

Walney School Christmas 2018 Newsletter

HEAD'S INTRODUCTION



We are now nearing the end of what has been a truly fantastic term for our school, its students and our community. The report of our November Ofsted inspection has now been published and I am delighted that the

hard work of everyone involved with the school in creating what was reported as "a place of stability where pupils can learn" has been so clearly recognised.

November also saw our "Proud of our

Achievements" awards ceremonies at The Forum. It was a wonderful day during which we celebrated the life of our school during the last academic year and recognised the achievements of our students. My congratulations go to all prize winners along with my thanks to all the very bold and talented speakers and performers.

Once again, our newsletter is packed with details of the huge range of outstanding opportunities that our school offers to both its students and the community we serve. I hope you enjoy reading about everything that is going on within and beyond classrooms. It truly is a privilege to be Headteacher in such a vibrant environment.

Please accept my thanks for all the support that you have given to the school during the last term and I send my very best wishes for a relaxing and fun-filled Christmas.

John Richardson

Nineteen Walney School students from the academic year 2017/2018 completed the NCS (National Citizenship Service) Summer Holiday Programme over four weeks. There are four phases to the programme, each lasting one week. The first phase is 'Adventure' where students take on adrenaline fuelled activities like canoeing, archery and rock climbing. Phase two is 'Discovery'. During week two, students experience living independently. They learn essential life skills from business leaders and charities, gain confidence in public speaking, communication skills and budgeting- all of which looks great on your CV! Phase three is 'Social Action'. During this week, students are back in their home town, devising a community project based on an issue they feel passionate about. Students have the opportunity to make a real difference to their community. Finally, phase four is the 'Celebration' phase. This is where students have the chance to take stock of all they have achieved- the challenges they have overcome, the experiences they've had and friends they have made during a big celebration event.

We are proud to have achieved the NCS Bronze Award with students from the last academic year. We encourage our current



NCS Achievement

year 10 and 11 students to think about joining the NCS Programme in the Summer of 2019 or 2020. We are certain it would be an experience they would never forget and hopefully, we can beat the record of nineteen

students from last year! Most importantly, local employers tell us it is something that really makes school leavers stand out when applying for jobs.

Mrs K Maden, Assistant Headteacher

Kindness Week

12th_ 16th November



Kindness week is a helpful way of reinforcing kindness which we then continue to practice throughout the year.

This year we decided to take part by donating to the Foodbank, a worthy non-profit charitable organisation which helps families under difficult circumstances. The response was overwhelming; a substantial amount was collected which combines to make 271 meals and, with the festive season approaching, kindness has been delivered to those in need.

All form groups took part in different activities, to design a t-shirt, a graffiti wall or kindness scroll, the students had to work in

teams and think about what is kindness.

Forms 7A, 8W, 9W, 10W AND 11N all won chocolates for their forms and numerous kindness awards were given out.

Ava Charles and Kianna Boswell won a £10 voucher in the kindness draw. Kindness Teacher winner was Mr Tyson and kindness Support Staff was Miss Whitehouse.

Congratulations to all the winners for fantastic effort and contribution. Thank you for all your support.

**Mrs Keenan, Kindness Co-ordinator
Pupil Support Department**

The Big Bang Fair

On Wednesday 17th October, 50 Walney students got on a coach to Furness College to the Big Bang Fair. It was a really enjoyable day! There was a stall which contained edible bugs, which included meal worms, locusts, and crickets. The meal worms tasted of dry popcorn, the locusts were bitter and the crickets were sour. We even managed to convince Mrs Devonald and Mrs Brooks to try them. There was a wide range of stalls and the Big Bang fair including virtual reality challenges, we were able to compete against each other and other schools to see who could complete the task first and the best. The Big Bang fair also meant that we were able to talk to different employers about their businesses and gain an insight into a career with them. Overall we had a fantastic morning.

Ella Danz and Tilly Bibby

The CEO Writes

All three of our schools have had an excellent start to the term, being fully staffed and having benefited from improvements to the fabric of the buildings over the summer break. The Autumn term has been extremely eventful in all our schools as you will read in the individual Christmas Newsletters. I thank all our staff and students for their hard work and thank parents, Governors and Trustees for all their support as we move our schools to the next stage in their journey to Good and beyond.

There have been changes at Trust level with Liz Moffatt stepping down as a Trustee but remaining a Trust Member. We thank Liz for all her work for the

Trust as a previous member of the Local Governing Body at Walney School and then as Chair of the Trust. Beth Curl, our previous Vice Chair, was elected Chair of the Trust at our first meeting of the year. Eddie Richards was elected Vice Chair of the Trust. He was also appointed Chair of George Hastwell's Local Governing Body. Anna Gregg continues as Chair of QKS Local Governing Body and Tony Sinton of Walney's.

