



# WALTON HALL ACADEMY

Winter 2014

Happy Christmas...  
To one and all!



## Headlines from Pauline Carmichael: Head of Walton Hall Academy.

Well we are at the end of our first term as Walton Hall Academy – and what a whirlwind term it has been! We marked the launch of the Academy Trust with a great event, many parents and visitors joining with us for a wonderful afternoon of entertainment by the school choir. The students placed all of the amazing artefacts they had produced within the time capsule. Parents were very excited about the future plans for vocational opportunities for our students and the compact agreement. Following the burial of the time capsule students returned to class for an afternoon of party food and games and the parents and guests to the Old Hall for a buffet.

This provided an opportunity for parents to ask further questions of Shaw Trust representatives, Tom Crompton and Gavin Lawrie. The first of the Enterprise opportunities is being launched on 19<sup>th</sup> December with the opening of a Shaw Trust Charity Shop in Longton. The ribbon will be cut at 10am! In addition to this another shop in Tunstall with some light manufacturing opportunities will open early in the New Year and on Walton Hall site a horticulture enterprise in late spring.  
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It is great to have so many parents who are keen to become involved in the life of the school. This is something I would like to develop in the future to

harness this growing enthusiasm and grow the number of parents we have supporting and promoting the work of the school in a positive way. We also continue to have monthly informal parents meetings where outside speakers are invited and opportunities for parents to network and share experiences. If you are interested in **volunteering** or have skills you would like to share with us please do not hesitate to contact school. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and to wish you and your family a happy and peaceful festive season and all the very best for 2015.  
Pauline A Carmichael

- Special Points of Interest:**
- Biomass Boiler
  - Goodwood 2014
  - Garden
  - Community Links
  - Enrichment
  - Poetry by Suzanne

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*Pauline A Carmichael*

### Community Links

In addition to links with Holy Trinity Church, Mrs Cameron has continued to develop further links with local business, schools and community groups. Moto presented the school with a large stock of new reading and reference books. They also pre-

sented a cheque for £2000 for the next tall ship expedition. A notice board has been erected for the use of Walton Hall in their foyer. Moto Service Station, North of Stafford, will be sponsoring the race team in future. Mandy has met with James Watts of J W

Racing who has agreed to offer engineering services for the race team and work experience placements. Links with Rugeley Power Station have secured a free 6 week science programme delivery around energy and a free 12 week forest school training

supporting PE and sports coaching. Two terms of football coaching has also been secured from Stafford town FC which is great news.





## Goodwood 2014 Greenpower International Finals

It has been an extremely busy first term back for us but in Motor Vehicle Technology we've been racing ahead. As you all know we, at Walton Hall Academy, have our own Greenpower electric race kart, powered by two deep cycle 12 volt batteries similar to those found in a large car.

Not long before the summer holidays we entered the car into a race at Rockingham Raceway and did very well finishing 6<sup>th</sup>. This would not have been possible without our experienced drivers and pit crew from school. After

the Summer Holidays we were able to enter our kart into a race at the famous old course of Aintree at Liverpool. We had our best ever finish here being placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the first race and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the second race. Fantastic!

With this and the previous result we qualified for the International

Final to be held at the prestigious Goodwood circuit. This is truly an international event with teams not only coming from all of the four corners of the United Kingdom but from all over Europe, USA, and South Africa. So the pressure ramped up! We had to strip, make new parts, service and rebuild the car in just two weeks. We travelled to the South Coast, booked the kart in and had it passed through scrutineering. We then went off to stay in some top class holiday caravans overnight so we could be at the racetrack early on Sunday morning.

### By Jon Cook

Sunday, the race day, we arrived at the course nice and early giving us plenty of time to unload everything from our trailer. The car, tools, batteries, chairs, food (a big thank you to Mrs Scott and Mrs Carmichael) and the PPE... all done in time for the drivers and pit crews to attend the safety

**"We had to strip, make new parts, service and rebuild the car in just two weeks."**

briefing before the race. Our practice laps went smoothly and soon it was time for the Team Parade. Before the racing started all of the cars are pushed along the pit lane and straight and over the finishing line by their teams. It was quite a sight with nearly 100 cars and over 1500 stu-



dents proudly parading their hard work in front of the crowds.



