

Wallington High School for Girls

THE WALLINGTON WEEK

HEIRS OF THE PAST, MAKERS OF THE FUTURE

TUESDAY 9TH JULY 2024



Message from the Headteacher



Dear Parents and Carers,

This is the last Wallington Week of the academic year. I've had an incredible first year, and I hope much of this has been captured in my regular updates in this newsletter. I feel incredibly proud that I work here with such wonderful students and staff, and with such great support from

you the parents, and from the wider community including the Girls Learning Trust, other secondary headteachers and the PFA who are an incredible body of people that work so hard for the benefit of the school. Next week will be the Heirs and Makers magazine which will showcase this term's highlights, but I just wanted to mention a few things this week.

On Saturday we welcomed new parents to school for the PFA BBQ event. I hear it was a huge success with lots of new families coming together to make friends and meet existing parents. The whole community of parents, staff and students all came together to make this event possible. The event also raised a lot of money, £3624.08 for our science labs, just one of the many events this year that the PFA have delivered. If you want to be involved next year, please do contact them. You don't have to give a huge amount of time, as all help is appreciated.

I couldn't make the BBQ event as I was in Birmingham with our school Gospel Choir for the Youth Music National Festival. I travelled with Ms. Yard and 24 students who sang beautifully and performed to a very high level. More on this next week!

The Year 7 induction day, also last week, welcomed all our new Year 7s and I was very proud of Laura and Amber from Year 8 who spoke to the students, and again later, to the parents. They were very warm and welcoming and did a great job.

Open Evening last Thursday was a big event. There were so many students who were tour guides, who supported departments, performed in the Quad, and helped in so many ways. The feedback from visitors was that they were all amazing and a real credit to the school. A special thank you to Bana, Giovanna, Daisy and Zara who all had the courage to speak to thousands of families in the hall!

Useful links

Co-Curricular Activities

[SOCs](#), the school's new online system for Co-Curricular activities, will allow your child to see all available activities but also allow you to view after school registers to see if your child is attending and in school.

Careers Noticeboard

For live updates on careers related opportunities please click [here](#).

Current Vacancies

Click [here](#) for a link to our vacancies page.

Upcoming events

July 8th -

Year 9 Celebration
Picnic

July 16th - 18th

WHSG Summer
Enrichment

July 9th -

Sports Day

July 11th -

Sports Awards
Ceremony

14th - 19th July

CCF Longmoor

July 15th -

Makers of the
Future Day

Well Done

Wallington Awards

Message from the Headteacher

Last Monday we held our Year 13 Prize Giving celebration. We welcomed two guests Jacky Oliver and Yolander Walker, both ex Wallingtonian students, and many students were awarded prestigious subject, values and leadership awards. There was a fantastic atmosphere, and all students received their year books at the end of the event at our reception in the gym. As a wonderful gesture of appreciation for the school, Chloe in Year 13 donated an incredible AI chessboard to the chess club, the pieces move themselves!

Iniya, Zahra, Hafsa, Emily, Diya in Year 11 have been awarded an Arkwright Scholarship in Engineering after a rigorous selection process involving a very lengthy detailed application form, an exam and an interview with a presentation. Congratulations! No small feat.

Last week we said goodbye to Mrs. Waterman, who is off on Maternity leave – we wish her all the best, and we welcomed back Mrs. Ngobi as Head of the Music Department, who has come back from maternity leave.

We also say goodbye to Mrs. Hopgood, Mrs. Walters, Mrs. Bird – who are all retiring, we thank them for their incredible service to the school and to the education sector. We say goodbye to Mrs. Emkes and Mr. Dawes, a big thank you to them both, and to Miss. Aldemir who has worked as our Events and Communications Manager.

And finally, we say goodbye to Jen Smith, our CEO. Jen will be with us until the end of August but then she is leaving us to take retirement. Jen has been the CEO at WHSG since September 2019, and has seen the school through many challenges, but also the high points, and has supported us all the way.