The MAT Board is working closely with the Regional School's Commissioner and are looking carefully at the strategic direction of the Trust in light of my intended retirement as CEO this academic year.



**Stephen Wilkinson
Chief Executive Officer**

Futures Friday

Exploring our options for the future



to come into school in business dress for the day and were all given a 15 minute mock interview with an employee from BAE Systems or Gleeds. We are so proud of how professional and well prepared our students were for their mock interviews. They received some fantastic feedback from the interviewers and were grateful for the interview experience, although most students were nervous leading up to the day. Throughout the day, our year 11 students also had an 'Aspirations' workshop delivered by MADE Training and a 'Lifestyle Impact' workshop delivered by CCoP and developed their CV on Unifrog.

We are very grateful to all of our visitors for giving up their time and planning thoroughly engaging and interactive sessions to make this another fantastic experience for our students.



On Friday 9th November, Walney School held its third Futures Friday event.

Once again we welcomed a huge range of visitors from local companies to speak to our students about their career path(s). In response to student evaluations of our previous Futures Fridays, some students had a choice as to which business sector sessions they attended and we also asked visitors to make their sessions interactive for the students so that they could get a taste for what our visitor's day to day jobs involve.

Year 7 and 8 listened to the career stories of some Walney school staff, local entrepreneurs and small business owners. They got involved in the activities that were presented to them and asked really interesting questions to our visitors.

Year 9 had an Enterprise Day, working with a company called Young Enterprise on a Learn to Earn workshop. Students thoroughly enjoyed the day and developed lots of different 'employability skills' such as communication, team work, problem solving and self-awareness. Some of their

comments from their favourite parts of the day include:

"When we got to find out how much our dream lifestyle would cost and then compare it to the job you want to do"

"I enjoyed when we got to do mock interviews with the class"

"I liked learning about which jobs would suit me based on my skills and interests"

For this Futures Friday, Year 10 were able to opt into a business sector that most interested them and go to a selection of interactive sessions delivered by visitors who worked in that sector. The sectors they were able to choose from were: Education, Health and Care, Engineering, Public Services and Trades, Visitor Economy and Arts and Digital Media. 90% of students were able to attend their first choice sessions and the other 10% were able to attend their second choice. For the next Futures Friday, that 10% will be allocated their first choice.

Year 11 had spent weeks developing their Employability Passports and preparing for their Mock Interviews. They were asked

Here is a selection of the comments our visitors left:

- Pupils engaged well in the tower building activity. Q&A session was excellent with a good range of questions – **Linda Diamond, Morgan Sindall**
- Excellent day, really enjoyed it, great school – **Tom Smith, Young Enterprise**
- Year 9 were really impressive, really engaged and a pleasure to work with – **Sarah Tinsley, Young Enterprise**
- Genuinely one of the nicest bunches of students and secondary schools I've visited – **Rob Snell, MADE Training**
- Students were very professional and well-presented and visibly eager to learn and develop – **Will Savage, BAE Systems**
- Thoroughly interesting morning – **Sam French, Gen 2**
- A really interactive session - the students were a delight and really engaged in the activities – **Tim Westwood, Newton Rigg College**
- Excellent standard- the children exceeded my expectations – **Iain Davidson, Gleeds**
- The students were brilliant- a massive credit to the school – **Rachel, Hello Future**
- Students listened really well and worked well in teams to complete the activity – **Vicky Lumley, NHS**

Teaching and learning developments at Walney School

On Tuesday 30th October all teachers and teaching assistants took part in a training session to look at the latest research about effective teaching and learning. Our main areas of focus were:

- Questioning – how can we improve the questions we ask in the classroom?
- Reciprocal teaching – how can this help learning?
- Literacy – how can we further improve spelling, grammar and punctuation?

