



WHSG YEAR 12 INDUCTION DAY

Compiled by Uma Lee

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A MESSAGE FROM YOUR HEAD GIRLS...



To put it into a single word, what you get out of Sixth Form at WHSG is growth: both personal and academic, which we have learnt do not run on parallel tracks and are rather very much intertwined. In Sixth Form, the priority is discovering what you as a person love to learn about, beyond just the curriculum, and from there being given the guidance and opportunities to become more proactive in your own education.

Now, forgive us for being blunt – A levels are a massive leap forward from GCSEs! There's an increased amount of content, more frequent and rigorous exams, and generally higher stakes. However, we cannot doubt that Wallington's environment gives you the all the ingredients for a recipe of success; our students take pride in choosing to study their passion, whether it be Physics, Philosophy, Film, Psychology, or any of our other wide range of choices. You'll certainly be working alongside people just as enthusiastic as you are in your subject areas. We also must say that the teaching is second to none and every lesson is interactive, engaging, and challenging. Furthermore, due to our school's emphasis on community and work-life balance, you'll also have the chance to get to know some of the most thoughtful, driven, and charismatic people we think you'll meet – whether that be through the golden opportunity of free periods or extra-curricular activities. This is not by any means all there is to say, and that's why we have gone directly to our Sixth Formers to give you a taste of their WHSG experience. We hope you enjoy the read!

by Annie Kent and Sonam Chotai (Head Girls, 2022-23)

SETTLING IN - THE TRANSITION TO SIXTH FORM

TIME MANAGEMENT

A Levels require lots of independent study and organisation, and managing your time effectively is a big part of that. It's so important that you (at least roughly) plan when you will do the minimum work for your subjects (homework) in order to not fall behind and cause yourself unnecessary stress later on in the year. We recommend using your planners (which are an upgrade from lower school), or online apps like Google Calendar and Notion if they suit you better. Manage your time so that you can work hard and still have time to play hard too, because above all, your mental and physical well-being matters the most. This balance will make your sixth form life more stress free and will allow you to enjoy some of the best, albeit challenging, years of your life!

by Lakshmitha Krishnakumar

STUDY PERIODS

One of the biggest changes to studying in school from lower school/ GCSE to A Level is not having a fortnightly timetable full of lessons; now you will have free and study periods. They are both integral parts of our sixth form, because you are now becoming increasingly independent and curious students, and with that comes the responsibility of organising and doing your academic tasks (e.g. homework, wider reading, revision, etc.) in these available times. For most students taking 3 subjects, you will have several compulsory silent study periods to attend per week (usually in our sixth form Study Centre, which has many computers and tables for you to work from). We suggest you take advantage of these designated slots in your day to do the minimum work expected of you, giving your more time to enrich your studies outside of the curriculum. As mentioned, you now have free periods, where you can socialise or have time to yourselves to pause during your busy days, or do work as you please (and not in silence!). Although it's tempting to spend all your frees chatting away in the common room, please make the most of this time you have been given for independent study; you will thank yourself later on!

by Lakshmitha Krishnakumar

THE STUDY AREA

The Sixth Form study area is a place for students to study productively in a silent and focused environment, which is supervised by teaching staff throughout the school day and is kept open to use until 5:30pm. Students have access to computers to aid them with their studies, tasks, or projects within school. Alongside this, there is also a common room within the Sixth form block with numerous computers and IT equipment. It provides a large seating area for Year 12 and 13 students, who can enjoy using the space during the school day to socialise with their friends and build a school community, as well as complete any of their studies. In addition to this, multiple events have been held in this area such as the Black History Month Film Night and various post-16 related workshops . There is also an array of displays here created by our students within the sixth form.

by Jannah Abdul-Wadud



JOINING WHSG FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL



It can be daunting starting at a new school, and it was for me. You can feel like you don't belong, but you do. If you made it to WHSG it is because you deserve to be here. Coming from a comprehensive school from far away meant an entirely new learning environment as well as absolutely no one I knew, it is safe to say I was terrified. However, here I am 10 months later with an amazing group of friends, part of the senior prefect team and absolutely loving my subjects. It isn't an easy decision to choose to change schools especially in sixth form when you think everyone has their friend groups set in stone, but I truly believe WHSG will be the best decision you make, and you need to remember no matter how cliché it is that there are so many people in your position and you won't be the only one coming from another school. It is a diverse school with great teachers, and it has allowed me to be in charge of my future and how I want to achieve what I want, while also giving me the best support if and when I need it. The WHSG community has allowed me to grow into my truest self and is a safe place for you to take the next step in your education.

by Libby Flower

A LEVEL CHOICES

ART

Taking art A level has allowed us to enhance our creativity by trying out loads of new materials, exploring new concepts and artists. It will also help improve your analytical skills as you learn to describe and analyse different artists, movements and artworks, which is a transferable skill useful for many courses at university. The experimental side of art will allow you to explore different mediums such as cyanotyping, gelliplate, lino printing and so much more. All of these skills will be super useful for component one which (in our opinion) is the most exciting part of art. The lessons are much more independent and you are able to come up with your own title and explore all sorts of themes within it in whatever way you like! The art teachers are super helpful, they will always suggest amazing ideas for you to try and will be there for support and guidance throughout the project. We definitely recommend taking art if you are creative and love to try new things.

