

**SCHOOL
TRIPS**

**EXTRA
CURRICULAR**

E-SAFETY

**HOUSE
NEWS**

**PUPIL
ACHIEVEMENTS**

BLOXWICH ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2019 FEATURING...

- AWARDS EVENING 2019
- CCF UPDATE
- REMEMBRANCE DAY



FEATURING..
**AWARDS EVENING
2019!**



WELCOME

Ho! Ho! Ho! Season's Greetings from all at Bloxwich Academy. After achieving record breaking results in the summer, I cannot believe that we are already at the end of Term 1. With pupils receiving so many opportunities this term it is hard to pick out a favourite, although I must mention how proud I was when we hosted our first Academy Awards Ceremony in November. This was a great night where we celebrated the success of all our pupils from Key Stages 3, 4 and 5. I am already looking forward to next year's event.

I hope you enjoy looking through the Newsletter and picking out your personal favourite moment.

Our challenge of being 'The Best You Can Be' remains top priority for 2020 and I thank all Parents/Carers for their continued support.

Below you can find some key dates for Term 2, in particular our Academy Show in February where we would like to see as many Parents/Carers attending as possible.

I hope everyone has a peaceful Christmas holiday to recharge the batteries and look forward to welcoming all pupils back on Tuesday 7th January 2020 at 8.45 am.

Key Stage 4 Progress Evening 1 (Year 11 Mock Results) - Tuesday 14th January 2020

Sixth Form Progress Evening - Tuesday 28th January 2020

School Show - 12th and 13th February 2020

Year 9 Progress Evening and Options - 12th March 2020

Key Stage 4 Progress Evening 2 (Year 11 Revision) - 26th March 2020

Once again, Season's Greetings.

Yours sincerely



CHANGE STARTS WITH US

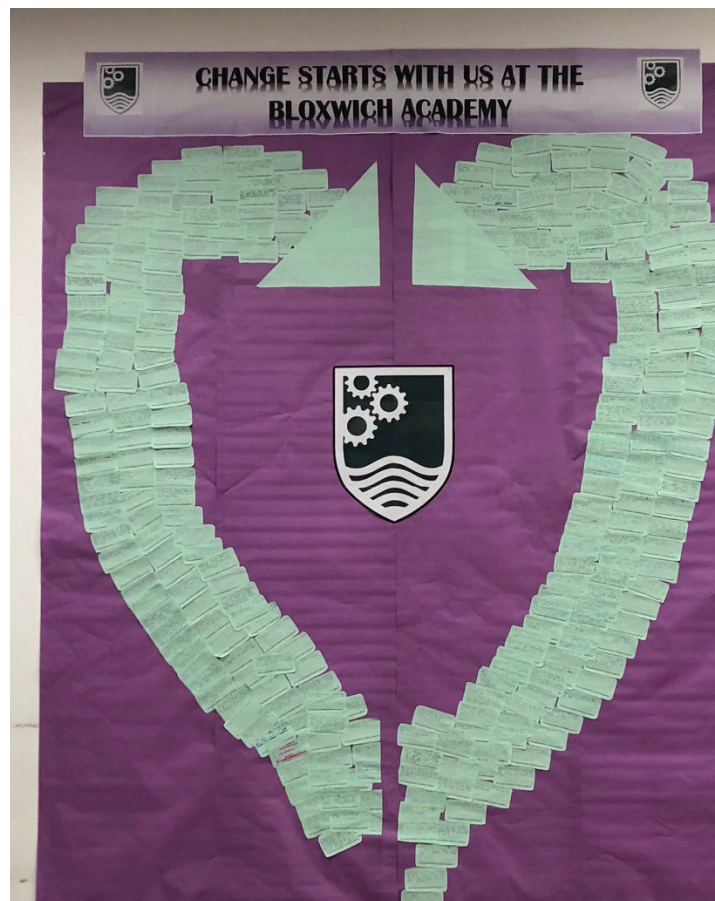
#AntiBullyingWeek

The week commencing 11th November Bloxwich Academy took part in Anti-Bullying Week to raise awareness, as well as the key theme which ran throughout the week of 'CHANGE STARTS WITH US.' Throughout the week pupils took part in a variety of activities to help pupils think about the importance of treating each other with respect as well as how to stay safe online, and how they can make a change in regards of anti-bullying.

Pupils created pledges, where they promised to act with respect to others in the Academy, which were then expertly collaged together by the Anti-Bullying Committee to build a collage which now has pride of place in the canteen.

