



Walton Hall News



Walton Hall Summer Spectacular



Summer 2013

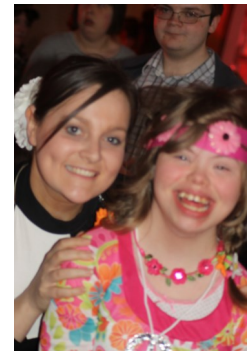
A Message from Kate.

WOW! What can I say? The show was such a success. All pupils and staff worked extremely hard to create such an amazing show. From the wonderful feedback received from the staff, who came to support us on the night, family and friends, all the hard work was worth it. I want to say a massive

thanks to everyone involved! It is a lovely way to end the year and once more sets the standards for the next show. Watch this space!!!!

The show itself was one of variety. This enabled the students to display their many talents. These ranged from playing musical instruments, singing, dancing and the most difficult one - comedy. Steven Collings had

the audience in stitches, as did many of our young performers, sometimes quite unintentionally! It was lovely and so very funny when Sam Simpkin waved and shouted, "hello dad" in the middle of his routine. These moments are simply priceless.



Special points of interest:

- Summer Spectacular
- Arts week
- Life in School

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Reading books presented to school by Moto Services

Gavin Sanders—Manager from Moto wrote:

Thank you for allowing us to present the books at your assembly and for allowing us to be part of it. It was a fantastic opportunity for us, and it was amazing to see how much you clearly appreciated the books. Everyone that we met yesterday was extremely friendly and

welcoming, and for that we are really grateful.

We are very lucky to be one of MOTO's chosen charities. They have been very supportive of us as a school.

The children really enjoy good quality books on their reading journeys.





Year 7 have proved themselves to be excellent WHS ambassadors this year. They ensured that our new Year 7 students were made very welcome when they spent a transition day with us in June. A special thank you to Will and Kyle who excelled themselves throughout the whole day.



Communication Group 2 News

Throughout the year our class have been working towards independently running their own breakfast club making toast, drinks and waiting on they have done extremely well.

KS4 Communication Group News

May the force be with you..

Year 9 are currently studying forces in science and have been challenged to design a racing car using their understanding of aerodynamics. Jon Cook, our specialist motor vehicle instructor will be selecting the winning design and who knows – we may just go into production..... their science teacher, Mrs Cameron, says some very good designs have been generated.

School Life

The highlight for **Year 8** has been to put together all of their drama training over the year into creating their own play entitled Princess Hilda and performing in front of a packed out audience at the gatehouse. They were all brilliant!

The pupils were able to use their forensic science skills to solve a very bloody crime scene. We all feel much safer knowing that they are here to make sure wrong doers are brought to justice.



Year 8 honing their thespian skills during a school assembly

We have been learning about growing plants in science. We have carried out experiments about what happens if you deprive plants of light and water when they are growing. We are now growing sunflowers, peas and beans on the decking outside our classroom.



Wow! Fantastic! Amazing! Unbelievable!

What an amazing night – such skills, abilities and talents – both staff and students. I know how much work, planning and effort goes in to making events like this evolve from the ideas stage to the actual performance. This was Walton Hall at it's best. Well done. I had an wonderful evening, thank you!!!

Pauline

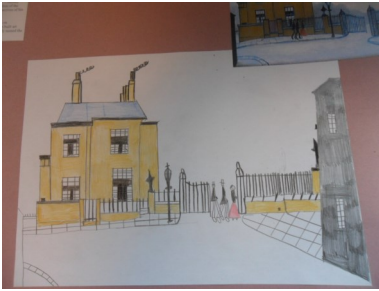
(On the Summer Spectacular)

