

HEIRS OF THE PAST, MAKERS OF THE FUTURE

The Wallington Week

13th July 2026

As we move towards the end of another successful academic year, I continue to be incredibly proud of the many ways our students embody our values of curiosity, courage and compassion.

One of the highlights of last week was the participation of our students in the first Cross-Trust LeadHERship Conference, held at Carshalton High School for Girls. The conference provided students with opportunities to develop their leadership skills, build confidence and collaborate with like-minded young people from across the Girls' Learning Trust. We are delighted that certificates have now been awarded to participants, and I look forward to hearing how they hope to put their ideas into action within our school community.

We are delighted to celebrate the continued success of the Jack Petchey Achievement Award Scheme at Wallington. The awards recognise students who demonstrate our values of Courage, Compassion and Curiosity, with students themselves nominating peers who make a positive contribution to our school community. Since relaunching the scheme, 15 students have been recognised and over £4,500 has been invested back into the school. Award winners have chosen to use their grants to benefit others, funding projects including new library books, science equipment, PE resources, drama technology, psychology enrichment opportunities and sustainability initiatives. It has been wonderful to see our students not only recognised for their achievements but also choosing to give back to the wider school community. Congratulations to all of our award winners and thank you to every student who has taken the time to nominate a peer.

We are equally proud to celebrate the success of our linguists in this year's Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators. More than 25,000 students participated in the competition nationally, with over 5,400 entries judged, making this a tremendous achievement. Judges commented on the exceptionally high standard of entries this year and how difficult it was to select the winners and commendations. Congratulations to Mishaal (Year 7, Spanish), Kairi (Year 7, French), Isla (Year 9, German), Keisha (Year 8, Italian) and Nina (Year 13, Russian) on their fantastic achievements.

This week we welcomed the families of students joining us in September who are in receipt of Pupil Premium funding. The afternoon provided an opportunity to share the range of support available, including assistance with resources, access to a laptop and support to participate fully in enrichment activities. Inclusive practice sits at the heart of what we do, and we are committed to removing barriers so that every student can access the full richness of school life.

Our Open Evening took place on Tuesday and was attended by more than 3000 prospective students and parents. The real stars of the evening were our students, who represented the school brilliantly. They were confident, articulate, and welcoming, and I received so many compliments from visiting parents about the warmth, enthusiasm and pride shown by our students. A special shout out to our Head Girls, Gracie and Sophia, and the very brave Year 7 students who took to the stage to speak to all our visitors, Hoi Lam and Leah. Thank you to everyone who gave their time to support the event and helped showcase the very best of Wallington.

Continued below..

We are also delighted to celebrate the outstanding achievement of Srisakthi and Anaisa in Year 9, who recently represented both the UK and Wallington High School for Girls at the International FLL Open Invitational – Robotics and Innovation Competition in South Korea. Competing against 43 teams from around the world, their team, 'Lord of the Bricks', won the Second Best International Robot Performance Award. Their robot successfully completed 15 competition missions in under two and a half minutes, finishing just five points behind the winning team. Alongside their success in the competition, they had the opportunity to collaborate with young people from across the globe and were exceptional ambassadors for both our school and the UK. Congratulations on this remarkable international achievement.

Finally, our Sports Awards Evening on Thursday was another wonderful celebration of the talent, dedication and success of our students. It was a pleasure to see so many young sportswomen recognised for their commitment and achievements throughout the year. We were also delighted to welcome Judy Vernon as our keynote speaker for the evening. Sport continues to go from strength to strength at Wallington High School for Girls, with students achieving success at borough, county, regional and national levels.. Throughout the year, our students have demonstrated exceptional commitment to sport, embracing opportunities to compete, develop leadership skills and support one another, embodying the values of teamwork, resilience and excellence that underpin sport at Wallington.

Looking ahead, we are excited about a number of developments taking place across the school site over the summer. Plans are progressing well for the refurbishment of some of our science laboratories, which will provide enhanced learning environments for students from September. We are committed to continually improving our facilities so that students benefit from the very best learning spaces possible, and we are incredibly grateful for the generous contributions made through the School Fund, which have helped make these improvements possible. Thank you for your continued support.

Families may be interested to know that, from 25th June to 1st September 2026, the Government's Great British Summer Savings scheme is offering reduced costs on a range of family activities. Discounts include reduced VAT on children's meals in restaurants, family tickets to cinemas, theatres, concerts and exhibitions, and admission to participating attractions. In addition, children aged 5-15 can travel on buses for free throughout August. Families can find participating venues and attractions near them by visiting the Summer Savings website and entering their postcode. Please visit <https://summersavings.gov.uk>.

As we approach our final days of term, students are looking forward to our House celebrations and the awarding of the House Cup. These events provide a wonderful opportunity to celebrate achievement, teamwork and community spirit, while reflecting on another year of remarkable successes at Wallington.