While Anti-Bullying Week was a success the Anti-Bullying Committee has also been hard at work raising the profile of anti-bullying as well as coming up with different avenues to reporting incidents of bullying. The committee has also helped to design an online reporting form which can be accessed on the school website. This has been presented to Senior Leaders and the Parent Forum in recent weeks and now officially launched to pupils and parents. If you would like to view the on-line reporting form please visit; www.bloxwichacademy.co.uk/anti-bullying or speak to Mr Booth.

After Christmas the Anti-Bullying Committee will be starting to make plans in regards to LGBT history month week which runs in February, this will also be used to launch our drive towards accreditation as a Diversity Champion under the Stonewall Organisation.



GENERAL ELECTION WEEK

Bloxwich Academy pupils have spent the General Election Week learning who the various political parties are, what they have pledged and analysing how likely these pledges appear to be. The pupils have approached the week with intrigue and enthusiasm, evaluating the different manifestos before holding class debates. It has been fantastic to hear pupils have informed and reasoned opinions on political issues that have an affect on both themselves, their local communities and the nation. Pupils also demonstrated our Bloxwich Values through the respectful nature in which they listened to each other and expressed their opinions. A democratic vote was then conducted during lunchtime on National Polling Day. See how Bloxwich pupils vote compare to adults both locally and nationally!

Well done to all pupils and staff for their hard work and for taking a genuine interest in politics and their futures.

LABOUR - 130 Votes

CONSERVATIVE - 90 Votes

LIBERAL DEMOCRATS - 86 Votes

GREEN PARTY - 25 Votes

BREXIT PARTY - 23 Votes

UKIP - 8 Votes

INDEPENDENT PARTY - 2 Votes

A CHRISTMAS CAROL

In a blink of an eye our Year 11s are a term through their final year of GCSEs. In readiness for their English Literature GCSE, and preparation for their Mock examinations all Year 11 attended an adaptation of A Christmas Carol. The performance was held at Alexandra Theatre in Birmingham on Tuesday 26th November. The show presented an excellent portrayal of Charles Dickens' classic Victorian novel that explores the importance of family and being charitable to those in need.



PERFORMING ARTS UPDATES

BLOOD BROTHERS TRIP

On Thursday 3rd October, both Year 11 and Year 10 BTEC drama classes attended a performance of Blood Brothers the musical at Birmingham Hippodrome as part of their controlled assessment. All pupils enjoyed their evening out at the theatre and to further understand the play in preparation for their BTEC assessments.



FOREST ARTS CENTRE PERFORMANCE

Selected pupils from Year 7 and 8 had the pleasure of visiting Forest Arts Centre to see leading physical theatre company, Highly Sprung. They were some of a selected audience to watch their new performance of Up, Up and Away. Work has already started to get their performances ready for January. Following a workshop pupils were able to experience a live theatre production but also observe how the blend of dance and drama can be translated into an expressive performance. Work towards their own performance commenced in November and is inspired by new and innovative approaches.



SCHOOL PRODUCTION AUDITIONS

Bloxwich Academy launched their 2019-20 musical spectacular. Pupils auditioned for their roles in the school musical production that this year will take place in February. Over 100 pupils attended auditions and will be a part of the production this year. After the success of A Night in the Musicals last year, we are now well underway with the musical to be presented in the spring term. So watch this space for more information on tickets and updates on rehearsals.



ARTSTART PROJECT - HIGHLY SPRUNG

On Tuesday 22nd October, Highly Sprung Physical Theatre Company visited some of our Key Stage 3 pupils to run a special workshop with a select group of pupils. 7B1, 7B2, 7S1 and 8S1 thoroughly enjoyed the workshops learning new performance skills and approaches to use in their own work. These pupils also had the opportunity to visit Forest Arts Centre during the autumn to watch a live performance by this company called Up Up and Away. On Tuesday 22nd October, Highly Sprung Physical Theatre Company visited some of our Key Stage 3 pupils to run a special workshop with a select group of pupils. 7B1, 7B2, 7S1 and 8S1 thoroughly enjoyed the workshops learning new performance skills and approaches to use in their own work. These pupils also had the opportunity to visit Forest Arts Centre during the autumn to watch a live performance by this company called Up Up and Away.



