



WALLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

The Wallington Week

HEIRS OF THE PAST, MAKERS OF THE FUTURE

Monday 10th February 2025

Message from the Headteacher

Our whole school production of Jason and the Argonauts was incredible! The show brought together a huge range of talent from across the different year groups in the school. We had actors, dancers, singers, musicians, costume support, backstage support, lighting technicians and set designers. It was funny and entertaining and really lifted our spirits in a cold February. Well done to all those involved and thank you to all the families that attended.



When it comes to choosing courses at A Level, lots of our students choose the science subjects. For some it's because they already have a clear sense of a career pathway, and some think it's just a 'wise' thing to do. I'd like to say in my experience that whatever the students choose, it should be the subjects they love. These might be science subjects, but they might be arts, performance, language or humanities subjects. I chose Geography as my favourite subject, and I went on to study this at The London School of Economics. Many of my university friends went into shipping, journalism, law conversion courses, and a whole host of industries. Degrees open doorways to a whole host of graduate management jobs – many careers which students may not even expect. My point is that students should follow their passions and interests, and that good things will follow. This is true for GCSE decisions too – Year 9 options evening is this week!

Lots of our students ran different Mental Health activities last week. Ranging from board games, to sports, to biscuit decorating. The events were well attended and offered a lovely opportunity for students from different year groups to mix and make new friendships.

Useful Links

Co-Curricular Activities

[SOCs](#), the school's 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

11/12th February- LAMDA Spring Showcase

12th February- Y9 Options Evening

14th February- Non- Uniform Day

27th February- Y9 Parents Evening

28th February- PFA Spring Fair

I often write about the PFA and their excellent work to raise funds to support my school. I have written a separate article about their work in this newsletter.

And finally, a plea. You may have seen me with my 'no stopping' sign which I have to use a bit too often to try and ensure some parents don't pull up dangerously close to our students leaving school and blocking the drive. Sadly, some of our local community members also have concerns. Here's what one local resident has to say...

Would you kindly ask the parents not to park on the corner of Woodcote Avenue, Dower Avenue and reverse up Oakwood. There are road works going on at the moment and the gas company has erected road closure signs and barriers where the road is being dug up, but this doesn't stop the large 4x4 cars squeezing through and reversing up drives in order to turn their cars round and then wait for their children. This has been such a problem that we had a letter from the council saying that double yellow lines were going to be painted when the road works were finished sometime in February. If an ambulance needed to attend Woodcote Avenue during school finishing time it would be a problem. It's just an accident waiting to happen. The parents ignore the yellow lines in Woodcote Road and that's dreadful trying to approach the mini roundabout but causing congestion in a residential road is very annoying.

Please, please, please park on Woodmansterne Lane where there is plenty of parking and where we would be keeping our neighborhood safer. Thank you.

-Ms T O'Brien
Headteacher

Our Amazing PFA

I often talk about the support we get from our wonderful PFA. The team turn up at lots of our school events, they organise discos and the new parents' BBQ, they sell secondhand uniforms and so much more. We are incredibly grateful for all of their work and I wanted to share with you how some of the fundraising has made such a huge difference to the experiences of the students.

PFA's support WHSG Sept 23 to now			
Item	Month	value	Paidout Date
New kiln for our art department	Sep-24	£ 8,947.24	Paid out in three payment on 19th, 20th and 21st Sept 2024
Wallington Sport Tour Kit	Dec-24	£ 1,386.00	Paid out on 21st Dec 2024
Books for Y7 WHSG	May-24	£ 880.00	Paid out on 27th May 2024
Support Year13 graduation event	Apr-24	£ 300.00	Paid out on 15th April 2024
WHSG School Christmas	Dec-23	£ 268.11	Paid out on 19th Dec 2023
Year 12 Welcome	Sep-23	£ 458.54	Paid out on 20th Sept 2023
WHSG Rugby Kit	Sep-23	£ 612.80	Paid out on 20th Sept 2023
WHSG Sports equipment	Sep-23	£ 1,038.00	Paid out on 16th Sept 2023
Total		£13,890.69	

If you feel you can contribute any time to help our team, please contact pfa@wallingtongirls.org.uk

In other PFA news, the team organise a '100 club' lucky draw. The PFA have had a catch-up on the winners and have 20 winning families who will all receive £50. Names will be sent out in a parentmail, if your name is on there, please get in touch with their team. If you are not yet in the draw, please contact them for details.

Online parents evening

Our parents evenings are currently online. This started during COVID but was maintained as the majority of parents thought they were far better than the previous in person events. The major reasons given for this were flexibility around work arrangements, the lack of background noise from other appointments and the fact these appointments stuck to time. This was echoed by unanimously teaching staff.

We understand there are some concerns about parents evenings and the booking of appointments. We want to make sure parents have equal access to these so we have taken the following steps.