By Aviniya Bloomfield and Amnah Ghani

BIOLOGY

Biology A level is most definitely an exhilarating whirlwind ride that'll broaden your horizons, whether it's joining the health force or studying an enthralling marine biology degree at university. Whilst some concepts are familiar such as the cardiac cycle (and yes, a gory heart dissection is promised), there are also foreign but fascinating concepts such as the mechanisms behind gene regulation and the clotting cascade awaiting you in the biology labs. The specialty of biology is its ability to satisfy everyone; from the Mathematicians as we dive into statistical tests in ecology, to those eager chemists who'll surely be ecstatic of the mention of titrations in biology as some of us were. Whilst it can be challenging alongside rewarding, the best tip (overrated as it is) is to pace yourself by consolidating gradually, perhaps after each lesson to avoid the possibility of being overwhelmed. Overall, Biology is a diverse subject taught by a humorous department, so we encourage any of you tempted to join us for obvious reasons.

by Iyshitaa Balachandran and Laxshana Premkumar



CHEMISTRY

Chemistry A Level is an excellent subject choice as it will help to connect so many of your other subjects together. Chemistry is also a facilitating subject, giving you the ability to select from a multitude of options for further studies. It is the perfect combination of problem-solving, critical thinking, practical and analytical skills, all of which are so transferable to higher education. A Level Chemistry can be described as nothing short of a rollercoaster ride: there will be some topics you really enjoy and understand relatively easily and there are equally as many topics that are sure to thoroughly baffle you. Our advice to anyone considering taking this subject is to really try to keep up with active recall and revision, as well as to read widely around the subject. The subject will truly encourage you to think outside of the box and understand how the world around you works. Just be ready for an exciting challenge!

by Jiya Patira, Shreya Mukkamala, Akankshya Sahoo, Anjali Thiruchelvam, Ashana Suriyakumar, Oluwafadesewa Badejo, & Suruthi Sivaputhiran



COMPUTER SCIENCE

Computer Science at A Level really does feel like an extension from GCSE - you get a lot of the relatively easy theory that you love (like networks, hardware and memory), plus some new added topics (like data types and structures) that have been interesting to learn about so far. The lessons aren't too formulaic either: you could definitely walk in on a lesson and what you see on the slides vs. what we're talking about won't always match up, but that's the fun part. Our favourite part of the course so far has been looking at networks in depth - understanding packet switching really felt like a Eureka moment. One survival tip we have for CS is to make sure that you go back to refresh on some theory every once in a while, because although it's easy while you're learning it, it's also easy to forget about it, which makes revising quite a bit harder. Another one is to look forward and embrace the time you spend on your NEA, because it'll be one of the biggest projects you'll have ever done in CS, so take your time and have fun with it! Overall, CS is an amazing subject to take; it prepares you for the future, it makes you feel smart when you finally understand what's really happening in your phone or computer, and it'll be one of your calmer subjects so you can focus your stressful energy on panicking for Maths. :)

By Nadine Khan, Rukaiya Khondaker, Sumayya Shaik & Temiloluwa Obisesan

DRAMA

Drama is definitely the unsung hero of A-Levels, being both an enriching and fascinating subject. Not only does it force you to think outside the box, conceptualising ancient Greek theatre such as Aristophanes' 'Lysistrata', but it also invites you to think of the modern world in different perspectives through the first component of the course: devising your own piece of political theatre. It is a fantastic start to the course, and there is free rein to create anything you think the world deserves to hear: the past has seen theatre about Tamil Eelam, intersectionality, poverty, Covid struggles etc. Students who take it are not limited to the arts: Faith is an aspiring medic, and Lucky is going into philosophy and economics. Drama is a great eyecatcher for universities to show personality and a range of abilities. The subject has a range of transferrable skills that are not offered in other subjects, such as a focus on teamwork and collaboration whilst still allowing for individual creativity to make a statement in all your pieces. Unlike the GCSE course, there is an opportunity to choose your own and perform a monologue which is incredibly exciting and is a refreshing change - the ability to choose means you can pick whatever you want to study and act for that component! Although acting is a huge part of it, Drama is perfect for cultivating your analytic and evaluative skills. It gives you the chance to watch live theatre performances, such as Small Island and A Midsummer Night's Dream, which we then discuss and evaluate how effective they are, and (spoiler alert) they're not always what you may think!

By Lucky Suthakaran and Faith Pratheeraj



ECONOMICS

Between both micro and macroeconomics, economics gives students a new way of looking at the world that isn't offered in other subjects. Once a fortnight there is an opportunity to share and discuss current news articles that particularly interest you, which is one of the most loved parts of the course, as well as being the most enriching. This allows for a wider understanding of the economic situation of the world and having a more open mind about the way businesses function. Our teachers actively encourage debates about the topics and are all round a very welcoming department. Macroeconomics also broadens your way of thinking and as an essay subject, the course forces you to create links and develop your analytic skills. Economics also widely complements a range of choices, including the social sciences like Politics, Psychology and Sociology as well as traditional sciences like Maths and Physics.

by Lucky Suthakaran

ENGLISH

Coming from someone who takes English in conjunction with two science subjects, I have found that this subject has enabled me to become significantly more open-minded. STEM subjects tend to operate on a 'right or wrong' basis, whereas the fruitful debates and discussions that take place in A-level English enable students to consider alternate interpretations: arguably one of the most important skills required when entering a scientific field. Forming your own opinions through extended writing tasks also helps you to concisely articulate yourself; an imperative transferable skill. Responding to critical statements and incorporating the arguments of critics is a key component of English at A-level, encouraging students to read academic articles to contextualise their understanding of various texts. When learning about the forces that created the universe alongside the reactions that allow us to synthesise life-saving drugs, literature acts not only as a supplement, but as a means by which one can recognise their own importance in such a complex world.