ARMISTICE DAY



ART CLUB



Pupils who attend Art Club requested to commemorate our fallen heroes and service men and women by designing something for Armistice Day. Since then pupils have worked to create their very own poppy wreath. Pupils researched the use of poppies in artwork and also the association of poppies with Remembrance Day. They used this information to inspire their own creative work in a range of materials.

All pupils involved really enjoyed the activity as they created a collaborative final piece and got to work with other peers of different ages. Pupils really benefited from this experience as they were able to use their knowledge and understanding of this special occasion in order to create a thoughtful art piece.

The poppy wreath was presented for Armistice Day for the CCF Parade and it was a great morning at the Academy whereby the whole school came together to pay their respects. The poppy wreath is now presented in the school reception to showcase to all visitors and as a mark of respect from all pupils within the Academy.



Bloxwich Academy came together to pay their respects for Armistice Day. We're extremely proud of everyone who took part and joined us at our remembrance service. Thank you, everyone involved. We really enjoyed the parade conducted by our pupils in the Combined Cadet Force. A very proud moment watching our Combined Cadet Force in full flow.



MALTA

NETBALL TOUR

On the 15th October 2019, 4 pupils who had been selected to represent Bloxwich Academy as part of the Matrix Netball Team started their journey to Malta to compete in an international Netball Tour. The first day was spent on a variety of different transports from the school minibus to Etone where we were joined with pupils from Etone College and Dame Elizabeth Cadbury, secondly the coach down to Gatwick Airport and then finally travelling by aeroplane over to Malta. Although the flight over to Malta should have been exciting enough as it is, a small thunderstorm added to the adventure with lightning striking from all angles. After a long first day travelling, pupils finally arrived at their accommodation, Qwara Palace Hotel, where we had a quick bite to eat, checked in and retired to our rooms.

Wednesday 16th October was spent enjoying the Maltese sun and playing in the pool, thoroughly relaxing before the first game of netball that evening. When we arrived at the Kirkop Sports Complex to play, we realised that our opposition was the Malta under 14's International Team. There was a clear difference in experience and ability of the two teams, but all pupils kept their heads held high and continued to show true sportsmanship throughout the game, despite losing by a considerable score.

On Thursday 17th October, pupils were taken on a walking tour where they could take in the sights and culture of the local area. This included the war memorials as well as visiting a few shops to pick up some souvenirs of their trip. During the afternoon, pupils were allowed to relax by the pool to ensure that they were revitalised for the upcoming match that evening. Pupils then attended Sacred Heart College to play their next fixture, where our own S Williams (8B1) scored the only two goals, assisted by L Wilkes (8B1) who help defend the ball and bring it up the court towards our attacking circle. Unfortunately, a number of the players had played in the previous team as they formed part of the Malta under 14's International Team. After returning to the hotel, there was a little time to get showered and changed ready for the evening meal a short walk down from the hotel. Pupils were responsible for their own table, including ordering and settling their bill.

Friday 18th October was the last full day spent in Malta, so the pupils made their way to the waterpark. The day was spent jumping in the wave pool, racing down the slides and relaxing on the lazy river. After a fun filled day, it was time for the final netball game of the tour. For the third time pupils faced some similar opponents from the previous matches. R Cole (9T1) made some excellent interceptions while playing Goal Keeper and E Robins (9W1) played a great game as Goal Attack and scored some great goals. Despite our determined effort, the Maltese team were once again successful.

8:00am on Saturday 19th October, the girls waved goodbye to the hotel and started to make their journey home. Overall the trip was very successful (netball scores excluded), not only did the pupils have valuable netball experience but also the experience of other cultures. They modelled exemplary behaviour throughout the duration of the trip and represented Bloxwich Academy proudly.





AWARDS EVENING 2019

On Thursday 28th November Bloxwich Academy held its first celebratory Awards Evening. The evening was an invite only ceremony in recognition of the outstanding achievements and attributes of our pupils in the Academy.

It was with great difficulty that teachers tried to narrow down and select their nominations but those who won the awards were truly deservant of them. The night was filled with music and dance performances that further showcased the many talented youngsters in the academy. It was a heart-warming evening in which both teachers and parents felt immensely proud of our children's successes.



WALSALL FOR ALL

COMMUNITY EQUALITY & COHESION

Several schools including Bloxwich Academy have been chosen as part of the Walsall for All project, this is set out to promote community, equality and cohesion and to help build aspirations and confidence in pupils within Walsall's surrounding areas.

