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Edited by:
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Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents and Carers

It seems a long time ago since the snows of last winter and the arctic weather we all endured. To warm your heart this Christmas, please read about some of the wonderful things that our students have been up to in Autumn term.

We wish all students, parents and carers a peaceful Christmas holiday.

A.W. Roll

Mr A.W. Roll, Headteacher

Christmas Hampers

“National research conducted by Age UK in 2017 reported that nearly a million older people feel lonelier at Christmas time and that for many Christmas is ‘just another day’.

We know that these hampers will bring a lot of joy and happiness to their recipients so a HUGE THANK YOU to all the pupils at Waseley Hills High School, and everyone that has supported them, for helping to make a difference for older people in the local community this Christmas!!!!”



Jo Hughes
 Age UK Bromsgrove, Redditch &
 Wyre Forest



The Christmas hampers were judged on Wednesday 5th December and the winners were: Year 11 – LE, Year 10 - BH, Year 9 – CG, Year 8 – JS, Year 7 – DM

Motivational Talk by Ann Pickering

In life, you come across people who completely radiate success. They will shoot past you and leave you thinking, "I wish I could do that". This term, Ann Pickering, Head of HR at O2 talked to Waseley Sixth Form and students from Year 11. She was on completely the same wavelength as all of us and spoke to us about the importance of attitude, pride and passion.

She is someone who, from humble beginnings, has forged a great career and who took the trouble to stop and share with us her story of how she got to where she is today. She spoke about drive, determination and making the most of opportunities.

Ann really cares about young people in this country and that was evident in her willingness to give up her time to come and talk to us.

Tom Busby



*Ann Pickering (centre) with, left to right:
Kate Benson - Deputy Head Girl, Tom Busby - Head Boy,
Joel Price - Deputy Head Boy and Lily Green - Head Girl*

Amy's Charity Chop



On November 11th this year, I cut off 13 inches of my hair and donated it to a charity called the Little Princess Trust. They make wigs for young people under the age of 24 who have unfortunately lost their hair due to cancer or other illnesses like alopecia.

I was inspired to do this when I visited Birmingham Children's Hospital for physiotherapy and, whilst I was waiting, I saw a girl of about the same age as me. She was in a wheelchair and had lost her hair and she looked very pale and ill. When I walked past her, she looked up and, even though she looked very tired and weak, she smiled at me.

I had heard of people who had cut off their hair and donated it to charity and, after seeing this girl at the hospital, I decided I wanted to do the same. I set up a Just Giving page and many teachers and students at Waseley also generously donated. Amazingly, I have raised over £800 for the Little Princess Trust. Thank you to everyone who helped me achieve this.

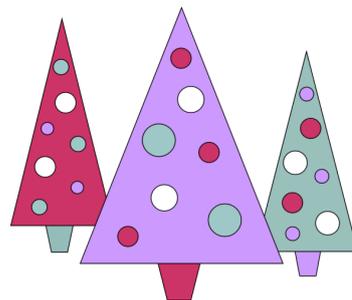
Amy Roadknight, Year 10



Basketball Triumph

The Year 11 boys' basketball team continues to remain unbeaten during their time at Waseley. After winning the cup in Year 10, they have won 3 out of 3 so far this year with just one game remaining. If they win the final game in January, they will have won the Year 11 League.

Well done to all players who have played in the team - Damon Bayliss, Joe Wathen, Sam Howard, Tom Garner, Toby Preston-Hunt, Luis Wetherell, Jack Hughes and Mikey Dodd.



Peaky Blinders

Through Aimhigher, a small group of Year 9 students recently had the opportunity to visit the Black Country Living Museum. The trip was intended for them to experience the wider aspects of history and the different sorts of job opportunities in the field, along with speaking to university students about their experiences.

