



Walton Hall School

Issue 4

Walton Hall Summer News

Summer Term
2014

News update from Pauline Carmichael: Head of School

'Out of Special Measures!! Fantastic achievement for everyone.
Well we have all survived to the end of term and boy what a year it has been! We have had 2 inspections of our residential provision and 2 Ofsted monitoring visits for the school. Ofsted were satisfied on all occasions with the progress being made towards the areas they had identified for improvement. Since the last newsletter in the spring term we have had our final monitoring visit which was changed to a section 5 inspection. This involved a full inspection of both the residential provision and the school. As you will all be aware, the outcome was fantastic as we were deemed to have made sufficient progress to now take the school **'OUT OF SPECIAL MEASURES'**. This was a very emotional moment for everyone as Sue Morris King, HMI Ofsted Lead Inspector, read out the official statement to Leadership team, IEB and Local Authority representative. A well-deserved and hard earned outcome for everyone! This could only be achieved as the result of the consistent hard work and dedication of all the staff, Leadership team, IEB, Local Authority and of course, the pupils and parents who have also played their part in this process. This is really fantastic news for the school as we enter into our new partnership with Shaw Trust as part of the Shaw Education Trust together with Blackfriars and Coppice schools as a multi academy trust (SET MAT). We can now start the new academic year as a school making improvement and working towards 'Good' and 'Outstanding' status in all categories. This will build on the areas of Leadership and Behaviour which were already graded as 'Good'.
Staffing and Budget: This has been a really difficult year for all schools, but in particular special schools. The funding mechanism of the Local Authority for pupils accessing our schools was reviewed and a new funding formula has been applied. This has resulted in many special schools struggling to make the budget stretch to provide the same standard of support for our pupils. Many schools have had to go through a process of issuing notices of redundancies to staff - sadly we found ourselves in the unenviable position of having to do just this. Leadership were challenged to produce a core staffing structure which would enable us to provide a safe educational environment for our pupils. Unfortunately to enable us to work within the limits of the new budget we had to follow a rigorous selection process to identify staff we would have to lose and to enable staff to request voluntary redundancy. We were able to support some of the voluntary redundancy requests, but this will mean quite a few changes to the staffing structure in September. We will be saying goodbye to the following staff members: Jude Tilley (Bursar) who has been with the school for 25 years; Gloria Chase (HLTA); Di Greaves; Louise Hawley; Donna Blackman (TA's); Sylvia Fairbrother (Catering Manager); Chris Malpass (catering assistant and cleaner) and Shani Salter 1:1 TA, Ange Ward from Entrust Catering. **Continued on back page.**

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Three Staffordshire special schools to pioneer work opportunities for students through new trust

By [The Sentinel](#) | Posted: June 25, 2014 By KATHIE MCINNES

THREE schools are to join a new academies trust which will help transform work opportunities for special needs students as they move into adult life.

The plans will see pupils learn work-related skills through a range of community business ventures, such as running their own garden centre, Victorian-style cafe, school farm and stables. And as teenagers prepare to leave school, every family will be assigned an adviser to guide them through the options and follow their progress beyond the age of 19. It could include arranging six-month work placements to help them gain full-time jobs, setting up social groups to keep them in touch with their peers and teaching them independent living skills.

Newcastle's Blackfriars School and The Coppice School are teaming up with Walton Hall School, in Eccleshall, to become the founding schools in the mini-academies chain.

Each school is converting to academy status and will be overseen by the employment and skills charity, the Shaw Trust. Executive Headteacher Jim Kane, who oversees all three schools, said: "It is really exciting. It's about getting youngsters ready for life after school. "At the minute, they may go on to college, where they don't get the same level of support, and some end up at home doing nothing. " For some young people with severe disabilities or learning difficulties, the sort of employment they could go into may be an issue. But the important thing is to keep up their self-esteem.

"The three special schools, along with Blackfriars' further education base in Bucknall, cater for a total of 460 pupils. Post-16 students are already involved in several enterprises. But the expansive grounds at Walton Hall are set to become home to a series of student businesses in future. Mr Kane said: "Once of the ideas is a Victorian cafe, where our youngsters could practise catering and hospitality. We could open the site at weekends, with the public able to visit the school farm as well. "Another possibility is having an equestrian centre."

