



SPRING TERM 2023

# HEIRS & MAKERS

## Message from the Headteacher

Welcome to the second edition of our end of term publication, Heirs and Makers. You will see from the numerous articles in this edition that although it has been a relatively short term, it has been a busy one. Once again, lots of enrichment activities taking place as well as trips, clubs and various competitions.



It has been a great term for showcasing the wide range of talent in the school, ranging from the amazing annual school musical, Beauty and the Beast, through to the always impressive Spring Concert and highly charged the Gym and Dance Showcase. It has also been a very successful term for our sports teams across a wide range of sports as well as individual sporting successes.

Sadly, this will be my last edition as I move on to new challenges after seven years as Headteacher of Wallington. Needless to say it has been an absolute privilege to have led the school during this time and I appreciate how lucky I have been to have had the opportunity to work with such amazing students and staff. I will miss the school immensely and I wish everyone all the very best of luck for the future.

- Mr RV Booth

## Message from the CEO

We say goodbye to Richard who is leaving WHSG after seven years as Headteacher. Richard joined the school in 2016 and since that time he has led what was already a very high-achieving school to a point of excellence, with academic performance among the highest in the country and student retention in the Sixth Form at its highest ever levels.

His tenure has seen innovative approaches to student care, and he has driven the Trust's work on staff wellbeing. A visit to WHSG, in my experience, is always uplifting and this is due in no small measure to Richard's values-driven approach to building community.

At the centre of all Richard's professional life are the students at Wallington. He genuinely enjoys working with young people – still teaching Economics and coaching the rugby team – and their progress and wellbeing have always been priorities during his Headship.

On behalf of the GLT Trust Board, the Governors at Wallington, and the whole school community, I would like to thank Richard for everything he has done for the school. He will be missed and we wish him all the very best for the future.

- Jen Smith

## Beauty and the Beast



This year's much anticipated school production was the musical Disney's Beauty and the Beast. It proved to be a fantastic production that showcased the talent and hard work of the students, staff, and everyone involved in bringing the production to life. The acting was fantastic, the costumes were enchanting, the singing was impeccable and the musicians were excellent. Behind the scenes, the production was supported by various staff members who worked tirelessly to ensure that everything ran smoothly. Overall it was an impressive production that will be remembered for a long time. Well done and thank you to everyone that took part.

## Gym & Dance Showcase



During the penultimate week of this term, we held our annual Gym and Dance display. This is always a highly entertaining, energetic and well attended event. This year was no exception with the standard of displays being incredibly high and were performed by a large number of students. Every Year 7 form group got the chance to perform alongside our most talented gymnasts and dancers. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and audiences were left wowed by all of the performances.

## South London Table Tennis competition



Our school attended the Jack Petchey South London Individual Table Tennis competition, and we gave our best efforts. Not only did we have a fantastic time, but our school also won many age categories of the competition with Kelly winning in U13, Georgia placing fourth in U13, Anishka coming third in U16, Yuvathi taking second in U19, and Macy placing third in U19, all progressing to the Jack Petchey Individual Finals. Also, congratulations to Kelly and Yuvathi for qualifying for the Butterfly English School Nationals.

## Spring Concert



At the end of a busy term for the Music Department, we were delighted to host our Spring Concert, showcasing musical performances from our orchestra, Indian ensemble and choirs. As well as this, we enjoyed music from soloists, duets and bands across year groups, including GCSE Music students (Olohirere, Pragati, Valentine, Abita and Roxanne). They performed to an impressive standard, reflecting their commitment to rehearsals this term and enjoyment of making music together.

A big thank you to Mrs Gunn and Mr Cox and well done to all involved.

## Dragons' Den



Year 10 recently enjoyed an enrichment day inspired by the television programme Dragons' Den. They spent the day in groups having to design, finance and market a children's book and in the afternoon they had to present their pitch to the four WHSG Dragon's, who each chose a winner. This was a great effort from all of Year 10 students and our staff who led and assisted the activity.