There was much lively debate and discussion, and we agreed the following:

Questioning:

- No hands up policy – everybody should be prepared to answer the question
- No opt out – everybody must have a go; nobody can just say 'I don't know'
- Waiting time – students need time to think about their answer and discuss with a partner before answering in class

Reciprocal teaching:

- The best way to learn something is to teach it to someone else
- Working in pairs helps students to extend their thinking and expand their answers
- Working on a model together before doing an individual piece of work helps students to grow in confidence

Literacy:

- We will always insist on full sentence answers in writing and in spoken answers
- We will encourage students to talk through their work before writing down an answer
- We will model how we want students to write their answers – and give them time to practice
- Checking, checking, checking! Students will be asked to check their work and correct with purple, staff will use a pink highlighter to highlight some of the careless mistakes that students make

In addition, staff worked together to devise the profile of a Walney Learner. We thought about what attributes we want our students to have by the time they leave us in Y11. We came up with the following list:

- Aspirational
- Curious
- Resilient
- Self-motivated
- Communicative
- Wider thinking

We are now looking forward to hosting a conference with invited students, parents, governors, employers and members of our community to develop the profile of the Walney Learner and further develop our curriculum to ensure that all of our students have these qualities by the time they leave us.

Mrs Redshaw, Deputy Headteacher

Craft Fair

Our craft fair students have been working hard to create various Christmas tree ornaments to sell at the Christmas fair. The students also helped to organise the fair where we had various stalls from crafters in our community. Thank you to all who supported this event.

Miss Preston



From left to right Jocelyn, Caitlyn, Asha, Emily and Freya.



Teen Market

A group of year 9 girls, Bethany Anderson, India Bower, Molly Bradley, Jessica Jackson, Amelia Langhorn and Ebony Leroy hosted a stall at Barrow Library's first Teen Market. Since September they spent their lunch times preparing and creating Christmas crafts to sell at the fayre. They made origami stars, ribbon wreaths, Christmas candle jars, pine cone bird feeders and twig tree decorations. They were very successful on the day, proudly selling their handmade gifts and meeting people from the community. They even had their

photo taken with the Mayor and his wife. A special thanks to Mr Mullaney and Mrs Barry for your support on the day.

Mrs Cassley, Art Department



The MAT Board Chair Writes

I am delighted to write to you as the new Chair of the QKS Mat Board; I was honoured to be elected Chair in October and pledge to do my very best for all the students, parents and staff in our three schools.

Due to family illness, Liz Moffatt needed to give priority to her family and therefore reluctantly resigned from the chair and board. Liz will be a hard act to follow, she had a distinguished career in education and the QKS MAT were enormously fortunate to benefit from her leadership, expertise and experience. Liz will remain as a Member of our MAT Trust and will therefore continue to be involved in setting the future strategic direction of the Trust. Thank you Liz for your wise leadership, hard work and commitment to our three schools.

Eddie Richards was elected as Vice Chair; he is also the Chair of George Hastwell School Local Governing Body and a member of the Walney School Governing Body. Eddie and I along with Anna Gregg, Tony Sinton, Joanne Heather and Steve Wilkinson form the QKS MAT Board of Trustees. If you would like to know more about us, you can read our profiles www.qksmat.org.uk/mat-team

We are delighted to have secured support for our two secondary schools from

a National Leader of Education and CEO of Endeavour Trust in Lancashire, Lesley Gwinnett. We are confident the schools will benefit tremendously from her involvement and schools will rapidly continue to get even better than they are now. Paul Slater is our Assistant CEO for this academic year and is working with all three schools on their school improvement agenda.

We have just received the fantastic news that in the recent Ofsted Inspection, Walney School has moved out of Special Measures and is now judged overall as Requires Improvement, with Leadership & Management and Personal Development, Behaviour & Welfare judged to be Good. Ofsted inspections of our three schools in the last six months have confirmed how much all of our schools have improved over the last two years and we are confident that they will all continue strongly on the journey of improvement in the years to come.

It's going to be a busy year as the Trust will be considering developments for the future and we will update everyone via the regular newsletters.

Thank you for your continued support and please do get in touch via Sharon Housego s.housego@queenkatherine.org if you



have any questions or suggestions.

I would like to say big thank you to all our staff for all your hard work and for providing a vibrant and rich learning environment in all our schools, to our students for being such great young people and to parents for all you do in supporting your children in their learning.

I wish you all a very Happy Christmas, enjoy the holidays and we look forward to see everyone back in January for an exciting New Year of learning.

Beth Curl

BDAE Competition Design & Technology

At the end of the summer term we entered a competition run by the Barrow and District Association of Engineers (BDAE) to promote Design and Technology in our local schools. The aim of the competition was to see what was being taught at Year 10 and where did it fit in with Engineering?

Two GCSE students, namely Sean McCormick and Izzy Rodger, were entered into a competition for the BDAE. This included submitting PowerPoints they had produced in Year 10 based on the Birdhouse Project. The competition was to reward schools that went above and beyond in STEM based subjects and curriculum objectives. The entries were assessed on visual standard, overall content and the quality of the products produced.

