

TAE

WASELEY

WORD

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FREE

Earthquake hits Japan

Elliot Mitchell sums up the devastating impact of the Japanese earthquake.

A horrific earthquake and tsunami hit Japan on Friday 11th March 2011 at around 6:45am local time. It was the biggest earthquake yet at 8.9 on the Richter scale and caused a tsunami in the middle of the sea, forcing Japan to its knees. The coastal cities and villages have been hit hardest and caused devastation and death. At the time of printing this paper many people are still missing. Some hope was brought to the rescuers in Japan when an eighty year old grandma and her grandson were found in the rubble nine days after the quake!

The nuclear power plant was damaged by the quake, disabling the cooling systems. Over the past few weeks, nuclear experts from all over the world have been trying their upmost to stop a complete melt down of the nuclear reactors, causing a nuclear catastrophe! Army helicopters and fire trucks have been called in to spray water on the reactors until they are functioning to their full capability. People from the capital Tokyo are trying to get out of the country using the airports, which have become crowded with people trying to escape the devastation causing lengthy queues for any flight out. Other countries have laid on planes to help with the demand.

Thousands of people having been left homeless after the earthquake and temporary homes are being made to accommodate survivors. Food has been found to be contaminated with radioactive matter however; this is still under the government's safety limits meaning it is still okay to eat



but could have short-term effects. Thousands of people having been left homeless after the earthquake and temporary homes are being made to accommodate survivors. Food has been found to be contaminated with radioactive matter however; this is still under the government's safety limits meaning it is still okay to eat but could have short-term effects. Water from taps in Tokyo has also been found to have a higher level of iodine, caused by the nuclear leak. A 20km evacuation zone has been declared around the Fukushima plant and a 30km safety zone advises people to stay indoors under a no fly zone. The US Embassy have advised an 80km exclusion zone.

To help the Japanese people reclaim their lives from the quake, you can donate at: redcross.org.uk or call 08450 53 53 53 for more information but please ask permission from the bill payer first.

Image above: Devastation caused by the earthquake in Japan. One of the most destructive earthquakes the world has ever seen.



Business & Enterprise

Phillipe Phoodie The Word's resident food critic...



Find out what tasty treats are on offer at the Waseley Hills Canteen... Don't be shy, go and try!

Bonjour! Waseley peoples! I ave come back for more! More and more delights keep filling my mouth and ze cafe az issued a new version ze menu! Uhr, um, oo la la! I ave sampled ze noodles and ze spring rolls ze traditional Chinese dish keeps tantalizing my taste buds. I wish we ad cuisine like dis in France! Ze atmosphere is amazing ze smoothies are smooth, fruity and ze texture is magical! Join me next time for ze latest update ze marvellous delights of Waseley ills igh.

BON APPETITE!

AU REVOIR!

Year 9 Arts Day

On Friday 18th March the whole of Year 9 had a day of arts. These were Drama, Art, Media, Enterprise, Music and Dance. The whole of the year had to wear sports clothes for the day and were given a timetable including all of the subjects' 50 minute slots. Throughout the day the students had the chance to win raffle tickets. These were awarded in all lessons for creativity, teamwork and various other key areas. At the end of the day the raffle tickets were placed in a box and ten tickets were picked out and won a £5 HMV voucher. This day was an opportunity to see what the subjects students may have chosen in their options are like. All students thoroughly enjoyed the day organised by the Arts Faculty.

Winners of the raffle tickets during Year 9 Arts Day had the opportunity to win HMV vouchers.

hmv get closer

I'm Watching Watching Eye, Are You?

The school has organised a drama group to produce a Waseley Online Soap. Application forms were sent out followed by a massive response. Then, the task was on to find a professional to help. Using government funding, interviews were set up and were narrowed down to a lady called Nina Jones. Nina is a professional editor who has worked on vast array of films. Following this process, on Wednesday 2nd March, everyone that applied was brought together to produce the first ever episode of the Waseley Soap, Watching Eye. It was a challenging day and the students learnt a lot about making a TV Programme, from how to use a camera to editing the final result. The day started of by brainstorming ideas and doing warm-up exercises to get the teams' brains active. The team of approximately 30 were split into two groups for the two different scenes and set to work appointing directors along with all the other jobs needed to film an episode. Finally, filming began and then the long trawl of editing and finishing it all off. The episode will be on the school website soon so keep your eyes peeled for the first ever Waseley soap!