## Visit to RHS Wisley

Year 9 refused to let the wet weather spoil their recent visit to RHS Garden Wisley led by the Geography department. The focus of trip was the topic of biodiversity and they got to examine a wealth of plants and habitats as part of the day.

## Royal Geographical Society Awards

Congratulations to Kilé in Year 12 who gained the highest score in the country for her Edexcel GCSE in Geography (A) last summer. As a result of this, she has been awarded a prize for "Excellence in Geography" from the Royal Geographical Society. Such an amazing achievement and well done from everyone in the Geography Department!

## Prefect Hustings



Earlier in the term we held our annual Year 12 Hustings, in which students had the opportunity to give a brief speech on why they believed they were the best candidate for a prefect role. We were really proud to have had over eighty applications from students wanting to be part of this senior team as well as one hundred and eighty Year 12 students applying for one of our other prefect roles, including form prefects and subject prefects. It is fantastic to see so many students wanting to take on positions of responsibility and give back to the school community.

## Primary Outreach

We have been working with various primary schools to provide support and extension classes in Maths and English. Year 5 students travelled to Wallington to experience a taste of secondary school life and to work alongside Sixth-Form mentors. Our students have taken their time to get to know their primary mentees and given them individual help with both Maths and English. So far, it has been a real success, with both the primary pupils and our students really enjoying the experience. Thank you to all of our Year 12 students who have given their time, expertise and care to help. The quality of our volunteers has been absolutely key to the success of the programme and you have all been amazing!

## Options Evening

This year's GCSE Options Evening for Year 9 students was a huge success, with a great turnout of students and parents. The evening began with a presentation from Mrs Godyn and Miss Muir, who gave an overview of the KS4 curriculum, options process and the different subjects available to students. This was followed by a series of subject-specific talks, where teachers provided more detailed information about the content and assessment of each subject. It was also pleasing to hear from Diane, the Year 9 Senior Prefect, who gave some valuable advice on choosing options, sharing their own experiences and tips for making the best choices.

## Intermediate Maths Challenge

Year 11 students participated in the Intermediate Maths Challenge on 1st February. The exam tests math skills and promotes reasoning, precision, and technique fluency. Students enjoyed the challenge and it helps them develop their thinking and problem-solving abilities.

## Year 11 Guidance Meetings

Our Year 11 guidance meetings have proven to be an effective way for the school to engage with parents/carers and foster a stronger sense of community. Meetings took place over January between Senior staff, students and guardians and were an opportunity to discuss A-Level options choices as well as academic and personal progress. This collaboration between the school, students, and guardians helps to build a stronger partnership, which ultimately supports students in making positive choices for their personal and academic growth.

## Tamil Heritage Month



Sixth Form students took the lead in celebrating Tamil heritage month with an afterschool event featuring saree draping & blindfolded food tasting. Many students attended and enjoyed the event.

## First Give Final



As part of the PSHCE curriculum, over the past term, Year 10 have been participating in a programme called First Give. This is a course which seeks to inspire young people to make a positive difference in society. Each form group chooses a local charity and completes a social action project to raise awareness for the charity and the work it does. This culminated in Our First Give Final with students presenting their social action projects. The winning team were 10 Athena, who are pictured with the cheque and a representative from their chosen charity Lives Not Knives. The £1000 prize money will enable Lives Not Knives to continue their vital work in preventing knife crime by engaging, educating and empowering disadvantaged young people.

## Phoebe and Nila advocate for The Children's Trust



Well done to Phoebe and Nila who went the extra mile in advocating for their chosen charity, The Children's Trust as part of their First Give project. They produced an informative and interesting display board for our foyer area at lunchtime and encouraged other students to look at the important work that the Children's Trust do.

"My form class fundraised for the Children's Trust Charity last term due to a First Give project we had been doing during form time PSHCE. We had to make a presentation and raise awareness for our charity.

Nila and I wrote a newspaper article whereas other people in our form made a board, (which me and a few friends put in the foyer), some people wrote and performed the PowerPoint in the final and others handmade bracelets and more."

