



AUTUMN TERM 2023

# HEIRS & MAKERS



## Message from the Headteacher

I am delighted to write my piece for Heirs and Makers for the first time. This

newsletter gives a small but wonderful glimpse into some of the amazing achievements of our students and the opportunities they have taken up. Our girls really are 'The Makers of the Future' and we are immensely proud of all that they do, whether it has made it into this edition or not.

Our students have won competitions, raised money for charity, and ran their own clubs and societies. We have celebrated our rich and culturally diverse community with a host of events including the Poetry Slam and Fusion Showcase. We have seen Year 7 and 8 students dancing for hours, our choirs performing in public and our Music Concert is yet to come. Our sports people have excelled in all areas; our Year 11 and Senior Netball Teams remain unbeaten, our U13 and U16 Table Tennis teams also coming first at South Schools Competition, and our Sports Leaders have organised three primary school events already. The Autumn Enrichment Day was fun filled and inclusive for all. And of course, we are equally proud of our CCF members who meet each Tuesday and attend two camps a year - they come to school in their Cadet uniform every Tuesday and are immaculate in their conduct.

I commend our students' achievements to you as we celebrate all their efforts and successes in 2023.

## GCSE Prizegiving



On Wednesday 29th November we held our annual GCSE Prizegiving which allowed us to celebrate a wide range of achievements made by our students.

Awards ranged from Subject Prizes, Special Prizes and recognition for students who gained an impressive 10 or more grade 8 or 9 in their GCSEs.



Special thanks to our inspirational guest speaker, Moira Cameron, who was the first female Beefeater and guard of The Crown Jewels - an inspirational speaker.

Another special thanks to all student speakers and performers who made the Prizegiving an unforgettable one!

## Unicef Gaza Appeal

In November, students in Year 10 organised a bake sale to raise money for the Unicef Gaza appeal during lunchtime in the school's main hall. This event generated a lot of footfall and raised over £1000! This is all thanks to the generosity of our students and their families. We are thankful to be able to generate such support for charities regularly as a school.



## Festive Fair



On Thursday 7th December the school's PFA organised a Festive Fair to help raise funds for our school.

The event hosted a range of pop-ups, some ran by external companies and others by our very own students, selling cotton candy, popcorn, handmade crafts, jewellery, temporary tattoos and much more.

We also had a range of performances including a gym show by Melody in Year 9 and a variety of singing performances.

The fundraiser generated roughly £1000 for the school so thank you all who supported and attended the event.

## Clubs and Societies Fair

On Wednesday 27th September the Senior Prefects organised a "Club-Fest" event to promote co-curricular activities.

After conducting a survey last academic year our Prefects found that after the pandemic attendance and engagement in clubs/societies had dropped substantially. They made it their mission as Curriculum Senior Prefects to improve this as engaging in these activities is so beneficial for students wellbeing and well-roundedness!

Massive thank you to all the club and society representatives who came along.

We had over 200 students in attendance and this term, the number of clubs and societies running at the moment is 95!



## Chamber Choir

On December 6th, 35 Chamber Choir members participated in Sutton Sings Christmas at St Andrew's Church, Cheam. Two beautiful songs set a festive atmosphere. The second half featured mass singing with two schools and two Sutton choirs, providing an excellent showcase of student talent. The following evening, the choir braved the weather to perform at The Children's Trust Winter Illuminations - a children's charity with brain injuries.



## Year 7 Meet the Tutor

On Monday 16th October we held a Meet the Tutor event for our Year 7 students and guardians.

This event provided an opportunity for parents and caregivers of our recently enrolled Year 7 students to engage in face-to-face discussions, gaining insight on their child's transition into their first year in secondary education.

Thank you to all of those who were able to attend. We look forward to the continuation of building strong relationships with our parent/carer stakeholders.

## Black History Month at WHSG

Throughout October, the Black History Month Team hosted diverse events to celebrate and educate about black culture under the theme "Saluting Our Sisters." The "Wally Girls Unfiltered" podcast provided a platform for Black youth to discuss topics like intersectionality, fostering empowerment and encouraging open dialogue. Posters highlighting black female scientists adorned school screens, complementing the interactive BHM Pop Quiz that spotlighted underappreciated contributions of black individuals.