Dave Humphries is chairman of governors for the Blackfriars and Coppice federation and also sends his 17-year-old daughter Tasha to the further education base. The 47-year-old, from Red Street, said: "Tasha has got profound and multiple learning difficulties and has no communication." From a parent's point of view, you worry about what happens after further education. "But now the Shaw Trust has given us hope. It's opportunities like helping her with independent living."

Blackfriars pupil William Cooper has already set his sights on becoming a PE coach. The 15-year-old, from Scholar Green, will soon start training as a sports leader. He added: "I'm thinking of being a PE assistant and then growing my skills."

Fifteen-year-old Blackfriars pupil Laura Askey, from Kidsgrove, added: "I'd like to set up a little business looking after homeless animals. It's going to be good."



From left, pupils Laura Askey, Usamah Razwan and William Cooper, all aged 15, outside Blackfriars School, Newcastle. Picture: Mark Scott

GCKS5 and JDKS4 News!



Students from GCKS5 and JDKS4 spent four exhilarating days at the Calvert trust. This is a residential outdoor centre based in the Lake District.

The students had an amazing time experiencing many challenging activities such as: archery, bush craft

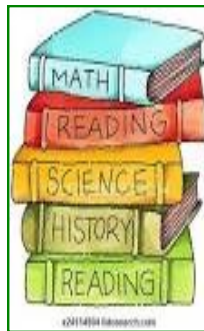
It provided many learning opportunities where the students worked as a team or an individual.



Walton Bake Off 2014



GCKS5 students: Hannah, Maisey and Donna have completed and achieved Jamie Oliver Skills Level 1 qualification. To demonstrate the skills and knowledge they have gained they participating in 'Walton Bake Off 2014' on Tuesday 29th April. This was judged by Mrs Carmichael and Mrs Harris. Hannah Parton was the overall winner, she made Chocolate chip cookies with the traditional crisp outside and gooey middle. Maisey Smith was recognised for the high level of technical skills required for making chocolate cup cakes and Donna Connor for the presentation of her lemon biscuits.



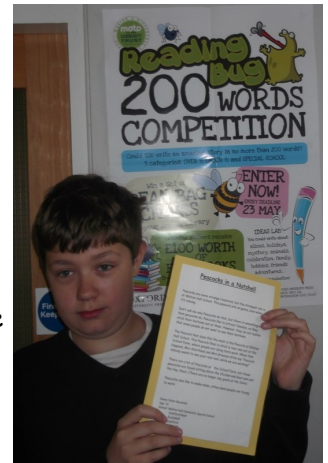
National 200 Words Competition Winner

Year 9 student Peter Reynolds entered the Reading Bug 200 words competition along with other students in Mrs Shortland's Key Stage 3 Literacy group. Peter's story 'Peacocks in a Nutshell', about the Walton Hall peacocks, came first in the national competition.

Sponsored by MOTO. As the winning author, Peter will receive £100 worth of books for himself and a set of Bean Bag Chairs for the school library.

Well done Peter!

Read this on page 9.



Year 9 had a Japanese Culture afternoon

All students participated in three activities- origami with James Thomas from Year 10, sushi tasting session and trying on Japanese costumes. (don't remember what they're called!) All students really enjoyed experience.





Shaw Trust becomes approved schools academy sponsor and forms Shaw Education Trust

Employment, learning and skills charity, Shaw Trust, is combining its expertise with some of the UK's leading educationalists to become an Approved Sponsor for Academies. To do so, it has created a multi-academy trust, entitled the Shaw Education Trust. The Shaw Education Trust will focus on supporting special schools and mainstream schools serving disadvantaged communities.

Three Staffordshire special schools have converted to become academies and will be the first schools to join Shaw Education Trust at the start of the next academic year.

The Shaw Education Trust's board¹ has appointed Mr Jim Kane as chief executive. Mr Kane is currently executive head teacher at Blackfriars Coppice Federation of Schools based in Newcastle-under-Lyme. Coppice school is judged by Ofsted to be good with outstanding features. Blackfriars is graded outstanding and is a National Support School and a Teaching School. During the last twelve months the Federation has been working with Walton Hall School in Eccleshall, which will also be joining the Trust.