Sail Away on the Tall Ships

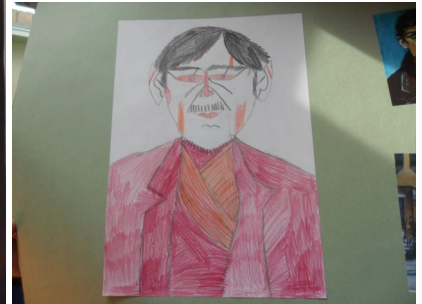
After a break of a couple of years, the Tall Ship Expedition will be taking place this September and 12 carefully selected students will have the opportunity to spend 8 days sail training aboard the Queen Galadriel. The expedition, led by Mrs Cameron, is a fantastic opportunity to develop team working skills and independence not to mention achieving the competent crew sailing award. Weather and tide permitting, the voyage may be across the channel to France or Jersey, but is guaranteed to be challenging and exciting.

Living, sleeping and working aboard the ship is unlike anything the students will have experienced previously. They cook, clean and can be sailing for up to 14 hours per day – sometimes through the night, if necessary to reach their destination. With no TV, computers or electronic games, its good old fashioned entertainment in the evening, music, story telling, cards and charades. Mrs Cameron and Mr Eaglesome who have many years' experience of sail training with our students, will be joined by Mr Luff and Mrs Evans for this voyage. Look out for fundraising events to support this venture.

Year 10 have Talent



Year 10 have studied the work of LS Lowry and produced a range of Industrial Landscapes inspired by the artist. They also enjoyed creating Pop Art inspired by Andy Warhol. All Y10 have also achieved accreditation in Maths, English, Humanities

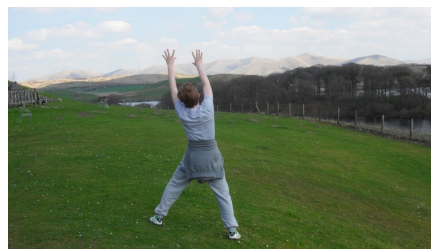


This term Post 16 students have been very busy completing coursework assignments in a range of vocational subjects. The students have applied themselves well and tried extremely hard in their Functional Skills English and Maths assessments and examinations and we are extremely proud of them and their efforts. Throughout the term some students have been out on work experience and others have been planning their next steps for their future careers and college courses. For the first time ever this year, many students have completed a BTEC Level 1 Award in Jamie's Home Cooking Skills and are now confident in preparing a range of meals and dishes!

Gloria's group have participated in a residential trip to the Calvert Trust in Cumbria,

enjoying a range of outdoor adventurous activities including canoeing, rock climbing, archery and horse riding. All students excelled and thoroughly enjoyed the experience gaining a lot of confidence and personal and social development.

We are all looking forward to an exciting new academic year with new students, new opportunities and new challenges!



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60's Day

Mrs Lowndes our very talented PPA cover HLTA organised a 1960's Day to raise money to hire dance mats for a day (Last time was great fun!) The rest of the money went towards a Y11 summer trip.



**Year 7 are....
Cool!
Cool!
Cool!
Cool!**

Media and Music Technology

Walton Hall Community Special School Newsletter:

Music Technology:

Both the Key stage 4 and key stage 5 are coming to the end of their courses gaining accreditations in NCFE Introductory Award in Music Technology and NCFE Award in Music Technology respectively. The courses enabled all the pupils to learn how to use a recording studio and record a multi-track piece of music. The pupils have gained multiple skills over the year including, microphone selection and technique, using a mixing desk effectively and accessing recording software. The Key Stage 5 students have

furthered their knowledge in creating live sound for the School of Rock – The Majestic Sirs and successfully using their recording knowledge to record the live sound they created.



Media

Congratulations to students who passed their music and drama NFCE awards this term. This course has enabled the students to access digital cameras, download the images and manipulate them for a specific poster design. The students have learnt basic editing techniques in our recording studio and have created short films to accompany a piece of music recorded by The Majestic Sirs, School of Rock Band.

