



Keeping in Touch Newsletter

14th February 2025

A message from the Headteacher

Thank you for your support this half term. It has been another busy one! A reminder students finish for the half-term break today at 3.15pm and return to school on Monday 24th February.

On our return from the break, Year 11 will be sitting their final mock exams. Please do encourage them to prepare for these important exams. This is their last opportunity to sit the exams in a formal setting before the external examinations start in May. All students have access to a range of revision materials to support them. Your support in these final weeks is invaluable.

Last week we sent out some important information regarding the danger of vaping. All schools across Coventry are working closely with West Midlands Police to raise awareness amongst young people. Please do discuss the dangers of vaping with your child and in particular the significant danger of vapes containing THC. These vapes are illegal. We will continue to remind students in school and support them to understand the risks. If you have any concerns, please do contact us for support.

- Mrs Neofitou



Cambridge Offer for Sixth Form Student

There are celebrations in West Coventry Academy Sixth Form as one of our students received the news that they have been offered for a place at Cambridge University. Jake, Year 13, was excited to find out that he has been accepted at place to study Natural Science at the prestigious university.

Mrs. Withers, Head of Sixth Form, said "It is a testament to Jake's hard work and dedication throughout his time at West Coventry Academy through all stages of his education."

Jake said that he was 'pleased and excited' at the opportunity and has gained extra motivation to achieve top grades to secure the place during his A Levels this summer. He also wanted to highlight the support from his friends, having chosen to find out the decision in the Sixth Form common room to a cheering group of supporters. From everyone at West Coventry Academy we wish Jake all the luck for his exams this summer and can't wait to see him take his next steps at Cambridge University this autumn!



Sport Round Up

At the end of January our Year 7 Netball team competed against Meadow Park. Enjoying being able to play in the lighter evenings, they stormed to a victory, 10 – 2. A big congratulations to the whole team!

Ms. Kimberlin Run for Charity

We will be cheering on Miss. Kimberlin in May as she undertakes a half marathon! She has put on her running shoes and started training ahead of the big race, but in the process she will be raising money for the Brain Charity.

The Brain Charity help people affected by all forms of neurological condition to lead longer, healthier, happier lives.

If you want to support her you can donate here:
<https://www.justgiving.com/page/natalie-kimberlin-3>



The Brain Charity



Qué Bonita es Barcelona!

A group of Year 9 and Year 10 students were lucky to have a wonderful trip to Spain, in the Barcelona area. It was a great experience to expand their use of Spanish as well as experience a beautiful city and culture! The students were stars on the trip, doing themselves and WCA proud! Check out some pictures and what they got up to below!



Day 1 – Flight in El Prat airport before a drive to the mountains of Montserrat to explore the beautiful town and a cable car back down to the bottom of the mountain. The evening ended with arrival at the hotel followed by a walk at the beach.

Day 2 – Heading into Barcelona itself for a trip to Poble Espanol to explore the culture and architecture of Spain, before heading to La Sagrada Familia: the famous Gaudi church. The day was completed with a visit to Park Guell, a glorious park with more Guadi art and architecture. Ending back at the hotel for Tapas night!

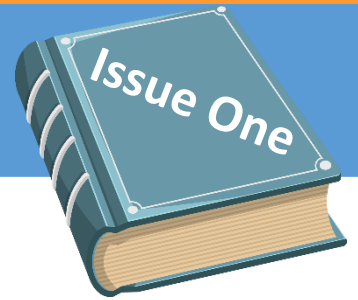


Day 3 – Exploring Barcelona’s Gothic quarter, before heading onto Las Ramblas for a spot of shopping. Stopping into La Boqueria, a food market for a taste of Spain! We then headed down to the docks and onward to La Parc de Ciutadella before heading back to the hotel for a barbeque!

Day 4 – A trip down the coast for a lovely visit to Tarragona, a town full of Roman ruins and beautiful Spanish streets, and a lovely view of the ocean! This was the last stop before heading back to the airport and back to Coventry!



Literacy Matters



Welcome to our very first ever edition of *Literacy Matters*. This is our way of updating you on all things books, literacy and reading at WCA!

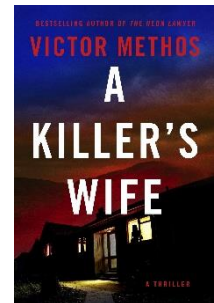
Interview with Miss McLaughlin

One of our student leaders interviewed Miss McLaughlin who is our Associate Assistant Head Teacher in charge of Literacy. Here is a summary of the interview:

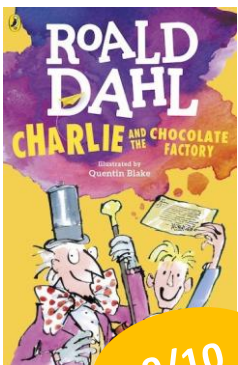
'Reading is important because it allows you to get away from reality, it is a form of escapism. It also broadens your vocabulary and helps you to have conversations with other people. It also helps you to have a wider understanding of different scenarios and have more empathy for people you wouldn't usually have thought about.'

Students who read regularly have a wide range of vocab at their disposal and can demonstrate a more comprehensive understanding of the world around them. For people who are unsure about what they should start reading, I suggest thinking of your favourite film/ type of film and find a book based on it or in a similar genre. This is really good idea as many books are frequently being adapted into films and TV shows.'

Miss McLaughlin likes to read romance books that are silly and fun in her spare time, but she also tries to read books that are out of her comfort zone, for e.g. thrillers and crime. One such book Miss McLaughlin read and enjoyed was A Killer's Wife by Victor Methos.