1. Appointments are released during standard non-working hours
2. Parents can only book for half of their child's classes in the first instance
3. In most cases appointments are 5 minutes to maximise how many parents can be seen. (This was always the case for in person events)
4. Staff can request appointments with parents who they feel they need to talk to the most.

Parents will be given the opportunity to book further appointments if they are available so please take a note of this date on the letter and the reminders that are sent out. Unfortunately, many parents seem to miss this option.

In some cases (especially in KS3) appointments do get booked up quickly however this is only the case with teachers that have multiple classes. It is worth noting that in some year groups we have teachers that teach 3 or more classes, which can be 100 plus students. This is unavoidable and putting on extra events is not appropriate as many are already doing 7 parents evenings over the school year.

For the event itself staff who do not have the necessary IT equipment at home are encouraged to stay at school to avoid issues with connectivity.

We always welcome your views and try where possible to act on them with the year 7 event evening being moved to in person as an example .

Calendar

Reminders

Half Term:

17th-21st February

INSET Day:

24th February

Early Finish 27th February:

All Year 9 students

will finish at 13.05pm.

All other students will

finish at 13:15pm.

Week B

Monday 10th February

- Late Detention (15.10-15.30pm)
- Nantes Trip Parents Information (Main Hall) (17:00-18:00pm)

Tuesday 11th February

- Late Detention (15.10-15.30pm)
- LAMDA Spring Showcase (Drama Studio 15:00-17:30pm)

Wednesday 12th February

- Central Detention (15:10pm-15:40pm)
- LAMDA Spring Showcase- (Drama Studio 15:00-17:30pm)
- Y9 Options Evening (17:30-19:30pm)

Thursday 13th February

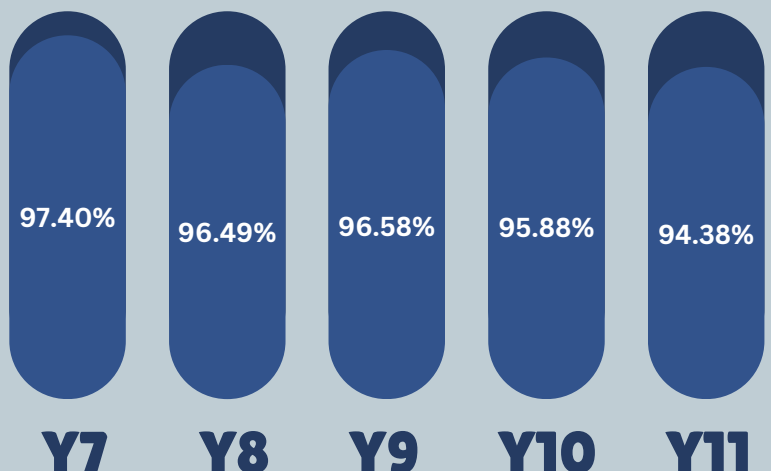
- Author Visit (11:10-12:10pm)
- Late Detention (15:10-15:30pm)

Friday 14th February

- Non-Uniform Day
- Central Detention- E06 (15:10-16:10pm)
- Late Detention-E06 (15:10-15:30pm)
- Student Event- Galentines movie (15:30-17:30pm)

Attendance Percentages

Between 02/09/24 - 01/02/25



DSL Messages

Support over the half-term break

In case you or your child need some support over the half-term break and therefore the Safeguarding team is not available, please take a look at the below. This is also on the school website - Pastoral Care home page.

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

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)

Parent Workshop: Supporting a child with an eating problem

Date and time: Thurs 13th March 2025, 18.30-20.00

Facilitator: Jenny Langley - Mental Health Trainer from The Charlie Waller Trust

Location: This is a virtual event – Zoom

Jenny Langley is an expert mental health trainer from the Charlie Waller Trust. When her eldest son recovered from anorexia over fifteen years ago Jenny left her City job behind and has since focused her attention on raising awareness of mental health and emotional resilience of young people and has a special interest in prevention, early intervention and crisis management in the school environment. This session is aimed at providing parents and carers with the knowledge and skills to support a child with an eating problem, including what an eating problem might look like and how to spot the signs.

Meeting details below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89335553694?pwd=lp3US8xGih5XY4Yxg5jBh6sPf4qXnF.1>

Meeting ID: 893 3555 3694

Passcode: 583454

Parent Workshop: Managing Exam and Assignment Stress (Years 11-13)

Date and time: Mon 24th Feb 2025, 19.00-20.00

Facilitator: Dr Danielle Shbero - Clinical Psychologist from Sutton CAMHS

Location: This is a virtual event – Eventbrite

This workshop talks through some key ideas and strategies to help manage stress and anxiety over exam periods at this challenging time.

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

[Managing Exam and Assignment Stress \(in Years 11-13\) Tickets, Mon 24 Feb 2025 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)

What is Kick Streaming?

