exciting Summer performing arts production of Hairspray in July. I am sure it will be yet another fantastic Walney School show.

It is always a concern to me that we can never manage to squeeze enough information into this newsletter to keep you fully up to date with all the incredible opportunities our students receive and the impressive successes they have both inside and outside the classroom. As such, I am delighted that our new social media feeds, through both Twitter and Facebook have been so well received and are being followed by so many parents and community partners. If you have not yet become a friend or a follower of the school please have a look at the information within this newsletter so you can stay up to date with what is happening in our school on a daily basis.

I wish you a very enjoyable Easter break.

Mr J Richardson, Headteacher

Mrs Redshaw

I am absolutely thrilled to be the newest member of Team Walney! It has been a real pleasure getting to know the students and staff at Walney School since I started my role as Deputy Head for Curriculum and Achievement just over 4 weeks ago. At interview I was impressed by the warmth of the welcome I received from governors and staff, but I was impressed most of all by the students and how proud they are of their school. Students at Walney have massive potential and I am very much looking forward to working with them to ensure that they achieve the highest of standards in everything they do. I believe that every

one of them is capable of achieving great things, no matter what their starting point, and I am determined to work with staff to ensure that each individual reaches their potential. I am passionate about teaching and learning and about the power of education to change lives for the better. Schools are built on relationships and we remember them for ever (all of us have stories to tell about teachers who made a difference to us). I look forward to forging strong working relationships with students, staff and parents at Walney School. Thank you to everyone for making me feel so welcome.



World Book Day



It's not every day you can walk down the school corridors and chat to Katniss Everdeen, hide from Lady Macbeth and play a live action version of Where's Wally? However, World Book Day isn't an ordinary day. We had the chance to celebrate all things booky - from dressing up as a book character to various activities during the day. Making a book mark was

one of the most popular activities.

In preparation of the main event, all forms were asked to produce a poster celebrating one of our top 20 authors. The entries we received were of a high standard and it was a difficult competition to judge. However, form 7W clinched the win with their wonderful display for Beatrix Potter. Not only had they researched

Beatrix but they had a go at drawing some of her famous illustrations. All posters are on display in the Library.

This year saw the 20th anniversary of World Book Day and to commemorate we held a celebration with our best dressed characters. Mrs Redshaw had the unenviable task of judging our top costumes, book vouchers were up for grabs for our top prize winners. Congratulations to Lucy Year 7, Thom Year 8 and Sammy Year 9/10 who won first prize for their respective years. A special mention also to Mrs Stockdale and Mrs Cassley who were voted by a group of students as the best dressed staff members.

Thank you to all those who went the extra mile to make World Book Day successful. We hope that you are all now enjoying which ever book you decided on with your £1 tokens.

Miss Preston

Year 10 Visit to the Forum for the BAE Systems Offsite Open day

A group of our Year 10 students visited the Forum for the BAE Systems Offsite Open Day. The visit gave the students the opportunity to attend a careers fair, where they were able to find out information about different careers

within BAE, speak to staff and apprentices. They were also able to attend presentations on why to choose BAE and workshops where they looked at completing aptitude tests and CV writing. The students really

enjoyed the afternoon and gained some invaluable information about potential future careers.

K Lourie
Acting Head of Year 10



On 15th March we competed in the annual 'Top of the Form' competition between local schools. The competition being prestigious and competitive in nature, we have a fairly good recent history. This year the Walney Team - myself, Katie Richardson, Hannah Cheshire and Harry Smith - faced Cartmel Priory. Cartmel Priory couldn't keep up with the superior speed on the buzzer and quick-wit displayed by our team. Cruising to victory we entered the final round in high spirits, equipped with the knowledge we had secured our place in the semi-finals. The final score was 433-297 with commendable performances

from all of us on the Walney team. We now await the semi-final against a formidable Furness Academy team, who knocked out Dowdales in the previous round. A victory in enemy territory would

lead us to the final, repeating the feat of 2014. We are looking forward to providing a performance that proves how great our school is and one that we are all proud of. **Elliott Stockdale, Head Boy**

Best Attendance Day

Wednesday 1st March

Best attendance day celebrated good school attendance and punctuality. It was a day when the whole school thought about attendance and why good school attendance and punctuality are important.