### We managed to take the chequered flag in 59<sup>th</sup> position at the end of the second race.

Then it was time for the first race to begin. We had changed batteries, strapped the driver firmly into the car and a pit crew member walked the kart out onto the starting grid. 88 karts set off to do as many miles as they could in an hour and half of racing. The flag dropped on each row of cars, and we got a good helping push start. We completed our two mandatory pit stops to change drivers during the race, these are quite tricky and during

one of these stops the straps on our four point safety harness snags causing us to lose a lot of time. After lunch we lined up for race two and managed to complete the race in 57<sup>th</sup> position. At the end of the day all of the drivers and pit crews had worked really hard to bring their karts over the finish line, we managed to take the chequered flag in 59<sup>th</sup> position at the end of the second race.

This was a brilliant result for our team, all those involved in getting the car here over the past few years and the school. We would like to send a big thank you out to Mrs Cameron and Mrs Carmichael (who incidentally not only came to this years International Final but last years as well and to several races in between). Finally we would like to thank Michael Harris from GAP who came along to support and assist us in an engineering capacity.



## Enrichment Activities

There has been a rich and varied range of enrichment opportunities provided to enhance the curriculum. To support performing arts and drama, students have been to theatre trips to see The Borrowers, Dick Whittington and to Blackfriars FE to see the Post 16 students perform Oliver Twist. As part of KS3 Literacy, a visit to Harry Potter World to gain a greater understanding of the use of props and scenery.

A group of students supported by staff attended a training programme alongside mainstream school students at Darwin Academy. The focus of this was an **Anti-Bullying Ambassador Programme**. They are now forming a pro-active group against bullying in school supported by our behaviour manager, Lloyd Gravell.

**One world week:** staff supported students to produce a stunning window display in the library on Eccleshall High Street. This was done in collaboration with Rev James Graham in Eccleshall. This will help to raise the profile of the school and an awareness of the progress the school is making.

**Work experience:** Annette Axon TA is working closely with Tina Stanlake to establish new links for placements for our Post 16 students. So far this term we have had 10 students accessing placements both external and in-house placements in the kitchen and classrooms and with the maintenance team and with the IT technician as well as local retail outlets, nursery schools, garage and repair workshops and hospitality.

## Alter Ego's theatre production of 'Chelsea's Choice'

We had a return visit of **Alter Ego's theatre production of 'Chelsea's Choice'** which is an innovative and powerful production highlighting the very serious and emotional issue of child sexual exploitation. The production shows how young people, boys and girls, are groomed by adults for the purposes of sexual ex-

...an innovative and powerful production highlighting the very serious and emotional issue of child sexual exploitation.

ploitation using various methods, ensnaring young people and eventually taking complete control and dominating their whole lives. The audience of Yr 8, Yr 9, Ks4 and

Ks5 students gained a better understanding of the devastating impact that sexual exploitation has on a young person's life. This was a very useful and innovative way of raising awareness of the issues relating to sexual exploitation and reaching our students, giving them some skills and knowledge to be able to protect themselves from this form of abuse.

A **travel training programme**, in partnership with transportation department Tipping Street: students are being identified to be part of this programme which will provide valuable experience within their home environment to support independent travel.



**Aiming High**  
Relax kids and Drama club start in the **second week** back. Don't forget to complete the application forms as they are going to be very popular!

**Fund raising events:**  
Children in need raised over £100: the theme for the day was mufti day and Spots! £337.26 was raised. Macmillan coffee afternoon: this was organised by Mrs Yvonne Scott one of our parents. This was an amazing event which involved every student and staff member in the school. £105.21 raised for Little Laura in memory of a TA from Marshlands school who supported transitions, who was tragically killed. Over £50 for Happy Days charity who sponsored us for a PSHE themed drama workshop – Wear a hat to work and be happy!  
The Poppy Appeal raised £47.