by Katie Bean

As a person who takes three essay based subjects, I discovered very early on into the year that this subject has aided me with building a link between my subjects. For example, it has improved my ability to think critically about the different types of information I read through numerous class debates and discussions, which offer multiple differing viewpoints. The English A-level course is rich with texts spreading across a range of genres which help in building a comprehensive understanding of English Literature's deep history and underlying context. English A-level will surely ignite or deepen your passion for the written art form and can lead onto further in-depth studies.

by Shruti Mathew

FILM STUDIES

Taking Film Studies at A-level is an amazing choice for anyone who is looking for something a little creative at school! Throughout the two years we really delve into the theory behind cinema and how films have developed over the many years. The course is split up into three components: Varieties of Film and Filmmaking, Global Filmmaking Perspectives and Production. Within these sections, we discuss a range of topics that are relevant to society today, such as gender and equality, and give our own opinions on different films we've seen. There's even a chance to make a short film yourself! All of the teachers are amazing and are genuinely passionate about the subject, and this definitely reflects in lessons. They are so approachable and ready to answer any questions, or to recommend films to watch. For me, the best part is watching films as my homework – it's so refreshing to both relax and study at the same time! One piece of advice would be to watch a range of different films outside of lessons, black and white films preferably. This will really solidify your knowledge so you can get the most out of every lesson. I guarantee that you will enjoy Film and all the fun movies you get to see!

by Amaasha Silva



FRENCH

A Level French is a truly enriching and rewarding subject as while improving your grammar and fluency of the language, you can simultaneously gain a deep insight into French culture. This includes studying great literature and cinematic works from classic French directors. During this course, you'll cover many aspects of the wider school curriculum within French such as philosophy and politics. Another fantastic feature of A Level French is that the content is not limited to France alone - you have the opportunity to learn all about the music, family life, social issues, crime (as well as many other aspects!) of different countries within the French-speaking world. French complements many other A Level subjects including humanities as well as STEM subjects. Lessons are more discussion based, which may be a bit intimidating at first, but the teachers are very supportive and encouraging. A Level French is an engaging, dynamic subject which is increasingly relevant in a world where the exchange of cultures and ideas is intensifying. I recommend this subject so that you can have the pleasure of studying a truly wonderful language.

by Abena Appiah

FURTHER MATHS

Further maths is a great choice for students who love to get stuck into a good maths problem; it offers you multiple benefits: learning much more about both pure and applied than just what the a-level maths syllabus offers, being surrounded by like-minded maths-lovers, and stretching your brain in a way no other subject does. By building on a-level maths content, and introducing new ideas, such as matrices and complex numbers, you are able to discover a whole new side to the mathematical universe, and look at problems in a different way than you would have, had you not taken further maths. This allows you to consolidate your learning from a-level maths and ensures a smoother transition from sixth form to university, should you go on to do a course that is rich in mathematical content.

Furthermore, by taking further maths, you are opening so many more doors to maths-related super-curricular opportunities, such as the British Mathematical Olympiad for Girls, in which the questions are even more of a stretch, encouraging you to apply your knowledge in different ways – great for both how fun it is, and for your personal statement. Though, at first, further maths may seem daunting, there is no need to feel afraid; the amazing maths department is there every step of the way to help you achieve your greatest success through brilliant, thorough teaching, and smaller classes which create a friendly and focused environment for learning at your best and allow you more one-to-one support in lessons, as well as there being out-of-lesson support available too, such as at maths drop-in. Thanks to all of this, further maths has helped us to expand our understanding of mathematical concepts and provided us with innumerable opportunities for growth in our learning, and we would recommend those with a love for maths to consider it for a-level.

by Emily James



GERMAN

A level German allows you to explore Germany in much greater detail, learning more about the culture, the society, and the history than at GCSE. It no longer focuses solely on your own opinion but rather on the opinions and history of the diverse population of Germany. The course lets you delve into societal problems, such as racism, immigration, and the evolving youth culture in Germany, as well as political and artistic culture. This includes topics like art and architecture, festivals and traditions, and the reunification after the fall of the Berlin wall. You will also have the chance to study a text and a film. The lessons are much more interactive than other subjects and the small class size allow immense amounts of support from the teachers as well as a community feel in the lessons. You will also have the opportunity to speak regularly with a language assistant, which really boosts your confidence in speaking as it starts to become more natural. Speaking a foreign language is a sought-after skill and incredibly useful in university applications no matter what course you are applying for as it shows you have a varied skillset and a broader world view.

by Isobel Clarke

GEOGRAPHY

Geography is an amazing choice at A-Level as it is so versatile and feeds into many different aspects of the world. Obviously, geography is much more than studying rivers and rocks, and the course is so varied that there really is something for everyone. We go on many trips; as well as visiting Brighton and Croydon in year 12, we go on a week-long trip to Dorset in year 13! Our lessons always involve actively engaging in debates to explore new ideas and relate them to what is happening in the world now. The teachers encourage this and get you to think about what's built around you – whether that's physical landscapes or the political state of different countries and the world! They also give you one-on-one help and guidance far more often than some of the busier subjects, so you really feel supported while studying geography! To be completely honest, the best thing about picking A-Level geography is that you get the calmest department ever – I'd give them and the subject a 12/10! An avid interest in and constant engagement with articles about current or past affairs of our societies will benefit you greatly. Having a bank of perspectives and ideas will help facilitate discussion in class and aid you in examining matters.

