

The Wallington Week

HIERS OF THE PAST, MAKERS OF THE FUTURE

Monday 16th September 2024



Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to our first Wallington Week of the new school year.

Each week I hope to give you a flavour of the exciting events of the week gone by, and an idea of what's coming up. On Friday the PFA ran their first second hand uniform sale and raised over £300! We know that many students still need a padlock for their lockers, we now have stock at reception – they are £6 each and students will need to bring cash for these please.



Breakfast is available for all students in the canteen from 8am to 8.20 am. There is a selection of pastries and fruit to buy, and free porridge for all. The main meal allowance for students on free school meals has increased to £2.65 which buys a main meal and pudding, or something from the takeaway selection with fruit and a drink.

I have written about our excellent summer results in this month's news item on the website, please do have a look!

Last week we hosted the Parents Information Evening for Year 12 families, this was extremely well attended, and we are really pleased with this excellent level of engagement. This week we have the Year 7 Information Evening on Wednesday 18th and the Year 10 event on Thursday 19th, both starting at 6pm.

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

Sept 17th- SET Test

Sept 18th- Y7 Parents info evening

Sept 19th- Y10 Parents info evening

Sept 25th- Whole School Photo

Sept 28th- Second Stage SET test

Our building works continue, roofs are still being fixed and once we have more news on other works, I will let you all know. We aim to close the library on 4th October but will have a new smaller space available for studying, borrowing books and staying after school. Details will follow nearer the time.

Our greenhouse has arrived! Not the best time of year for growing but we have a few tomato plants and a chilli plant in there. If you have anything you could donate, we would be really grateful.

Tuesday, this week, is our SET Day – so students will be working from home on work that has been set by their teachers, and on Wednesday 25th September we are having our WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPH, let's hope the weather stays kind to us!

-Ms T O'brien
Headteacher

Calendar

Monday 16th September

DofE Silver Qualifying Expedition - Year 11
School Production Auditions- Main hall (3-5pm)
Late Detention (3.10-3.30pm E06)

Tuesday 17th September

SET Test - At home learning

Wednesday 18th September

Splendid Productions Drama workshop
School Production Auditions- Main hall (3-5pm)
Y7 Parents Information Evening (6-8pm)

Thursday 19th September

Late Detention (3.10-3.30pm E06)
School Production Auditions- Main hall (3-5pm)
Y10 Parents Information Evening (6-8pm)

Friday 20th September

Late Detention (3:10PM-3:30PM E06)
Headteacher Detention (3:10pm-3:10pm E06)
Central Detention (3:10-4:10pm E06)



Messages from DSL

Responding to Online Extremism – Guidance for Parents and Carers

In the wake of the events over the summer, the rise of online extremist and racist content has become more apparent across social media, forums and discussion groups. The risk of being affected by harmful online content is an ongoing concern that parents, carers and professionals need to be aware of. SWGFL have put together this helpful guide for parents and carers on how to respond to these concerns:

[Responding to Online Extremism – Guidance for Professionals and Parents \(swgfl.org.uk\)](#)

Extend your Child Benefit claim for your teen today.

A message from HMRC –

It's time for parents across the UK to extend their Child Benefit claim if their 16-19-year-old is staying in full-time non-advanced education or approved training.

HMRC sent 1.4 million letters between 24 May and 17 July to parents, explaining how to extend their claim. If you haven't received a letter, there's no need to worry. You can still extend your Child Benefit via the HMRC app or online where eligible.

We know how important Child Benefit can be to families, so let HMRC know by 31 August if your teen intends to stay in approved education or training.

Extending your Child Benefit ensures you won't miss out on any payments from 31 August. However, if your child changes their mind about further education or training, you can simply let HMRC know online or in the app and we'll update our records and adjust any payments as needed.

For parents who can't extend their Child Benefit online, you can still do so by post or by phone

Medical Appointments

If your child needs to leave school early for a planned medical appointment, parents/carers need to email the attendance address (below) at least 48 hours in advance. Students need to inform their Form Tutor in the morning, then the relevant subject teacher if they need to leave a lesson early. Students must report to reception when leaving the premises where they will receive an out of school pass.