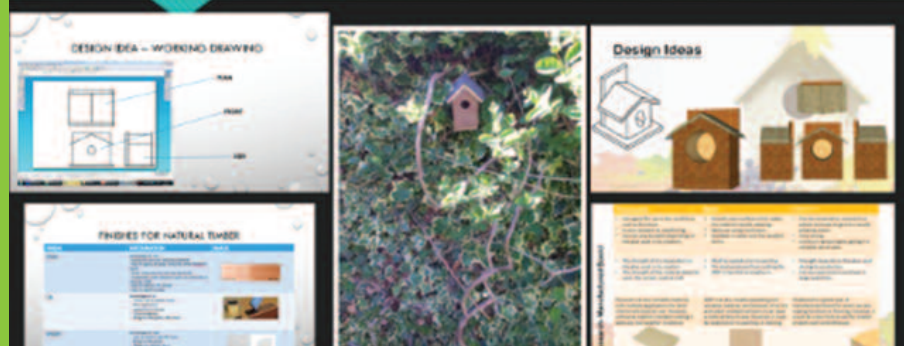
After approx four months of waiting for judging to take place I was invited to Furness College to watch a

presentation of all the PowerPoints entered by all the local schools. During the presentation they announced the winner as Walney School, based on their ethical qualities and their use of jigs and templates to manufacture a product. The projects also met the requirements of the competition by

showing and demonstrating good working practices in Engineering and Technology based subjects. As a result of winning the competition the school won £500 which was donated to the Technology Department.

Mr Mullaney, Technology Department

Our Entries





Lakeside YMCA 2018

In July 2018 30 students from Year 7 took part in the Outdoor Challenge Residential Programme at the YMCA at lakeside. On arrival, the YMCA laid out the red carpet across the mud and the puddles to our 5* accommodation- the tented village at South camp. They had even arranged some local special guests to greet us inside our tents...slugs, frogs and ducks.

The Outdoor Challenge programme included many land-based activities such as climbing a rock face and abseiling back down, archery, the 'Blind Trail' on an assault course and going on a zip wire over the edge of Lake Windermere. The students really enjoyed the initiative exercises where they had to use our thinking skills as well as their physical skills to work as a team to solve problems. The favourite activity was the 'King Swing' where students were attached into a harness, pulled up to the height of a house between two trees and then had to release themselves to swing through the jungle like Tarzan.

The students were supposed to spend the rest of our time on Lake Windermere doing the water based activities such as kayaking, canoeing and sailing. But, instead spent most of their time in the lake trying to capsize their friends and teachers.

The Year 7 students had great fun, developing their self-confidence, learning new skills and developing new friendships.

The YMCA trip is now available for our new Year 7's. The trip takes place Tuesday 16th July- Thursday 18th July 2019. Please ask Mr Barton for a letter/ information if you are interested.

Let's celebrate Shakespeare

I am very proud to announce that we are now an Associate Royal Shakespeare Company school, working closely with our lead school Dowdales. Miss Eason and myself are currently receiving training from RSC actors on how to engage our pupils, using techniques that they use in rehearsals, which has been awe inspiring. Our Year 10 students are definitely benefitting from this and are enjoying a range of activities we are including in our teaching. One of our Year 10 boys was heard to say, 'That was one of the best Macbeth lessons we have had.' Praise indeed.

It has been an absolute pleasure to watch our classes have a deeper understanding of the plays that they are studying and participate in Macbeth's soliloquies and the manipulation that Lady Macbeth



Picture courtesy of Dowdales School

employs in the play. We have also been treated to detailed interpretations of how Macbeth carried out the murder of King Duncan!!!! We will of course be embedding these skills in our KS3 units too later this year.

In addition to this Mrs Gale organised it so both Year 10 and 11 experienced the live streaming of the new RSC production of Romeo and Juliet, which allowed them to engage with the play as a 'real time' audience. This then led to animated debates about how this production compared to their own reading of the play.

This is a fantastic opportunity for our school and one we are embracing fully. Watch this space for any forthcoming pupil productions....

Ms Jennings, Head of English

Rewards

Once again our students have had a brilliant term with many achievements and successes to celebrate in our Autumn reward assemblies.

A massive well done to our students who have received the most Reward Points in their year group;

Year 7 - Evie-Grace McDougall,

Year 8 - Crystal Claughton,

Year 9 - Skye Lightbody,

Year 10 - Faith Buckingham and

Year 11 - Georgia Hagen.

These students have done amazingly well and have all received over 100 Reward points this term.