by Sophie East & Kanwal Shahid

HISTORY

History is an ideal A level to choose for those who want to enrich themselves with knowledge from the past to help better understand themselves and the world around them. The syllabus covers a diverse range of topics, including the rise and fall of the Soviet Union, communist China under Mao (my personal favourite), and rebellion and disorder under the Tudors. You will also get an opportunity to write your own historical essay as part of the coursework component of the course and apply all the skills of a historian learnt over the course. These topics help to make sense of the current political and social climate as well as dive into the history and lives of extremely interesting societies and people. An aspect of A level history I have really enjoyed is how in-depth we study each period in comparison to GCSE, this ensures that you become an expert about the topic and gain really useful and practical skills such as critical thinking, analytical, and creative skills. The history department are really passionate about the subject which is reflected in engaging lessons where discussion and debate are encouraged. In short, studying History at A level is a super enriching and rewarding experience that allows us to learn from the past to help understand the present.

by Maryam Choudhery

MATHS

Mathematics is one of the most valuable subjects to take if you want to keep your options open and aren't quite sure what you want to do yet. It pairs really well with sciences, and is very desirable when it comes to applying to university. Maths at A-Level emphasises the skills employers are looking for, including critical thinking and problem solving. The step up from GCSE to A-Level is challenging, but it's definitely manageable if you stay on top of homework and don't be afraid to ask questions if you don't understand in class. The maths department is really supportive and has great resources, and also host open drop-in sessions every week if you have any questions! The A-Level course essentially builds on what you learn at GCSE, with new topics too (my favourites are kinematics in mechanics and coordinate geometry from pure). If you're interested in any STEM career, I guarantee maths will be super useful.

by Amnah Ghani

P.E

A-Level PE dives into the biochemistry, psychology, history, sociology and business aspects of sport. Being able to apply sport to our everyday life has enabled us to fully understand how, we as humans, work and function, and how we can improve and develop our skills not only in sport but in general day-to-day life. You do not need to have done it at GCSE, and an A-Level in PE will set you apart from others in most university courses. Across the two week timetable, the course is split into sections with three separate teachers: the "biology" side, "psychology" side and the "sport in society" section, with one practical lesson a fortnight. In practical lessons, we often go on trips and some of our favourites so far have been, oxygen trampolining, orienteering, rock climbing and a 'Tough Mudder' assault course. These trips are in conjunction with playing general sports in school to broaden our knowledge of them, whilst having lots of fun! The PE department is incredibly supportive and no matter the time of day, they will have time to answer any of our questions – both sporting and general. They always make our lessons engaging and bring a constant positive vibe to the subject – we highly recommend!!!

by Maya Barnwell, Lucy Steward and Ellie Williams



PHILOSOPHY

A level Philosophy at WHSG is such an enriching and thought-provoking subject. You will find yourself questioning so many different areas of life such as the meaning of morality or what can be seen as knowledge. It is such an exciting subject to take because really there is no right or wrong answers. Lessons are very discussion based and although sometimes you may feel like you're spiralling into an existential crisis, this subject will challenge your critical thinking and broaden your mind. Philosophy is an incredibly valuable subject for so many different further education options such as Law, politics or even medicine as it allows you to develop a plethora of transferrable skills. The Philosophy teachers here are also all incredible and very supportive so in all, you won't regret your choice to take Philosophy!

by Gabriella Chitty and Xavier



PHYSICS

Physics is a subject which allows you to understand the world around you and satisfy your curiosity. This was the main reason I chose it and also being the most crucial and fundamental science of all. Physics at A level becomes slightly more challenging, as with every subject, but the content is not too hard to grasp and it is a continuation from GCSE's. The rest of the course is completely new, such as my favourite topic - quantum physics. Choosing physics will open many doors as it is suitable for a wide range of university courses and apprenticeship schemes. As with the school's physics department, it is well organised with plenty of resources, materials, weekly drop ins and excellent teachers. My advice would be to stay on top of the content you learn and always engage within lessons as understanding the content is very important. Overall physics is a widely applicable subject and your journey into this course will be exciting, fascinating and illuminating.

by Janelle de Sagun

POLITICS

Studying politics A-Level is essential for understanding the political beliefs that determine how the modern world works. Not only is it an incredibly interesting subject that encompasses both UK politics and global politics, but it also covers current topics that prevail in the current world. It is the relevancy of the subject that separates Politics A level from others. In class, we particularly look forward to the discussions we'll have as it's great to hear everyone's opinions on certain topics. Ideologies are a personal favourite, through the extensive list of core political ideas covered, including feminism, socialism and more! Lessons are always engaging, with class discussions, debates, presentations and an overall pleasant environment with teachers and students who are genuinely passionate about the subject. To get the most out of this subject, our top tips would be to make sure you're constantly keeping up with the news and current political affairs (even just downloading the BBC app can make a massive difference in your understanding on the subject) and doing some wider reading in your spare time can also be really useful. The book we'd recommend to begin with is 'Andrew Heywood: An Introduction to Political Ideologies'- it will definitely give you an advantage when you start your A Level in September.

by Sheleena Mohanarajan, Zuha Malik & Amber Powell

PRODUCT DESIGN

Product design is the subject to take if you are interested in the design of things in the world around you. Whether it is how that product has been made, the mechanisms that make it function, or the way its shape and form have been used to enhance its appeal, product design helps us carefully analyse the things which we may have otherwise taken for granted.

