



HEIRS AND MAKERS

SPRING TERM 2026

EDITION NO.10

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE:

As we come to the end of a busy and successful term, I would like to take a moment to reflect on all that our students have achieved and contributed to our school community.

This term has been rich in opportunities that have nurtured our core values of courage, curiosity and compassion. We have seen courage in many forms—from Year 7 students performing in the Gym and Dance show, to our public speakers representing the school so impressively in competitions such as the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge. Students have stepped forward, taken risks and grown in confidence.

Curiosity has been evident across the curriculum and beyond. Enrichment Day, wider reading initiatives, and the launch of the Humanities Scholars Prize have all encouraged students to think deeply, explore new ideas and engage with learning beyond the classroom. Our ongoing focus on scholarship continues to develop students as thoughtful, independent learners.

Compassion remains at the heart of our school community. Our student-led Iftar was a wonderful example of inclusivity and respect, bringing students and staff together in a spirit of shared understanding. Charity events, such as our support for Place2Be, and the everyday kindness we see between students, reflect a culture where individuals feel valued and supported.

Alongside this, students have benefited from a wide range of experiences, including trips, performances, environmental initiatives, and leadership opportunities, all of which contribute to a well-rounded education.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We are proud of the way our students embody our values each day and look forward to building on this further next term.

I wish you all a restful and enjoyable break.

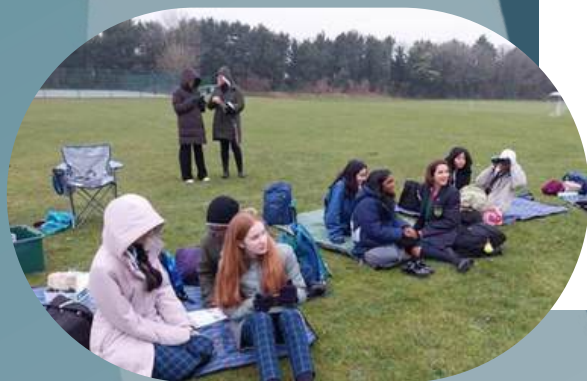
-Ms T O'Brien
Headteacher



YEAR 11 GUIDANCE MEETINGS & Y10 ARD

This term saw two key moments of academic reflection for students in Years 10 and 11.

Year 11 took part in their GCSE Guidance Meetings—an opportunity to pause, look closely at their progress, and consider next steps. Year 10 engaged in Academic Review Week, where students and parents met with tutors to discuss achievements and future targets. Both events strengthened the support around our Key Stage 4 students as they move forward.



RSPB BIRDWATCH

As part of the Big Schools' Birdwatch on 26th January, a group of sixteen students helped survey the birdlife across our school grounds, contributing to a wider understanding of local biodiversity. Over the session, pupils recorded a varied range of species, from familiar Robins and Magpies to Redwings, parakeets and a visiting Heron. A large number of feral pigeons made their presence known, and a Buzzard—spotted overhead—provided an unexpected highlight. The activity offered students a valuable chance to observe the richness of our local environment and consider the health of the ecosystems around us.

SIXTHFORM WINTER BALL

At the end of January, Sixth Form students gathered for the Winter Ball, an evening organised and led by our Year 13 prefects and Head Girls. The event brought together students and invited guests for an energetic mix of music, dancing and plenty of pizza. It was a lively celebration of student leadership and the strong sense of community within the Sixth Form.



WORLD HIJAB DAY

On 2nd February, the school marked World Hijab Day as part of our ongoing commitment to promoting respect and understanding across the community. For this day, students were invited to wear any colour or style of hijab or headscarf they might normally choose outside school, creating a visible moment of reflection on personal expression and the diverse ways individuals practise their identities. WHSG has observed World Hijab Day since 2022, alongside other opportunities in the year for students to explore different cultures, faiths and perspectives. This year's participation once again encouraged thoughtful conversation and strengthened the school's culture of curiosity and respect.



KS3 MUSIC RECITAL

On 3rd February, KS3 students took to the stage for their annual Music Recital, showcasing the range of developing talent within the lower school. Performances spanned a variety of instruments and styles, reflecting the growing confidence and musical curiosity of our younger musicians. The recital offered a thoughtful moment to appreciate their progress and the vibrant creativity emerging across KS3.