Waseley Hills Soap, the next Eastenders or Coronation Street? You decide! Watch the first episode on the school's website soon!

Get with the Times

Part 2

Following on from The Waseley Word's article in our last edition about the changes being made to the school timetable, Natalie Aylett looks at how we are finding them two terms in.

We are almost seven months into the new term, and in that time many changes have been made including changes to the staff at the school and the discipline procedures now in place, as well as the new school two week timetable and alterations to the school day.

Each student was given a new two week timetable at the beginning of the new term and at first it proved a challenge to both student and teachers alike. Before the new term I interviewed students and teachers to get a better insight of what was going to happen to the school day, and their opinions. To get a better understanding of the school's opinions I have allowed time for them to get used to the new day.

For this article, I have interviewed at least one student from each year group and asked them several questions related to how they have adapted to the changes and whether they preferred the old timetable to the current one.

After interviewing a student or

group from each year group, I have gained a better insight about general opinions regarding the new timetable. However, due to the Year 7 pupils joining the school once the new timetable was put into action they have nothing to compare the timetable to. Therefore, I was able to ask them whether they liked the timetable layout, this question was met with a mixed reaction.

Year 8 students, Monique McDonald & Demi Keville, who knew the old timetable layout said they disliked the new timetable because they found they were often late to lessons because they kept having to check whether it was Week 1 or Week 2. They said that they find the timetable, 'too confusing'.

However, after interviewing a Year 9 student, Laura Debar, I managed to get an alternative view on the new timetable layout. Laura said that she likes this new layout and due to lessons being extended we seem to cover more in lesson time. She also stated that she preferred the old timetable to this one but feels this timetable isn't bad, it just takes time to get used to.

I continued to interview different year groups to help get a better insight on peoples' views and my next interviewee was a

Year 10 student, Natalie Jones. She commented that she likes this new timetable layout but added 'why fix it when it's not broke'. I also asked her whether she preferred the old one to this a she replied 'no, I like this one'.

Finally, my next interviewees were two Year 11 students, Oliver and Charlotte. I asked them the same questions but got a negative response. They said that they do not like this new timetable and that they preferred the old one.

Due to them being at the school the longest it was only fair to interview some sixth formers. They said that they did not like the new timetable and that it is confusing and hard to remember your lessons for that week. However, even though they preferred the old timetable layout to this one, they said that they liked the longer lessons.

As you can see there are some very mixed opinions about the new timetable. Some argue it's confusing, others say it's a good thing because they get longer lessons and are able to do more within the time. As with everything, it just needs time to get used to; new rules, new staff, new timetable. This year as seen many changes and it may seem overwhelming to both the pupils and staff alike. Just give it a year and I'm sure everything will work out in the end.



New Teachers Bring New Changes

Since the start of the Autumn term at Waseley; there have been lots of new additions to the school, not only the new intake of Year 7 students but some new teachers as well. Bethany Herbert and Natalie Aylett find out what Mr Boot and Miss Swift think of Waseley and what changes they hope to bring to the school.

Mr Boot is our new Deputy Head along with Mr Mead who is already well known around the school. We decided to go and ask Mr Boot a few questions to see what he thinks about our school, what he likes and what he plans to change.

The Waseley Word asked Mr Boot a whole range of different questions but we decided to start with the straightforward and simple 'Do you like it here at Waseley?' Mr Boot's answer to this question was that he does like it here; he especially likes the location of the school as it is surrounded by hills whereas with some schools you can't see a bit of green for miles. Furthermore, he is impressed with the staff and students at the school, he thinks that the staff were all very welcoming when he first arrived and seemed very together and organised. As for the students he considers the young people he has spoken to to have been very polite and well presented. He also mentioned how helpful the students had been in the first

week when he kept getting lost!

We decided to take the questions to the next level and ask him if there is anything he doesn't like at the school and would want to change? His reply was that what he does want to do is to bring a few new ideas to the school. He told us that he would like to change the behaviour awards and punishments, that he might like to change the process of putting students on reports which we have seen evidence of since this interview and maybe, with the help of staff and pupils, can come up with a more effective way to get students on the right track to a good education. But Mr Boot does not just want to just focus on the negative things happening in school, he would also like to reward all of the achievements happening on a regular basis throughout the school.