The course allows you to creatively design and make small projects throughout the whole of year 12, giving you the skills to create a professional portfolio and final product related to a context of your choice at the end of year 13. A-level product design projects provide a lot more freedom than those in the lower years: less strict stimuli mean that you can experiment with almost any material and process. Alongside practical work, theory is taught to help you gain awareness about wider influences on design such as sustainable practice. If you ever need help, the DT department is always ready to assist you in making your complex ideas come to life. It's great fun and a much-needed break from some of the more conventional subjects!

By Freya Seifert Leitch

PSYCHOLOGY

For me, taking A level psychology means taking part in engaging class discussions, understanding more about yourself and others and most importantly, genuinely enjoying what you're learning about. It's very hard to ever find a dull moment and I always find myself wanting to know more. I fell in love with psychology after learning about the completely unpredictable results of Milgram's infamous Shock Study; I urge you to find your shock study! The content for A level psychology can seem overwhelming at first, so organising your notes from the start (perhaps digitally) and asking questions when you don't understand will help reduce the stress that comes with any A level subject. Psychology students often use blurting to revise as it helps you recall everything you know about a topic, which helps you get into practise for 16 markers. Also, don't be put off by those 16 markers; the teachers prepare you very well and are always there to answer any questions you may have - they are all lovely! Overall, studying psychology is both fun and eye-opening and you'll be learning so much about how and why the world works the way it does. Though there is a good amount of content, there is a great range of topics to be covered. Psychology can also help you gain new perspectives and it's an extremely enjoyable subject overall!

by Emily Cummins

SOCIOLOGY

Picking Sociology A level is one of the best choices we ever made. It's an engaging and invigorating subject which explores an array of interesting topics like crime and cults. Additionally, we have had the opportunity to conduct our own experiments about the school. One of the best things about the subject is our wonderful teacher, who's very friendly and encouraging. All skills you develop from this subject are easily transferable, such as critical thinking and the ability to write a solid essay, which will help you tremendously at university no matter what course you pick. Our advice is to try and keep on top of the content and just have fun.

by Joelle Oki

SPANISH

Spanish has been an absolute pleasure to take, and if you are at all interested in the history, culture, economics or politics (to name a few!) of the Hispanic world, this is the subject for you. The fact that it is so vast and rich allows you to feel like you are studying more than one subject, which is perfect if you are a bit stuck on what to choose. The exam structure is extremely manageable, with only 2 A Level exams during exam season, and a speaking exam just before, which is great as it relieved some of the pressure on exam season as one was already completed. The best part of Spanish A Level, would definitely be the independence and constant opportunities to research beyond the syllabus. There is an Independent Research Project (IRP) where you have the freedom to research any aspect of the Hispanic world, even if it is not taught as part of the A Level. This is perfect to discuss in your personal statement, aiding your journey to university. My main tip would be to learn vocab consistently, this will relieve so much pressure at the end of the course when you're having to remember everything, and just to throw yourself into understanding Spanish culture in any way you can. I cannot recommend Spanish enough and really hope you love studying it as much as I have. Good luck!

By Isabella Phelps-Gardiner



LIFE BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Electives and Societies

Here at Wally girls we offer an Elective scheme which you take alongside your A levels in order to help you to develop different interests and skills. We offer a huge variety of different compelling electives, which are detailed on the following pages. These sessions take place one hour weekly, and you will be able to work on activities related to your chosen elective. These are a super way to make new friends, develop knowledge and gain experience of something separate to your A level subjects.

by Diane Regy



ELECTIVES

ARCHITECTURE

From ripping apart magazines to creating pretty collages to using computer-aided design software to create intricate 3D models, the architecture elective opens a pathway of opportunity for you to take your interest in the design of buildings and apply it in drawings, model making and mini projects. Collating this work also allows an easy transition into creating your own portfolio which is beneficial if you are going to pursue architecture further. From creating an idea, to being able to share this idea via presentations or other visual aids, both confidence and design communication are skills you will see improve. Working with RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) was a once in a lifetime opportunity in which we gained valuable insight into the field of architecture and the chance to work with a real architect and gain critical feedback to really improve our work.

If you love the idea of exploring the world of architecture or simply love drawing and creating models, then the architecture elective is for you!

by Jasvene Ahilan

ETHICS

The ethics elective is a highly stimulating course where you will be sure to find yourself absorbed in the topic of discussion. Ethics will broaden your horizons tremendously as we tackle a wide range of ideas, such as Nietzsche's Übermensch, racism and even current affairs like the Russia-Ukraine war. The elective encourages us to critically think about controversial issues, ranging from "What does it mean to be a good person?" to whether it is ethical for a deaf couple to ask to adopt a deaf child. Above all, it is a thoroughly engaging and enriching experience through guided debates, thought-provoking prompts and amusing stories.

by Nadine Khan

CREATIVE WRITING

Creative Writing is a much more laid back elective, but by no means is it ever idle. It explores all different forms of creative writing, from spoken word poetry to playing games and writing stories all together. Personally, I loved just sitting and writing, then sharing my work with the rest of the group. Everyone would produce something different, and interpret the many different prompts in many different ways! Another thing I liked about it is that there was no such thing as a bad piece of writing- it was your own piece, finished or unfinished, and there was then a warm and welcoming place to share. This elective is definitely something to look forward to at the start of the day, as through the hustle and bustle of Sixth Form life, it was a cool-down.