FOOTBALL & BAGMINTON INTERHOUSE

This half term saw a lively series of Interhouse fixtures in Football and Badminton, giving students across the school the chance to compete, collaborate and show their skills in a supportive setting. The regular rotation of matches brought plenty of energy and friendly rivalry, with pupils demonstrating commitment, teamwork and enthusiasm throughout. The programme highlighted both the strength of house spirit and the important role of sport in school life.



PFA Y9 & Y10 DISCO

On 11th February, Year 9 and 10 students gathered for their spring disco, hosted by the PFA and brought to life by DJ Mike. The disco created a relaxed, friendly atmosphere, giving those who attended the chance to enjoy music, dancing and time together outside the school day. Thankyou to the PFA for organising another lovely event for the students.

WOHAA EVENTS/ IFTAR NIGHT

This term, students continued to lead an impressive range of WoHAA events, raising funds and awareness for a variety of charities through their own creativity and initiative. Across the school, pupils organised bake sales, raffles, tombolas, Valentine's Day stalls, hot-chocolate stands, treats tables and even movie nights, each one adding to a growing culture of student-led philanthropy.

Among the most anticipated contributions was the annual Iftar event, which once again brought the community together in a spirit of welcome and reflection. Planned and delivered by students, the event offered a space for sharing food, conversation and tradition, and highlighted the dedication and organisational skill behind this year's programme of charitable activities.



AUTHOR VISIT

On 2nd March, we were delighted to welcome author Emma Swan to school for an inspiring visit. Emma spoke openly about her background and journey into writing, sharing the challenges and motivations that shaped her stories. Students enjoyed an engaging presentation where she discussed her creative process and the importance of perseverance, imagination, and finding your voice. It was a motivating and memorable experience that left many budding writers feeling encouraged to pursue their own ideas.

JACK PETCHEY FINAL

We are thrilled to share that Senuli (10PAN) has won the Sutton Regional Final of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge – the UK's largest public speaking competition for young people. Her thoughtful and inspiring speech on the voice of self-doubt impressed the judges and earned her a place in the Grand Final on 6th July 2026 at the Cambridge Theatre in London's West End.

We are also incredibly proud of Mishka (10SEA), who joined her in representing Wallington Girls at the regional final. Reaching this stage is a fantastic achievement, and both students spoke with confidence and real passion.

A special mention goes to last year's winner, Estela Joseph, who returned as MC and did a brilliant job hosting the event.



ENRICHMENT DAY

Students enjoyed a wide range of activities and visits during Enrichment Day on 5th March.

Year 7 split between an engaging Forensics Day in school and an enriching visit to the Tate Britain where they got to study and draw from a wide range of work in the main collection. One piece in particular which drew their attention was a painting by Pauline Boty who was involved in the 1960's Pop Art movement; she was also once a student of Wallington Girls herself!

Year 8 also divided into two groups, with half exploring the Tower of London and the others taking part in a maths activity day, including a scavenger hunt and escape-room challenges.

Year 9 spent the day discovering the gardens and collections at RHS Wisley. Year 10 enjoyed a variety of experiences, with some attending My Neighbour Totoro in the West End and others travelling further afield to Normandy and Sevilla. Year 11 had a fantastic theatre trip to see Hamilton at the Victoria Theatre in London.

Meanwhile, Years 12 and 13 took part in a programme of practical and skills-focused workshops, including health and wellbeing, finance, self-defence, cooking, and more.

Enrichment Day was a fantastic success, giving students across all year groups the chance to explore new places, build new skills, and enjoy memorable learning experiences both in and out of school.



TRIPS

This term has been packed with enriching visits and experiences across a range of subjects, giving students opportunities to learn, explore and connect beyond the classroom.

Media Trip – BFI Southbank (14th Jan, Y10 & Y11)

Students explored film-making techniques and media analysis at the BFI's specialist workshops.

GCSE Art Trip – Tate Britain (29th Jan)

Art students gathered inspiration from key British artworks to support their GCSE projects.

Historic Dockyard – Portsmouth (6th Feb)

Sixth Formers explored naval history and key maritime artefacts, including HMS Victory.

Ski Trip – Austria (12th–18th Feb)

A week of alpine skiing, team-building and unforgettable snowy adventures for students of all levels.

Disneyland Paris DT Trip (15th–18th Feb)

DT students learned about the engineering and creative design behind Disney attractions.

Sevilla Trip (4th–6th March): Students experienced Andalusian culture first-hand while developing their Spanish language skills during a three-day visit to Sevilla.