Tuesday 12th November we received J Murray and M Collyer from the project, who were greeted by six specially chosen pupils who will represent Bloxwich Academy: R Elmer; E Newbold; P Ebbans; C Williams; A Harris; and P Clarke.

The pupils were quickly introduced to the main aims and objectives of the session, this involved communication tasks that were speechless, where they had to follow instructions without speaking. A task which I believe many of us would struggle with, they however seemed extremely motivated and the comments from J Murray and M Collyer throughout the session were extremely positive.

The pupils were put into two teams of three and given a set of rules with regards to building a tower, myself and the project team were delighted with the immediate response from both teams.

This session highlighted the aims of the project and promoted self-esteem and leadership, which included listening to other peoples views and working as a team. Our pupils have been given a task of producing a school banner that promotes the Bloxwich Academy values; they will present this to the five other schools when they visit us on the 7th February, 2020.

We are so proud to be a part of this project, and are incredibly proud of our 6 representatives.

Well done!

On the 12th December 43 pupils from Bloxwich Academy had the opportunity to visit Old Trafford for a European game against Az Alkmaar, which saw Manchester United win 4-0. All of the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the trip, especially E Duah (11W2) who won a free Manchester United shirt following the game.

E-SAFETY

UNICO LIVE APP

West Midlands Police have been made aware of an App called "UNICO LIVE". The app is publicised as age restricted 12+ and designed for young people to upload videos of them performing, singing and dancing etc.; It has come to our attention that there is inappropriate content on the platform involving young people which is being investigated.

The content does not appear to be monitored and we urge you check your child's devices regularly.



Year 7 certainly created a buzz to celebrate National Poetry day! On Monday 7th and Tuesday 8th October, pupils completed a poetry workshop with Staffordshire's Poet Laureate, Mel Wardle Woodend, hearing and creating poetry. The task was then continued to enable pupils to perfect their poems, working in groups or individually writing about current environment or mental health issues. They were then challenged to take the words off the page and present them on the stage and they did not disappoint! Poems were sang, acted out, danced and even lines of poetry were cartwheeled across the stage in a competitive house poetry slam!

Well done to all of the Year 7 pupils and especially those selected as the top poets across the two days!



During last half term pupils from both Year 7 and 8 kicked off the year by competing in their first competitive fixtures. Both Year 7 and 8 pupils have won all of their fixtures during the half term leaving them top of the league in the Walsall School's Football Championship. The Year 8's have won all of their games with convincing victories (9-0, 11-1, 2-0) with outstanding performances from pupils such as J Bloomer 8T1, F Williams 8T1 and T Bent 8B2. In addition to this, the Year 7's are also unbeaten and top of their league following similar convincing wins with outstanding performances from J Novaku 7S2, O Berete Berete 7W1, J Omodunni 7S1, Y Bisiriyu 7S1 and B Johnson 7T1. This half term both years will look to keep up this unbeaten streak and win the league by the end of the year.



The girls have been preparing during training for their fixtures after half term. They have been focusing on mastering passing and moving, dribbling to beat a player, shooting and defending. After half term, both Year 7 and 8 will be involved in the Walsall schools 5 a-side league where they will play against other schools in the local area and compete to win the league. The current Year 8 team are looking to defend their league title after winning the Walsall 5-a-side football league in Year 7.



This half-term rugby extra-curricular has started with over 20 pupils attending. Pupils are participating in different drills and mini games; pupils who are attending are learning and developing new skills, techniques and tactics. We are looking to expand this club further to all years and compete against other schools in the coming weeks. Our rugby extra-curricular offers the chance for pupils to develop respect, discipline, enjoyment, teamwork and sportsmanship.

Results:
Bloxwich vs Brownhills Year 7/8 115-10 (Won)
Bloxwich vs Brownhills Year 9 135-15 (Won)
Bloxwich vs Barr Beacon Year 7/8 10-0 (Won)



5 of our pupils had an experience day at Wolverhampton University (Walsall Campus) where they participated in a cricket session ran by England's Cricket captain Joe Root. Pupils were able to experience training from a world class professional athlete and had opportunity to have their photo taken and question Joe Root.



ASPIRE TO HE

On Thursday 5th December pupils from the Academy were invited to take part in an Aspire to HE Experience Day at the University of Wolverhampton, Walsall Campus. The day was led by the basketball Head Coach Clive Allen and supported by current students, with the aim of our pupils exploring the alternative side of university life showing that there is a lot more that comes with the experience other than studying.