Currently Walney's whole school attendance is 94.4% and we are aiming

to push it through the 95%+ barrier with students and parents support. Every day counts and every lesson matters.

As a well done to students for their good attendance and punctuality on the spot prizes were given out throughout the day.

The day was about celebrating attendance and setting a whole school best ever attendance record. On the day our attendance was 95.1%, 2.7% higher than 1st March 2016. We hope to repeat the successful event in the future and beat the previous record.



BAE LAUNCH

BAE Systems offered a small number of Walney School students the chance to attend their official naming ceremony for HMS Audacious Boat 4 on Friday 16th December 2016. The ceremony took place in the Devonshire Dock Hall and was attended by Navy Admirals, the Navy Crew, the submarines sponsor and the

managing director of BAE Systems – Maritime Systems.

Marking the momentous milestone in the boat's journey towards joining the Royal Navy's fleet, Lady Elizabeth Jones formally christened the submarine in the customary way of breaking a bottle of traditionally brewed local beer on the

submarine's bow.

All the students who attended thoroughly enjoyed the milestone event and were an absolute credit to themselves and the school.

I think you will agree this is an amazing photograph.

Mrs Lloyd

Intermediate Maths Challenge Results

In February a number of our students took part in the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge, which is aimed at pupils in Year 11 or below. The challenge involves answering 25 multiple choice questions in one hour and is sat in school under normal exam conditions. The top 40% of students nationally receive a gold, silver or bronze certificate in the ratio 1:2:3 and each institution receives a Best in School certificate. Around 500 of the highest scorers in each school year are invited to take part in the Intermediate Mathematical Olympiad papers: Cayley, Hamilton and Maclaurin for year 9, 10 and 11 and equivalent. A further 5,500 pupils

from across all three year groups are invited to sit either the grey or pink European Kangaroo papers. These are one-hour papers with 25 multiple choice questions, taken by pupils from over 30 countries worldwide.

An example question would be:

The angles of a quadrilateral are in the ratio 3 : 4 : 5 : 6. What is the difference between the largest angle and the smallest angle?

A 30° B 40° C 50° D 60° E 70°

The results of the challenge are as follows:

Gold

**Alex Hamill (Year 10)–
Best in School, Best in Year,
Qualified for Pink Kangaroo**

Silver

**Connor Griffin (Year 11) Best in Year
Elliott Stockdale (Year 11)
Robert Moser (Year 11)
Joe Dunford (Year 10)**

Also took part

**Sam Windle (Year 11)
Chloe Haney (Year 10)
Katie Richardson (Year 11)
Kieran Dickie (Year 10)
Hannah Cheshire (Year 10)**

Also

**Marc Anderson, Georgia Williamson,
Thomas Johnson and Amelia Martin
represented the school at The Team
Maths Challenge in March 2017.**

New Rewards System Class Charts Rewards Store



March 2017 saw Year 9 pupils reaping the benefits of our exciting new rewards system in school.

Anyone in school will tell you that a great deal already goes on at Walney to celebrate pupils' achievements. Rewards' assemblies, in which pupils receive certificates, badges and prizes, have been enjoyed by all and finding out who has achieved the leading learner and kindness awards is always exciting. However, we want to do even more to recognise our pupils' hard work and that is where the Class Charts Rewards Store comes in.

As pupils continue to earn reward points through form time, in lessons and for excellent conduct, these are converted into credits for the Class Charts Store. A range of items, carefully chosen with the help of pupils and staff,

are available for students to buy, varying in 'monetary' value. Pupils can choose whether to spend their credits straight away on lower range items such as novelty stationery and canteen queue jump passes, for example, or save them up for the mid and high value items. The products are being updated all the time but there are all sorts of things available such as book vouchers, footballs, high street vouchers and even tablets.