by Rebecca Juman

EPQ

The EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) is a great way to explore your interest in a subject further and is also a great addition to your university application. Although it is not for the light-hearted and requires a lot of commitment as you eventually end up with a qualification, doing an EPQ is a very rewarding experience and you learn lots of skills useful in higher education, for example how to research thoroughly but efficiently and clearly put across your ideas. It is a highly independent project so you have free reign to choose whatever you like, and you even have the opportunity to give a presentation about your research, alongside producing an artefact or dissertation.

by Aliya Asaria

ELECTIVES

FOOD TECH

Food tech this year has definitely been one of the highlights of my Y12. I have had the opportunity to explore foods I would have otherwise not come across. From Thai red curry to golden syrup sponge cake, each dish has been an exciting and tasty cook. I also found my food tech lessons were a source of calm in my considerably hectic sixth form week. Being able to simply turn up and have a go at cooking some food allowed a creative escape from the academic side of school. You don't need any previous cooking skills and all the ingredients are provided for you, so you only need to turn up and have some fun! I also now have some handy recipes to take with me to uni, which is always helpful. I am very grateful for the opportunity to participate in this elective and would recommend all of you to give it a try!

by Sophie McGuiness

INSPIRING ENGINEERS' SCHEME

For the Inspiring Engineers' Scheme, you have the freedom to work on any project that you desire based on a given stimulus with an official engineering company. Mentors from the company come in each week and you get the opportunity to collaborate with them in the tech workshops whilst operating the heavy machinery, and to practice and develop your CAD and computer skills. The elective allows for many trips with partnering schools, of which has included a trip to one of the Engineering departments at Imperial College London! It encompasses all the skills that will prove to be useful to anyone in the future, regardless of what you plan to do post Sixth Form, including problem-solving skills, real-world application, iterative design, prototyping, and collaborative teamwork. By the end, you will have received a well-deserved Gold Crest Award for all your hard efforts, a self-rewarding prototype and design idea, and most importantly, you will have had fun!

by Al Mahomed

FOOD SCIENCE - LEVEL 3 QUALIFICATION

This elective is exclusively for students who did GCSE Food Technology, and delves much deeper into science and nutrition, supporting those of you wanting to do nutrition or public health nutritional at university, or if you simply enjoyed making skilful products and applying your theory knowledge to coursework. You will complete a series of practicals as part of your thoroughly researched coursework and a summative written exam. This elective gives you a qualification, worth up to 56 UCAS points, and is full of fun practicals where you can demonstrate and refine your cooking skills, as well as theory that'll be useful for higher education courses. My favourite thing about choosing this elective was the friends and memories I made, and the support Mrs Beales gave us throughout the year, which allowed me to genuinely enjoy what I was doing and feel relaxed despite the work I put in.

by Lakshmitha Krishnakumar

P4C

P4C is a fantastic elective that allows people to develop their ability to form arguments whilst also having thought-provoking discussions. We pose our own questions, and they have ranged from 'What is love?' to 'Would you accept a pig heart transplant?'. Led by the encouraging and friendly Theology and Philosophy department, it is a welcoming (and non-judgemental) environment to debate and express your views on any topic you're interested in. We would definitely recommend you take this elective - it's an hour of trying to convince your friends that your view is correct!

by Sathanca Pallavan & Lucky Suthakaran

MIGRANT LITERATURE

The migrant literature elective was the perfect space to discuss thoughts and feelings surrounding migrants from different time periods and global settings that I would never have come across outside of school. We got to read many short but powerful pieces of literature and watch interesting films and documentaries on topics and events I hadn't known much about before. We also enjoyed having other people in the elective share stories about migration, such as family experiences or media they'd seen and found interesting. The elective was informative and thought-provoking, but also a nice break from academics, which is important in sixth form.

by Bianca Godinho

SOCIETIES

ALLIED NHS SOCIETY

We started the Allied NHS Society to explore healthcare professions (in addition to medicine) that are often overlooked, such as speech and language therapy or nursing. Since March, we also have discussed different NHS topics, such as advances in medical technology, and had many interactive tasks and debates. One highlight is our key skills session on communication, where members were asked to instruct one of the society leads on how to tie a shoelace, but they could not touch the shoe or laces. The best part about the society is that it exposes people to new possibilities in the world of healthcare and encourages those aspiring to be any healthcare profession to participate in our sessions, almost mimicking the multi-disciplinary teams found in hospitals. We have found that leading a society develops organisation skills, compromise, and public speaking. Something to look forward to when running the society is the wide scope of topics that could be discussed across the year, ranging from comparing physiotherapists and osteopaths to assessing the government's approach to the COVID-19 pandemic. We aim to continue leading insightful sessions while providing an opportunity to those interested to be the next society leads.

by Aaminah Sami, Nadine Khan and Zahra Manji

AFRO-CARIBBEAN SOCIETY

Afro-Caribbean Society (ACS) was started with the intention of promoting inclusivity and diversity while exploring new cultures and ways of life. Our sessions vary; sometimes we have more of a lecture-type style session, but we also have a lot of conversation-based days where we just bring up random topics and we see where the conversation goes. It's such a great society to join as we always have fun and just have a great time overall! Our next steps include running a month-long event for black history month with an evening showcase and so much more.

