

WALLPAPER

HEIRS OF THE PAST, MAKERS OF THE FUTURE

ISSUE 2- SPRING TERM 2025



Welcome back to Wallpaper! Now in its second issue, this termly e-newsletter is focussed on keeping our ever-growing community of WHSG Alumni better connected with each other and the school.

It has been a wonderful start to the academic year at Wallington High School for Girls. We have had excellent exam results, fantastic shows, performance, trips and events. We have welcomed a huge number of volunteers, including alumni, who have come into the school to support us in various ways.

This edition captures the key news from the Autumn term. Highlights include:

- Saying Bon Chance to Dr Sally Wallis
- Medley of music performances
- Testing your maths knowledge
- Opportunities to support students with their career choices.

WALLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI E-NEWSLETTER

IN THIS EDITION:

- Headteacher Message
- School Highlights
- Through The Archives
- Stay Connected

MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Happy New Year and welcome to all new Alumni who have joined this exciting group. I see ex-students join the Alumni LinkedIn page weekly and am always so interested and impressed by the further study and careers you have all embarked on.

We feel lucky that so many of you have been in to school to support with a whole range of events including interview practice for our students, as guest speakers in our lecture series for the sixth formers and our GCSE Prize Giving where our guest speaker Nadia Nagamootoo, an alumni (ex Wallingtonian), spoke fondly of her time here and spoke about the highs and lows of being a businesswoman and CEO of her own company. You are all always welcome to come back for a visit!

Sadly, we said a fond farewell to Hamza Aumeer, who has been one of our school governors since 2002, and our Chair of Governors since 2017. Hamza has worked tirelessly in this role, has regularly attended school events, and we will all miss him hugely.

Some of you may remember our less than adequate canteen! Well, all change here and building work is in progress to transform what was the library into a brand-new canteen giving our Sixth Formers their own refectory and servery area.

We are very excited for our first Alumni reception on January 31st where we will be welcoming back former students spanning 70 years, from 1953 to 2023. We look forward to sharing the highlights from what we hope will be the first of many reunions.

Finally, we would like to wish alumni Anisha Khan the best of luck as a contestant on this year's The Apprentice!

Best wishes
Tracey O'Brien



Guest speaker
Nadia Nagamootoo



2025 Festive Fair



"First Give" Winners



Students being treated to a liquid
nitrogen workshop

ENRICHMENT DAY

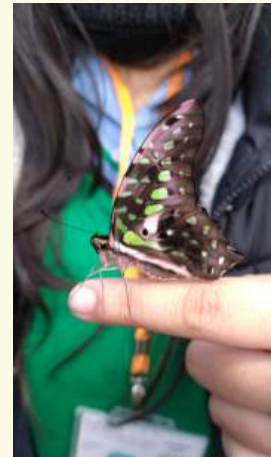
November's Enrichment Day offered an incredible array of activities, both in and out of school, making it a memorable day for all students. Students enjoyed trips to iconic locations, including Hampton Court Palace, London Zoo, Pineapple Dance Studios, and The Lion King in the West End.

Year 7 began their day with a fascinating drama workshop, exploring musical performance and behind-the-scenes details. They enjoyed learning "Hakuna Matata" before visiting the Lyceum Theatre to experience the magic of The Lion King. The show featured stunning puppetry, intricate masks, and brilliant production, cast, and music. The inspiring performance left everyone eager to relive it again. Year 8 brought their history lessons to life with a trip to Tudor-era Hampton Court. They explored the palace's kitchens, throne room, chapel, and gardens, even testing their navigation skills in the famous maze. Year 9 ventured to London Zoo, where they deepened their understanding of wildlife conservation and learned how to contribute to global efforts. Meanwhile, Year 11 refined their dance techniques in workshops at Pineapple Dance Studios, guided by world-class instructors

At school, students participated in enriching activities such as the Maths Escape Room Challenge and the First Give social action project. Year 10 embraced First Give, where they researched and supported local charities.

Year 12 students had a "Big Day Out" in London, while Year 13 focused on future goals with mock interviews. Over 80 professionals joined us to help students practice interview techniques, build confidence, and gain valuable feedback. The guests were impressed by the students' ambition and enthusiasm.