Over the past 3 weeks, we have had over 100 orders and pupils have spent over 4000 reward points. Fidget cubes, memory sticks and pick 'n' mix bags from the canteen have been some of our biggest sellers so far and some pupils are saving their points collaboratively to spend on an in-school cinema afternoon. Most importantly though, we are seeing pupils working extra hard to achieve even more reward points! They are proving what we already knew – that they are fantastic pupils!

We are hoping to roll the rewards store out to all year groups soon. Watch this space! Any questions can be directed to Mrs Niblo or Mrs Lourie in the meantime.

Mrs Niblo, Director of English

Spring Term Rewards



Students at Walney School have continued to excel themselves during this Spring term in collecting reward points for their attendance/punctuality, correct uniform & equipment, excellent work, progress and representing school. This year students have so far collected over 70,000 reward points which is over 25,000 more than this time last year, well done to you all! Students will be celebrating their achievements in our Easter reward assemblies with certificates, badges and prizes being given out to our successful students.

A special mention must go to our current Year 7 group who have absolutely surpassed all previous year groups in their current reward point totals. Almost every single student in Year 7 has received a rewards certificate and 3 of the students, Eve Bagley, Millie Stevens and Gabrielle Hebden Bundy, became our first recipients of our Platinum award which students receive for achieving over 250 Reward points. Congratulations to these students and to all those who are continuing to work above and beyond our expectations, we are very proud of you all!

Bienvenue Au Café de Oliver



Congratulations to Oliver who has been working towards his COPE level 2. I attended the Pupil Support Department today after receiving an invitation from Oliver to join him for a French Breakfast. It was very nice. Croissants Baguettes and coffee were all on offer from Café de Oliver. This breakfast is part of his ASDAN course work. It was a brilliant success and delicious. Thank you Oliver and Mrs Jones for your wonderful hospitality.

Mrs Hayes, School Governor

Matt Dickinson Author Visit

In December we were lucky to have the chance of meeting the author, Matt Dickinson. Students from Year 8 and 9, who had engaged well with Accelerated Reading, were invited to attend. Matt talked about his various expeditions to Everest and the dangers climbers face. He also told us all about the stories that had inspired his book *The Everest Files*. It was an enjoyable experience and interesting to see some of his clips (which are available on YouTube) of Everest. He also talked about his new book, *Lie Kill Walk Away*, which is now available in the Library.

Miss Preston, Librarian



Peace poster competition



Congratulations to our budding artists, pictured, who attended the prize giving for the Rotary's Peace Poster competition.



Unitracks, Big Deal

The Big Deal was a 10 week programme in which we had to create our own business or social enterprise to aid our community. During this programme we made several visits to Warwick University, learning about market research and what it takes to set up a business. While taking part in the program we had to complete weekly tasks which helped us practise and gain new skills, such

as team work, listening, time management and creativity. Our idea was beneficial to children our age, but more specifically teenagers with disabilities. To finish the programme we had to visit Warwick and give a presentation of our product in front of 3 judges and other schools which also took part in the programme.

Georgia, Ellie, Emily and Jade, Year 10

Senior Citizens Party



This year our annual Senior Citizen's festive celebration took part on Wednesday 25th January and was a combined celebration of Christmas and Burns Night. Over 100 invites went out to our local Senior Citizens and we were joined on the evening by 84 guests.

Mr Richardson welcomed everyone to Walney School and the evening began with our very talented kitchen team piping in a haggis, with David Took in full Scottish attire reading the address, and everyone joining in with a shot of whiskey to toast Burns Night. We treated our guests to a delicious 4 course meal consisting of orange juice or vegetable soup, turkey or haggis, with all the trimmings, traditional Christmas pudding or trifle, followed by tea or coffee and mints all served by our fabulous Walney

School students.

In between courses guests enjoyed the singing talents of our Year 9 student Veronica Wetherow, who performed songs from our previous school show The Wizard of Oz, accompanied by Mr Moffett playing the organ.

Following dessert, the guests all joined Mr Dean for a couple of games of bingo and a raffle. David Took, our compere for the evening, entertained guests with a sing-a-long and invited guests to the stage to sing karaoke, which everyone enjoyed, before the evening concluded at around 7.30 pm.

If you know of any elderly relatives or neighbours who would be interested in attending in the future, please let us know by calling school on 471528.