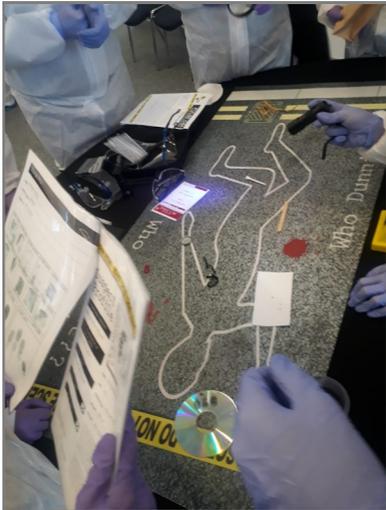
We got to explore the mines, find out how people lived and worked in the past, watch a female blacksmith at work and discover how important the Black Country and the surrounding areas were to the Industrial Revolution in Britain. To top it off, there were fairground rides, traditional chips and the BBC was filming Peaky Blinders!



CSI Workshop

Aimhigher arranged to take a number of Year 10 students on special science trip to the Innovation Birmingham Campus Friday 7th December 2018.

Pulse CSI provided students with the skills they needed to be a crime scene investigator! This interactive day kept students engaged throughout as they learnt how to dust for prints and analyse biological data. During the last session of the day, students identified the perpetrator of a crime as they put their skills to the test on their own crime scenes!



Here is a video of last year's CSI Day: [youtube.com/watch?v=dmHbM7rzffQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dmHbM7rzffQ)

Exchange Students on Waseley Life



“None of us knew what to expect when joining 6th form at Waseley. To our delight, we had never met a more welcoming group of students and staff before. They immediately made us feel right at home. We quickly became friends with the students inside and outside school. We exchanged information about cultures; they taught us new vocabulary and gave us a list of places to visit with them. They were equally intrigued to learn about our home countries. We share a similar sense of humour and spend most lunchtimes laughing; we appreciate the unique teaching style and particularly enjoy our English class with Mr Mitchell, relishing the debates and discussions. Helping younger students in German class has also been a joy for Alina.

The Common Room creates a comforting atmosphere for all the students and unique events such as the annual tea party, film nights and university trips create a tight-knit community. We have never experienced a more supportive school - any questions or concerns we may have experienced are quickly addressed by either staff or students. Although away from our families, we feel as if we're still part of one. We have felt incredibly lucky to have this once-in-a-lifetime experience and couldn't imagine joining a better school.”

Angela Craddock - California
Alina Haering - Switzerland
Satoru Blanco - Venezuela



The common room was packed with guests and the noise level pretty high – a good time was had by all. All the guests commented on how much they enjoyed the afternoon, what a wonderful spread it was and, most of all, how polite and helpful the students were.

The following comment was received by email the next morning:

“Please pass on my thanks to all students and staff. The Tea Party was delightful in every way. The students were a pleasure to be with: all pleasant, smart, cheerful, polite and welcoming. The common room was festive and beautiful. The refreshments were irresistible and generous. The result was a triumph!”

Christmas Baking

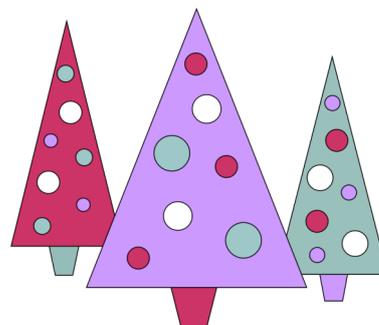
Well done to Year 9 GCSE students who created these lovely Yule logs.



Jake James



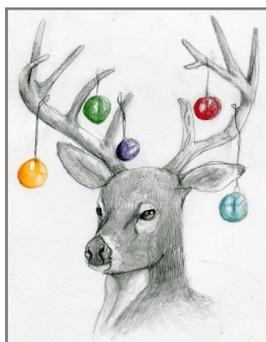
Dan Toogood



Christmas Card Competition Winners



1st Prize
Jennifer Whitcombe Yr 7



2nd Prize
Barnaby Trelfer Yr 7



3rd Prize
Hannah Morrell Yr 7

