

The Wallington Week

20th April 2026

On 21st April, we will be holding an event for Year 11-13 focused on degree apprenticeships, which are becoming an increasingly popular pathway for young people across a wide range of industries. Degree apprenticeships combine paid employment with higher education, allowing students to work for an employer while studying towards a full undergraduate or master's degree, often awarded by well-regarded universities. These programmes typically last 3-6 years, and students earn a salary (often starting between £18,000-£25,000, increasing over time) while gaining valuable workplace experience. Importantly, students graduate with the same qualification as traditional university students, but without tuition fees, making this a highly attractive and increasingly respected route into professional careers.

Congratulations to Yasmine in Year 10 who completed a trek to Everest Base Camp from Lukla, Nepal. It was a challenging nine-day trekking journey to reach the base camp at 5364m with accommodation in simple, rustic tea houses along the way. Despite the unfamiliar conditions, such as shared facilities, extreme cold and unheated rooms, Yasmin remained determined and motivated throughout and successfully completed the trek. What an absolute star!!



Looking ahead, Year 11 Leavers' Day will take place on 1st May, and our Year 13 students will officially leave on 7th May as they begin their examination period. We wish them every success as they embark on their revision programmes. At this time, parental support is invaluable, taking an interest in their studies, providing a quiet space to work, lots of snacks and encouraging a healthy balance of rest and revision can make a significant difference.

Before they depart, we look forward to welcoming our Year 13 students to our Prize Giving Event on 24th April, where we will celebrate achievements across academic subjects, leadership and wider contributions to school life, as well as recognise the ways in which they have embodied our values of courage, curiosity and compassion.

Thank you to the parents who attended the recent Key Stage 3 Study Skills Workshop. We hope you found the session helpful and that it provided practical strategies to support your children at home.

At the end of last term, we said farewell to Chisom, one of our school counsellors. We are pleased to welcome Josie, who will be joining us next week, and we look forward to her working with our students.

Our WoHAA teams (Years 9-13) will be taking part in a group mentoring session next week. Their creativity and commitment to fundraising continue to impress. We are also delighted that Year 8 students have recently begun a Junior WoHAA programme, which promises to be equally engaging and rewarding.

A reminder that Year 7 Parents' Evening will take place in person on 6th May, and we look forward to welcoming you into school.

Finally, our annual parent survey will be shared shortly. We would greatly appreciate as many responses as possible, as your feedback plays an important role in helping us to continue to improve our school.

**- Ms T O'Brien
Headteacher**



Calendar

Attendance

Y7 Y8 Y9 Y10 Y11

97.5%

96.6%

96.2%

96.1%

95.5%

Week A

Monday 20th April

- Year 11 Oral Exams- ALL WEEK
- Y11 GCSE Art and Photography Exam

Tuesday 21st April

- Y11 GCSE Art and Photography Exam
- WoHAA Student/Mentor Meeting- (Main hall) 2.10pm
- Apprenticeship Parent Information Evening (Y12) (Main Hall) 6pm

Wednesday 22nd April

- Headteachers Detention- 3.10-5.10pm
- Central Detention- 3.10-4.10pm

Thursday 23rd April

- St Georges Day Afternoon Tea (Main Hall) 1.15pm
- Welcome to WHSG Evening (17:00-19:00pm) (Main Hall)

Friday 24th April

- Year 13 Prizegiving (Sports Hall) 1-3pm
- Central Detention-3.10-4.10pm

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](#). Please see the latest careers newsletter [here](#).

Current Vacancies

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

Upcoming Events

23rd April- Welcome to WHSG Evening

24th April- Y13 Prizegiving

1st May- Y11 Last Day

6th May- Y7 Parents' Evening



ADHD: Understanding and Supporting Your Child at Home Online Workshop

This webinar will explore what ADHD can look like in children, beyond common misconceptions. It will help parents understand how attention, impulsivity and emotional regulation difficulties may present in everyday life, and why these behaviours occur. Practical, realistic strategies will be shared to support routines, reduce conflict, and build your child's confidence and independence at home.

Date and time: Weds 22nd April 2026, 18.00-19.00

Led by: Dr Rachel Rebello, Educational & Child Psychologist

Location: Online through Teams (please register using link below)

Register: Workshop RSVP - ADHD: Understanding and Supporting Your Child at Home - [Fill out form](#)

Teams Link: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/38193945778738?p=Zp9wJGcuZqgOU8x1BD>

Meeting ID: 381 939 457 787 38

Passcode: wF9qJ2pv



-Mrs Sundborg
Assistant Headteacher & DSL

PAPAYA

Let's talk about our kids and their tech

ONLINE PARENT TALK WITH JENNIFER:

FOR PARENTS WHOSE CHILDREN ARE MOVING UP TO YEAR 7 IN
SEPT 2026
WEDNESDAY 22ND APRIL 2026 – 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

JOINING INSTRUCTIONS:

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS ZOOM LINK](#)



Jennifer Powers

Jennifer has been central to the success of the UK's Smartphone Free Childhood movement, serving as a regional leader in London and Surrey. She is co-founder of Smartphone Free Schools Rating and serves as its development director. Jennifer is the founder of the Unplugged Coalition uniting organisations committed to reclaiming childhood from addictive technology.