by Jaydn Abankwa

BOARD GAME CLUB

Board Game club runs Wednesdays after school from 3-4:15 in TP3. We play a selection of games such as One Night Werewolf, SushiGo!, Rhino Hero and club-favourite Mysterium. The club is a place to socialise with members of the school community across all ages in a casual, stress free setting. We hope to see you there!

by Nero

CLASSICS SOCIETY

Classics Society is an amazing chance to explore the subject outside the curriculum. We have great fun discussing our personal classics-related interests, debating over who the best god is, Achilles & Patroklus' relationship and more. We've also had hilarious re-enactments of plays (Oedipus being my personal favourite) and are often seen criticising (yelling) at Percy Jackson movies. The majority of students who join the club have little prior knowledge on the subject, but nevertheless find it enjoyable.

by Ashvini Peter

DENTAL SOCIETY

Having the opportunity to organise and lead a society with my peers encouraged me to start Dental society. I always look forward to each session because all the members have similar interests and ambitions, and we can discuss hot topics in Dentistry. It pushed me to manage my time better, learn more about the industry and strengthen my presenting skills. Every week, we zoom into a specific topic in Dentistry, and talk about it with the members (and if we end early, we play hangman on dentistry-specific terms!). From learning about treatments to the admission process, Dental Society has significantly benefited everyone who attends it. I highly recommend starting a society related to the course you would like to do in university, or if unsure on what to do, attend societies to learn more about the course!

by Ridhi Roopchund

SOCIETIES

DRAMA SOCIETY

When studying Drama, we realised that many people do not have the same opportunities to visit the theatre, so I decided that we should run a Drama Society to bring people to the wonderful world of live theatre. It is hugely beneficial to those studying GCSE and A Level Drama: to watch and analyse theatre in a collaborative environment. It also is a lot of fun watching a range of productions, from the classics like Frankenstein, to modern novel adaptations like Small Island, which all have poignant meanings that are interesting to explore. It also is loved by many who don't take Drama, as it is a great opportunity to experience something they normally wouldn't come across. Running this society, particularly for the younger years, has meant that we have developed a rapport with fellow drama fanatics and given them a chance to gain experience and get their theatre brains thinking about ideas for their devising and evaluative pieces. I hope to show past students' devising pieces, not only to learn, but also as an enjoyable experience to see people you know on the screens too.

by Lucky Suthakaran

DT CLUB

DT club gives a chance for students to work practically, developing their design and CAD skills. Students can express themselves and their creativity by working on mini projects outside of allocated school time. As well as being hands-on in the workshop, we also discuss the developing world of design and provide guidance and insight into DT. This allows students to further their general knowledge in addition to expressing their creative freedom. Our great turnout has brought the designers of the school together. Welcoming all students gives us the ability to help with any ongoing projects and offer support, as well as helping students develop their passions.

by Ayesha Ra'eesah Saumtally

ECONOMICS SOCIETY

Running a society means being passionate and enthusiastic about your subject whilst requiring you to be organised and dedicated to ensuring the society runs smoothly. Our favourite part of running a society is being able to see likeminded individuals come together to share a common interest whilst having the ability to create a safe space to express your own thoughts.

Economics society is fun and interesting place where you can look forward to sharing and debating current affairs in the news or picking topics relevant to work you are studying in lessons. However, if you have a stimulus that you feel would be interesting to debate then you can happily put forward your suggestions. The best part of the society is that we are able to delve deeper into topics, as well as having the chance to hear other people's viewpoints. Plus, it is a great way to revise and ask relevant questions to do with work covered in lessons or questions for an upcoming test.

by Rianna Patel, Sanya Sebastian and Angelica James

ENGINEERING SOCIETY

Constantly hearing that engineering is a difficult sector for women pushed us towards beginning an engineering society with the primary focus of encouraging more women in STEM. We have been doing weekly tasks such as investigating the structural integrity of different shapes and mini-projects as a team to promote teamwork and communication, two of the core values in engineering. As we come closer to applications to university, we will look at entrance exam questions which will be of great use to sixth formers and a stretch activity for students in the lower school. We have focused on topics that aren't covered in the school curriculum, to allow students to become more informed, and further develop their interests in all engineering aspects. Moreover, we are planning on having lectures with real engineers, their journey, the ups and downs and their day-to-day job, with an opportunity to ask questions too which is so valuable to find out more about the diverse field of engineering.

by Abhiraami Jegatheesanvand Thive Thevapalan

SOCIETIES

MEDICAL SOCIETY

The WHSG Medical Society's aims are to provide a networking platform for aspiring Medical students to gain support with their medical school applications, provide opportunities to enhance skills such as teamwork, communication & leadership, and gain an insight into the various medical specialties. For a Medicine applicant, year 12 will be a journey of not just developing academic skills but also personal development. By joining Medical society, you have the wonderful opportunities to:

- Speak to Medical professionals
- Learn how to break down a Medical ethics case study by having debates on the applications of the 4 medical ethical pillars (Autonomy, Beneficence, Non-maleficence, and Justice)
- Develop leadership & presentation skills by running a session, which is excellent to mention in your personal statement, CV and/or at interview
- Support each other through UCAT/BMAT and interview preparation
- Apply to become Leaders of the WHSG Medical Society