KS3 Book Review – Charlie and the Chocolate Factory



Selected Key Stage 3 students got to take part in the *The Big Christmas Read* competition. Here is a review from one of our Year 8 students who took part:

Charlie and the Chocolate Factory is a book about Charlie Bucket, who lives with his family in a rundown house with very little food or comfort. After finding some money in the street he buys a Wonka chocolate bar and wins a golden ticket which allows him to have a tour of the famous Wonka factory.

During the tour with 5 other children, mayhem ensues, and the factory is not what it seems from the outside! The ending for me is the best part of the story, to find out why, give it a read! I rate this book 9/10.

Blue Peter Book Badge

Any child aged 5-15 can apply for a Blue Peter Badge if they enjoy books and reading. They will need their parent or carer to help them with the application, they need to say a little bit about what they like in the book and draw or create a picture illustrating it. The link takes you to the BBC website with more details:

[How to get a Blue Peter Book badge - CBBC](#)



KS3 Debate Team



Our Key Stage 3 debate team took part in their first debate with students from Coleshill in November. They thoroughly enjoyed debating the impact of mobile phones on health and wellbeing, with West Coventry Academy choosing to argue in favour. This opportunity allowed students to increase their oracy and research skills. All students did a fantastic job and we are looking forward to our second debate in March.

Visiting Author – Adam Wood

20 of our Year 12 students were lucky enough to have a talk from Adam Wood, a local true crime author who has written such books as *The Watchmakers Revenge* and *The Black Kalendar of Coventry*. During the talk the students got to ask numerous questions about some of Coventry's most gruesome murders from the past and they also received a free copy of one of Adam's books. In March, all students who attended the talk will get to take part in one of Adam's Coventry Crime tours.

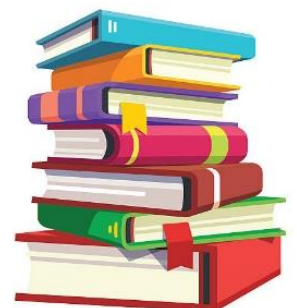


Get Involved – Sponsored Read Event

WCA will be holding its first ever Key Stage 3 sponsored read event and we would love you to get involved. It will be running from Monday 24th February until to Monday 10th March. We are asking pupils involved to read for as many minutes as they can during this two-week period and to ask people to sponsor them. The money raised will be spent on new books. **There will be prizes available for:**

1. The form group who collectively read for the most minutes.
2. The form group who collectively raise the most money.
3. The pupil who reads for the most minutes in the school.
4. The staff member who reads for the most minutes.

It would be wonderful to have as many pupils involved as possible. Sponsor forms will be issued after half term to form groups for any pupils who wish to take part.





Poetry by Heart

9 of our Year 8 students took part this week in a *Poetry by Heart* event where they got to hear poems from *Pep the Poet*, *Emilie Lauren Jones*, *Dreadlock Alien* and *John Benard*. During the day the students got to take part in a range of workshops that involved them writing and performing their own poems.

We are proud to share a selection of the poems written by our students below.

At School Wanting to be in my bedroom

*To be sitting in my bed
or perhaps sitting at my desk
just to be under the fairy lights
that have been put up wrong.
To be surrounded by posters of movies, music or even actors.
Or to finally use the TV that sits lifelessly in the corner
To even pick up a book to lose myself to the dreams
that fill my head.
No noise, no talking, just me and my headphones*

WCA Year 8 student

Wanting to be in my dreams

*Have you ever felt like you were stuck in a prison?
That where you are right now could really, really be better?
I'd rather be at home sleeping nice and soundly
Wandering in my dreams with no one there to judge me
Yet, I sit at this desk doing my third test of the day, wishing
I could go home and sleep*

WCA Year 8 student



The students really enjoyed the day and they all produced some outstanding poetry. Well done to all involved! We hope students have been inspired to do more creative writing!





Quick Headlines



- The French trip to Paris head out this week! We will sharing more updates and pictures on Facebook but check out the next newsletter for all the updates!
- Our Y11 held a bake sale for Valentines day to raise money for the prom! Great work!
- Sixth Form interviews have started this week for those who have applied. We wish everyone good luck in their interviews!

This Week's Attendance

Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11
92.3%	92.1%	87.4%	89.7%	90.0%

What's happening next week at WCA?

W/C 24th February, Week B

Events and Trips

Wed 26th Feb – Year 9 Parents Evening and Options Fayre

Thurs 27th Feb – PE GCSE Practical Exam

Fri 28th Feb – Y10 Careers Trip – What Career Live

Assemblies

This week's topic is **Celebrating Diversity – 'Mother Tongue' by Languages**

Monday – Y11	Tuesday – Y10
Wednesday – Y9	Thursday – Y8
Friday - Y7	

Key Dates Calendar

Check out our key dates on the link below or on the homepage!

<https://westcoventry.atlp.org.uk/calendar>

Are you following us on social media? We can't always fit it all in our newsletter, make sure you get all updates from WCA!



<https://twitter.com/westcovacademy>

@westcovacademy



<https://www.facebook.com/WestCoventryAcademy/>

West Coventry Academy





Clubs and Extra Curriculum

PERFORMANCE
EXTRA-CURRICULAR LUNCHTIME CLUBS

MONDAY
WCA Orchestra - G.21 - Mr Goodier

TUESDAY
Ukulele Club - G.20 - Mrs Cambridge
KS3 bands - Practice Rooms
After School - Matilda Rehearsals - Hall

WEDNESDAY
Music Tech Club - G.19 - Mr Goodier

THURSDAY
Matilda Singing Rehearsals - G.20/Hall - Mrs Cambridge
KS4 Bands - Practice Rooms

FRIDAY
WCA Singers - G.21 - Mr Goodier