## Disability Awareness

As part of their March enrichment day, Year 7 were fortunate to have a range of visitors come into school to talk to them about disabilities and what it means to be a Young Carer. The visitors talked about hidden disabilities, physical disabilities and what it is like to be affected by sight and hearing loss. A few of our students identified with the talk about being a Young Carer and there were many questions

being asked, all the while raising awareness of how to support people in our society who are affected this way. One of the visitors commented that our Year 7 students were "such a credit to the school, so engaged, inquisitive and well behaved. I very much look forward to coming back and visiting again".

## Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week took place between February 6th-12th, themed Let's Connect, saw Wellbeing Mentors deliver PSHCE lessons and engage Year 7 and 8 students with games and activities. 'Dress to Express' non-uniform day raised £1121.25 for Place2be Charity. Thank you for contributing!

## Parallel Online Maths Club

A large number of students from Year 7 to Year 12 have chosen to take part in the school's online Maths Club. This involves learning new skills and solving problems each week with fun activities and videos to watch. The following students are being awarded house-points for their excellent efforts: Devika, Lois, Lasna and Mira in Year 8, Anna, Ashwika, Megan and Stella in Year 9, Janushya and Julia in Year 11 and Abbie in Year 12. A particular congratulations to Devika, Lois, Lasna, Ashwika, Megan, Julia and Abbie who have managed to complete work over a significant number of weeks.

We are really proud of all the students who have taken part! Well done to all involved!

## Oxbridge Offers



We are thrilled to announce that eleven of our Year 13 students received offers to study at either at Oxford or Cambridge. This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to the hard work and dedication of these students. These offers cover a wide range of subjects including Veterinary Medicine; Geography; English; Psychological and Behavioural Sciences; Law; History and Politics; Chemistry; Classics; Philosophy and German. Thank you to departments and the Sixth Form Team for providing such great support and guidance, especially Mrs R Whitely-Beckford, our Oxbridge coordinator.

## Fusion Showcase Fundraiser



Following the highly successful Fusion Showcase fundraiser last term, the students have now been officially recognised by African Caribbean Leukaemia Trust (AFLT) with a certificate. The students raised £525, which will be used to support patients and families, fund patient appeals, and register stem cell, blood, and organ donors. The organisers, performers, and attendees should all be proud of their achievement in supporting such a worthy cause.

## Hegarty Maths Completer - Louisa



A huge congratulations from the Mathematics department to Louisa in Year 9 for successfully completing all of the tasks on Hegarty-Maths - a very impressive achievement. Louisa has demonstrated an incredible understanding of the content as well as empathy, humility and agility in achieving 100% on each of the 925 skills. There are 1.5 million users of Hegarty Maths and Louisa joins only a handful of others to have completed the whole site.

## French Film Society

On 8th February, Year 12 and 13 French students watched Mathieu Kassovitz's *La Haine* and discussed it with experts from the University of East Anglia's French Film Society. The specialists, Ilse Renaudie and Sylvain Pourciel, answered student questions and shared their insights on the film's finer points, which are part of their A-level studies.

## Y13 Sociology visit to the Church of Scientology

Our Year 13 Sociology class visited the Church of Scientology in London on 23rd February. The visit was part of their study on beliefs in society. The students attended a talk, watched videos, and learned about the religion's beliefs and practices. They had a Q&A session and toured the 5-floor building, seeing the library, silent floor for auditing, a jewellery shop, and offices dedicated to the founder L. Ron Hubbard. The trip was informative and enjoyable for everyone involved.



## Theatre Trip - Back to the Future

For the March enrichment day, Year 11 took part in an English Revision session in the morning followed by a quiz which saw their competitive side come through! They then travelled by coach to catch the matinee performance of *Back to the Future, The Musical*. Students were awestruck by the special effects, choreography, music and showmanship of the production, many of them talking about it on the coach journey back to school.

## Forensic Science Day



Year 8 were kept busy in our science labs trying to solve a murder mystery using an array of scientific equipment, testing various samples and solving clues. The poor victim was Headteacher, Mr Booth and justice was served at the end of a very busy day!