- Ms T O'Brien
Headteacher



Calendar

Attendance

Y7 Y8 Y9 Y10

97.5%

96.6%

96.2%

95.7%

Week B

Monday 13th July

- Y12 WEX- all week
- Rhineland Trip (Mon-Thurs)
- Berlin Trip (Mon-Thurs)

Tuesday 14th July

- Makers of the Future Day

Wednesday 15th July

- Enrichment Day

Thursday 16th July

- Enrichment Day

Friday 17th July

- Well Done Wallington Awards
- Last day of term- Early finish 1pm

Upcoming Events

14th July- Makers of the Future Day

15th-16th July- Enrichment Days

17th July- End of Term

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](#)



DSL Messages

New Guidance: Sharing Images of Children Online

AI is being used to turn ordinary photos of children into sexual abuse material. The National Crime Agency and Internet Watch Foundation have issued new guidance to help parents make informed choices about sharing images of their children online. It covers reviewing privacy settings, revisiting consent with your child as they grow, and what to do if you're worried.

The parent's guidance can be found here:
<https://www.iwf.org.uk/resources/ai-child-abuse-imagery-parent-guide/>

Top Tips for a Tech-Free Summer for Teens

For many young people, the summer holidays can easily become dominated by phones, gaming, streaming and social media. The guide below offers reassuring, realistic advice for parents and carers who want to encourage 11- to 16-year-olds to spend more time offline without making technology feel like the enemy.

Support over the holidays

In case you or your child need some support over the Summer holidays and therefore the Safeguarding team is not available, please take a look at the below. There is also more information on the school website - Parent Resources - Wallington High School for Girls

If your child is feeling low or unsafe, it is important they talk to someone they trust and tell them how they are feeling. Sometimes it can be difficult for them to talk to friends and family so here are some other places they can contact instead:

School nurse duty line - 020 8770 5409

Childline - 0800 1111

Samaritans - 116 123

Hopeline - 0800 068 4141

NSPCC - 0808 800 5000

www.talkofftherecordonline.org (Talking therapy)

www.nspcc.org.uk (concerned about a friend and their safety in the home)

www.selfharmuk.org (if someone you know / or you is concerned about self harm)

www.youngminds.org.uk (mental health concerns of any nature)

www.kooth.com (for anonymous emotional wellbeing support)

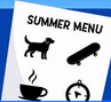
www.papyrus.org (if you / or someone you care for has suicidal thoughts)

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

TECH-FREE SUMMER FOR TEENS

For many 11- to 16-year-olds, summer can quickly become screen heavy, especially when socialising, entertainment, and downtime all happen via their devices. Encouraging a tech-free summer isn't about banning technology altogether, but about helping young people rediscover friendship, creativity, independence, and the great outdoors. The NHS recommends that young people aged 5 to 18 aim for an average of at least 60 minutes of physical activity each day across the week.

1 BUILD OUTDOOR CHOICE



Teens are more likely to engage when they feel they have a level of control. Create a simple 'summer outdoors menu' with options such as cycling to a favourite café, playing rounders, visiting a skatepark, dog walking, photography walks, geocaching, or helping around the garden. Parents and educators can then ask young people to choose two or three activities each week that interest them.

2 PREPARE THE KIT

Small barriers can stop teenagers going outside, especially if they feel uncomfortable, too hot, or unprepared. Keep a grab bag with sun cream, water, snacks, plasters, a cap, period products, and a lightweight waterproof. During hot weather, plan shade, water breaks, and calmer activities, as vigorous exercise is not advised on very hot days.

3 TRY MICRO-ADVENTURES

Outdoor activities don't need to be expensive or complicated. A micro-adventure could be as simple as watching the sunrise, walking to a local viewpoint, making breakfast outside, visiting a new green space, or planning a bus journey to a nearby nature trail. Encourage teens to plan the route, snacks, and timings themselves to help build their independence.

4 LINK TO REAL INTERESTS

A young person who dislikes sport may still enjoy being outside if the activity connects with something they already care about. Link outdoor time to music, art, animals, fashion, cooking, photography, or social interaction. Ideas include sketching in a park, making a nature playlist, filming a wildlife vlog script, or designing posters for a community garden.

5 CREATE SOCIAL PULL



For many teenagers, friends are the strongest motivator in various areas of life. Parents can invite one or two friends on walks, picnics, or garden games, while schools can promote lunchtime leagues, outdoor clubs, or summer meet-ups linked to existing interests. Make these activities feel social rather than supervised, with adults nearby for safety but not dominating the experience.

6 MAKE TRAVEL ACTIVE



Active travel is a practical way to build outdoor time into everyday routines. Encourage young people to walk, cycle, or scoot short journeys where it's safe to do so, such as to school, the library, a friend's house, or a sports club. Educators could run a summer 'active miles' challenge, with pupils logging their journeys completed on foot or by pedal.

