



# Wallington High School For Girls

HEIRS OF THE PAST, MAKERS OF THE FUTURE

## THE WALLINGTON WEEK

### MESSAGE FROM THE HEADTEACHER



Our Festive fair – what an event! The PFA and school staff members worked well together to host an amazing evening. We had pop up shops, candy floss, non-alcoholic mulled wine, food stalls and a range of items for sale. Students also ran their own stalls from teddy tombola, to cakes, tattoos (not real ones) and games. We also

had some performers, including singers and a wonderful gymnast. We even had our very own Santa. It was an amazing evening and next week I will let you know how much was made. Thank you to all those who came and supported the event.

A few weeks ago, we had a request from our Wallington Councilor to help decorate a pop-up Christmas Grotto in Wallington Town Centre last weekend. Our DT team responded straight way with a fabulous festive grotto of trees and reindeers all created by our talented Year 10 DT students. Hopefully this will make it into the local paper. Our choir has also been out and about and attended two local events this week.

We ran our first Parent workshop this week. It was great that we had an opportunity to spend quality time talking with parent stakeholders about our new behaviour policy, we really do welcome feedback and truly believe that strong parent – school relationships help build trust and growth in our community. To follow up on this I will be sending out a parent survey before the end of term to gather your views on a range of topics.

This week I have also met with two groups of sixth formers to hear their views about the school – I ran two sessions and have been really impressed by their communication skills, they came up with some very rich and thoughtful ideas about how we can continue to improve our school. I also attended our student council meeting with representatives from each Year group and was equally impressed with their contributions.

### PARENT WORKSHOP: IMPROVING ATTENDANCE

**Date and time:** Tues 16th Jan 2024, 18.00-19.00

**Facilitator:** Aniké Clarke (Education Welfare Officer - Cognus)

**Location:** This is a virtual event - Teams

A workshop for parents of students whose attendance is below 90% and finding it difficult to attend school on a regular basis. The aim of the workshop is to help parents develop a better understanding of how chronic absence can impact a child's achievement and to explore strategies for improving their child's attendance.

#### Meeting details:

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Meeting ID: 344 149 001 200

Passcode: 9M7Vdb

### CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

[SOCs](#), the school's new 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

Cover Supervisor, Lunchtime Supervisor are all available. To find out more, click [here](#).



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## GENERAL NOTICES

### ATTENDANCE

Requests for absence, including illness or appointments should be sent to:

[attendance@wallingtongirls.org.uk](mailto: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 WHS of a leave of absence, please complete this [form](#) and return to the email above.

### 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.

WHS 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.

### NAME DROP - NEW IPHONE FEATURE

The new iOS 17 update includes a feature that allows users to share contact information and photos by holding two iPhones together. The feature, called NameDrop, is activated by users who have installed the recent software update to iOS 17. When users install the iOS 17 update, NameDrop defaults to 'ON'. As a safety precaution, police are warning parents/carers whose children have iPhones that have the new iOS 17 update to be sure to change the setting. To shut the feature off, follow these directions: Go to Settings, General, AirDrop, Bringing Devices Together and select 'OFF'.

### CHANGES IN CONTACT INFO

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](mailto:mandrews@wallingtongirls.org.uk)

KS5 – [jday@wallingtongirls.org.uk](mailto:jday@wallingtongirls.org.uk)

### 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 need arises for a pupil with mobility issues.

[reception@wallingtongirls.org.uk](mailto: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.

### TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

With the Christmas holidays only a few weeks away, we would like to remind parents/carers that holidays should not be taken in term time and students should be in school until the last day of term.

As per the Government guidance, "Working together to improve school attendance", parents/carers should plan their holidays around school breaks and avoid seeking permission from schools to take their children out of school during term time unless it is absolutely unavoidable. For more information see the guidance here - Working together to improve school attendance (publishing.service.gov.uk)



## CCF ACHIEVEMENTS: AIR SQUADRON TROPHY: REGIONAL CHAMPIONS 2023

On Sunday, December 3rd, fourteen cadets and two adult volunteers from our Wilson's School CCF RAF section ventured up to RAF Halton to compete in the Regional round of the Royal Air Squadron Trophy Competition (RASTC). Despite an early wake-up call to arrive at school by 5:45am, the atmosphere on the coach was buzzing, particularly as we had many new team members. However, following countless hours of polishing, ironing, revising and marching, we were all confident in our ability to bring home the trophy.