From history and conservation to performing arts and professional development, this enriching day showcased the diverse opportunities available to students, sparking curiosity and building skills for the future.



SCHOOL TRIPS

In October 2024, our school organised several enriching educational trips that provided students with valuable learning experiences across various subjects.

The Year 13 biology students visited the Millennium Seed Bank at Wakehurst, a renowned site dedicated to conservation and biodiversity research. This visit directly linked to their A-level curriculum, particularly the study of ecology and conservation. Students explored topics such as seed bank methods, reintroduction programs, and genetic diversity preservation, deepening their understanding of scientific research.



Meanwhile, the Year 13 spanish class attended a presentation at the British Film Institute (BFI) on the famous Spanish playwright, Federico García Lorca. The session connected Lorca's life with the themes and symbols in his works, which the class is currently studying. This insightful experience was followed by a film screening of one of his plays, reinforcing key themes and quotes in a fresh, engaging context.

Geography students embarked on a residential field study to the Jurassic Coast in Dorset, staying at PGL Osmington Bay. This trip offered a hands-on opportunity to study coastal geography and environmental processes, enhancing their understanding of the subject.

Some students attended the Criminology Student Conference in November, organised by Hodder Education. This conference offered expert insights into criminology, providing valuable learning and inspiration for those interested in pursuing careers in the field.

These trips provided diverse and memorable opportunities that enhance students' academic knowledge and personal growth



SCHOOL NEWS

SLAM POETRY DAY INSPIRES YEAR 10

At the beginning of November, Year 10 students had an unforgettable experience with Rap Therapy, participating in a Slam Poetry Day. The workshop, centered on the theme "the world around us," taught students about poetic techniques, rhyming, and performance skills. Students showcased their creativity in a grand finale competition, delivering powerful and expressive poems.



Rap Therapy, established in 2018, has positively impacted over 10,000 young people by using rap as a therapeutic tool to boost confidence and mental health. The day left students inspired, with newfound skills to creatively and positively express themselves.

CONSTRUCTION WORK BEGINS!

We are thrilled to share that building work is well underway on our exciting new canteen and study area!

This project is set to transform our facilities, offering a modern design that will enhance both functionality and comfort. The new space will provide an improved dining experience, with a larger area to accommodate more students and a contemporary layout designed to foster a welcoming and vibrant atmosphere.

We can't wait to see our students enjoying this fantastic addition to our school, which will undoubtedly become a favorite spot for dining, studying, and socialising. Stay tuned for more updates as the project progresses!



VISUALISATION: DINING SPACE

EXPLORING DEMOCRACY: FROM WESTMINSTER TO CARSHALTON

Students across Year 9 and Year 12 recently had the opportunity to deepen their understanding of democracy through engaging sessions with local MP Bobby Dean and an inspiring visit to London's political landmarks.

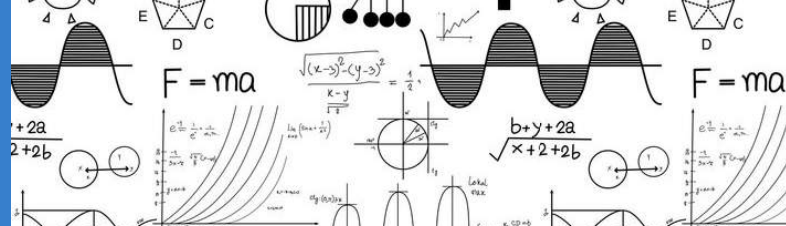
Year 12 students embarked on a trip to the Houses of Parliament, where they explored the evolution of Britain's constitutional monarchy, observed a live trial at the Supreme Court, and engaged with local protests, enriching their knowledge of political participation and pressure groups. A highlight was meeting Bobby Dean, who fielded questions on legislation, democracy, and political funding, bridging classroom theory with real-world insights.

Year 9 students, meanwhile, hosted Bobby Dean during a PSHCE session. He shared his journey in politics, discussed plans for the Carshalton and Wallington constituency, and addressed critical local issues like the future of St. Helier Hospital. His candid responses illuminated the challenges and responsibilities of political life while inspiring students to think about their own roles in shaping their community.