Many parents/carers will be aware of Twitch, especially if their children are gamers. Owned by Amazon it has become incredibly popular over the years for children to either watch live streams or to live stream themselves. In the past there has been plenty of controversy about the platform, particularly in relation to restrictions that imposed upon streamers, so it's no surprise to see other platforms becoming more popular and one of those platforms is Kick (not to be confused with Kik Messenger).

It was launched in 2022, users should be 13+ and it follows the same process as Twitch where live streamers can make money. However, much of the content on Kick is adult in nature. Internet Matters has created a useful article for parents/carers about Kick which you can find [HERE](#).

-Mrs M Sundborg
Assistant Headteacher
Designated Safeguarding Lead

School Production

The School Production of Jason and the Argonauts, took place on the 4th-6th February. Students took to the stage for a fun, comedic, and fast-paced retelling of Jason and the Argonauts.

Students from across the year groups delivered a fantastic performance, including a special matinee for a primary school audience, followed by three evening shows. A huge well done to all the performers and crew, and a big thank you to everyone who helped bring this brilliant production to life!



Alumni Event Photos



Promoting and supporting autistic students' mental health in mainstream secondary schools in England



Hello! My name is Şeyda Çetintaş.



I am a doctoral student at University College London.

I want to hear from young people aged 11-16 with a diagnosis of autism and enrolled in mainstream secondary schools in England.

- ### What is involved?
- 1 Introductory online meeting session with parent and young person to share interview schedule and pre-interview task.
 - 2 Online meeting with young person to discuss their photos, drawings, notes or poems to express their ideas about wellbeing at school.

What are your experiences of **school mental health awareness** and **school mental health support**?



How can you take part?

For parents → Scan the **QR code** below to access the expression of interest form.

Want to know more?

Scan QR code to access the online questionnaire along with the information letter, or email Şeyda at seyda.cetintas.21@ucl.ac.uk



Free Webinar: Girls in a Digital World - Navigating Unrealistic Beauty Standards

luna, the health and wellbeing app for teens, is hosting a free webinar, Raising Girls in a Digital World: Navigating Unrealistic Beauty Standards, open to both parents and teens.

Join Dr. Amanda Penny, a leading skin health expert and body positivity advocate, and luna CEO Jas Schembri-Stothart as they share practical advice on building confidence and resilience in today's digital world. Topics include:

- Navigating social media pressures
- Talking to teens about body image & self-esteem
- Role-modelling healthy attitudes toward appearance

When: Thursday 27th February

Where: Online via Zoom, please register [here](#) to receive link

Teens and parents are both welcome to attend.

Only 100 spots are available, so register early to secure your place! The session will be recorded and shared with attendees afterward.

Sign up [here](#) to reserve your spot.



Wallington
High School For Girls
HEIRS OF THE PAST, MAKERS OF THE FUTURE

Spring Fair

Book your tickets via ParentPay
Ticket: Only £2 per person (incl. students)
Children under 5 go free!

FRIDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2025
3:30 PM - 6 PM

Refreshments * Popcorn * Sweets
Raffle * Tambola * Games
Variety of Stalls
Live Entertainment * Family Fun

CALLING ALL SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS

GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO SELL YOUR PRODUCTS
FOR ONLY £30

For more details,
please contact 07763 338786 or
pfa@wallingtongirls.org.uk

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK 2025

10-16 February

#NAW2025

Apprenticeships have come a long way. You can now do an apprenticeship in almost every industry imaginable: law, banking, science, engineering and marketing to name a few and with some of the leading employers in the UK...



National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) is an annual week-long celebration of apprenticeships, which aims to shine a light on the amazing work being undertaken by apprentices, employers and training providers across England.

It is also a fantastic opportunity to inspire students to consider apprenticeships as a future option and to share information about apprenticeships and technical education.

Head to the following resources to feel informed and confident in providing careers support and guidance to your child

- **RATE MY APPRENTICESHIP** has a dedicated hub for parents where you can discover expert apprenticeship resources from comprehensive industry guides to applications and interview advice.
- Visit Amazing Apprenticeships' **Parent and Carer zone** and also **sign up** to receive the monthly magazine Choices, the ultimate parent and carer guide to apprenticeships and technical education.
- Sign-up to Unifrog - using code WHSGPARENTS - to attend their virtual Apprenticeship Fair on the the 12th February (4pm). Listen to over 30 employers to learn all about the world of work by exploring the latest opportunities, attending live sessions with employers, and chat to experts and apprentices from organisations including BBC, NHS, British Army, KPMG, Lloyds Banking Group, EY, and Unilever!

Other sources of information and listings -



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

Contact Information and emails

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

When replying to any SchoolComms emails, please use the individual contact email provided and for general enquiries use

info@wallingtongirls.org.uk



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

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.