Arts Week 2013

June 2013 saw our Arts Week concentrate around the theme of COMMUNICATION. The week was full of local artists, musicians and performers. This year also saw some of our artistic teachers lead workshops in music, art, drama and dance. Some of the highlights of the week were the visit from Steve Mitchel who managed to engage all the age ranges throughout the school bringing home the power of music making it available to all. Tom Doughty a disabled professional singer/songwriter inspired the children to partake in creating music.

Year 10 pupils showed great enthusiasm for the drama workshop and really excelled throughout. Who could forget the uninvited dark knight Kevin the Bat who decided he wanted to partake in the Arts Week closing assembly?

Megan Stones (Year 7) came third in the fashion show for communicating that we are harming our world by our increasing use of plastics.



School Dinners—A New System

This year has seen the trialing of a ticketing system so that all pupils have the same opportunity to choose from the entire menu. It has been working very well and is currently being used by class from Y9 up. Pat our head cook has said that this also makes it easier for her to plan quantities but asks that properly printed and laminated tickets are used.



The Communication Goups, Year 7 and Year 8 still come to the hatch without tickets as there is always plenty of choice.



We have three options to choose from as well as a well stocked salad bar.

Motor Vehicle Technology Centre at Walton Hall School.



We have a wide range of activities that the students can take part in. These include light fabrication, building and racing a battery powered kit car, learning to ride, service and repair the motorcycles or quads.

We have a well equipped workshop which students use under supervision and a good selection of motorbikes and quads suitable for all ages and sizes.



We encourage fun (we all need it) and safety at all times, they both go hand in hand.

As a part of learning to ride at Walton Hall students are taught how to carry out basic maintenance and the meaning of road signs. Each student is shown the controls and how they work, then fitted out with safety gear. Only when they are familiar with everything are they allowed to go for a ride. We ride in the school grounds making use of the junctions and the road signs which helps to build confidence, self awareness and awareness of other road users. Weather permitting we move onto our own specially prepared woodland tracks.



Aiming High

This year, so far, we have had three very successful trips;

Sleep Airfield Military Open Day where students looked around military vehicles, engines and had the chance to sit in a light aircraft

Blackpool Pleasure Beach was an exciting, action packed day going on all the rides.

Conker's Discovery centre where students went on the assault course, a barefoot walk and made a fire in the woods to toast marshmallows on.



We have plenty more activities planned for the rest of the year including the summer holidays, if you have an enquiries regarding the Aiming High for Disabled Children agenda please contact Helen McCarthy at school or on hmccarthy@waltonhallschool.net



Residence

A busy term in Residence saw us creating and performing our first ever 'Production' called '4DTV'. Students from each night collaborated to produce a fabulous piece of multimedia, where students stepped through the latest Sangy Singy Song TV into the world of television. Great performances from all those involved and great fun was had by all. Congratulations to all involved.

Residence also welcomed some students from Saxon Hill one evening who came for some summer sun and barbecue food. This is the second year we have enjoyed their



Fun and Games

company and we look forward to seeing them again soon.

A big thank you to all those students who have come to Residence this year and a warm farewell to those leaving for pastures new. We will miss you and keep happy memories of our times together.

Best Wishes from the Residential Team

Walton Hall School

Address: Stafford Road,
Eccleshall,
Staffordshire,
ST21 6JR

Phone: 01785 850420
Fax: | Fax: 01785 850225 |
Email: office@waltonhall.staffs.sch.uk



Confidence, Competence and Independence

<http://www.waltonhallschool.net/>
Go to the Website for all the latest news, reports and dates etc.