Upon arrival on base, we were immediately thrown into the deep end; we were informed that our first test, RAF General Knowledge, the most content-heavy discipline, would commence in just 10 minutes. Having completed this exam style assessment, we changed into our Wedgewood Blues uniform for Drill & Uniform competition. We knew we'd done well and the feedback from the Drill Sergeant who assessed us boosted our confidence for the rest of the day. The team then split in half to compete in either air rifle shooting or micro-heli. Following lunch, the whole team reunited for Command Task, a tough challenge of both leadership and followership, featuring an escape room. The final two disciplines were conducted simultaneously at different locations: First Aid (FA)

and Aircraft Recognition (AR). After a long day of testing, all 19 competing teams from various CCFs in the London and South East Region (LASER) mustered for a Final Parade, led by our very own Flight Sergeant Mircheva who was selected on the strength of our performance in the Drill Competition, where the top teams for each discipline were revealed and overall winners crowned. Wilson's School won Drill and RAF Knowledge, with Sergeant Fernando and Lance Corporal Aslam collecting the shields for these disciplines, respectively. We also achieved solid 3rd place podium finishes in both Aircraft Recognition and First Aid, led by Cadet Marcoz and Corporal Kachiraju, respectively. The improvement in First Aid performance from previous years was marked.

It was finally time to unveil the top three teams who will qualify to Nationals in March. We achieved what must have been a very narrow victory and finished as Regional Champions. Sergeant Fernando once again had the honour of collecting the trophy to tumultuous applause. Dulwich College and Maidstone Grammar CCFs also qualified.

Special thanks to Flt Lt Luck, Flg Off Paschoud and Mr Peronious for giving up their Thursday afternoons and Saturday mornings to supervise our training. We also need to

acknowledge to our travelling reserve, Cadet Nand, who came with us in case substitutions were required. Two additional team members, Flight Sergeant Rajan and Corporal Pandit, unfortunately could not attend, but their efforts have also been noted. Lastly, a big thank you to Lt Col Burton and Plt Off Cady for accompanying us on the day.

Training will shortly commence in the coming weeks for Nationals, where we will prove that we truly are the best RAF section in the country. Watch this space!

- Article by LCpl Aslam and Cdt Raj.





## CCF ACHIEVEMENTS: AIR SQUADRON TROPHY: A WORD FROM THE CONTINGENT COMMANDER

I am always hopeful that the RASTC team will progress through the regional competition to the National Finals but this team was very inexperienced and was missing a couple of key members of the squad. It is testament to how hard they worked to achieve this result that the Drill Sequence was as good as any I have seen at this competition. The staff running the competition specifically chose FSgt Mircheva to lead a final parade of over 300 cadets and adult volunteers as a result of this performance.

The thing that impresses me most is the effort that they put in in preperation, parading

independently of the usual parade nights on Thursday evenings and some weekends. I would like to add my thanks to those above, both to the staff but also the cadet senior NCOs who plan and deliver the training. The willingness of squad members who know they will not be able to attend the event itself to turn up for this training is credit to team members past and present who have developed a culture of hard work and ambition for this particular competition. Well done to all who took part and good luck in the National Final.

- Lt Col Burton

## VISITS: CRIMINOLOGY CONFERENCE

On Wednesday 29th November, Year 13 Sociology and Psychology students were given the opportunity to attend a Criminology conference at Friends House Euston, London. Upon arrival, we were greeted with workbooks containing the day's contents and activities. Our first lecture by Dr. Lyndsey Harris provided rich insight into what domestic violence is, and how it can affect the lives of the survivors and their communities. Whilst highlighting flaws in the Criminal Justice System, it also defined and began to explore victimology, which is the study of the victims of crime and the psychological effects of their experience. After a brief interval, we were spoken to by Dr. Anthony Ellis, who had

researched male violence in northern England. He presented his findings of how factors such as ethnicity, upbringing and parental influence affected males, causing them to become violent and pass it down generationally. Our third session was a gripping, real life tale of a woman, Marisa Merico, who was born into the Italian Mafia and eventually became its leader, aged 22 after her father was arrested. We were given the chance at the end to ask questions, to which her responses helped deepen our understanding of how gender and crime interlink. We then had a 40-minute lunch break, which gave us the opportunity to explore the surrounding areas. After lunch, we regrouped for a fourth session about policing, crime, and

criminology by Prof. Zoë Walkington. One of the activities within the segment was trying to figure out whether people were lying, and we learnt that it is very difficult to determine if someone is lying to you. Our final session was another real-life account of a man named Justin Rollins, who, at 14, became the leader of a south London gang. As he grew up in our local area, his story really unveiled how trauma from a young age can send someone spiralling down an unforgiving path that can lead to prison and, for many of his friends, leads to death. After another session of questions, we were dismissed and made our way back.