- Ms T O'Brien
Headteacher



This week: Week A**Monday 8th July**

- Year 11 WEX (All week)
- Year 12 Academic Review Week (All week)
- Year 9 Celebration Picnic (Sports Hall at 13:30)
- Late detention (15:10-15:30 - E06)

Tuesday 9th July**Wednesday 10th July**

- Sports Day (Reserve)
- Staff bulletin entry deadline 13:00
- Central detention (15:10 – 15:40 – E06)
- Late detention (15:10-15:30 - E06)

Thursday 11th July

- Late detention (15:10-15:30 - E06)
- Sports Awards Ceremony 2024

Friday 12th July

- Summer Fayre (15:00-16:30)
- Late detention (15:10-15:30 - E06)
- Central detention (15:10 – 16:10 – E06)
- Headteacher detention (15:10-17:10)

**Summer Self-Care Toolkit**

It's important that your children look after their mental wellbeing during the summer holidays. The break can also be a great time to develop good self-care habits, so that when term starts again, students have techniques they can turn to in stressful times. This toolkit contains activities and guidance to help support and boost mental wellbeing over the summer and beyond. Here is the [toolkit](#).

- Miss M Gough
Assistant Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding Lead

Support over the Summer Term

Please note that the safeguarding team will not be available over the holidays, therefore, if you or your child need support please refer to the links below or visit our website - [Pastoral Care](#) homepage.

www.talkofftherecordonline.org (Talking therapy)

www.nspcc.org.uk (concerned about a friend and their safety in the home)

www.selfharmuk.org (if someone you know / or you is concerned about self harm)

www.youngminds.org.uk (mental health concerns of any nature)

www.kooth.com (for anonymous emotional wellbeing support)

www.papyrus.org (if you / or someone you care for has suicidal thoughts)

If your child is feeling low or unsafe, it is important they talk to someone they trust and tell them how they are feeling. Sometimes it can be difficult for them to talk to friends and family so here are some other places they can contact instead:

School nurse duty line - 020 8770 5409

Childline – 0800 1111

Samaritans – 116 123

Hopeline – 0800 068 4141

NSPCC – 0808 800 5000

- Miss M Gough
Assistant Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding Lead

Student Wellbeing Survey

You may remember that back in November we sent out a survey asking for students' views and opinions on how the school supports students with their mental health and wellbeing. We will be sending out this survey again to gather more information and to see if things have changed since then. An email will be sent by Miss Gough to all students with a link to the survey.

- Miss M Gough
Assistant Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding Lead



PSHCE Year 12 Drugs Education Focus Group

On the 26th of June I, along with some of my peers, were fortunate enough to meet with Fiona Spargo-Mabbs from the [Daniel Spargo Mabbs Foundation](#) and the representatives from the Home Office to discuss the education of drugs amongst young people in schools, and the steps that can be taken to improve it.

In our discussion we recognised a range of areas that have been successful in educating and spreading awareness of the dangers of drugs, alongside the weakness and areas to improve. We established that real life accounts of people our age that we can relate to are incredibly useful in cutting through to young people and creating feelings of guilt and sympathy, for example the story of Dan Spargo-Mabbs touched many students. From our discussions, we also concluded that most young people have been exposed to the idea of drugs through social media and music, rather than in social settings, therefore advertisements should be

Library Opening Hours - End of Term

Due to changes in the building works schedule, the Library will now be open for the last two weeks of term. However, there will be no after school provision in the final week.

- Mrs K Reilly
School Librarian

PSHCE Year 9 Drugs Education from the Daniel Spargo Mabbs Foundation

On Wednesday 26th June educators from the Daniel Spargo Mabbs Foundation came in to talk with Year 9 as part of their PSHCE education on drugs and alcohol. The talk gave students up to date facts regarding the physical effects of drugs, the law and the unpleasant reality of how illegal substances are produced. It was a highly engaging and informative and gave students a number of practical tips to help them make safe and healthy choices.

More information about DSMF can be found [online](#).

- Mrs A Griffin
Head of PSHCE

directed across those platforms in a subtle manner. Other ways to improve the education of drugs could include having a health worker to come in to run interactive and smaller sessions with classes, to keep students engaged and allow time for discussions.