## **Calling all Volunteers:**

We have a steady flow of volunteers and students on placement from a range of providers, eg Telford College – FE teacher training; Dance psychotherapy; music, textiles, admin, catering, football and coaching. Included in these are 4 parent volunteers who support in a range of activities and enhance the learning opportunities for our students and enable them to gain valuable experience by working alongside our dedicated staff. We have found a real gem in Anne Bugge who provides additional support for our admin team

and acts as hostess for meetings providing refreshments. This has been a real bonus. If you are interested in volunteering or have skills you would like to share with us please do not hesitate to contact school.



**Parent Pay:** the ground work for this was completed by Anne Tilly TA, as part of a business management course she is completing for her own professional development. This has been fully embraced by most parents. This will hopefully reduce the amount of time taken by admin staff to complete banking and also ensure we don't have large sums of money on the school premises.

## **Harvest collection for the House of Bread.**

Our gifts were received with sincere thanks from this very worthy cause. A big thank you to all who sent in contributions.



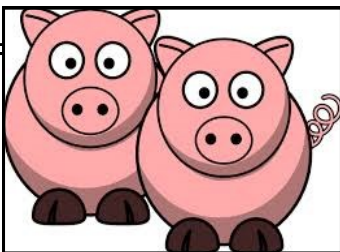
## **Welcome to Year 7**

Year 7 led the assembly on November 19th. As the newest intake they decided that the theme should be about what they would like to achieve during their time at Walton Hall Academy in readiness for **The Big Wide World**. Each student shared their hopes for the future but



unfortunately we 'forgot' to ask Thomas Brackley. Being Thomas though, he quickly reminded us of this and then informed us that he was going to be a singer and perform with Katy Perry. As luck would have it, she made a surprise appearance and Thomas completely stole the show with his rendition of 'Fireworks'.

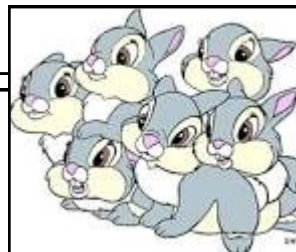
## **Farm News**



Our two piglets, Peppa and Spot are growing rapidly and becoming really tame. They will be kept for teaching purposes and so have a home for life. They love fruit and

vegetables so if anyone has any windfalls, waste vegetables or trimmings – please send into school as the pigs will enjoy them immensely.

We also have 2 male rabbits that need good homes. They must



have hutch and a run and need to be separated or neutered and put with a female.

Again – we have lots of rabbits and degus who would welcome the odd carrot – send in anytime



## **The James Cadman ‘Magical garden’:**

The Staffordshire Alliance in partnership with an army of Net Work Rail volunteers worked tirelessly to re-vamp a very run down garden area to provide us with an amazing paved area with numerous raised beds. They also renovated the accessible path to the garden and pond area. We had the official opening of this



area on 17<sup>th</sup> October. This was attended by Staffordshire Alliance representatives, Network Rail representative, a group of volunteers who worked on the project and Shaw Trust representatives. The school choir serenaded us and the students who had won and came runner up to the naming

competition were presented with £100 and £50 respectively from Staffordshire Alliance. The plaque was unveiled to reveal the name of the garden ‘James Cadman Magical Garden’. The Alliance will continue to be involved with improvement projects around the school grounds.



## **Children celebrate npower and council funded Biomass Boiler by becoming Green Graduates**

A new biomass boiler funded by npower has been formally unveiled at Walton Hall Academy. The event has been celebrated with pupils taking part in the energy supplier’s award-winning ‘Climate Cops Academy’.

The new biomass boiler – which costs around £210,000 funded by npower juice fund– will mean that 80% of the heating and hot water will be generated by burning wood pellets, providing the academy with around 30 years of low carbon electricity.