Congratulations also to our Form group winners who collectively received the most Reward Points in their Year group. These are;

7L - Mrs Bates' form,

8N - Miss Eason's form,

9W - Miss Jagger's form,

10N - Miss Jennings' form and

11 N - Mr Corcoran's form.

Our Form group award is very competitive so these groups deserve to be highly praised.

350 students will be awarded for achieving 50 Reward points and over 40 of our students will be receiving their Bronze award for 100 Reward Points - a fantastic achievement for so early in the school year.

In our October Rewards assembly, we also celebrated our Leading Learners, these are students who have demonstrated excellent effort, work and behaviour in their lessons throughout the term - special congratulations go to Jack Haney (Year 7), Freya McCarthy (Year 8), Lucy Hanrahan (Year 9), Ameila Martin, Millie Benson, Phoebe Anderson (Year 10) and Izzy Rodger (Year 11) who all received our Star Learner award for receiving the most Leading Learner nominations in their year group.

Following our December rewards assemblies, we will be holding our annual Key Stage 3 disco at Cloud 9, for all our students with excellent behaviour and attendance to celebrate all their hard work. We will be holding raffles in both our assemblies and at the disco where students can win prizes and have some early Christmas presents! In January students can also look forward to our Reward Shop Club opening allowing students to come and spend their well-earned Reward Points on many different items! Well done to all our students for their amazing effort in upholding our school standards - you truly deserve your rewards!

Mrs Lourie, Rewards

Building a Walney School Alumni

This Year, we are working with Future First who are helping us to build a database of school alumni. We would really love to hear from former Walney students about what you are doing now and what you have experienced since leaving Walney School. It would be great for our current students to hear stories of success and resilience from people who were once in a very similar situation to them, however long ago that may be.

If you would like to join our alumni, please use this link to sign up: networks.futurefirst.org.uk/signup/walney

Mrs Maden, Assistant Headteacher

"We are delighted that Future First are helping us to build even stronger relationships with our highly successful former students, as they inspire Walney children to raise their aspirations and broaden their horizons"

Mr Richardson, Headteacher

Walney Wonderland 2!



It was such a pleasure to work with over 100 students, Primary and Secondary to rehearse and perform in our Walney Wonderland 2. I was absolutely astounded at the amount of pupils who contributed towards the festivities both on and off stage. This year was very special for a number of reasons, one being that most of the performances were chosen and rehearsed by our very own pupils. Their resilience and commitment was second to none and I am very proud of what they have achieved.

We hosted 3 packed shows to Primary schools and to the community, both gave us fantastic reviews. From Wicked to The Polar Express, there surely was something for everybody. Well done to our performers and technical crew and thank you to our wonderful audiences.

Miss Eason, Performing Arts



Brilliant Club

On Wednesday 21st November 2018 a group of Year 9 students visited Lancaster University as the launch trip to the Brilliant Club. This group comprised of India-Skye Bower, Faye Hunt, Glenn Toal, Bradley Scott, Tyler Johnson, Matthew Atkinson, Darcey Turner, Elyse McMullen, Jocelyn Martin, Brooke Duxbury and Dylan Lauderdale.

The visit included a tour of the University and their opening tutorial from a Ph.D student Gary Linnett. Over the last few weeks they have been studying the problems of future energy needs and the role of nuclear power.

This is what the students think of it so far:

Brooke – “It’s incredibly entertaining – the best parts are the group activities”.

India – “It’s really interesting to learn about things we don’t discuss in much detail in class.”

Tyler – “I think the Lancaster trip was a good insight as to what life in University is like. The lessons are interesting and I like being able to write notes down our own way”.

Jocelyn – “I think the Brilliant Club is very informative and I think other students could benefit from it.”

Else – “This has been a good experience and I have learnt a lot while doing this.”

Darcey – “This has really made me think. It has helped me learn and work on my teamwork skills.”

Faye – “I loved this experience and gained knowledge on nuclear physics. If someone came up to me a month ago and asked what happens in a nuclear reactor, I’d have no clue.”

Brad – “It was fun” and “have enjoyed this experience and would recommend this opportunity to anyone.”

They will need to submit a 2000 word assignment (yes- that’s two thousand!) by the end of January in order to complete the course and attend a final graduation ceremony.

Good luck to them all!

Mr Higgs, Science Department

French Trip



On Friday 13th July 2018, 52 pupils from Year 8 and 9 and myself travelled to Portsmouth on the first leg of our exciting trip to France. We were joined by Mrs Doughty, Mrs Lloyd, Mr Brooks and Mr Costa. The long journey was soon over and we were relaxing in the superb comfort of Travelbound’s Château du Molay. With its beautiful grounds, entertainment and local cuisine (frogs legs and snails yum!) it was the perfect place to stay.