If your child returns to school on the same day, they must report to reception on arrival in order to sign in. If there is an emergency medical appointment, parents/carers should email the attendance address by 8.45am on the day.

If your child is ill, parents/ carers should email the school by 8.45am every day they are absent stating the reason for absence. The e-mail address is:

attendance@wallingtongirls.org.uk.

New National Framework for Attendance and Penalty Notices

The Borough's Attendance Support Team will consider the issue of Penalty Notices for unauthorised absence to parents/carers. This will be where:

- holidays are taken during term time;
- persistent late arrival at school (equivalent to a minimum of 10 sessions (5 days) accrued in a 6 week period)
- overall absence, within the previous six months, has fallen to 90% or below (10% or more absence);
- at least 50% of that absence remaining is unauthorised;
- or where there have been 10 sessions (5 days) of unauthorised absence (together or separate occasions) within a 10 school week period.

For the London Borough of Sutton's Penalty Notice Code of Conduct or further support with any attendance issues, please visit their website:

<https://www.cognus.org.uk/services/attendance-support-team/for-families/>

Parent Workshop: Mental Health During the Teenage Years - An Introduction and Overview

Date and time: Tues 17th Sep, 19.30-20.30

Facilitator: Dr Danielle Shbero - Clinical Psychologist from Sutton CAMHS

Location: This is a virtual event – Eventbrite

This webinar will cover topics including:

- What is mental health and being a teenager in today's world
- Supporting wellbeing during the teenage years – what research tells us
- Introducing a way of thinking about teenage wellbeing – the three areas model
 - Responding to teenagers and communication tips
 - Problem solving challenging situations and options for help

To register for this online workshop please click on this link:

[Mental Health During the Teenage Years - An Introduction and Overview Tickets, Tue 17 Sep 2024 at 19:30 | Eventbrite](#)

Staff Announcements

Y13 Career Interviews

We have an exciting opportunity to make a real difference for Wallington High School for Girls' Year 13 students. We are organising two special events to help them develop a crucial life skill: interviewing. This is a key skill not just for applications but for effective communication, self-presentation, and confidence-building.

For many of our students, this will be their first formal interview experience. Your support can give them the confidence and edge they need when applying for higher education, apprenticeships, or employment.

Event 1: Year 13 Medical Interview (MMI) Practice

Date: Wednesday 2nd October, 2024

Time: 15:15 – 18:30

Location: Wallington High School for Girls

What to expect:

Students applying for Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, or Veterinary Science will participate in short mock interviews (MMIs). Each session lasts 10 minutes or less and involves scenarios where you will ask questions or engage in role-play. This helps assess the students' ethical decision-making, critical thinking, and communication skills. We're proud to share that over 35 of our students have secured places in Medicine, Veterinary Science, and Dentistry this year thanks to previous practice sessions.

Note, while a medical background is preferred, it is not essential.

Event 2: Year 13 Interview Day

Date: Wednesday 20th November, 2024

Location: Wallington High School for Girls

Time: 9:30 – 15:00

What to expect:

Volunteers will conduct 30-minute face-to-face mock interviews, offering feedback and insights. Where possible we will match your specialism to an appropriate student but we may also ask you to conduct a generic interview or one broadly related to your field. We are happy for you to use your own questions but you will also be supplied with examples to assist you.

We are hoping for volunteers to attend the whole day; however, we would still welcome your participation if you are only available for part of the day. Lunch and refreshments will be provided, and for some this may also be a great opportunity to network with other professionals in the local area.

How to volunteer:

If you are willing to volunteer for one or both of these events, please complete the [form](#) here

- For MMI practice, fill out the form by September 19.
- For Interview Day, fill out the form by November 4.

Your support significantly boosts students' confidence and readiness. Thank you for considering this opportunity to make a difference!

-Mrs L Parkinson
Careers Coordinator

Parking

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 needs 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

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



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

Punctuality

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.