Finally, we also asked Mr Boot whether there was anything different about Waseley in comparison to his old school. He told us that the location of both of the schools differs greatly because his previous school was obviously in a different place and where his last school was there was not much greenery, whereas at Waseley we are literally on the Waseley Hills so there is a lot more countryside. He also said that his last school was a sports college so it will be different for him to work here as Waseley is a Business and Enterprise school.



The Waseley Hills, the beautiful location of our school.

As a closing question we asked Mr Boot whether on the whole he is enjoying his time here at Waseley? He answered, he is very much enjoying his time here and there are many things about the school that he loves and some things that he will want to change. He said that he hopes he will be at Waseley for many years to come.

"I would like to reward all of the achievements happening on a regular basis throughout the school."



Waseley Hills High School's entrance, set in front of the beautiful Waseley Hills backdrop.

Another new addition to the staff this year is Miss Swift, who has taken the place of Head of Music. It is a big change for all of the new members of staff who have moved schools, especially for Miss Swift who has moved from a school that is big on music to one that is not as advanced. Waseley Word decided to ask Miss Swift a few questions about what her old school was like to how she has settled in to Waseley. She describes her old school as 'brill' and that she 'loved it'. She said that it was a very big music department and that it was very good musically. She also said that there were lots of activities going on all the time. She said that she hopes to bring lots of musical activities to the school and the evidence of this since September has been clear with excellent concerts and workshops. Most notably, Miss Swift has arranged for Status Quo drummer Jeff Rich to visit the school next term (Tuesday 26th April) to do a workshop with both Year 8 and GCSE Music students.

The Waseley Word then quizzed Miss Swift about her musical ability. She claimed to be able to play the saxophone, piano/keyboard and a little bit of guitar. As Miss Swift plays so many instruments and has taught many students with musical abilities I asked her to predict what grades she thought the current Year 11 students will achieve. She went on to say that she would love all of her Year 11 students to achieve A* but she's not sure whether that's very realistic. Although they may not all get A* she says she thinks they will all do pretty well and they will

achieve the grade they want if they put in the hard work.

We went on to talk about whether she has mentored any talented students during the years she has taught music. Miss Swift replied that all the students she has taught had been talented in their own way. In a musical sense at her old school she taught quite a lot of students who have now gone to college and university for further education in music. Some students from her old school play in a lot of groups in local areas and she has been to see them and has enjoyed witnessing their talents. As this is Miss Swift's ninth year of teaching she doesn't think that she

has actually been teaching long enough for one of her students to become a massive success. She has taught many students that she is sure will go on to be a huge success in music. One of the problems that Miss Swift has had with her musical students is getting them to admit their musical talent. Once she has found a student with a brilliant talent and seeing them excel is one of the best parts of her job.

After taking over from Mr Rumney as Head Of Music at Waseley she sees coming to the school and having seen the way that Mr Rumney has taught as a chance to add her own ideas and bring a fresh musical look to the school.



Status Quo's drummer Jeff Rich will be visiting the school for a workshop on Tuesday 26th April.

"One of the hardest things about being a music teacher is getting pupils to admit their musical talent!"

Find out how Status Quo's Jeff Rich's workshop goes in the next edition of The Waseley Word!



Status Quo's drummer Jeff Rich gets into the swing of things behind his kit!

Shakespeare Schools Festival

Elliot Mitchell celebrates another successful Waseley Hills performance at the Shakespeare Schools Festival.

For the second time, pupils in the drama group have enjoyed performing in the spotlight. They had been practicing for four months since June for this momentous occasion and dazzled Birmingham's Old Rep stage.

On the night of Thursday 14th October Waseley pupils performed a condensed version of Macbeth in front of an audience of over two hundred and three other schools performing on the night. All of the schools performing did fantastically well and were a credit to the Midlands!

This festival has been taking place for ten years and was started by just a few schools in Wales. It has grown rapidly to a national festival named the Shakespeare Schools Festival. This gives the students the chance to perform the bard's words on a stage in front of the spotlight, allowing pupils to see what it feels like to perform on a big stage in front of a big audience. The organisers also want to treat the pupils that enter like proper actor, they provide workshops for the students to help with this. Each school has to perform a Shakespeare play in the thirty minute slot they were given.

All the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and would like to thank Mrs Heathrington, Mrs Taylor and Miss Morris for all the work they put into the play and Mr Roll, our Headteacher and all the other teachers, staff and parents who came to support the students in the play.