The stay in Normandy was an educational and emotional one. Visits to the D-Day landing beaches and the cemeteries touched our hearts.

Especially the British Cemetery, where we laid a Walney School wreath and Emily Smith said a few poignant words in remembrance.

Onwards we went on our cultural quest to the Bayeux Tapestry, where we studied a war of a different era but of no less importance to our education.

The capital city of Paris was everything that we hoped for. Breathtaking views from the Tour de Montparnasse, the charm and beauty of the Sacre-Coeur and a relaxing and illuminating cruise down the River Seine.

The final day was spent in Disneyland Paris where there was much



fun to be had by all. We even got Mrs Doughty and Mrs Lloyd on some of the rides!

Here’s to next year! Merci et à bientôt.

Madame Higgs

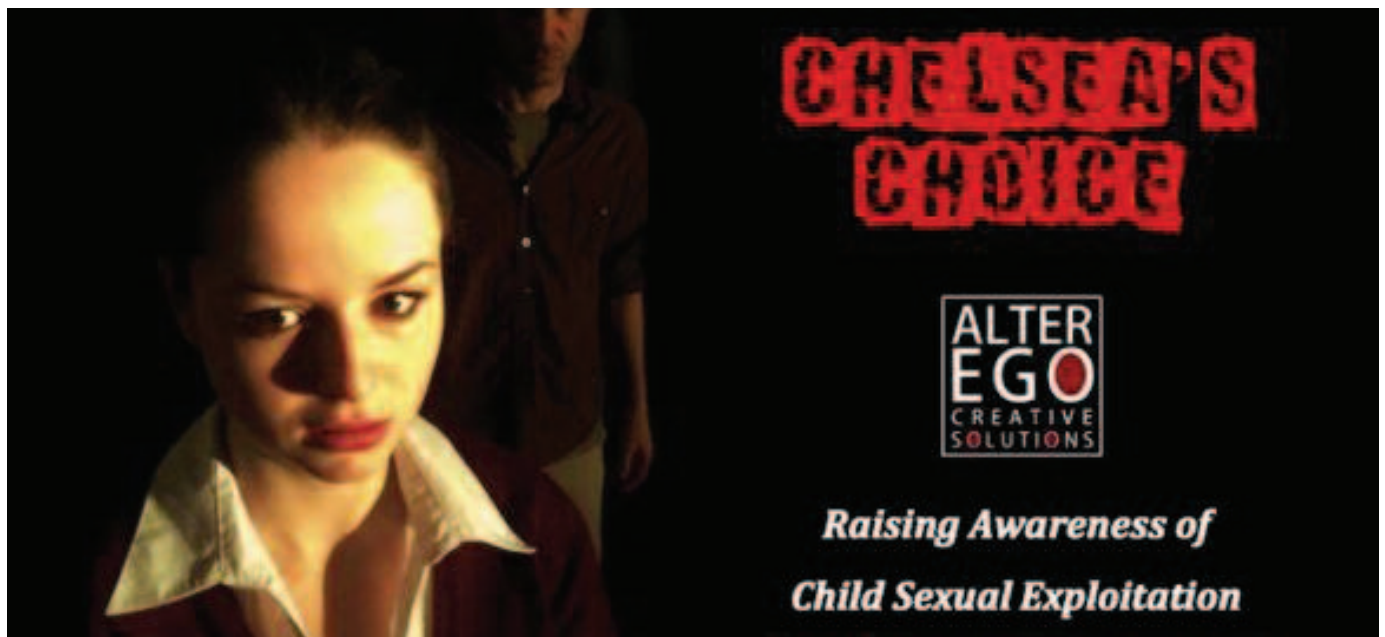
Personal Development

This term has seen the introduction of Personal Development lessons in every year group. As a school we are keeping up with rapid changes in the curriculum by ensuring students cover the six areas of focus to ensure students understand the intricacies of British society. The six strands are namely Sex and Relationships Education, Economic Wellbeing, Health and Emotional Wellbeing, Careers and

Leadership, Active Citizenship and Life in Modern Britain. Students have one lesson a week and the strands are rotated to ensure everything is covered. All students have received a six week block of lessons focussing on Careers and Leadership that were written by our coordinators in these areas namely, Mrs Magee and Mrs Maden. Keeping safe on the internet is another area of focus that has a significant impact

on the lives of young people and all year groups will receive advice on this sensitive subject. We will, of course be developing our Personal Development provision as we understand that the developments in technological advances and the changes in British society never stand still and therefore, neither should we.