The BHM Poetry Slam showcased student performances on "Empowerment," creating a supportive environment for self-expression. A guest speaker in the Year 13 lecture series explored the often-overlooked contributions of pivotal black women, including Nanny of the Maroons and Winnie Mandela, empowering students through historical narratives.

An enlightening ACS assembly for the Sixth Form focused on black female inventors, revealing the significant roles played by black women in creating the GPS system and safety cameras. This concerted effort throughout the month aimed to re-center black women's narratives, appreciating their stories in a narrative frequently written by others. These initiatives collectively enriched our understanding of black culture, fostering empowerment and appreciation within the school community.

By *Alexia and Nourcen* - Head Girls 2023-24

## El Dia de los Muertos/Day of the Dead

We had a successful Spanish enrichment event towards the end of October with an amazing 44 students attending from Year 7 & 8!

Spanish Prefects helped students recreate some of the activities that take place during "El dia de los Muertos".

There was a lively atmosphere and students had a lot of fun as they enjoyed their flower crowning skills and had the opportunity to try a selection of Spanish food.



## Student Success

Mugdha, Year 8, continues to impress as she has recently been awarded a 1st place prize in an ALevel Physics competition against Sixth Formers across the whole of the UK as well as won 1st place in the Data Science Olympiad against students from UK, USA, India, UAE. Congratulations Mugdha on such an outstanding achievement. ★

## Community Heroes



On Wednesday, Year 7 Community Heroes enjoyed doughnuts and a special lunch in the conference room.

Students in Year 7 are awarded Community Hero certificates to honour gestures that make WHSG a community we love to be part of.

We look forward to finding out who the next heroes are! ★

## Macmillan Cake Break

On Tuesday, the 17th October, we scheduled an extended break time to facilitate a school fundraiser for Macmillan Cancer Research UK.

Students contributed by bringing in cakes, sweet baked goods, and donations, resulting in a successful fundraising effort.

## Sixth Form Open Evening

On October 19th, we warmly received more than 500 families interested in applying to WHSG's Sixth Form. During the event, attendees had the opportunity to listen to the Headteacher and Director of Sixth Form. They also enjoyed self-guided tours of the school. In addition to meeting subject specialists, families were provided with insights into the wide range of extra-curricular opportunities, such as Oxbridge support, CCF and RAF programs, and the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Thank you to all students and staff who supported.

## Fusion Showcase

On Friday 24th November we hosted our annual Fusion Showcase event, organised by Priscilla, Rym and Senior Prefects.

During this event we welcomed 200 guests including students, friends, family and teachers who were able to enjoy a variety of acts such as musical performances, poetry, Gym and Dance.

The focus of these performances was to celebrate the vast range of backgrounds our students have. Students represented countries from all over the world including East Asia, South Asia, Africa and a range of European countries. In total 45 acts were showcased - a fantastic contribution from so many of our students.

The event raised £868 for The Runnymede Trust - a charity supporting British race equality and civil rights.



## Disco time for Year 7/8!



On Friday 17th November we hosted a Year 7 and 8 Disco which was organised as a fundraiser event by the PFA.

Students received a goody bag on arrival including a drink and some sweets and got to enjoy music in the school hall.

Students had a lot of fun.

The night proved a great way to bring everyone together!

## WHSG Autumn Enrichment Day:

**Enrichment Day in November was a great success with all year groups enjoying an array of trips and activities.**

Year 7 immersed themselves into a Crime Scene Investigation and used various skills and techniques in the Science Labs to solve a Murder Mystery. Year 8 took a trip back to Tudor times with a visit to Hampton Court Palace where they got to explore the home of Henry VIII and attempted the world's oldest puzzle maze. Year 9 enjoyed a musical day, spending the morning practising House Music and choosing songs, followed by a visit to the Lyceum Theatre to see Disney's award-winning The Lion King. In school, our PSHCE department led an exciting social action project called First Give for our Year 10 pupils, where they took time to research and champion a local charity of their choosing, raising awareness of issues that impact our community. Year 11 put their dancing shoes on and took a trip to the Pineapple Dance Studios, taking part in a street dance workshop with the Studios' own renowned dance instructors followed by a Mamma Mia! led dance experience which also exercised those vocal chords! Year 12 got a taste of independence in preparation for life at university and took part in A Grand Day Out; planning their own day in London, making travel plans and creating their own itineraries. And finally, Year 13 had the chance to practice their interview skills with industry professionals who took the time to visit our pupils and gave valuable feedback to our pupils.