PRIMARY OUTREACH

Over the last three years, WHSG have been engaging with local primary schools to support pupils with English and maths tuition offered by WHSG teachers and our dedicated Year 12 students. This term we have worked with Rushy Meadow and Barrow Hedges to provide weekly English and Mathematics classes. Our students have worked hard to build the confidence of these young people while giving them a fun experience.



STUDENTS EXCEL IN MATHS

WHSG students have showcased outstanding mathematical talent in recent events. A team participated in the London-based Hans Woyda Maths Competition, excelling through regular lunchtime sessions that honed their problem-solving skills. Their teamwork was exemplary, particularly in collaborative rounds.

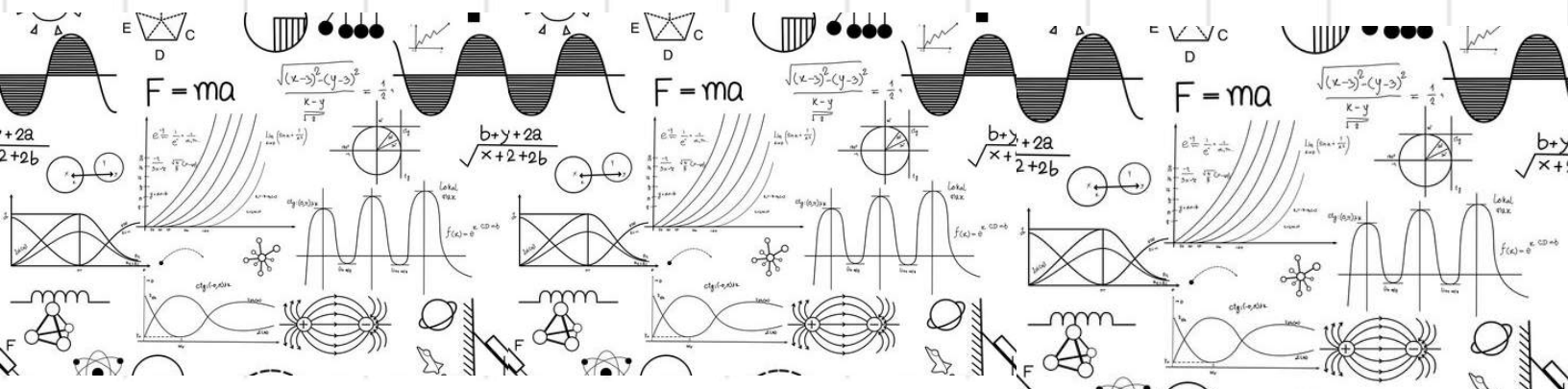
Additionally, five students were invited to the Junior Mathematical Olympiad, a highly esteemed two-hour examination requiring formal solutions to challenging problems. They achieved remarkable success, earning merit certificates, with one student receiving a distinction and the prestigious Best in School Award.

In October, four students represented Wallington in the first round of the Hans Woyda Mathematical Competition, facing Wallington County Grammar School in a nail-biting match. Competing under intense time pressure, they answered questions with only 45 seconds per starter question. Wallington led most of the match and triumphed by just one mark.

These achievements highlight the dedication and mathematical brilliance of Wallington students.

The students were given 45 seconds - How would you fare on the following?

- Find how many zeros there are at the end of the number obtained by working out $10!$
- Calculate $\frac{41!}{39!}$
- Evaluate 0.375×96
- If the mean of three numbers is 6, and the mean of six other numbers is 3, find the mean of all nine numbers together.
- Find a value of n , greater than 2, for which $(n! + 7)$ is *not* prime.
- Find a value of n less than 100 for which $n, n+1, n+2, n+3$ and $n+4$ are all not prime
- Express 65 as the sum of the squares of three integers. I.e. find three integers a, b and c such that $65 = a^2 + b^2 + c^2$



MUSIC AT WHSG

GCSE MUSIC RECITAL

In October, our GCSE music students performed in an exciting and memorable recital, which was a wonderful opportunity for our students to practise performing as part of their GCSE course.

The evening showed off the wide range of music that our students have been working on, with many instruments to be heard. Everyone was impressed with the broad range of musical styles presented that evening, varying from classical music to contemporary songs. The performances showed the passion of our students and left the audience feeling inspired. It was a delightful evening that celebrated the hard work and talent in our school, and we're already looking forward to the next one!