- Marie-Rose, Year 13





## VISITS:

### ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY AT BURLINGTON HOUSE

On Tuesday evening, the Chemistry department went to the Royal Society of Chemistry at Burlington House to listen to a talk by Bonnie Garmus the author of the best selling book, 'Lessons in Chemistry'. The theme of the evening was very much the issues still faced by women working in STEM and how we can work to overcome the prejudice still experienced by women today. If you would like to read the book which has now been made into a TV show, we would highly recommend it!



## VISITS:

### EL LABERINTO DEL FAUNO AT THE BFI, SOUTHBANK

On the 28th, A-level Spanish students took a trip to the British Film Institute on the Southbank, for a workshop in the film we are studying: El Laberinto del Fauno. First, we had a lecture from a Spanish expert on the historical context in which the film was set, and how this impacted the plot, setting and directing. This was entirely in Spanish, which hugely tested our language comprehension skills, but was fascinating nonetheless. We learnt interesting information about the period of the 'post-Guerra'- after the Spanish Civil War, which we were able to make inter-synoptic links with the other areas we are studying. It was particularly fascinating as this fit in with our existing knowledge of the dictatorship of Franco,

and the strict regime that he enforced. We learnt how this is reflected in the film, particularly through Captain Vidal, the protagonist's stepfather. After lunch, we watched the film on the big screen. This was really fun for us, as Year 12 students have not watched the film before, therefore it was a way of seeing everything we had been taught about in real time. It was a great experience as the screen was huge and we could see all the scenes in high definition. It was also fun as we could see how much of the film we could understand without looking at the subtitles (but we still needed them!).

- Daisy, Year 12





## MATHS: HANS WOYDA MATHEMATICS COMPETITION

On Tuesday evening, the  
On Monday 4th December a  
group of four students, Uma (Year 9), Jade (Year 11), Julia (Year 12) and Abigail (Year 13), represented Wallington in the third round of the Hans Woyda Mathematics Competition. This is a London-wide competition in which schools compete directly against each other, answering maths questions in a very short time. We played against Sutton High School and it was an exceptionally close match. We were leading for most of the contest but lost out by only one mark in the final round. Once again, our team work was excellent and we achieved a perfect score in the team round. The questions were incredibly difficult but very interesting and we all enjoyed looking at them. The geometry questions were based around "shortest path" questions and some of our Y13 students have seen this sort of question asked at their university interviews recently.

Can you answer them?  
recommend it!

### Section 2 – Geometry (Pairs)

**Marks:** 2 marks to either or both competitors for the correct answer

**Time:** 90 seconds

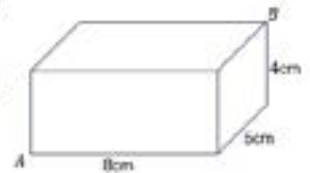
It may be useful in this round to note that, in three-dimensional problems, the shortest path is most easily found by finding the appropriate straight line on a net of the solid.

Year

- 7-11 1) A cuboid measures 4cm by 6cm by 8cm.  $A$  and  $B$  are two vertices of the cuboid which are diagonally opposite each other.

An ant crawls along the surface of the cuboid from  $A$  to  $B$ .

Find an exact expression for the length in cm of the shortest total distance it could have crawled.



- 12-13 2) A cylinder has radius  $r$  and height  $4r$ . A string  $AB$  is wound twice round the cylinder with the point  $B$  on edge of the lower face directly below the point  $A$ , which is on the edge of the upper face (as shown).

Find an exact expression, in terms of  $r$ , for the shortest possible length of the string.



Well done to everyone who took part – we did very well under quite a bit of pressure!

Miss Tucker

(Answers 7-11 Q1)  $2\sqrt{41}$  (cm) 12-13 Q2)  $4r\sqrt{\pi^2 + 1}$ )



# Digital Help Sessions



**Do you need help:**

- **Joining video calls?**
- **Attaching files to emails?**
- **Using certain websites?**
- **Filling out forms online?**
- **Any other digital questions?**

**We're here to help! Come and say hello  
and we can help you get online.**

**Sutton Central Library: Tuesdays, 2pm - 4pm**

**Westcroft Library: Tuesdays, 2pm - 4pm**

**Wallington Library: Thursdays, 2pm - 4pm**



# CHRISTMAS CONCERT 2023

Tuesday 19th December,  
starting at 7pm

Please refer to the  
communications sent via e-mail on  
how to purchase and RSVP to this  
highly anticipated event.



Tickets via PARENT PAY