The focus of the day was on pupils rotating around three different stations, some of which were physical sessions where pupils took part in: practice session of drills, skills, techniques, strength and conditioning in basketball – this offered pupils a great opportunity to be coached by the university Head Coach. Other rotations allowed pupils to explore what's on offer at universities and how you're able to enjoy sport alongside your studies as well breaking down some myths around studying at university, all in an active way through games, with the university student sport ambassadors and scholars, who currently engage in sport at either an elite or participant level.



CADETS UPDATE

Bloxwich Academy Cadets this term have got off to a flying start (no joke intended) with two flying experience days at RAF Cosford. The day started with parachute training and aircraft evacuation in a simulator cockpit in the classroom. Even though this was an extremely serious and challenging experience there were lots of giggles too.

The experience day consisted of the cadets being flown by pilots from the Royal Air Force in Grob Light aircrafts. The Cadets were given the opportunity to not only ask questions about flying but also flying the aircraft themselves. Simply a once in a lifetime opportunity! With one cadet trying to re-enact the Battle of Britain over sunny Wolverhampton, the day was made even more special by the ground crew at RAF Cosford as they took some of the cadets into one of the hangers that the general public are not allowed access to, to see a jet fighter up-close as a special privilege.

The number of cadets stands at a steady 36 who regularly attend their CCF training every Wednesday evening. They have now commenced part 2 of their training.

Cadets have also taken part in a day rock climbing in Wales and the annual Armistice Parade and have a further visit planned to the RAF Museum Cosford.

At the end of last term the Contingent Commander Pilot Officer Hall attended his officer training commissioning course at RAF Cranwell the home of the RAF. He will receive her Majesty the Queen's Commission scroll very soon.



House Message **STEPHENSON**



**Miss
Stanley**

Stephenson House has been working hard in their forms to improve attendance and punctuality this term. We send our congratulations to the following pupils for achieving attendance awards for 100% all year:

D Irodotou Year 10
J Gyan-Baffour Year 8
C Hitchcock Year 7
E Stone Year 7
J Tolley Year 7
A Webb Year 7

This academic year has been busy by welcoming the new Year 7's and form tutors to Stephenson House. The after school clubs have started this term including various football teams and swimming clubs which seem to be popular with the pupils in our house. This has resulted in some of the pupils already being selected for the Academy teams. The various Stephenson forms are competing for who has the highest attendance each week and it looks like 7S1 are competing with 8S1 to see who comes on top. The form who has the highest attendance for this term will be rewarded for their efforts when we return. 7S3 have challenged the rest of the forms to see who has the most commendations, as they have all achieved their Bronze Commendation Awards and some are waiting to be presented with their Silver Commendation Awards, with one special pupil, K Weekes waiting for his Gold Commendation Award. Year 11 attended a local Careers Fair to get them thinking about what career-path they want to take, it gave them the opportunity to talk to universities and local businesses to see the selection of courses available. The pupils in Year 11 are currently sitting their Mock examinations. Form tutors have worked with Year 11 in preparation.

Overall it has been another stellar term with progress being made across the board.

Well done Stephenson.

Mr Bradley



House Message **BRINDLEY**

I would like to say a huge well done to Brindley for starting the first term in such a positive manner. Most of all, I would like to congratulate 8B1 on achieving the most positive behaviour comments this term! All pupils have returned looking very smart; have been polite, respectful and their attitude for learning has been fantastic! With this amazing start I am sure we are set up to win the trophy. I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome all the Year 7s to Bloxwich Academy and congratulate them on settling in well too!

I would like to celebrate the amazing attendance of the following pupils last year: C Moriarty (Year 8), J Memela (Year 8), T Mills (Year 10), J Wells (Year 10), R Harper (Year 11), K Jones (Year 11), C Pickstone (Year 11), S Price (Year 11) and L Slater (Year 11), who achieved 100% throughout the whole year! Also, I would like to celebrate the achievement of J Slater (Year 10) for achieving 100% attendance for the last 3 years; well done on such an achievement! Finally, I would also like to celebrate the achievement of H Gavin (Year 9) becoming the World Champion in his age group for kickboxing, once again, well done!

I would like to say a massive thank you and congratulations to 67 pupils in Brindley who have achieved 100% for the first term of this academic year. This achievement is fantastic and has given us a great platform to build from to win the House Shield. I hope that this will continue and you will go on to 100% for the whole of the academic year.