Term Dates

AUTUMN TERM 2013

School Opens Wednesday 4th September 2013

School Closes Thursday 24th October 2013

Half Term Monday 28th October 2013 to Friday 1st November 2013 Inclusive

School Closes Friday 20th December 2013

SPRING TERM 2014

School Opens Monday 6th January 2014

Half Term Monday 17th February 2014 to Friday 21st February 2014 Inclusive

School Closes Friday 11th April 2014

SUMMER TERM 2014

School Opens Monday 28th April 2014

Bank Holiday Monday 5th May 2014

Half Term Monday 26th May 2014 to Friday 30th May 2014

School Opens Tuesday 3rd June 2014

School Closes Friday 18th July 2014

In Service Training Days for Staff

Monday 2nd September 2013

Tuesday 3rd September 2013

Friday 25th October 2013

Monday 2nd June 2014

Monday 21st July 2014 (to be taken during 3 x 2 hour twilight sessions)

Walton Hall, situated in Staffordshire is an attractive 19th Century Grade II listed building surrounded by parkland which was originally built around 1848 for Henry Killick, High Sheriff of Staffordshire.

It was later occupied by James Cadman DSC (1828-1947) a coal mining engineer, and brother of Baron Cadman and who was High Sheriff in 1933 and Deputy Lieutenant.

Later obtained by Staffordshire County Council, Walton Hall is now a special school providing education to pupils with disabilities and learning difficulties aged between eleven and nineteen years.

The school has extensive facilities including motor-vehicle technology workshops, music technology suites, a recording studio, a conservation area and a farm with many animals.

The residential units are situated in two buildings placed within the grounds. All pupils are encouraged to spend time in residence to widen their horizons and enjoy socialising with their peers.

Attendance tracking

Following a recent attendance inspection we have been advised by our Education Welfare Officer to use an attendance tracking system from September. Colours red, amber and green are used to highlight the level of attendance. This works as a colour coded system and is used by most schools in the Staffordshire area. It is used not only to track pupils who have regular absences from school but also congratulates pupils with attendance (over 95%). This will be done by letter when a certain level of absence is reached.

Our aim is to improve attendance in our school as evidence shows attendance does affect a child's learning and attainment. There will be more information about this in the new term.

Parent Support and Information

Autistic Spectrum Disorder

Contact details for Midlands Psychology: Sue Shaw on 01543 417139 or e-mailing her at sue.shaw@midlandspsychology.co.uk

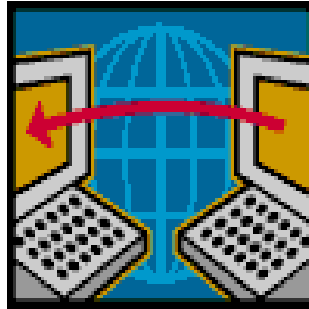
Coffee Mornings

The School will reintroduce parents coffee mornings at 9.15am on the last Friday of every month following assembly. The next date is Friday 27th September 2013 This first meeting will be to share information and will be your opportunity to put forward ideas for future meetings.

Opening Up Communication

Parents have been asked to provide e-mail addresses so that school can send important information

and letters directly to home—no more lost letters in the bottom of bags! Please complete the data request form a.s.a.p. if you have not done so.



Walton Hall School has always had an Open Door Policy.

Don't wait for parents evenings!

If you want to discuss anything with staff, please feel free. Just phone first to check whether the person you wish to speak to is available or just arrange a mutually convenient time.



Support groups and Activities

Stafford Branch: National Autistic Society

Hi Everyone

Just a reminder about our support groups for July. Our evening support group is now in Stafford at Rising Brook Fire Station and our daytime meeting is Tuesday July 16th 2013 at 11am at the Barley Mow Pub, Milford, Stafford and Midlands Psychology and Victoria Clowes Holistic Therapist will be joining us.

Mandy

Mandy Binns
Branch Officer
07789032153

Sarah Binks
Activity Leader
07760 891 699

stafford@nas.org.uk

Facebook: Nas Stafford Branch



JUNE 2013 NEWS

New website goes live

Our new website has just been launched! It has lots of new information on it regarding Playground sessions and forthcoming events. Please visit us at www.specialadventureplayground.co.uk to see our new look site and check back regularly to keep up-to-date with our news.

You can also 'Like' us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

New policy documents will be available to read on the school website.