KS3: MUSIC RECITAL



In November, around 30 students gave fantastic performances at the KS3 Music Recital. A wide array of musical abilities was on display, from piano players to violinists and vocal performers. There were numerous genres, such as classical, traditional, and even pop. Parents, carers, and friends came to support the performers.

The recital featured a selection of popular songs, with piano performances showcasing impressive fluency. The vocalists delivered clean, powerful renditions, hitting high notes with ease. Ensembles combining different instruments remained synchronized throughout.

Overall, the recital offered a highly enjoyable experience, leaving the audience impressed and the performers thoroughly enjoying themselves. It was a wonderful time for everyone, and anticipation for next year's recital is already building.

WINTER CONCERT



The school's Winter Music Concert brought the year to a spectacular close, featuring spellbinding performances from the KS3, Chamber, and Gospel Choirs. The orchestra dazzled the audience with a powerful ensemble of string instruments, flutists, and pianists, alongside talented solo artists who had perfected their pieces.

The concert was a celebration of musical diversity, with performances ranging from Christmas classics to modern hits and timeless classical compositions. Friends, family, and staff filled the hall, enjoying the impressive range of talent on display. The concert was a perfect way to end the year on a harmonious and festive note.

PASTURES NEW

After over two decades of dedicated service – of which 17 years was spent at WHSG –, Dr Sally Wallis said au revoir at the end of last term, marking a bittersweet conclusion to her impactful tenure.

Speaking about her favourite aspects of WHSG, Dr Wallis remarked with a smile, “I just really liked it here”, emphasising the school’s culture and diversity, which was further motivation for her to spend most of her secondary teaching career at WHSG. “I couldn’t believe it was a school where students held the door open for you and said ‘thank you’ after lessons.”

Reminiscing about her most cherished memories over the course of her time here, Dr Wallis mentioned the various school trips that she’s taken part in, visiting places such as Paris, the Rhineland, and Nantes, to name a few. Despite the work that goes into these trips, they were incredibly rewarding for her, as she fondly reflected that “they’re a lot of work, but they’re great fun”.

Beyond her love and enthusiasm for French, Dr Wallis hopes that her students leave her classroom remembering her as “a decent human being” who took the time and effort to understand and empathise with whatever circumstances they may be facing. She highlighted how it amazes her that “some of the nicest students are often the ones that have got a lot going on at home”, which encapsulates her caring nature and the emphasis she places on her students’ wellbeing.

When asked about her upcoming plans, Dr Wallis has a clear vision of what she will be up to next. With a laugh, she shared how she plans to spend the next six months on a break, taking this time to celebrate her sons’ upcoming weddings, entertaining guests from Scotland, and ticking places off her bucket list with her husband, remarking, “I would quite like to see Japan in the spring, and I would quite like to see South Africa”. With more time on her hands, she also hopes to spend more time pursuing the hobbies she enjoys, such as finishing her “half-written” Aga saga, as well as getting her green fingers moving (especially with an incoming new greenhouse!).

Looking back at all the students she’s impacted over the years in her capacities as a teacher, SENCO, and as a Head of Year, she notes, “I look forward to hearing about all their successes and seeing them run the world”, and encourages her former pupils to get in touch with her. “It’s always lovely to hear from students – they can always get in touch with me through the school.”

As Dr Wallis’ time at WHSG comes to a close, her message to her students past and present is simple: “Just send them my love, really.” Her legacy of compassion, dedication, and passion has left an indelible mark on the school – a legacy that will undoubtedly endure for years to come. As she embarks on this new chapter, we wish her all the best in her coming adventures. Bonne chance, Dr Wallis!



FUNDRAISING

LONDON MARATHON 2025

Our head of history and politics, Simon Lawrence, is running the London Marathon at the end of April 2025. He is doing this to raise money for Pancreatic Cancer UK, which is the headline charity for the event this year. He has a strong personal link to the charity as he lost his Dad to the disease back in the summer of 2023. Any support you can give either financially or by circulating the link and raising awareness, would be much appreciated.

Here is the link to his fundraising page:

<https://2025tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/simon-lawrence>



WOHAA MENTORS INSPIRE FUTURE FUNDRAISERS



Students in Years 9-12 were thrilled to welcome mentors from the Wings of Hope Achievement Awards (WOHAA) for an inspiring session on fundraising and personal development.