This year, we have attempted to trial an alternative approach to Medical Society where we have 4 sessions a month, consisting of: Guest speakers, Medical Ethics case studies, Society lead, and Problem-based learning/Wider reading. Each month has the theme of a Medical specialty as its focus on which the 4 monthly sessions are based on. This year we have aimed to cover specialities according to the NHS' healthcare aims "from cradle to grave". Some of the highlights for this year are:

- Gynaecology & obstetrics vaccine trials ethics case study and the thalidomide scandal in a problem-based learning style with discussion & debates
- Guest speaker sessions from: A&E nurse, Cardiologist, GP, and Oncologists

I would recommend aspiring Medics to join Medical society and most importantly reflect on what you have gained from each session, which may spark your curiosity in a specific area of Medicine and support wider reading & research interests. There is something for everyone!

by Akankshya Sahoo & Aarna Sirohi

SIGN LANGUAGE SOCIETY

Sign language is used by around 151,000 people in the UK. However, it is not widely taught in schools therefore we thought it would be a good addition to the school's societies. We teach weekly sessions on a Monday lunchtime starting with the basics and widening vocabulary so people can develop conversational skills using BSL. It is a fun, light-hearted way to learn a new skill and we can't wait to welcome new people.

by Libby Flower



SAGA SOCIETY

Running a society involves commitment and leadership skills but above all it is an opportunity to connect with the school community and develop so many transferrable skills. My favourite part of running a society is definitely how rewarding it is to know that so many people are benefiting from it. SAGA is a relaxed and safe space that Nero and I have created for people from year 10+ to be able to chat about worries or ask questions about their sexuality and things around it. However first and foremost it is a place to have fun and share positivity about being queer. The coming year for SAGA will be a very exciting one as we hope to incorporate many new discussion based activities as a part of our sessions. Come down to G7 on Thursday lunchtimes!

by Gabriella Chitty

ENRICHMENT & HIGHER EDUCATION

HIGHER EDUCATION

The school provides an extensive and comprehensive UCAS guidance programme to support students in their choice of university and course which draws on the expert knowledge of the Sixth Form team as well as guest speakers from a range of universities. There is a Higher Education Day in Year 12 where University Admissions Tutors talk about personal statements, choosing courses, completing the UCAS form and so on. As a result, nearly all our students are successful in obtaining a place at one of their chosen universities and proceed onto high quality universities and higher education institutions when they leave us in Year 13. We also share an annual University Taster Evening with Nonsuch School where a wide range of universities are represented, and students are able to attend several different talks and lectures. This provides students with a much better understanding of different degree courses, the style of university teaching as well as university life.

By Karen Dias and Vaasahi Rubakumar



OXBRIDGE

The school also offers support for students who wish to apply to Oxbridge through fortnightly sessions where the application process is explained in detail, and we focus on super-curricular exploration through teacher-led activities, as well as by discussing opportunities with other students looking to study a similar subject. One of the most useful activities for me has been practising for the interviews with other students who want to study a similar subject to me. We all ask each other questions, such as why we want to study that subject, what super-curricular activities have we already completed and how do these relate to current events or what we are studying as part of the A-Level curriculum. Having to answer the questions spontaneously is a really useful skill and mirrors the type of atmosphere in an interview. We are also lucky to have a link with the Outreach team at Queen's College, Oxford, who hold meetings about the application process and what students can do to make a competitive application, as well as answering any questions students may have. This support has been invaluable in helping me to feel confident in making a competitive application to Oxbridge.



By Karen Dias and Vaasahi Rubakumar

ROLES OF RESPONSIBILITY

We may be biased, given that we are the Head Girls, but one of the most exciting opportunities you receive in Sixth Form is the chance to be a Sixth Form Committee member, Form Prefect, Subject Prefect, Senior Prefect, or Head Girl, like the two us! Roles of responsibility are perhaps different at WHSG in that you are truly influential in the school; for example, a few weeks ago we got to plan and lead a Year 7 and 8 wellbeing day, and we have just organised Film Nights and a fair to advocate for the LGBTQ+ community during Pride Month. As well as having a positive impact on the school community, this has been incredibly rewarding for us; every role of responsibility matters, from Form Prefects who act as an older sibling to younger years to the Senior Prefect team, who we can say have become remarkably close over the last few months. Being a Prefect certainly encourages personal development – we have been able to enhance our communication skills, time management, leadership abilities as well as teamwork and we would not give it up for the world!



by Annie Kent and Sonam Chotai

PASTORAL CARE & SUPPORT AT WHSG

Support at WHSG:

Sixth form is very different to how we have gone about school previously in our lives. It's more independent, there are big decisions about higher education and careers that need to be made in the next two years, on top of trying to figure out who you are and that (understandably) might be a hard adjustment for many students. But at WHSG we have an amazing support system of both the student and staff body. Your form tutors, who you will see everyday, will be there to help you by answering any questions or just being there to talk to.

These are the teachers for the next academic year who you can reach out to and contact for any pastoral care reasons:

Mrs Emkes - Director of Sixth Form & Deputy DSL

Mrs Watson - Head of Year 12

Mrs Borrageiro-Maier - Assistant Head of Year 12

Mrs McCormack & Deputy DSL - Pastoral Support Officer

Miss Day - Sixth form Administrator

Applying to university or looking into different paths for your future is not something you are expected to know. We have days in Sixth form dedicated to learning about these options; our school has the privilege of having career advisors who will help you figure out and support any decisions you wish to make.

Remember that you are not on your own during these two years and you can ask for help at anytime for anything!

by Varsha Skanthavaseekaran