



## Maths Competitions

70 students in Years 9 and 10 took part in the recent UKMT Intermediate Mathematics Challenge. 18 students gained sufficient points for a Bronze certificate and 15 students achieved a Silver certificate. We would like to give a special mention to the following two students; Olivia Thangeswaran who achieved the highest score in Year10 and Abhia Arulgnanam who achieved the highest score in the school. Abhia has also qualified for one of the next round competitions. Well done to all Walton High mathematicians!



## MK: U school visit – A level Computer Science and IT

The Computer Science and IT Curriculum Areas had the honour of welcoming Mr. M. Bell, the business development coordinator from MK:U, to engage with our P16 A-level Computer Science and IT students. He conducted a workshop aimed at demystifying degree apprenticeships in various CS and IT fields such as Data Science, Cybersecurity, Chartered Manager(IT), Digital and Technology Solutions, and Data Analytics. Additionally, Mr. Bell delivered a lecture on topics including smart sustainable cities, robotics, and the utilisation of autonomous vehicles, highlighting MK:U's involvement in these innovative initiatives from inception.



During the visit, students delved into the application of contemporary technologies in society and business. They explored current uses and challenges in the digital landscape, particularly in the transition to driverless cars. This involved examining legal, ethical, and organizational risks and security issues associated with the integration of AI, which plays a crucial role in autonomous decision-making.

The workshop fostered interactive discussions, with a dynamic Q&A session enabling students to collaborate in group activities and gain insights into career opportunities and various degree apprenticeship pathways available through MK: U and Cranfield University.





Furthermore, existing apprentices shared their perspectives and experiences across different fields of study, offering valuable insights into balancing work and studies within the framework of degree apprenticeship routes.

## Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Nearly 150 students will be undertaking their Bronze Expedition Award training next half term. A group made up predominantly of Year 9 students, joined by a few students in other years who missed the opportunity previously or who are new to the school.

Training is already taking place for the 35 Gold and Silver students who will be heading to the Brecon Beacons in the summer. Training sessions include First Aid, campcraft, cooking and map reading. Proficiency in these areas will enable students to undertake a remotely supervised adventure in the mountains of Wales.

Closer to home, students across the award levels completed nearly 2000 recorded sessions of physical activity in 2023. The dedication and commitment to the award shown by the students at Walton High is reflected in Walton High's higher than average pass rate in the DofE nationally.

## Glebe Farm Debating Competition – Friday 9 February 2024

On Friday 9 February, 12 students from Years 7 and 8 went to Glebe Farm School to participate in their Debating Competition. Following just four weeks of intense activity, and hours of work put in from all of them, our two teams and four reserves (two of whom had to step in at the very last minute) put on a great performance against several other Milton Keynes schools. Despite not winning any prizes this time, there was much to be impressed by – strong arguments, clear and expressive delivery, great communication with the audience, thoughtful and sharp rebuttal and a willingness to engage with all the debate topics, not just those we were directly involved in.

The students represented Walton High in the best possible light and received many complimentary comments during the morning. The competition was always going to be a starting point for the development of our young debaters and has proved there is huge potential going forward. They, and all the others in the Debate Club whom we were unable to take this time, will continue to practise and hone their skills and will truly be a force to be reckoned with in the future. Well done all!



## Performing Arts

Congratulations to the Year 8 students, who as part of our Hooks and Riffs project, performed with the Pink Floyd tribute act on Saturday 3 February in the Venue.

Students had the chance to sing the iconic song “Another Brick in the Wall” shouting out “Hey, teacher, leave them kids alone!” In addition, students sang the nursery rhyme “ring-a-ring of roses” in “Take it Back.” Everyone was brilliant and Mani the lead singer was highly complementary about the student performance, especially as Walton High was the only school taking part in the UK tour.





## Godspell!

On Tuesday 13, Thursday 15 and Friday 16 February, The Venue rang to this year's musical production 'Godspell'. The cast was drawn from all age groups at Walton High. We are a non-religious secondary school, and we chose 'Godspell' for the universal message, important ideas and values the show presents to our community. The cast excelled in sharing the humour and joy of the show and their performance highlighted its clear message of the importance of forming a strong, supportive community.

With Year 12 student, Tyrelle Kassina in the lead, a very impressive cast of performers, musicians, backstage crew, front of house team and technical support told their story, sang their hearts out and presented a very professional production. None of this is possible without the hard work of staff and invaluable support of parents and families and for this, we are very grateful.

Truly, Walton High staff and students showed that together, there are no limits to what they can achieve. Congratulations to all involved.







### Dates for your diary...

26 and 27 February – Year 9 Vaccinations

Thursday 29 February – Friday 8 March – Year 11 Mock Exams

Thursday 7 March – World Book Day and Walton High Big Read launch

Thursday 7 March – Year 8 Parents' Consultations

Tuesday 12 March – Careers Fair – Brooklands Campus

Wednesday 13 March – Year 8 Preferences Evening – Brooklands Campus

Thursday 14 March – Year 8 Preferences Evening – Walnut Tree Campus

Wednesday 20 March – Careers Fair – Walnut Tree Campus

Thursday 21 March – Year 9 Parents’ Consultations

Friday 22 March – The Big Read Readathon – both campuses

Monday 25 March – Year 10 Work Experience Information Evening – Brooklands Campus

Tuesday 26 March – Year 10 Work Experience Information Evening – Walnut Tree Campus

Thursday 28 March – Advanced Learning Day 2 and end of a busy half term.

Friendly reminders – all students should have their pencil case and diary in all lessons, showing they are ready to learn. If you have purchased new items of uniform over the break, please ensure everything is named; that makes it easier for staff at Student Services to return lost property. Girls may choose to wear trousers or skirts as per our uniform guidelines – leggings are not alternative school wear and must not be worn instead.

Thank you again for your support; and for the challenge if we are not getting something right. Communication between home and school is essential so if you have moved or changed your telephone number, please let us know through [feedback@mket.org.uk](mailto:feedback@mket.org.uk)

Kind regards

Andy Bennett – Brooklands Campus

Sharon Alexander – Walnut Tree Campus