By becoming an academy sponsor, Shaw Trust is continuing to realise its vision of a society where everyone has the opportunity for employment, inclusion and independence. In particular, the Shaw Education Trust aims to address the cliff edge when young people leave school with little or no support to help them in the next stage of their life - a more challenging problem for those with disabilities or living in disadvantaged communities.

The education trust and its schools will not only deliver a first class education to its students and play a lead role in the local communities it serves; its unique Student/School Agreement and graduation scheme will focus on smoothing the transition on leaving school.

Roy O'Shaughnessy, chief executive of Shaw Trust, said: "Becoming an approved academy sponsor is an exciting and logical extension to Shaw Trust's vision of society and the sense of purpose we bring to achieving it. By combining our three decades of employability expertise and with some of the UK's leading educationalists, this unique collaboration focuses on those with most need thereby making a real difference for those the charity was created to serve."

Jim Kane, chief executive of Shaw Education Trust, said: "The Shaw Education Trust is committed to delivering best-in-class tailored learning to ensure every young person at one of our schools has the opportunity and support to achieve their full potential - whatever their abilities and whatever their background. By offering work experience placements and dedicated advisers, a focus on bridging the gap between school and the outside world will give the young people we serve the best chances to go on to education, employment or training."

Shaw Education Trust, through the schools which join the Trust, will sign an agreement with every student and their family that guarantees they will receive an appropriate work experience placement, employability skills training and a personalised and graduation support programme to help bridge the gap after school life.

The Shaw Education Trust board consists of:

Clive Richards (Chairman) - Former Chief Executive of Rothschild Investment Trust and through his Clive Richards Charity, sponsors ten special schools in Herefordshire.

David Bateson - Currently the Executive Principal of Ash Field School and Assistive Technology Assessment Centre in Leicester.

Mike Hawker - Trustee of Shaw Trust and a non-executive director with Findel and the National Offenders Management Service.

John Norman - Trustee of Shaw Trust and former head of business continuity planning with BAA Airports Ltd.

Christine Quinn - Executive principal of Ninestiles academy and has had three headships within the Ninestiles Federation in the last five years.

Roy O'Shaughnessy - Chief Executive of Shaw Trust.

The board is supported by the following education experts:

Ann Berger - Member of Third Wave, Consultancy Company and a Lead Inspector for Special Schools.

Rob Briscoe - Lead Inspector for Special Schools and Primary expertise.

News from our Deputy Head - Mrs Cameron

Tall Ship Expedition. This year we held our expedition earlier in the season to capitalise on the better weather and we were in luck for once! 12 intrepid students set sail from Ipswich on the Queen Galadriel and covered a total of 169 miles around the south east coast. Highlights included a 17 hour sail through the night, a dash back from the coast against the tide in the rescue tender, climbing the rigging, learning to drive the rescue tender at full speed round the harbour and lots of sunny sailing, singing and learning new skills. The students were all wonderful and a credit to the school. A massive thank you to all the parents and staff who donated tinned food / meals and lots of wonderful cakes for the voyage. We ate well and this makes such a difference when you are cold and tired a long way from home. Its now a long haul to fund raise for the next voyage and parental support always welcome.

STOP PRESS! We have just heard that MOTO will be donating £2000 towards our next voyage. This is fantastic news and we would like to give them our heartfelt thanks for their continued support to our school which makes such a difference to our students!

Rabbits Galore. We have had a rather unplanned rabbit population explosion at the farm and we have some really beautiful baby rabbits available for adoption. We are looking for very good, knowledgeable homes with a good sized hutch and a grass run. we would like the rabbits to go in pairs if possible so they have company. We also have 2 guinea pigs who don't get on with the main group and we would like to rehome these. If you could offer a really good home for a rabbit or a guinea pig, please let Mrs Cameron know asap.

Pupils Celebrate 100% Attendance

Pupils who had achieved 100% attendance for two terms received certificates in assembly.

Over the last year, since a tracking system was introduced, both school attendance and the number of pupils with persistent ab-

sence has improved significantly.