## Year 12 & 13 Enrichment

Year 12 had a fabulous enrichment day looking at their physical, mental and social well-being. External facilitators; Split Banana, Brooke, DSMF and CAMHS led a rotation of sessions looking at Anxiety, Sexual Health, Meditation and alcohol/drugs awareness. The Year 13 students spent the day preparing to live independently, cooking a meal out of left over ingredients to mimic student living, along with financial, self-defence, first aid and gap year travel sessions. Students were really equipped to hit the ground running when they move to university or shared accommodation over the coming years.



## Medic Talk

Students were inspired by returning Wallington student Tabitha Premraj who gave a great talk to aspiring medical students about their journey to medicine. She spoke about her A-Levels and experiences gained in sixth form, through to personal statements, applications, interviews and her experience now as a 2nd Year Medical student at Nottingham. It was amazing to see her journey and so many students asking very pertinent questions to inform the next stage of their journey.

## Year 7 Netball



From the start of the season to now, the Year 7 netball squad have improved so much and have fought tooth and nail in every match. Their resilience, cohesion as a team and growth in skill has seen them turn losses into wins and close draws with some of the toughest teams in the county. Anything is possible when you put your mind to it and they have done that! We are really proud of the journey they are on and will continue next season!

## Year 8 Netball



The Year 8 netball teams have had an outstanding term. Commitment to training has been fantastic and has most certainly resulted in many victories at fixtures, against tough competition. The A team made it through to the Surrey Schools Final, playing against the best U13 players in the county. This is only the second time Wallington Girls have made it through to the Surrey Finals in over fifteen years. They placed fifth overall in their group and played some of the hardest games they have ever faced. They should all be extremely proud of themselves.

## Year 11 & Senior Netball

The Year 11 and Senior netball teams have continued to play fantastically this term. The Year 11 A&B team both won against St Theresa's, with Layla and Emily being voted Players of the Match. The Senior A&B teams had a particularly great game against Dunottar School; they proved a difficult opposition and both teams lost by only a few goals. We are extremely proud of the players' commitment, attitude and progress in their netball.

## Year 9 Netball

The Year 9 netball team have been so dedicated this season and the standard of netball across all four teams has come on incredibly. The A&B team were a little unfortunate at the start of the term with postponed fixtures, however they have had a succession of tightly contested games recently. Most notably their game against Downsland school which was goal for goal until the last quarter for the A team and some of the best netball we have seen the students play. Very proud to have coached such hard working, collaborative students.



## Year 10 Netball

The Year 10 netball A&B teams have continued their season full of energy and determination. Despite tough competition this side of the season, they have remained motivated, and it was great to see both teams secure wins against Sutton High. As the season comes to a close, we are excited to see how they place in the Croydon and Surrey leagues.



## Sports at WHSG

### Cricket



A short but sweet Indoor season for the U12 and U15 teams. The U12s and U15s both played in the School Sport Partnership tournament at Sutton High and placed third. The U15s also progressed to the East Surrey Area cricket finals and were placed fourth. Special mention to Esmari and Hannah for captaining the teams.

### Football



Football Our U12 team have played fixtures against Oaks Park, Glenthorne, Sutton High and Overton Grange with the latter fixture resulting in a fantastic 1-0 win. Our U14 team have had a superb season and have finished the season with only one loss and wins against Nonsuch and Glenthorne, where the team came back from 2-0 down to score a last minute goal to secure a 3-2 win. The U16 team have played some fantastic football, securing big wins against St Phils (11-1) and Overton Grange (7-0).



### Senior Rugby

The senior rugby team have spent the term training hard and recently play the Sixth Form girls rugby team from Langley Boys School. It was a very exciting game to watch with Wallington taking an early lead which they managed to maintain for the remainder of the game and winning by 28 points to 16. It was a well-deserved victory and means that the team remain unbeaten this season. With just one more game against Tiffins to go! Thank you to everyone that came out to support.



### Athletics

Lia, Year 12, recently competed at the England Indoor Athletics Championships in the U20 Hurdles category. This category is the last junior age group before athletes turn professional and compete at an adult level. Her hard work and dedication paid off as she finished third in the final, earning a well-deserved bronze medal. Congratulations Lia!