We are looking forward to Spring Enrichment, taking place in March...

Watch this space!

## Frema's Judoka Journey

Frema has achieved another outstanding milestone in her Judoka Journey. She is the currently 3rd in England after qualifying into the Cadets/ Juniors stage of the Team GB programme in her weight category.

In six years time she will turn professional once qualified. She now qualifies for a full time physio, nutritionist and the ability to gain UCAS points based on world rankings points she get when the time comes. The competition was very high and it means she now travels and compete on world stage as part of the Team GB programme.

Congratulations Frema and we wish you all the best of luck for future competitions.



# SPORTS AT WHSG

## Year 9 Netball



The Y9 netball team have begun the season with a flying start. As always, they have continued to show dedication and passion in every match and training session. The A team fought to the bitter end at the Surrey Schools Competition but were up against some tough opposition and narrowly missed out on a place in the next round. We will come back stronger next year! The A and B teams have both convincingly beat Riddlesdown and Sutton High demonstrating some outstanding tactical play. Congratulations to Libby, Imogen and Kaja who have secured player of the match nominations.

## Football



The U13 Football Team played at the Utility Sutton United 7-a-side tournament to begin their season. They finished the tournament with 3/6 wins. Players of the tournament were Nikita and Sumayya.

The U14 Team had a thumping start winning 3-0 against Old Palace at the start of the season.

The U16 football team were back in action this year sporting a fresh new football kit. Playing a strong Glenthorne side in the Cup, and having a fabulous defensive second half they sadly lost the match 2-0 which ended their cup journey early. As always the team energy was high and we were very proud. POTM Lucy.

## Indoor Cricket

A short Indoor season for the U13 and U15 teams. The U13s and U15s both played in the School Sport Partnership tournament at Sutton High and placed respectively second place after narrowly missing out in the final games. Numbers to indoor training have been outstanding with over 60 students attending across Y7 and Y8.

## Year 7 Netball

Competition to get into the Y7 Netball team this year was very high with the final squads selected at an absolutely exceptional standard. The Y7s had a challenging first game against Croydon High in which both A and B team lost however they showed so much potential and for a first game it was a great way to start. They have been super committed to training and have had success in other friendly matches. Looking forward to see what they can do in the spring season.

## Year 10 Netball



The Year 10 Netball team had a fantastic start to the year competing at the Surrey Schools netball tournament. The A team had some very close games, winning 2 and drawing others, however this was the closest the results had been with some of the top private netball schools. Our A&B teams have been extremely committed to training, despite the longest period of wet weather that always seems to hit on a Wednesday. Both teams have been extremely successful in other friendly matches and it has been lovely to welcome some students into the squad that have not made it into the teams in previous years, just showing how dedication and hard work pays off.

## Sports Leaders

The new cohort of Year 12 Sports leaders have been outstanding this term! They have hosted 3 primary school events including a Primary school SEND skills event and the Y5/6 and Y3/4 Primary School Indoor Athletics Finals. The schools in attendance and our local SGO spoke so highly of our leaders and were extremely impressed with their organisation and enthusiasm! They have made a great start to the course and we are looking forward to their help in future events.

## Rugby

Exciting times at senior rugby club! This term kicked off with a bang, thanks to our top-notch new equipment, taking our training sessions to the next level. The vibe is continuing to be supportive and fun, especially with the emergence of an Under 16s team, bringing new strength to the squad. Training is now happening on Mondays and Wednesdays as we gear up to hopefully play some fixtures with other teams. New players are always welcome!

## Year 11/Senior Netball

The Y11 and Senior netball teams have had an amazing start to the season! All teams have been extremely successful and remaining unbeaten in friendly matches against Ewell Castle, Sutton High, Nonsuch and Old Palace. The A teams also attended the annual Surrey Schools netball tournament where they fought hard against tough competition really demonstrating their versatility as a squad. Their commitment and enthusiasm for training and matches this term has been great to see, and as always, their team spirit and support for one another on court has been outstanding! We are looking forward to more matches in the second half of the season.

## Table Tennis



Our wonderful Table tennis teams gave an impressive performance at the recent London South Schools competition. The U13 and U16 teams both came home with 1st place, progressing on to the regional round, along with the U19s whom placed 2nd.

## Cross Country