Adrian Rawsthorne, our Education Welfare Officer is most supportive to the school and can be contacted through the Local Support Team on 01785 895136 if you have any questions regarding school attendance.



We have recently taken a group of 22 students to Blackpool Pleasure Beach for the day where we were all screaming for joy (and a little terror!) The weather held out for us but that didn't matter as we all got soaked on the water ride. At the end of our day we bumped into Jonathan Ross having his tea at McDonald's!

We have welcomed year 7 from the Coppice school to have a sleepover at our newly refurbished residential units and they had a fantastic time doing quad bikes, animation and a spot of gardening.

The next few months will be busy with our first Family Fun Day on the 5th July from 12-2pm!

With bouncy castles, bungee runs, BBQ, drinks stall, cakes, craft and many more...

The summer holidays are fast approaching with our two weeks of play-scheme 'Let's get physical!' and 'Lights, camera, action!' Students should have all received a letter if they have secured a place.



Nice flowers??? Year 7 have been doing their thing with the planter outside the Year 7 classroom and it is beginning to look very lush. We used the seeds from post 16 enterprises and have been waiting for the flowers to bloom. That was then, but this is the current news.

Since I began writing this article the Walton Hall School Peacock's have been using our plot as their personal fast food restaurant. They have eaten everything bar the heather!!! We must plan for this next year!!!! Any ideas anyone? NB It cannot involve any kind of animal/ bird demise.

Drama after School Club and Workshops

This term Mrs. Walker and staff have delivered a drama after school club, which has been extremely successful. Dependant on funding, we hope to continue with the club in the autumn term.

We provide a professional after school performing arts club for Key Stage 3, 4 and 5. The club runs for 90 minutes and includes a 30 minute warm up activity to enhance pupil's minds and bodies for the session ahead. The club increases pupil's confidence and develops life skills while they have fun and meet new friends.

Staff: All drama lessons are run by professionals who have been fully CRB checked. With industry experience in directing and acting, our teachers are experts in their chosen field.

The Finale: At the end of every 10 weeks the pupils will be able to perform an end of term show for all parents, teachers and all school pupils to view. This term they wrote and performed a mini-play called Aliens, Monsters and Fairy tale Creatures in front of members of staff, parents and carers.

WALTON HALL SCHOOL HOLIDAY LIST 2014/15

AUTUMN TERM 2014

School Opens	Wednesday 3 rd September 2014
Half Term	Monday 27 th October 2014 to Friday 31 st October 2014 Inclusive
School Closes	Friday 19 th December 2014

SPRING TERM 2015

School Opens	Monday 5 th January 2015
Half Term	Monday 16 th February 2015 to Friday 20 th February 2015 Inclusive
School Closes	Wednesday 1 st April 2015

SUMMER TERM 2015

School Opens	Monday 20 th April 2015
Bank Holiday	Monday 4 th May 2015
Half Term	Monday 25 th May 2015 to Friday 29 th May 2015 Inclusive
School Opens	Monday 1 st June 2015
School Closes	Friday 17 th July 2015

In service Training Days for Staff

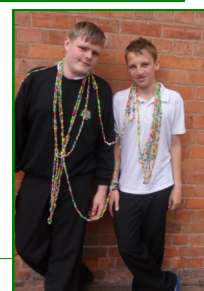
Monday 1 st September 2014
Tuesday 2 nd September 2014
Thursday 2 nd April 2015
Thursday 16 th April and Friday 17 th April 2015 to be taken as twilight session i.e. 6 x 2hr sessions



Please contact school office if you require a school uniform order form.



The longest Loom Band?



Coming soon - online payments system at Walton Hall

Walton Hall is to introduce an online payment system which will enable parents to make payments for school dinners, school trips and cookery lessons quickly and easily. In addition to making online payments there will also be the facility for parents to make payments in local shops at a PayPoint.



We will be using ParentPay, the leading online payment provider, currently used in thousands of schools across the country. The school will ensure that parents are fully prepared for the introduction of the new system. Look out for more information during the Autumn term.

Leavers Gallery



Oh
Gloria!
What
are you
like!