Pauline Carmichael, Headteacher of Walton Hall Academy said, “Before receiving our new boiler we relied entirely on an expensive oil-fired system, so we’re extremely grateful for our new biomass boiler. Not only does it help to reduce our costs, but it also helps to lower our carbon foot-



They were tasked with generating electricity with body movement, using a thermal imaging camera to see the effects of insulation and, most importantly, making their Climate Cops pledge to help the environment.. Attending the event was special guests Stone MP Sir William Cash, Shaw Education Trust CEO Jim Kane, and Head of Domestic Policy and Obligations for npower Matthew Cole.

Matthew said, “I’m extremely proud that the npower Juice fund covered 90% of the cost of this boiler. It’s been very enjoyable working with Walton Hall Academy and it’s brilliant to see their plans for improving the school environment and saving carbon emissions come together – and to see the children enjoy Climate Cops was a great way to round off this project.”



Meanwhile, pupils aged between 11 and 14 learned about saving energy in a fun and interactive way by participating in a Climate Cops Academy, helping the school to go even further in lowering their carbon footprint.



## Winter 2014

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**We are on the WEB**

## Useful telephone contact numbers:

I am aware that parents have been having difficulties contacting staff once the phone system goes onto night service after school has closed.

Here are some of the extension numbers of staff and areas of the school you may need to contact. Once the answer machine message starts dial the extension number you need:

Gainsborough Floor Duty room: 317  
Goldstone House Office: 313  
Goldstone House Kitchen: 308  
Pauline Carmichael, Head of Academy: 305  
Amanda Cameron, Deputy Head: 302  
Suzanne Terry, Head of Care: 316

**Biomass Boiler continued:** Staffordshire County Council worked with both Walton Hall Academy and the Shaw Trust to secure the remaining funds for the boiler and Councillor Gill Heath, Cabinet Member for Environmental and Rural Issues, said, "Cutting back on energy usage, reducing energy costs and reducing carbon emissions remains one of the County Council's priorities. We have lots of energy saving schemes running across many of our Council departments helping us to achieve this – so not only are projects like these good for the environment, but they are also for good for local tax payers too."

Since its creation, the npower Juice fund has spent more than £600,000 on micro generation projects, including funding another Biomass Boiler at Whittington School, in conjunction with Staffordshire County Council. In addition, over 700 children across the country have also participated in Climate Cops events through Juice funded micro generation installations in schools.

Children can visit [npower.com/climatecops](http://npower.com/climatecops) for interactive games and downloadable activities while teachers can visit [npower.com/education](http://npower.com/education) to order free Climate Cops teaching resources for 4-14 year olds, designed to help bring sustainable development, science, geography and citizenship lessons to life.

## Students congratulated for excellent attendance!



At the end of year assembly, 12 pupils received certificates for at least 99% attendance for the academic



Four pupils had achieved 100% attendance for the academic year 2013-2014. These pupils were presented with a multi-store gift card.

## Six Little Piglets Visit Residence

by Suzanne Terry

Whilst cooking our tea in Shugborough one night,  
We heard a noise that gave us a fright!

The back door was open, the air was warm,  
Clouds were gathering, ready for a storm.

James Thomas was stirring a delicious stew,  
Made of carrots, peas and "tatties" too,  
When all of a sudden there was a strange sound,  
And the clatter of trotters upon the ground.

Matty and Joe gave a puzzled look,  
And poor old Les dropped his cookery book,  
When in through the door trotted six little pigs,  
Looking for dinner and admiring our digs,  
Get out! Get out! Jenny did cry  
Not a chance! grunted the pigs in a pig like reply.

The kitchen was chaos with pots and pans  
And six little pigs with dinner plans!  
When all of a sudden someone got tough  
Rolled up their sleeves shouting "enough is enough!"  
Those six little pigs were shoed to the door  
Slipping and skidding on Shugborough clean floor!

Come on! Squealed the pigs its time to go!  
"Lets up end the bin to add to our show!"  
And off they went with a grunt from their snout  
Saying - Honestly! I don't know what all the fuss is about!!