

The Wallington Week

Monday 22nd September 2025

Tuesday last week saw a very busy and successful SET Day, which, according to parents, ran really well. A huge thank you goes to our CCF cadets and Year 13 volunteers who supported the day so brilliantly.

We also relaunched WoHAA this year, with a fantastic turnout from lots of students including over a hundred students from Year 9 at the assembly led by WoHAA CEO, Rajni Sriram. If your child would like to take part, they will need to register online with your permission.

Our Clubs and Societies Fair launched last week. We are fortunate to offer so many exciting opportunities—please do check in with your child to see which ones they have signed up for.

As a school we run a large number of trips, both day and residential. A comprehensive list of upcoming trips will be sent home in the next few weeks so that you can see what is on offer and plan accordingly. Please remember that if your child is in receipt of Pupil Premium funding, we are able to offer support for all of these activities.

It was a pleasure to welcome our new Year 7 parents into school last week for our Parent Information Evening (PIE). We hope you found the evening helpful—please don't hesitate to contact your child's form tutor if you have any further questions.

Finally, a polite reminder about parking. We have again received a complaint from a local resident about cars blocking flats and driveways. Please be mindful of where you pull in to collect your child and help us to keep all routes clear—both for the safety of our students and to ensure access for our neighbours.

– Ms T O'Brien
Headteacher



Upcoming Events

- 2nd Oct- Year 13 MMI
- 13th Oct- Y7 Meet the Tutor
- 16th Oct- Sixth Form Open Evening

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](#).

Current Vacancies

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

Week B

Monday 22nd Sept

- School Production rehearsals begin (15:00-16:40) (Main hall)

Tuesday 23rd Sept

- Headteachers Detention - (15:10-17:10pm)

Wednesday 24th Sept

- Central Detention- 15:10-16:10pm

Thursday 25th Sept

- Mathematical Olympiad/Competition for Girls (Yr 12/13 FM students)

Friday 26th Sept

- Year 7 X-Country P5
- Central Detention- 15:10-16:10pm

Important Dates

- 27th September- Second Stage SET Test
- 17th October- Last Day of Term (late start).

Staff Messages

Parent Workshop: KS4 Study Skills (Years 10 and 11 Parents)

Date and time: Wed 8th Oct 2025, 18.00-19.00

Facilitator: Mr Donnelly – Assistant Headteacher for Teaching and Learning at WHSG

Location: This event will be held at WHSG

This workshop is for the parents of Years 10 and Year 11 students. Mr Donnelly will provide parents and carers with tips and techniques to support their child with revision and how to retain more information and knowledge. The session will also look at how we can increase students' chances of becoming expert learners.

Snapchat

With Snapchat's ever-evolving features, it's essential for parents/carers to stay informed about new and emerging safeguarding risks. From AI chatbots to paid content options, this week's guide takes a closer look at the platform's most pressing dangers – plus the latest updates to be aware of.

– Mrs M Sundborg
Assistant Headteacher & DSL

Chatbots and Children

A chatbot is a computer program that simulates human conversation, either through text or voice, to provide information, perform tasks, or offer support. Chatbots are not particularly new, but the sophistication of their governing algorithms is. These applications are designed to keep people engaged with artificially generated responses. Responses formulated based on the information the user puts into them. This can create a self-reinforcing effect, where the chatbot continually increases the user's convictions in the truth of their own inputs. False information, reinforcement of poor choices and self-manipulation are common issues with this emerging software. The Children's Society has recently published an article on the issue which you can find here: [Chatbots and Children | The Children's Society](#)

– Mrs M Sundborg
Assistant Headteacher & DSL

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAP STREAK

97

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 🔥 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture those images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing Snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger connects with a child on Snapchat and makes them feel uncomfortable by pressuring them to send or receive unwanted or inappropriate images, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile to report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user, with a tailored reporting section under the 'Nudity and Sexual Content' category. In this category, there's the option to report somebody for threatening to leak sexually explicit images, or 'nudes'.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

USE PRIVACY SETTINGS TOGETHER

Sit down with the children in your care and explore Snapchat's privacy settings as a shared activity. You can help them adjust who can contact them, view their stories, or see their location on Snap Map. It's a good opportunity to explain why some settings are safer than others, reinforcing their understanding of online boundaries. Encourage them to regularly review these settings, especially after app updates or changes in their friendship groups.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian Government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat>

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Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 17.09.2025

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:

KS3 and 4 –

mandrews@wallingtongirls.org.uk

KS5 –

jday@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

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 need arises for a pupil with mobility issues.

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

Punctuality

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.