Finally, we briefly learnt about the institution of the Home Office and the different branches within it, the representative explained that each department will work with a minister from the government's cabinet. Their job is to remain apolitical and guide ministers over policies regarding their department. The experience was invaluable and incredibly eye-opening to know about the work that goes on behind the scenes to shape policies and protect our society.

Further information about the Daniel Spargo Mabbs Foundation and the work they do can be found [online](#).

- Mika, Year 12

Investing in our local community: Lavendar Oaks Care Home Visit

At WHSG, we take pride in setting high expectations for our students in relation to their academic achievements. Although it is very important that our students fulfil their potential when it comes to outcomes, that is one part of their educational journey here. We recognise the importance of encouraging our students to feel empowered to make a difference in their own lives as well as people around them.

A group of our Y7 and Y12 students made such a difference in the lives of a local care home at Lavender Oaks Park on Thursday, 27th June when they showcased their talents in front of the residents. The elderly residents were so impressed with our students' musical and dance talents that the whole place was filled with cheers and clapping after each performance. In a relatively short space of time that we spent at the care home, the range of talent that was on display varied from Rae and Namoshi each playing a piece of music with their violins to Isha singing an opera song and Ada singing in Polish and Avika playing the flute, Kaitlyn, Valentine, Jan, Harini, Namoshi, Pavithra, Mithraa, Aayagi, Sharjana and Tharaniga dancing to Asian and modern dance choreographies. When we received the following message from the care home shortly after, we were grateful that we could have the chance to make them feel happy and experience something different than what they normally do in their day to day lives.

"Thank you so much for visiting our care home, the residents were blown away by the performances, looking forward to doing this again." - Alison (Activities and Wellbeing Lead)

We are so delighted with our first visit to Lavender Oaks and we are looking forward to building on this positive engagement with such lovely part of our local community.

- Ms B Şanda, Head of Year 12 and
Ms S Khan, Head of Year 7

Year 7 performers:

Avika - Playing the flute
Ada - Singing a Polish song
Isha - Singing opera
Rae - Playing the violin

Year 12 performers:

Kaitlyn and Valentine - Modern dance
Harini and Jan - Asian dance
Namoshi - Playing the violin
Aayagi; Mithraa; Namoshi; Pavithra; Sharjana;
Tharaniga - group Asian dance



General Notices

Attendance

Requests for absence, including illness or appointments should be sent to:

attendance@wallingtongirls.org.uk

Please provide at least 2 full school days notice of a planned absence for the school to complete the required processes before the event.

Absences for longer than one day need to be confirmed at least 2 weeks prior to the event. Families should note that requests for holidays during term time will not be approved and penalty fines can be issued.

To notify WHSG of a leave of absence, please complete this [form](#) and return to the email above.

Changes in contact information

If you need to update your home address or contact telephone number, emergency contacts or any other information, please send the updates to:

KS3 and 4 – mandrews@wallingtongirls.org.uk

KS5 – jday@wallingtongirls.org.uk

Parking

Please note that parents are unable to park or drive into the school grounds between the hours of 7.30 -4.30 for safeguarding reasons. Families can contact our reception to ask for permission, where the need arises for a pupil with mobility issues.

reception@wallingtongirls.org.uk

Please also ensure that when dropping your child at school each day, you are respectful of our local residents by not blocking drives and roads or impacting others safety by parking or dropping off your child(ren) irresponsibly.

Back-to-school advice

Click [here](#) for essential information provided by the GovUK website.

Punctuality

Good punctuality to both lessons and to school is expected of all students. We know that employers place great importance on punctuality and attendance, therefore it is important for our students to understand the value of being on time.

WHSG will issue same day, 20 min detentions for students that are late into school, without a valid reason or persistent lateness to classes. Parents and students will be notified as soon as possible of the detention and the reasoning by email.

We ask that parents support these actions as important processes for the school and understand that detentions cannot be moved for any after school clubs or enrichment events. Should a detention clash with a medical appointment, evidence will be requested for the school to show flexibility.