7 USE PHONE-FREE CHALLENGES



Rather than simply saying, "Put your phone away", turn time spent offline into a shared challenge. Try a two-hour, phone-free park visit, a family evening walk, or a tutor-group challenge where pupils track their screen-free outdoor hours and share what they've been doing. You could all agree to keep devices in a box, bag, or classroom drawer, and allow for check-in time afterwards.

8 OFFER REAL RESPONSIBILITY



Teens often respond well when outdoor activities feel purposeful. Give them the responsibility for setting up a garden get-together, planning a picnic budget, leading a warm-up routine, mapping a walking route, or organising outdoor equipment. Schools could ask pupils to design an outdoor wellbeing trail, manage a sports rota, or support younger pupils during activity sessions.

9 REPLACE, DON'T REMOVE



If screens are taken away without an appealing alternative, young people may see outdoor time as a punishment. Replace gaming sessions with football drills, dance practice, basketball shots, treasure hunts, or card games outside. Replace screen scrolling with a 'boredom box' containing items like chalk, a frisbee, skipping ropes, playing cards, seed packets, or a disposable-style camera.

10 CELEBRATE SMALL WINS



Not every teenager will suddenly love the outdoors, so recognise their gradual progress. Celebrate a 20-minute walk, an hour at the park, a phone-free picnic lunch, or choosing to cycle instead of being driven around. Parents and educators can use praise, certificates, group displays, or simple shared reflection to show that outdoor effort matters.

Meet Our Expert

The National College provides expert-led training and resources to support schools, trusts and education settings worldwide. Its guidance helps parents and educators understand the issues affecting children and young people today, covering topics such as safeguarding, wellbeing, digital safety, and healthy development.

See full reference list on our website

#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®

LeadHERship Conference

On Monday the students from our Executive Council attended the first Girls Learning Trust Student Leadership Conference- it was truly a fantastic opportunity that encouraged me to develop my confidence and communication skills! Throughout the day, we were lucky enough to hear from several inspiring women who spoke to us about their careers and how they approach leadership roles in their lives, including Baroness Tanni Grey-Thompson and a GB Athlete. Through these speeches and workshops, we were able to further understand the qualities necessary to be an effective leader.

A large portion of the day was focussed on being willing to say “yes” to things outside of our comfort zone and maintaining a positive attitude towards new experiences. While these ideas were heavily reinforced, we learned that there is more than one way to be a good leader, and we can make a difference to others in our own way. Furthermore, this conference taught me the importance of teamwork, as we were given the opportunity to work with girls across the schools for various activities and we were able to share different perspectives to achieve a common goal. Overall, the Student Leadership conference has left a lasting impact on me, as I have been inspired to work towards my dreams and strive for more leadership roles within the school community and beyond to make a positive impact.



Achievements

We are delighted to celebrate the outstanding achievement of Year 9 students, Srisakthi and Anaisa, who recently represented the United Kingdom at the International FLL Open Invitational – Robotics & Innovation in South Korea.

Competing as part of the team “Lord of the Bricks,” the students demonstrated exceptional skill, creativity and teamwork on a global stage. Their robot, featuring a sophisticated driving base with eight geared attachments, successfully completed 15 competition missions in under two and a half minutes, achieving an impressive score of 540 points—just five points behind the overall winners.

Out of 44 international teams, this remarkable performance secured them the Second Best International Robot Performance Award.

The competition welcomed teams from across the world, including participants from the USA, Australia, Brazil, Germany, Japan, South Africa and many more, making this accomplishment even more significant. Beyond the competition itself, the event offered a rich cultural experience, giving students the opportunity to connect with peers from a wide range of backgrounds and share their enthusiasm for innovation and technology.

The school is incredibly proud of their achievements and the way they represented both Wallington High School for Girls and the UK with such dedication and professionalism- well done!



Sustainability



FACTS

- Palm Oil Plantations and the threat to Orangutans
- Palm oil is amazingly versatile and that is why it's become so popular. It's used in about half of all supermarket products. But this industry is responsible for destroying Indonesia's forests on an epic scale. This is accelerating climate change, forcing people from their traditional lands and threatens orangutans with extinction. Clearing forests produces greenhouse gas emissions and, with fewer trees, less carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere. The industry needs to change to stop palm oil companies destroying forests.



TIPS/SOLUTIONS

- Palm oil can be produced more sustainably and there is a role for companies, governments, and consumers to play. The Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil or RSPO was formed in 2004 in response to increasing concerns about the impacts palm oil was having on the environment and on society by founding members the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Malaysian Palm Oil Association (MPOA), Unilever, AAK, and Migros.
- There are three species of Orangutan – Bornean, Sumatran and Tapanuli and they are all classified as 'Critically Endangered'
- Sanctuaries have been set up to save orangutans, many of whom are babies and have been orphaned. One such organisation is the Borneo Orangutan Survival Foundation and here, like many others, you can 'adopt an orangutan' and contribute a small amount to help their rehabilitation. Mrs Corfield is an 'adopter of three' so please go and see her if you would like more info.

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 need arises 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.