Water Dispensers As from September the school will be reducing the number of water dispensers from every class and will be putting the dispensers in key areas around the site. If they wish, students can bring a water bottle into school so they can fill them up to use throughout the day. Alternatively each class will be given a set of plastic cups and a jug.

Music Music Music

This term 10 students have been involved with an exciting project involving the British Police Symphony Orchestra and the Gladstone Pottery Museum. Already we have had 2 sessions with players from the orchestra and a composer called Ellie Davies together with a visit from the Police Commissioner for Staffordshire. These sessions are leading towards an exciting day on July 13 when our students come together with the orchestra at Ingestre Hall, Stafford to play and record this new composition .

The composition has been written especially by Ellie, focusing on the sounds and activities produced by the Gladstone Pottery factory. This will then be used to celebrate Gladstone Pottery's National Week in September this year. Our students will be performing alongside the orchestra and are also having an input into the composition. Students involved are Zakk Goldstraw, Jessica Willetts, Corey, Jason Cook, Ellie Wharton, James Thomas, Chloe Taylor, Joel Simpkin, Connor Johnson and Stephen Collings.

Some students from the 'Shine On' choir will be singing at Lichfield Cathedral on Saturday 19 July. They are taking part in an event promoting Performance and Arts skills and will be joining many other groups of adults and children to sing and play at this prestigious location.

Leadership and Management

The IEB (Interim Executive Board) has been meeting fortnightly since it was appointed by the Local Authority earlier this year.

We are a very small group of 4; me with monitoring responsibility for the Leadership strand on the Ofsted Action Plan, Richard Redgate for the Quality of Teaching, David Humphries for Assessment and Data and Elizabeth Pohl for

Safeguarding and Residence. The idea is that we see the school out of Special Measures and, as that happens, that we initiate a new Governing Body to take over from us.

The IEB are very aware of the work this creates for all staff and will continue to provide as much support as we can to help move the school forward. I know we can rely on you as parents to do the

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same.

The final Word!

I would like to introduce myself to you – for those whom I haven't had the pleasure of meeting as yet. I am Pauline Carmichael and am currently supporting Jim Kane (Acting Executive Head) as Acting Head of School. I have had the pleasure of working at Walton Hall School since March 2013 supporting the staff and students. I will be here definitely until the end of the summer term and possibly until December 2013. A recent visit from Sue Morris Williams, our lead HMI Ofsted inspector who will be supporting the school through the process of moving the school out of special measures, confirmed we have made significant progress in moving the school forward. This would not be possible without the dedication and support of the staff. I have to say it is also a privilege working with the pupils. I am slowly getting to know all of their names. Everyone has made me feel very welcome since my arrival. I

have been suitably impressed with the skills and talents of the pupils as demonstrated in our weekly celebration of achievement assemblies, residential performance, Gate House theatre summer spectacular and weekly assemblies. My regular learning walks around the school enable me to see progress within the classroom and during unstructured time. I am always happy to meet with parents to ensure the channels of communication are effective. If you feel there is anything we could do to improve this I would welcome the opportunity to discuss your suggestions.

I look forward to working with Walton Hall in September.

Have a wonderful summer break and make the most of the Aiming High activities we are offering during the summer holidays.



Pauline A Carmichael
Acting Head of School

Walton Hall Community Special School

Sweat shirt Order Form

Size	11/12 32"/34"	XS 34"/36"	S 36"/38"	M 38"/40"	L 40"/42"	XL 42"/44"	XXL 44"/46"
Embroidered Crew Neck Sweat-shirt £12.00							

Size	L YTH 32"/34"	XL YTH 34"/36"	S 36"/38"	M 38"/40"	L 40"/42"	XL 42"/44"	XXL 44"/46"
Embroidered Hoodie £12.00 each							

	Name to be embroidered if required
Embroidered Black Backpack with optional embroidered name £9.95 each	

Name	
Contact number	
Date	

*** All orders must be accompanied by full payment. ***

Cheques made payable to NCA

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