Sixth Formers Reach Second Place in Exciting Debate!

On Friday the 25th March, at North Bromsgrove school, two sixth form pupils from Waseley Hills represented the school in an exciting debating challenge. Steph Willan and Lauren Pitchford shone on the night debating the topics "Two Heads are Better than One" and "The Monarchy", finally losing out in the final to The Bromsgrove School in a debate about regime change in Libya. Miss Morris described the night as "exciting" and said that the students really did the school proud. Another sixth former, Zoe Shaw, who could not be there on the night helped in the creation of the three debates. The school would like to thank Miss Morris, Mr Hall and Mrs Amato for their hard work and help in the tense run up to the competition.



Stephanie Willan and Lauren Pitchford receive their award for second place in the debating final.

"The night was exciting and the students really did the school proud!"



Birmingham City Win the Carling Cup

Birmingham City FC were worthy winners of this year's Carling Cup at Wembley, beating strong favourites Arsenal 2-1. Birmingham were the better team on the night creating good chances and defending with a great amount of determination. No one showed this better than Roger Johnson who was injured early in the second half but was adamant he was going to play through the pain to help his team earn the victory. Well done Blues!



Birmingham City Football Club manager Alex McLeish lifts the Carling Cup trophy after beating Arsenal 2-1.

The Waseley Word on Sport

Waseley Pupils Win the Schools Girls Under 13s Football Premier League Tournament



The victorious Year 7 and 8 Waseley Hills Girls Football Team. Congratulations!

Year 7 and 8 girls were invited to attend a 'Schools Girls Under 13s Football Premier League Tournament' which was held by West Bromwich Albion. The teams played a series of games against some high quality school teams. Eight games were played, six were won easily and two of the games were drawn; leaving us as overall winners. Two notable names are Lucy Shaw who scored an impressive 18 goals and Amy Kendall who scored 8 goals during the tournament.

As a result of winning, the team will now go on to play other premier league school teams, representing West Bromwich Albion. The National tournament is to be held at a premier league ground in London during May. The day will be fully funded by West Bromwich Albion and the girls will gain the following experience; the players will use the first-team dressing room, run out onto the pitch (wearing full West Bromwich Albion kit) through the tunnel to the Premier League anthem and have their matches officiated by top flight referees.

The girls who played are as follows: Amy Kendall (Captain), Lucy Shaw (Vice Captain), Sarah Fox, Lucy Hopwood, Megan Keogh, Katie Hayward, Elysha Shelly and Grace Lenihan

Miss Richardson is one very proud PE teacher! The girls put in 110% and Miss Richardson was very impressed with their determination and the way in which they represented the school. They are a real credit to Waseley!



England win the Six Nations



Above: Toby Flood, arguably one of the best player of the competition.

The England Rugby Team were narrow winners of this year's Six Nations rugby tournament. Convincing in their first few matches they struggled against Ireland in the last game but due to other results they ended up winners of the title. Stand-out players for England were Toby Flood, Chris Ashton, Nick Easter and Tom Palmer; who was voted England's player of the tournament.

Conratulations England!

Watch out for England Women's Football Team playing in the Fifa World Cup in Germany this summer.

Come on England!



Above: The England cricket team, celebrating winning The Ashes in Australia.

England win The Ashes

Over the Christmas period the England cricket team faced Australia for The Ashes, the biggest cricket clash in the sport. England were in good form going into the tournament and were worthy winners after the five tests. Alistair Cook and Jonathan Trott were overall leading scorers of The Ashes with Cook being crowned player of the tournament. Unfortunately, all this hard work led to England being knocked out of the Cricket World Cup in the quarter finals against Sri Lanka 2 weeks ago.

England

Morgan Gibbs (Year 7) has written a poem about his love of England.

England rules, yes we do
We make money just for you
Our King of place is London Town
Queen Elizabeth wears our crown.

In many places we are known
That we really like to moan
In many cases this is false
In fact we are quite happy.

We live in a land with beautiful
views
Cottages, bungalows, mid terrace,
mews
Beaches, coastlines, mountains too
Churches, chapels, take a pew.

Gifted people yes we are
Roast beef, cream teas, the best
by far
Although on a map we seem so
small
Everyone stands so proud and tall.

We wave our flag in victory
Of wars won and yet to see.