Mr Cubiss, Deputy Headteacher



Visiting Performers

We have been lucky enough to have several performers in school to talk to different year groups but three sets of theatre performers have stood out. These were performances of "Chelsea's Choice", "Tough Love" and Feel the Hate

Alter Ego Solutions brought us Chelsea's Choice which was a hard hitting story about the devastation child sexual exploitation can have on young people and their families. Our

students saw the gradual demise of Chelsea as she was groomed by a group of males.

Tough Love was an equally chilling tale of a girl that was unable to escape from a coercive relationship. Needless to say, neither of these productions had happy endings but the point was made clearly that both girls and boys need to keep themselves safe and avoid perilous situations by eliminating risk taking behaviour.

Finally, "Feel the Hate" highlighted the types of hate crime that appear in the national media. The performance made Year 7 aware of the difficulties some groups of people experience in the everyday lives and the negative effect it has on them

I will be continuing to take every opportunity to get these types of performers into school as their messages have significant impact on our students' personal development.

Mr Cubiss, Deputy Headteacher

Attendance

As our first term comes to a close, we have been blessed, so far, that we have avoided the dreaded sickness bug. We are now in a position to present a large number of 100% attendance certificates which is a massive improvement on last year. On the subject of improvements, there has been a reduction in the number of term time holidays taken and this has reduced the number of lessons missed and this can only have a positive effect on

the learning that takes place for our students. A two week holiday means a student would miss sixty lessons and this is a significant amount of learning time. I must take this opportunity to remind parents that term time holidays should be avoided but where essential, a holiday form needs to be completed and handed in at reception.

To celebrate good attendance we are relaunching some of our rewards. Ice

Cream Friday returns where good attenders are rewarded with a choc ice at break on a Friday. Student attendance will also contribute to qualify for a movie and popcorn afternoon for each year group. Finally, if any parent needs any support with their child's attendance then please do not hesitate to contact school and Mrs Foster, our Education Welfare Officer can offer some advice.

Mr Cubiss, Deputy Headteacher

Wildlife at Walney



Did you know that in a recent environmental survey Barrow was placed number 1 in the country for its natural assets? This is of no surprise to us here at Walney School. We've already started to make the most of the amazing place we live.

It all started in June. It was a wild one here at Walney School. Inspired by The Wildlife Trust's 30 Day's Wild challenge we decided to run events, set challenges and inspire pupils and staff to interact with nature in some way every day. It was a great way to raise the profile of our environment and ignite little sparks of interest and enthusiasm.

Students of all ages got involved in lots of activities from environmental sampling out on school grounds to planting and preparing our own wildflower garden to provide welcome nectar sources for pollinators. It is a work in progress and doesn't look like much yet, but we are hoping to have a glorious and diverse mini-meadow in 2019. All our plants and seeds have been donated from our supportive staff, parents and pupils. We are very thankful for such help and generosity. Another reason to be proud of our community. Keep an eye out for pictures as it progresses.

Year 7 reporters interviewed our kitchen manager, Mrs Kavanagh, St Helens Rugby

League Club, whom I am delighted to say has worked very hard to reduce the use of single-use plastics in the dinner hall. It is great to see such a commendable example set to our students and that they can see some of the available alternatives to plastics. Their report featured in the last issue.

Year 9 took the initiative and a couple of forms decided to go out at the end of lunchtime to gather plastic waste, and in doing so preventing it from harming our marine environment. They were very enthusiastic in their mission and did a fantastic job. I don't think I could have been more proud!

We ran a very successful art competition and a large display to show the Flora and Fauna of Walney Island now takes pride of place in the Innovation Centre. The overall winner was 8W who won a day out in nature at the end of term. What a creative lot we have! It was great fun exploring the rock pools of Earnse Bay and meeting the inquisitive seals at South Walney Nature reserve. If you attended the prize-giving ceremony you will have been lucky enough to hear Michael and Kayden's speech about our day out in nature. Well done lads, you did a great job!

Staff were enthusiastic in helping pupils to

get involved and even entered their own competition, with Miss Jennings claiming the title of Walney's Wildest Teacher. She will, I'm sure, be keen to defend her title in 2019 but I hear Mr Barton is keen to challenge this!

I will be setting up a wildlife group after Christmas to continue this endeavour. We will be working towards the John Muir Award in connection with the Coastal Community Team, working together to make the most of Walney's amazing natural resources. As part of this project we aim to help 'Rewild' Walney with natural native plant species. We look forward to our new students getting involved too.