Mrs Simmons, Admin

Rotary Tournament

Two teams of Year 8 and Year 10 students took part in this Year's Rotary BAE Systems Technology Tournament 2017 held at Hawcoat Park. The day started at 9am where schools and colleges from all over the area came together at the venue to tackle a design and build task and to represent their schools/colleges.

The challenge was to design and build a mole – a device – powered by an electric motor, to travel smoothly unaided along the inside of the test pipeline to collect the eight pieces of

debris in the pipe and return to the start position in the shortest time. Each team had to consider several solutions and select the most appropriate, then demonstrate it at the end of the tournament to show how well it fulfilled the criteria set. Although the overall aim was not just to have an exciting and enjoyable day the students did along with exercising and developing their skills. Special thanks goes to Ed Elvish and Ted Fenton for organising such a great day.

Mrs Amacna, Student Services



Foundation level –

Oliver Neatis, Kieran Wilson, Cordelia Capovila and Emily Hollywell

Intermediate level – Harry Smith, Jack Smith, Megan Bradley and Ellie Roberts

University of Cumbria



A number of our Year 10 boys attended a day at the University of Cumbria at their Lancaster campus. The day was a continuation of the visit that they attended in Year 9 which aims to encourage boys into Higher Education. The boys were able to experience different Higher Education sessions and to look at different career destinations as well as hearing about the benefits of going into higher education and other aspects of University life.

Social Media Explosion

As you may be aware the Winter/Spring term has seen a social media frenzy, with many departments alongside our main school pages joining in. Each page is regularly updated with various information and activities from our students. If you have **Twitter** please give our departments a follow-

@ws_English @WalneyPE @WalneySch_Maths @ws_humanities @ws_Library

The School's **Facebook** page has also had a revamp and now provides regular updates from school, please give us a like!

Miss Preston, Librarian



SUMMER SHOW



What better way to celebrate the lead up to the Christmas break than a traditional Panto? Our Performing Arts department treated us to a 2 night run of the Wizard of Oz Panto version. The show was an interesting and funny version of the much loved classic. The cast performed excellently and we look forward to their next outing.

We are pleased and very excited to announce that our summer show will be Hairspray Jr. It will be held from Tuesday 11th July-Thursday 13th July. All auditions have now been held and our cast has been announced. Please keep checking on our social media channels for regular updates and information.
Mr Moffett, Performing Arts Dept



Manchester United Reward Trip



Throughout PE lessons this year, the PE department have been tremendously impressed by the attitude to learning and determination of all of our students. Within lessons students have regularly received merits, achievement points and postcards home as a result of their effort and willingness to better themselves. Although at times some students may not realise how much our staff appreciate their enthusiasm

and commitment within lessons. As such we decided to organise a rewards trip for those students who consistently work hard and want to improve, to show all pupils that positive attitudes to learning are valued and should be fostered.

We decided that we would organise another trip to Old Trafford to watch Manchester United v FC Rostov. As Man Utd drew

the 1st leg of the fixture, it set up a must win encounter to be played at Old Trafford. The students were eager as ever to visit the Theatre of Dreams and they showed as much through their enthusiastic chanting and support whilst journeying down the M6.

When we arrived in Manchester, the students were immaculately behaved and we managed to get to the stadium and seats in record time. As the game got under way,

it proved to be a cagey affair with FC Rostov choosing to utilise a counter attack and soak up the United pressure. This did not phase Man Utd's youthful squad, where they patiently passed the ball around trying to entice Rostov into a mistake. This proved a successful tactic as Juan Mata was able to break the deadlock on the 70th minute. However this encouraged Rostov to adopt a more attacking style of play as they would need two goals to progress to the next round. Fortunately for United and Walney's travelling Red Army, Marcos Rojo defended resolutely and David De Gea was equal to the Rostov forward's superb last minute free kick.

Although it was a nervy affair, there was drama until the end and all of our students thoroughly enjoyed themselves. As did our staff, and as such we have organised another trip to continue rewarding those who have worked hard and strive to succeed at Walney School.

Mr Sargent. PE Dept