Walton High

A place to **Belong**, a place to **Learn**, a place to **Achieve**

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Principal: Jim Rowland

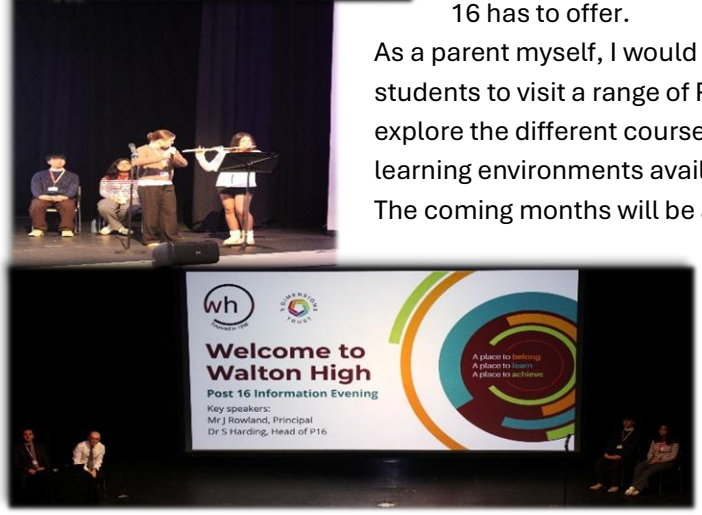
Principal's update 13 November 2026

It has been a fantastic two weeks since returning from the half-term break.

Our Year 11 students have been working hard in preparation for their mock examinations, which begin on Monday. These assessments provide an excellent opportunity for students to demonstrate what they already know, while also highlighting any areas that may require further revision. They also help teachers identify topics that can be revisited and reinforced in lessons.
Most importantly, mock examinations are designed to build students' confidence and familiarity with the examination process, ensuring they are well prepared for the external GCSE examinations next summer.

Post-16 Open Evening









Last night, we were delighted to host our Post-16 Open Evening for prospective Year 12 students who will be joining us in September 2027. It was wonderful to welcome so many of our own students, as well as students from other local schools, to showcase everything that Walton High Post-16 has to offer.

As a parent myself, I would strongly encourage students to visit a range of Post-16 providers to explore the different courses, opportunities and learning environments available to them.

The coming months will be an important time for making decisions about future pathways, so please do not hesitate to speak with our staff if you have any questions about the Post-16 application process.

Attendance Update

One of the most significant factors in helping students achieve their very best is maintaining strong attendance at school. We are pleased with the progress we have made in improving attendance rates this year and would like to thank parents and carers for their continued support.
As we move into the colder months, we know that attendance can sometimes become more challenging. We would encourage parents to send their child to school wherever possible, even if they are feeling slightly under the weather. Being present in school every day maximises learning opportunities, maintains routines and helps students remain connected to their peers and teachers.

Year Group	Yr7	Yr8	Yr9	Yr10	Yr11	Yr12	Yr13
Attendance %	96.5	94.1	93.2	93.1	92.4	95.6	90.7

Anti-Bullying week 16-20 November- Project Kindness





Next week marks Anti-Bullying Week, and we will be encouraging all members of our school community to reflect on the importance of kindness, respect and inclusion. Small acts of kindness can have a significant impact on the wellbeing of others and contribute positively to our school culture.

Our Anti Bullying ambassadors have invited students and staff to share positive messages and words of appreciation for people that matter and support them.

Throughout next week, students will take part in activities and discussions designed to promote positive relationships and reinforce the message that everyone has a role to play in creating a safe and supportive environment.

Remembrance Day



This week, students and staff also took time to reflect on the importance of Remembrance Day. Through assemblies and acts of reflection, we remembered the sacrifices made by members of the Armed Forces and all those affected by conflict. Thank you to the students who represented the school so respectfully and helped ensure that this important occasion was marked with the dignity and respect it deserves.

Keeping Children Safe on the Journey Home



As we move further into autumn and winter, the days become shorter and darkness falls much earlier. This can make journeys to and from school more challenging, particularly for students who walk home independently.

We would like to ask all parents and carers to take the opportunity to discuss personal safety with their child and consider their travel arrangements as the evenings become darker. Where possible, we encourage students to walk home with friends, siblings, or in small groups rather than alone. There is safety in numbers, and travelling with others can help students feel more confident and secure on their journey.

Please remind your child to:

- Stay alert and aware of their surroundings.
- Avoid distractions such as headphones at high volume or excessive use of mobile phones whilst walking.
- Stick to well-lit and familiar routes whenever possible.
- Let a parent or carer know if they are delayed or their plans change.
- Report any concerns or incidents to a trusted adult as soon as possible.
- Be mindful of road safety, particularly during poor weather or reduced visibility.

Parents and carers may also wish to review their child's route home and consider whether any adjustments are needed during the winter months. If your child has any concerns about travelling to or from school, please encourage them to speak to a member of staff so that we can offer support.

The safety and wellbeing of our students remains our highest priority. By working together, we can help ensure that all young people travel safely and confidently throughout the darker months ahead.

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KEY DATES:

Monday 16/11 -Friday 27/11-	Year 11 Mocks
Wednesday 18/11-	Year 9, Art trip to Kew Gardens
Wednesday 25/11-	Year 9- DPT/MEN Immunisations
Thursday 26/11-	Year 7 Parents' Evening
Monday 30/11- Wednesday 2/12-	Y11- Art Mocks
Thursday 3/12- Friday 4/12-	GCSE Music Composition NEA days

As always, thank you for your continued support. I wish all of our Year 11 students the very best for their mock examinations next week and hope that everyone enjoys a restful weekend.



Jim Rowland
Principal