I am looking forward to next term as the House Competitions will begin to gather momentum. You all know I am really competitive, and I want us to win every competition going, to ensure we are the best house in Bloxwich Academy; we want to remain the best house in the Academy! All in all, this has been a very successful term and I hope that you have a safe break over Christmas. I hope that you return refreshed and ready to build on what we have already achieved so far this term!

House Message TELFORD



Mr Booth

What a start to the year! Pupils have returned to school with an outstanding work ethic and attitude to learning. The fact that so many pupils are striving to 'Be The Best You Can Be' both academically and in extra-curricular clubs will stand everyone in good stead for the forthcoming year. The effort that has been put in by all cannot be matched and that is why Telford are currently top of the standings, well done to all Telford pupils and long may the winning continue.

Attendance continues to improve and it is conceivable that we could average over 95% which would be outstanding. Currently Telford House's attendance is 93.3% which is up 1.5% from this time last year which is fantastic. I would also like to congratulate the 32 pupils who currently have 100% attendance up till this point this year, this is fantastic, keep it up! This year has also seen an improvement in punctuality which is great to see. I would like to particularly mention 8T1 who were the only form in the Academy to achieve 0 lates for the first half term, well done to Mr Everton and 8T1 for that.

Possibly the reason behind our success in the house standings is the number of pupils who have achieved their Bronze and Silver Commendations already! Congratulations to R Coley, E Field, R Parry, J Blake, L Hunt, L Loveridge, C Taylor-Price, E Knox-Carroll, C Adams, M Richards, O Usubun, L Hawkins, M Rhodes, E Newbold, P Hampton, M Pritchard, B Sliwinski, N Smith, K Sia, A Ejaz, M Borquaye, S Cavagnini, P Salan, C Franks, K Binsley, L Cyster, and L Duker for all achieving their Bronze Commendation Award.

An even bigger congratulations to S Carlon, K Clayton Costello, K Craik, C Cullum, K Curtis, S Dusza, M Humpage, C Llewellyn, L Perkins, C Watkinson, S Wieczorek, A Willetts and D Baldwin-Reid for achieving their Silver Commendation Award, fantastic work!

As you can see it has been a busy and successful first term for Telford House, let's keep up this momentum in striving to 'Be The Best You Can Be' and smash the spring term as well. All it leaves me to say is Merry Christmas and I hope you all have a wonderful break.

Miss Williamson



House Message WATT

Watt an outstanding start to the academic year (excuse this old pun!) I would like to start by welcoming the new Year 7 pupils to Bloxwich Academy. You have started your journey with great enthusiasm and have settled into the routines here fantastically; with many of you already encompassing the 'Bloxwich Values' into your lessons and around our school. I want to also thank returning Watt pupils for their positive attitude and pride in how they have presented themselves and the work that is being completed.

Congratulations to the following pupils for their phenomenal achievement of 100% attendance for the previous academic year. Year 7: R Boxold (8W1) and E Broadway (8W1). Year 8: C Aigbiremolen (9W1) and A Matthews (9W2). Year 9: R Scott (10W1) and N Burrows (10W1). Congratulations to last Year's 8W1 for having the highest Watt attendance at the end of the last academic year.

This term, Watt pupils have shown they are committed to their learning and will work to achieve their potential. Over 70 pupils have already shown the resilience and work ethic to achieve their Bronze Commendation Certificate Award. An exceptional well done to the following pupils for achieving their Silver Commendation Award in the first half term, A Alizadeh (7W1), R Baker (7W1), G Bland (7W1), J Clarke (7W1), T Dutton (7W1), B Gibbons (7W1), M Hannon (7W1), S Howley (7W1), L Johnson (7W1), C Jones (7W1), B Matthews (7W1), O Quinn (7W1), C Wain (7W1), and S Wheat (7W1). Who will be the first pupil in Watt House to achieve their Gold Commendation Award?

Year 11 are continuing to show their commitment under pressure. Having received their Mock examination results in September for Year 10, they are pushing past their limits and working tirelessly to make themselves proud. They are at present sitting another set of Mock papers to prove that their hard work is truly paying off. Your attitude towards the Mock exams is something to be proud of. Each one you take, you are trying your best and showing the effort it takes to apply the knowledge you develop each day. Keep up the fantastic work.

After an amazing first term it is clear to see why our motto is "Be The Best You Can Be." Watt House continue to strive to achieve and are making the whole school proud. Let's make this term even better than the last. Keep it up Watt House!

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joining our SCITT visit:
www.bbscitt.co.uk*