Normandy Trip (4th–7th March): Students explored key sites across Normandy, deepening their understanding of the region through real-world context.

Mott MacDonald Visit (24th March): A selected cohort visited Mott MacDonald to learn about engineering, sustainability and infrastructure careers from industry specialists.

Church of Scientology Visit (25th March): Students visited the Church of Scientology as part of their study of diverse worldviews and belief systems.

Year 12 Bowling Trip (26th March): Year 12 hosted a fun bowling trip celebrating students' teamwork, participation and commitment this term.

Eurospace (27th–30th March): Students took part in an immersive Eurospace programme, completing astronaut-style challenges and STEM mission tasks.



TRIPS

From 4th–6th March, students enjoyed a three-day cultural and linguistic immersion trip to Seville, Spain. The visit offered a valuable opportunity to deepen their understanding of Spanish culture while practising the language in authentic settings. Over the course of the trip, the group explored key landmarks, sampled traditional food, and developed their confidence in speaking Spanish.

After an early departure from Gatwick, the group arrived in Seville ready to make the most of their first day. Following hotel check-in, they visited the vibrant shopping street of Calle Sierpes before climbing the Setas de Sevilla for impressive views over the city. The day concluded with dinner at a local restaurant, where students tried the classic tortilla de patatas.

Day two began with breakfast at a nearby café, including the popular Spanish drink Cola Cao. Students then took part in a two-hour Spanish language class, which strengthened their cultural knowledge and speaking confidence. The day continued with a visit to Mercado de Triana, a cruise along the Rio Guadalquivir, and a tour of the spectacular Seville Cathedral and Giralda Tower. In the evening, students enjoyed a visit to the Flamenco Dance Museum followed by an engaging Flamenco performance showcasing talented dancers, singers, and musicians.

On the final day, the group visited the stunning Real Alcázar before rainy weather forced a change of plans. Instead of visiting Plaza de España, students explored the Mercado del Barranco and spent time browsing the local shops before travelling to the airport. The trip was an enriching and memorable experience, allowing students to fully immerse themselves in the traditions, history, and lifestyle of Seville. They returned with new insights, strengthened language skills, and many special memories.



WORLD BOOK DAY

World Book Day on 6th March brought a wonderful splash of colour and creativity to the school, thanks to the brilliant organisation by our Senior Prefects. Students and staff alike embraced the spirit of the day by dressing up as their favourite literary characters, filling the corridors with everything from classic heroes to modern icons. The Senior Prefects also ran an exciting 'Best Dressed' competition, encouraging friendly rivalry and plenty of imagination. Their hard work helped create a joyful celebration of reading and storytelling across the whole school community.



HOUSE MUSIC CONCERT

One of the most spirited events of the term was the House Music Concert on 10th March, where Athena, Bronte, Curie, Pankhurst, Johnson, Seacole and Sharman all took to the stage in a vibrant celebration of musical talent and teamwork. Each house took the stage with brilliant performances, showcasing not only musical ability but the confidence, collaboration and creativity that define our house ethos. After a closely contested evening, Bronte emerged as the winners. The concert once again highlighted the strength of our performing arts community and the joyful sense of belonging that house events bring to the school.



DRAMA- THE EXAM PERFORMANCE

The Year 12 Drama elective impressed with their final performance of The Exam by Andy Hamilton, staged on 25 February. With only twelve lessons to prepare, the eight-strong cast delivered a confident, polished production that had audiences laughing, gasping and fully immersed throughout.

The play explores the pressures placed on young people by the adults in their lives, a theme brought vividly to life through strong performances. From Andrew's anxious spirals to Bea's perfectionism and Chas' laid-back bravado, each character was portrayed with nuance and energy. The cast handled both the comedy and emotional depth of the script with maturity beyond their years.

Simple staging, sharp transitions and cleverly chosen music kept the pace brisk and the atmosphere vibrant. Costumes and characterisation were especially memorable, helping to create a believable exam-hall world that many Year 12s recognised all too well.

A huge well done to all the Drama elective students for a hugely successful performance, and to Miss Katesmark for her direction and support.

GYM & DANCE SHOW

One of the standout events of the term was our Gym and Dance Show, held over two evenings from 18th–19th March. Students from across the school presented an exceptional programme of performances, demonstrating both technical skill and artistic expression. Many routines were student-led, revealing not only talent but remarkable leadership and collaboration. The atmosphere was vibrant and supportive, with families and staff applauding the dedication and creativity of all performers. The show once again highlighted the strength of our performing arts community and the confidence it inspires in our young people.



