This is the nineteenth edition of the Physical Education Magazine. We hope you will enjoy reading about all of the fantastic achievements of the school teams, and our individual stars of the future.

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On Thursday 28 March, the KS3 and KS4 boys and girls Handball teams competed in the Black Country Games tournament. The teams were selected to represent Walsall after winning the Walsall qualifying event.

The girls tournament was held in the morning and the standard of Handball was a big step up from the previous tournament, however both Walsall Academy teams showed great skill and determination which resulted in some great performances being produced. The KS3 team finished third overall which is a fantastic achievement, however the KS4 girls team managed to go one better and finish second overall. For both teams to achieve a podium place is amazing and is a reflection of their hard work in preparation for the tournament.

The boys tournament was held in the afternoon and the KS3 and KS4 teams were eager to replicate and even try to surpass the performances of the girls teams. Both Walsall Academy teams performed excellently all afternoon which resulted in the KS3 team finishing 4th out of 8 teams, and the KS4 team finishing 2nd overall after an evenly matched final in which they conceded in the last minute to lose 4-3.

Every student represented Walsall Academy brilliantly all day, and they should all be extremely proud of their achievements at the Black Country Games.
The Year 8 Football team took part in a Walsall Borough 6-a-side Football Tournament on Thursday 11 April. The event was held at Aldridge School and comprised of 20 teams. Our Year 8’s were in a Pool of 5 teams that included Aldridge, St. Francis, Pool Hayes and Barr Beacon. We won our games against Pool Hayes and Barr Beacon, drew against St. Francis and lost narrowly to Aldridge. This placed us second in the pool and qualified us for the quarter finals against Shire Oak. The quarter final match was a tight affair with very few chances created by both teams. In the end a confident finish by the Shire Oak centre forward sent them through to the semi-finals. Credit to our team though who worked hard throughout the tournament and gave their best at all times.

On Wednesday 27 February, some of the U14 girls Football team participated in a Futsal tournament that was held at Walsall College. This required a slightly different skills set to normal Football, however the girls displayed excellent skill and control on a small pitch which made them a very strong team within the tournament. Each game was decided by just one goal, and the final standings saw Walsall Academy finish in third place which is a great achievement. Well done girls!
On Wednesday 10 April, Walsall Academy hosted the annual Inter-Academies Badminton and Handball tournaments. The tournament was made up of Year 7 and 8 teams from Walsall Academy, Madeley Academy, Thomas Telford School and Sandwell Academy. The Walsall Academy girls and boys teams were eager to retain the Badminton shield for the third year running, and were hoping to over turn Thomas Telford School who were the reigning champions in the Netball competition.

The Badminton tournament was extremely competitive with every team showing great ability and teamwork. The boys team performed excellently well all tournament, however they were beaten to first spot and finished second overall. Walsall Academy girls team continued their dominance in the Inter-Academies Badminton tournament and won for the third year running. Finishing first and second overall is a fantastic achievement and both teams should be extremely proud.

The Netball tournament was also played with fantastic skill every team displayed excellent determination and team spirit to produce a fantastic competition. The Year 7 team finished third overall, however this could of easily been higher due to how close each of the games were. The Year 8 team finished 2nd which is a brilliant achievement, and was a reflection of their superb play.

The whole Inter-Academies tournament was a great success, and every student who participated was a credit to their school. Both students and staff are eager to compete in the tournament again next year!
Staff v Sixth Form Football

On Friday 1 March, the staff played the Year 12 team in preparation for their charity match against the Year 13 team. As in previous years, the Year 12 team were extremely high on confidence going into the game, and when Max rounded the goal keeper to make it 1-0 for the Year 12’s this confidence grew further. However, the lead was short lived as Mr Southam cancelled out the goal with a controlled finish into the bottom corner. In the second half the staff began to control the game, and Mr Southam scored two more goals, one of them being a calmly placed penalty to complete his hat-trick. The scoring was finished when a pass back to the keeper was misjudged and rolled into the net to make the final score 4-1 to the staff.

On Friday 15 March, the eagerly anticipated game between the staff and the Year 13 team was played. Last year this game finished 4-3 to the staff, so everybody was anticipating another very competitive game. Daniel opened the scoring for the Sixth Form after a defensive error gave him a clear chance on goal which he clinically finished. The staff soon equalised as Mr Sehmar produced an excellent left footed finish which gave the goal keeper no chance. Mr Lea then struck a fantastic free-kick into the top corner to make it 2-1 to the staff. However, the Year 13 team were not ready to give up, and Daniel equalised from a free kick to score his second goal of the game. After an extremely even first half, the staff team found another gear in the second. Mr Harris scored a brilliant hat-trick, and Mr Glover also scored which meant the game finished 6-3 in favour of the staff.
Congratulations to Walsall Academy’s gymnastics team for their fantastic performance at the Walsall School’s annual competition. The team of 4 girls ranging from students in Year 7 to Year 11 performed with minimal faults on floor and vault to finish the competition in second place narrowly missing out on the top spot. They will now go on to represent Walsall at the Black Country games in June.

Netball Tournaments

The spring term saw the Netball teams compete in the Walsall schools tournaments held for a different year group each week at Aldridge School. Each team displayed some excellent team work and Netball Specific skills. The teams came up against some difficult competition but did well to draw and win many of their games finishing in the top of half of all competitions. We look forward to improving the team’s skills further when the league commences in September.

Duke of Edinburgh Update

This summer term sees the Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh groups go on their practice and final expeditions. They have worked hard to develop their navigation skills and develop their teamwork within their expedition groups. The Bronze group will be heading to Much Wenlock area in Shropshire for their practice expedition and over into Llandrinio in Wales for their final expedition. The Silver and Gold groups will be facing more challenging expeditions within the Snowdonia National Park. This summer term sees the Bronze, Silver and Gold Duke of Edinburgh groups go on their practice and final expeditions. We look forward to following their success.
This is the nineteenth edition of the PE Magazine and we hope you have enjoyed it. We are looking to get students more involved in the process by supplying pictures, writing match reports etc. So if you want to get involved and supply a story/report save the file to memory stick ready for editing and pass onto the PE Department.

If you want to be a part of the next magazine, come to Session 3 and get involved in PE and Sport.

Mr L Bull
PE Department