We have had lots of fun getting out and about in nature, and seeing the amazing responses from our community has been inspiring. Thanks to all who got involved, whether that was taking photos, reading with forms, counting birds for the RSPB, picking litter, finding beauty in nature, making terrariums, reducing plastic waste, watching sunsets, spotting bats, making bug hotels, drawing wildlife pictures, relaxing outdoors, hunting for bugs, watching webcams, donating plants and seeds, planting seeds... to name just a few.

Mrs Devonald, Science Department

Football

Walney continue to do well in the Football County Cup competition. The U16 girls look forward to defending their County Cup title again this year after beating St Bernards and Cockermouth to get into the final. Also the U16 boys look forward to a trip to Carlisle to compete in the semi-final of the competition. Furthermore, the U13 boys have reached the semi-final and will play QEGS. Further success has prevailed for the U13 girls who just got beat in the English Football League competition held by Morecambe FC. The squad produced some fantastic performances, most notably Devon Cooksey who scored 6 goals throughout the day.

Other sporting success has involved Beth Anderton who is playing for St Helens. Her fantastic attitude and strong performances led to a player of the year nomination.

Mr Baker, PE Department



Sport



Cross Country



This year, we as a department decided that the Inter Form Cross-Country should be completed before October half term. We hoped that the weather would be kind to us and the runners and, thankfully, it didn't disappoint.

Running cross country is all about resolve and courage, yet above all of that, it is character building. As someone once said, 'When you put yourself on the line in a race and expose yourself to the unknown,

you learn things about yourself that are very exciting!' This is why cross country is such an important part of the curriculum. I am glad to report that there was plenty of this fortitude on display from all the runners.

Every child in Key Stage Three lined up on the start line waiting for their turn to run, boys and girls running separate events. Both waiting with a mixture of nerves and anticipation. Cross country builds character and mirrors life by the

virtue that, what you put in, you get out! This was a day that every runner will never forget and hopefully gain a huge amount from the experience. You never know what you can achieve until you test your limits.

After six tense and hard fought races, the final results are as follows:-

Mrs Lever, PE Department

Year 7 BOYS

- 1 Elliott Kendall
- 2 Cohen Falloon
- 3 Sunny Davis
- 4 Bradley Kendall
- 5 Wil North
- 6 Sam Parkinson

Year 7 GIRLS

- 1 Lily Glasgow
- 2 Natalie Griffiths
- 3 Devon Cooksey
- 4 Chloe Boyd
- 5 Abigail
Hebden-Bundy
- 6 Suzy Elvey

Year 8 BOYS

- 1 Ben O'Halloran
- 2 Joseph Corrance
- 3 Owen Spencer
- 4 Riley Gordon
- 5 Lewis Adams
- 6 Oliver Heron

Year 8 GIRLS

- 1 Neia Marshall
- 2 Tilly Bibby
- 3 Imogen Martin
- 4 Crystal Claughton
- 5 Freya Allen
- 6 Megan Tyson

Year 9 BOYS

- 1 Alex White
- 2 Josh Thompson
- 3 Lewis Stables
- 4 Matthew Atkinson
- 5 Corey Jacobs
- 6 Lewis Moore

Year 9 GIRLS

- 1 Poppy Glasgow
- 2 Ella McGarry
- 3 Summer Bentley
- 4 Emily Smith
- 5 Eve Bagley
- 6 Jessica Jackson

Netball

It has been great to see the girls enthusiasm for Netball this term. They have been regularly attending practises on a Wednesday evening after school.

They have played numerous games this term with areas of success. The first game the girls played was against Furness Academy and this was a tough match to start with. Nevertheless the Year 7 had their heads held high and gave everything they had. Being their first game, they started off slowly and conceding a few goals in the first minutes, but they soon realised what had happened in the second half and the girls definitely came back and pushed themselves. They were making stronger passes, their communication was impeccable. The Year 7's never gave up

and despite their loss, they should be proud of their performance.

After their first game the girls were determined to show what they had learnt and how they had developed and refined skills. This was seen against St Bernards and Chetwynde. Their timing, marking and movement was spot on but struggled to put the ball in the net. Hopefully by putting a netball post in the Year 7 playground will elevate this issue and will allow the girls more practice time!

Although the results have not gone our way this term, the girls have gained valuable experience and have worked hard to increase their skill level and I'm sure that in the new year they will grow further. Well done.

Team: Abbie Hebden- Bundy, Charlie Brady, Amy Hill, Jessica White,

Devon Cooksey, Evie McDougall, Keira Siddall, Katie Whalley, Gordi Rea, Lily Glasgow, Chloe Harrison.