She is the host of the POWERS UNPLUGGED podcast and a frequent media commentator. A former Special Adviser to the Prime Minister on energy and business, Jennifer has over 25 years of experience in public policy and strategy.

PAPAYA

Helping families to thrive in a digital age

Smartphones, social media and screen time are the parenting challenges of our age. Whether your child already has a smartphone or you are considering delaying until they are older, this talk is for you. Hard hitting but non-judgemental, Jennifer unpacks the complex issues surrounding addictive technology and helps you find solutions that work for your family.

Topics

- The link between mental health and wellbeing and spending too much time online
- Strategies for delaying the smartphone
- Strategies for families to achieve a healthy balance with technology
- Question and discussion time

"The talk is so relevant, full of insight and eye-opening. You will walk away inspired to connect, reflect, and find out more. I highly recommend it." – Claire Curtis, parent and SFC volunteer.

Student Highlight

Yasmin recently completed a challenging nine-day trek to base camp at an altitude of 5,364 metres, staying in simple tea houses along the route. Despite shared facilities, unheated rooms and extreme cold, she showed exceptional resilience and determination throughout. A huge congratulations to Yasmin on this incredible achievement – we are immensely proud of her.



Environment

SWIFTS AND SWALLOW BOXES AT WALLINGTON



SOME OF YOU MAY KNOW THAT MYSELF (KATRINA - SUSTAINABILITY SENIOR PREFECT) AND THE SITE MANAGEMENT TEAM HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD TO INSTALL SWIFT AND SWALLOW BOXES AROUND OUR SCHOOL. BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN ?

HERE ARE THE THREE BIRDS MOST LIKELY TO NEST AT OUR SCHOOL IN THE NEW BOXES



SWIFT



SWALLOW



HOUSE MARTIN

WHAT DIFFERENCE DO THEY MAKE ?

BIRDS SUCH AS THE SWIFT HAVE RECENTLY EXPERIENCED SIGNIFICANT POPULATION DECLINES AND ARE CONSIDERED ENDANGERED IN THE UK DUE TO MAJOR HABITAT LOSS AND DECREASING FOOD SOURCES. UK SWIFT POPULATIONS DROPPED BY 66-68 % BETWEEN 1995 AND 2022. BY ADDING SWIFT BOXES OR ARTIFICIAL SWALLOW NESTS TO BUILDINGS, THE BIRDS ARE PROVIDED WITH A EASY AND SAFE PLACE TO REAR THEIR YOUNG. AS WELL AS PROVIDING US WITH THE PLEASURE OF SEEING THESE BEAUTIFUL BIRDS AROUND OUR SCHOOL !!

WHY NOW ?

SWIFTS, SWALLOWS AND MARTINS ARE SUMMER MIGRANTS TO THE UK. THIS MEANS THEY FLY TO THE UK FROM AFRICA IN ORDER TO BREED AND NEST. MANY HAVE ALREADY BEGUN TO ARRIVE AND ARE LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO NEST. SO NOW IS THE PERFECT TIME TO SET UP THESE NEST BOXES !!



PURLEY
SPORTS CLUB

GIRLS SUMMER CRICKET

AT PURLEY SPORTS CLUB

TUESDAYS

6:15-7:45PM → Girls Up to Year 6

6:45-8:15PM → Girls Year 7+

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO JOIN
PURLEYSportsClub.co.uk/cricket

ANY QUESTIONS? EMAIL:
[JUNIORCRICKET@PURLEYSportsClub.co.uk](mailto:juniocricket@purleysportsclub.co.uk)

Sustainability



FACTS

- Hard water impacts the climate primarily by increasing carbon emissions through reduced energy efficiency
- Hard water containing high levels of calcium and magnesium, impacts homes by causing limescale in pipes, boilers, and appliances, reducing their lifespan and energy efficiency
- Increased CO2 Emissions: Residential hard water usage is responsible for approximately 4% of the UK's total carbon dioxide emissions due to inefficient energy use



TIPS/SOLUTIONS

- Descaling habits - Use acidic agents like white vinegar which removes existing limescale build up, reducing energy-wasting deposits in appliances.
- Use salt free products such as salt free water conditioners/salt free hair shampoos and conditioners
- Change shower heads to include hard water filters – eg Hello Klean Shower products remove + 90% of damaging chlorine, heavy metals, and impurities while intensifying water flow. They remove fine particles and micro-plastics from water. Cuts water use by 25%.

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:

attendance@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

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

reception@wallingtongirls.org.uk

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

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.

If a student is late 3 times within a half-term (roughly 6 weeks) they will receive a 60 mins detention on a Wednesday or a Friday. If the student is late again within the half-term they will receive an automatic 60 mins detention, a late report and there will be a meeting with parents. This will re-set at the start of each half-term.

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.