MAKERS OF THE FUTURE DAY

A key highlight of the term was our annual Makers of the Future Day, held on Wednesday 25th March. Year 12 students spent the day off timetable participating in a programme designed to broaden their understanding of future pathways and equip them with the knowledge needed to make informed decisions about their next steps.

The afternoon saw our Futures Fair transform the Sports Hall into a vibrant hub of universities, training providers, and career representatives. Students from across the year groups attended staggered sessions, engaging in valuable conversations and exploring a diverse range of post-school options. The event fostered ambition, curiosity, and forward-thinking—qualities at the heart of our school ethos.



JACK PETCHEY STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Last year saw the school re-enlist in the Jack Petchey Student Achievement Awards Scheme and recognise six winners, so far this academic year we have been able to award this to six more students in our school community that have been nominated by their peers for demonstrating the school values of Curiosity, Courage and Compassion. The winners receive a £300 grant to spend in school on something that will enhance student experience or benefit the wider school community. Below we recognise this year's Autumn and Spring winners. We will have one more round of winners in the Summer term meaning we can award nine students in total this year; this is a wonderful achievement for our students, recognising the outstanding contributions they make and how they inspire others.

AUTUMN AWARDS

Curiosity Award

Naomi – 12LHN

“She decided to do a 30 day work placement and worked in a professional laboratory setting alongside a cell biologist, with a bioengineering company. She had the unique chance to witness the mitotic division of cancer cells up close, alongside cell experimenting insulin cells production out of pure curiosity, displaying a strong love of science and a desire to study outside of the classroom.”

Grant spent on resources for the Science Department.

Courage Award

Jannah – 7 Seacole

“In a completely brand new environment, Jannah has courageously embraced new challenges, coming out of her comfort zone to explore and be the best version of herself. She chose to wear a hijab regularly for the first time, prioritising her own beliefs over what others think, and I believe this is an extremely commendable and admirable act.”

Grant spent on a Year 7 Movie Night in December.

Compassion Award

Lakshmi – 8 Bronte

When I lost my scarf (I only realised after a club, waiting at the bus stop) I told Lakshmi and she had the kindness to run in to the school to get it for me. She missed her bus because of it but she said that she didn't mind and that she'd do anything for a friend.

Another time she was taking the bus to her kung fu lesson and her bus had just pulled over to the bus stop. She saw an elderly lady with heavy shopping bags in her hand and she was trying to run for the bus before it drove away. Lakshmi saw she was struggling and she told the bus driver to wait for the woman. This really stuck with me and really showed how compassionate and kind she was.

Grant spent on resources for the Science Department.

SPRING AWARDS

Curiosity Award

Leila – 11 Bronte

“Leila is definitely the kind of person to receive this award. She always asks lots of questions even if they aren't necessarily on the spec – showing her curious attitude to learning. She challenges the teachers with her out-of-the-box entertaining ideas. I genuinely find her to be the most curious person I know and no one else will suit this award better than her.”

Grant spend TBC.

Courage Award

Meezab – 8 Bronte

Meezab always looks out for people and makes sure that the right thing is done. Whenever she sees injustice or someone being treated unfairly, she doesn't let it slide. Furthermore, she's unapologetically herself and does a thing she loves so much, singing, with pride and confidence. It's the courage she has to stand up for herself and her rights that makes me admire her so much, and why she'd be excellent for this award.

Grant spend TBC.

Compassion Award

Saaliha – 12JSR

“I would like to nominate Saaliha for the award for compassion because she consistently shows care and kindness to everyone around her without ever expecting recognition for what she does. She raised money for charity by making and selling bracelets in year 10 (raising over £150 by herself) which shows both empathy and initiative. She always stays quiet about the good things she does and never boasts, which makes her compassion even more genuine. even if she doesn't particularly like or know someone, she will drop everything to help them if they're having a bad day, always putting their feelings first. She is sweet, kind and thoughtful. She regularly checks in on people, asking how they're feeling, and spreading positivity through her smile and loving nature. Her decision to become a wellbeing mentor perfectly reflects how much she cares about others, and she really does deserve to be recognised for the compassion she quietly shows every single day.”

Grant spend TBC.