WOHAA, a programme run by the UK-based charity Wings of Hope, empowers young people to design and execute their own fundraising initiatives over six months. With experienced mentors guiding the way, participants gain invaluable life skills, from teamwork and creativity to leadership and project management.

Students were introduced to the prestigious awards that celebrate their hard work and ingenuity in supporting children's education globally. The session ignited a spark of enthusiasm as students brainstormed unique ideas for their projects.

This mentoring session wasn't just about fundraising; it was about fostering confidence, resilience, and a sense of purpose. We're excited to see how our budding changemakers rise to the challenge!

SCIENCE LAB REFURBISHMENT

We are still fundraising to refurbish some of the old science labs.



We are pleased to say we have raised over £100k through donations from across the WHSG community and would like to give huge thank you to all alumni who have donated in support for their old school.

We are still in need of a further £130K to allow us to refurbish our science laboratories and provide the essential equipment to enhance teaching and learning across a variety of science disciplines. So, if you would like to find out more about our ongoing Campaign for Science please click **[here](#)**

THROUGH THE ARCHIVES



2020 performance of Guys and Dolls



2013 School Reunion to celebrate WHSG 125th Anniversary



The Bar National Mock Trial Competition 1995



2014 Netball Team



Class photo from 1888
The year the school opened



Chocolate cake eating competition at
Year 7 60's theme party - 1993



WHSG premises on Stanley Park
Road open in 1926



Leaving Day for year 13 1993



Students and pupils moved to the new
site on Woodcote Green in 1965



The senior prefects of 2023



Sports Day 2018

CAREERS SUPPORT CAN YOU HELP?



We are excited to announce that we are holding our annual Careers Fair, on the **26th March (13:00 - 15:00)**.

The purpose of this Careers Fair is to provide students with valuable insights into various career paths and opportunities available to them. Exposure to industry professionals will greatly benefit our students as they explore potential career options and make informed decisions about their futures. If you would like to participate please complete the MS form [here](#).

WHSG WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME

YEAR 11: 30TH JUNE - 11TH JULY YEAR 12: 14TH JULY - 18TH JULY

Every pupil should have first-hand experiences of the workplace through work visits, work shadowing and/or work experience to help their exploration of career opportunities, and expand their networks. Effective work experience can make a significant difference to the motivation, attainment and progression of students. However, finding a placement can often be a daunting task and so we would appreciate your support.

If you can offer a work experience placement to any WHSG students for one or more days on the above dates, please contact Lisa Parkinson on the email below.



Dates for your diary

31 Jan	YWHSG Alumni Reunion
4-6 Feb	Whole School Production
19-20 Mar	Gym and Dance Display
26 Mar	Year 12 Makers of the Future Day - Careers & Pathways Talks and Fair
30 June - 11 July	Year 11 Work Experience
14 July	Lower school Makers of the Future Day - Careers Talks
14-18 July	Year 12 Work Experience

CAREERS TALKS - SPEAKERS REQUIRED

We're organising an event aimed at introducing our students to the multitude of career options available to them, and we would love for you to be a part of it!

Your experiences and expertise are invaluable in guiding and inspiring our students as they navigate their own career paths. Therefore, we're seeking speakers who can provide an outline of their careers, information on the routes they took to achieve their current positions, and some ideas about the challenges involved in those roles and the skills needed to be successful.

The event is being held on 14th July and would involve up to four 30-minute talks to our year 7 and 10 students throughout the school day.

If you would like to participate, please complete the Microsoft Form [here](#).

If you have any questions about these events, please email Lisa Parkinson at lparkinson@wallingtongirls.org.uk

GET IN TOUCH



CALL US

Call the Alumni Office: [020 8647 2380](tel:02086472380)



EMAIL US

Email the Alumni Office:
whsgalumni@wallingtongirls.org.uk

CONNECT WITH US

[Register to join our Alumni mailing list here](#)

[Connect with Alumni on LinkedIn here](#)



If you missed the last issue of Wallpaper, please find the link [here](#).

It's always great to hear from WHSG alumni and friends of the school.

To share your ideas for the next issue of Wallpaper, think you can support the school or to direct alumni queries to the school - please get in touch!