Second star to the right and straight on 'til morning". - J.M. Barrie

Little Laura

**Walton Hall
School Mufti Day
Friday 18th July
2014**

Girls wear your sparkly pink clothes and boys whatever you like but brighter the better and donate a £1.



All funds raised will be donated to Marshlands Special School, Riding for the disabled (RDA) and, Midlands Air



Laura started work full time as a teaching assistant at Marshlands Special School in Stafford in January 2012 and adored her job. She set up a reading group in her lunch breaks for the children, which proved successful. She also volunteered on Wednesday evenings at RDA (riding for the disabled) at Ingestre Stables and had done since 2010. Laura loved learning sign language and kept the family amused with her new signing to songs!

RDA Open Day

On Monday 7th July Mrs. Dunn's class, together with students from Mrs. Chase's, Mrs Notman's and Mrs Medway's classes went to the RDA Open Day at Ingestre.

The students all had a fantastic time and showed what they had learned during the year at their riding lessons.



Medals are deserved and well received. A very proud Sam!

Peacocks in a Nutshell By Peter Reynolds

Peacocks are some strange creatures, but the strangest one is at Walton Hall School. This peacock sits on gates, even when it's raining.

Don't ask me why Peacocks do that, but there is something else that peacocks do. Peacocks like to attract females, so they stick their bottoms out at them. However, they do not realise that some people do not want to see their bottoms.

The Peacock that does this the most is the Peacock at Walton Hall School. This Peacock likes to stick his rear end out at the school farm, where people are doing farm work. When that happens, Mrs Shortland and Mrs Greaves often say "Peacock, nobody wants to see your rear end, while we are working!"

There are a lot of Peacocks on the School Farm, but those peacocks are found sitting above the Chicken and Goat pen and the Hay Shed. (There are no longer any goats at the farm)

Peacocks also like to make noise, often when people are trying to work.

Walton Hall School

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and Independence**

MESSAGE FROM THE IEB (Interim Executive Board)

It never ceases to amaze us how much is going on for the students of Walton Hall School- in addition to lessons, that is (scarecrows, cars, ships, plays, music...we could go on). The IEB is especially pleased to see more community links being forged and hopes to see even more in future: Eccleshall and surrounding areas would be fascinated and surprised to know about all the positive changes here.

The staff needed to have endless energy to support all of this and to prepare for this term's HMI visit.

We wish the school every success in the coming year.

Sally Osborne-Town; Liz Pohl; Dave Humphries; Richard Redgate

Important Date to Remember!!!!

The school closes to pupils - 18th July and opens
Wednesday 3rd 2014

We hope that everybody has a fantastic summer holiday and comes back rested and ready for a very exciting first year as a Multi Academy Trust.

News update from Pauline Carmichael - Continued....

I am sure you would all like to join me in thanking all of these staff for their valuable contributions over the years to Walton Hall School and wish them well for their futures.

In addition to these staff members we also say goodbye to Jacky Medway and Andy Guest who are both going to pursue careers outside of teaching. Both staff have provided valuable input to the education of your children and will be missed by us all.

We have had excellent support from Mark Poyner and Amrik Khera who have worked mainly with Ks4 pupils. Even though they are agency staff, they have worked consistently alongside our staff providing excellent learning opportunities for our pupils. They have both been part of the team who have helped us move out of 'special measures'. I would personally like to thank them both for their valued input; they will be greatly missed by staff and pupils alike.

Mr Spilsbury, an agency teacher, has delivered the maths and science curriculum since October 2013. I am thrilled to be able to inform you that he will now be joining the Walton Hall team as a permanent staff member from September.

We would also like to welcome Mrs Sam Hatton to the Walton Hall staff team. She is a very skilled and experienced teacher who will be supporting a group of pupils in our KS5 college provision.

I hope you will join me in thanking all of the staff for their continued hard work both in the classroom and providing many enrichment and extracurricular opportunities for our pupils.

Also wishing them a very relaxing summer holiday and we look forward to welcoming them back revitalised for the new academic year.

Thank you for all for your continued support. I hope we can start to expand our group of enthusiastic parents to extend the range of essential, additional support that you can provide for the school. I am excited that I will be able to continue working with you all and look forward to moving Walton Hall School 'onward and upward!' in the new academic year.

Pauline A Carmichael