



# Wath Academy



## NEWSLETTER – ISSUE 20

### PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

17 March 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

#### Success Stories

Katie Battle recently made the finals of the 800m and 1500m indoor northern athletics track and field championships, securing personal best times in both events and winning a Silver medal in the 1500m. Katie secured qualifying times for both the National and English Schools Track & Field Championships.

Katie also won the South Yorkshire Cross Country League and won a silver medal at the South Yorkshire Championships.

She won silver in the South Yorkshire Schools Cross Country Championships and has now been selected to represent South Yorkshire Schools at the English Schools National Cross Country Championships at Nottingham later this month.

In addition to her individual achievements Katie and her Rotherham Harriers & Athletics Club Team mates have enjoyed success in team cross country championship races recently. They won gold and were crowned champions at the recent Northern Cross Country Championships in Blackburn running against clubs from the North of England. They topped this off with an outstanding win and gold medals at the Saucony English National Cross Country Championships in Chester where they were crowned national champions running against clubs from across the whole of England.

Well done Katie, we are all very proud of you.

#### KEY DATES:

Year 13 Trial Exams – wk com 13/20 March

Year 11 Parents Evening Tuesday 28 March

#### 2022/23 TERM DATES

Our term dates and INSET days for this academic year can be found on the academy website by clicking the following link [Wath Academy - Term Dates](#)





**Wath  
Academy**

## PRINCIPAL'S UPDATE

James Lee in Y8 and his rugby league team (Sharlston Rovers U14s) have recently beaten local rivals Halifax Rugby League by 30-14 in the last 16 of the National British Amateur Rugby League Association Cup.

This means that they now progress to the quarter finals of the National Barla Cup, which is a huge achievement for the team and one they are very proud about.

James was also really proud to receive the joint Man of the Match in the game. Well done James and good luck in the quarter final of the National Barla Cup, we look forward to hearing how you get on.



If you would like to share your success stories with us, please email us via the following address: [achievement@wathacademy.com](mailto:achievement@wathacademy.com).



**Wath  
Academy**

## Toilets

I wanted to write to parents to provide some clarity around the use of toilets during the school day. I'm aware of some recent unhelpful rumours on social media which are simply untrue, so I wanted to share with parents/carers the rationale behind our systems.

Students are encouraged to use the toilets before school, at break time, at lunch time and after school in order to reduce the need to go to the toilet during lesson time. The reason for this is that we want to minimise the disruption to learning time. If a student genuinely needs the toilet, they are of course, permitted to go. Unfortunately, we do have some students who take advantage of this and waste their own and others learning time.

When a student goes to the toilet during lesson time, they are picked up by a member of staff on 'active support' and escorted to the toilet blocks. The reasons for this are below:

- We can monitor who is in toilets to ensure they remain a safe space and they are used appropriately
- We can ensure groups of students aren't gathering in the toilets
- It reduces the amount of damage in toilets (on occasion there have been instances of damage to toilets)
- It prevents students from being able to vape in toilets.

Eliminating some of the risks above mean that we can appropriately safeguard our students.

When the toilets are not in use they are locked. They are then unlocked when a member of staff walks a student to the toilet. I am aware of rumours that the toilets are locked all day, this is simply not the case. They are only locked when they are not in use. They are also unlocked before school, break and lunch times. The rationale for this is below:

- Using this system, we are always aware of who is in the toilet meaning they remain a safe space
- Students don't have the opportunity to truant lessons in the toilets (we have next to no truancy issues at the academy – this system is a large contributing factor)
- It reduces the amount of damage in toilets
- It prevents students from being able to vape in the toilets.



When students go to the toilet, we scan their ID cards. The rationale for this is below:

- This is to identify patterns, for example, individual students using the toilets during certain subjects or times during the day
- To keep a track of which students are taking advantage of the system
- By identifying those who use the system inappropriately, we are able to reduce toilet use for those who don't actually need to go, therefore making it easier for students who genuinely need to access the toilets.

We provide a staff presence around the toilet blocks at social times and we only let in the same number of students as toilets cubicles available (if there are 6 toilets cubicles then only 6 students will be allowed in at one time). The rationale for this is:

- To keep the toilets a safe space
- To reduce damage
- To prevent students from vaping
- To ensure the toilets don't become an intimidating place for students to enter
- To ensure students leave the toilets when finished to allow for other students to use them.

Behind every decision we make at the academy, we have the best interests of the students at heart. Toilet use, damage and disruptive behaviour in toilets is a national issue, something many schools are struggling with. Our systems allow for the toilets at Wath Academy to remain a safe space for students, which for us, is the most important thing.

I hope I have managed to provide some further clarity around our systems. I would also like to offer the opportunity for any parent or carer to have a tour of the Academy to see all our systems in action and experience our high standards and excellent learning environment. If this is something you would like to do, please get in touch at [enquiries@wathacademy.com](mailto:enquiries@wathacademy.com).

### **Parking when picking up students**

Can I please ask that parents/carers who are picking up their children from school refrain from parking on the zig-zag lines. We have received complaints from the public as this causes further congestion.



## Academy Awards

Following the hugely successful Academy Awards event hosted last year at the Sheffield City Hall, we have again secured the historic venue for this year's event which will be held on Wednesday 19 July 2023.

On the evening we will be rewarding a number of students with a range of awards as well as watching the Academy's best musicians, dancers and actors. Last year Mark Labbett (best known as 'The Beast' from ITV's The Chase) presented awards. We will be looking to secure a celebrity once again to make the event special for our students.

We will be giving out over 2000 free tickets to students, parents/carers and the community for what promises to be an exceptional night.

We would like to provide local businesses with an opportunity to be involved in the event by sponsoring a page in the programme or even a prestigious award. In addition to advertising the business, we would also provide two VIP tickets which include reserved seating and drinks on arrival.

All money raised through sponsorship will be put directly in to making the event even more special. If you would like to sponsor the event in any way, please get in touch with us at [academyawards@wathacademy.com](mailto:academyawards@wathacademy.com).

Yours sincerely

Mr Ransome

**Principal**





**Wath  
Academy**

## **Class Charts**

From Monday 20 March, all notifications regarding Achievement points, Behaviour and Whole school notifications will be sent via the Class Charts App. When information is sent from the Academy, an email notification will be received. The School Gateway app and Epraise will no longer be used.

The Attendance Team will continue to send messages regarding absence or punctuality via text message.

Satchel One and ParentPay will continue to be used as normal.

Emails have already been sent home to parents/carers with information on how to access the Class Charts App.

If you have any queries, please email [enquiries@wathacademy.com](mailto:enquiries@wathacademy.com)

Yours sincerely

Mr A Hopkin  
Vice Principal

