



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Wallington County Grammar School

We have had quite a half term here at WCGS. Things really got started when, on 16th January during a meeting with Mr Wilden, there was a knock at the door informing us that Ofsted had called and wished to speak to us. The meeting of course continued as normal but with both of us in the knowledge that the time had come for the staff and students of WCGS to demonstrate that most fundamental of our core values: excellence. As expected, our incredibly professional staff reacted with a sense of calm and purpose and greeted the four inspectors with a very warm, Wallington welcome. Inspectors spent the day going in and out of over twenty five lessons, interviewing staff and students, reviewing parent feedback, assessing our safeguarding procedures and generally gauging the temperature of learning in the School. By lunchtime, they had decided there was a strong case for us to move from a 'good' to an 'outstanding' school and converted from a one to a two day inspection to see if this was the case. More rigorous evaluation followed including further lesson observations, work samples, follow up meetings and site walks until, at lunch time, they retired to the meeting room to make their final judgments with myself and Mr Wilden observing with bated breath.

They began by discussing the quality of Teaching, Learning and Assessment noting an "extraordinary consistency of approach", "students' sophisticated evaluative skills" and the "culture of high expectation and aspiration". They judged this category to be 'outstanding'. This was followed by Personal Development, Behaviour and Welfare which they also judged to be 'outstanding' saying: "high levels of

maturity and respect form part and parcel of the School. The teachers and students would accept nothing less". Pupil Outcomes were noted as a key strength with "assessment information being robust, well moderated and highly accurate" and there being "very effective use of peer and self-feedback to engender high levels of progress". This category was also graded as 'outstanding' as was the quality of our 16-19 Study Programmes with our Sixth Form students being "role models, student leaders very much part of the culture and ethos of the School" and also because of the "great support and challenge for [Sixth Form] learners in lessons". Finally, they discussed Leadership and Management, noting that there is "very strong leadership throughout the School" with "leaders of learning in every classroom". This too was graded 'outstanding' meaning that WCGS is one of the few schools in the country that is 'outstanding' in all areas, a huge achievement for all students, governors and staff, both past and present. I would like to thank all who have been involved in helping the School reach such heights through their support, dedication and commitment not least Mr Wilden and Mr Smart, our previous Headmaster, who have contributed so much to our success. To access the full report please visit our website: <http://www.wcgs-sutton.co.uk/Ofsted-Inspection-Reports>

We have one member of staff leaving us this half term, Mr Brown, who has been an excellent IT Support Analyst, particularly whilst working independently as we recruited a full team for him to work with. I would like to thank him for his commitment and wish him well for the future.

Jamie Bean, Head of School

PTFA Update by Steve Crosby, Chair WCGS PTFA chair@wcgspfta.com

It's been a busy start to the year for the PTFA, in particular for those involved in running the **11+ Familiarisation Tests** for students wishing to gain valuable exam experience.

Our **Familiarisation Test** sales are well under way for this year and we have currently sold over half of the available places, a significant increase from the same time last year and we are confident that we will be able to raise even more money this year than before.

There is still time to offer your help with the Tests. Please email Kate at helpers@wcgspfta.com, who will be able to add you to our list of volunteers. And please do spread the word with any friends and family whose children are in Year 5. All of the details about the tests can be found on our website www.wcgspfta.com

Our annual **Quiz Night** is fast approaching on **Friday 24th February** and there is still time to get a team together. Teams don't need to have a specific number of people, just a suggested maximum of 8. Adults and juniors are all welcome and tickets can be bought through ParentPay and details are here: www.wcgspfta.com/quiz. Don't worry, the questions are very varied and everyone will be able to answer their fair share with plenty of rounds to keep everybody happy ;-)

If you've never been before, now's the time to give it a try... even the teaching staff enter a team or two!

In general news, everyone is always welcome to our **monthly meetings**, as ALL parents at the School are automatically members of the PTFA. We would love to see you. Our meetings are usually held monthly and our next one is on **Monday 6th March**. Pop the date in your calendar! Other meeting dates for the school year can be found on our website, which also has information on what else we get up to... www.wcgspfta.com

See you at the quiz!

Please remember that if you are visiting the School or waiting for your son/daughter at any time of the day, please park considerately in neighbouring roads avoiding The Manor Way and Derek Avenue and not over dropped kerbs or on grass verges. Thank you for your co-operation.



Food Technology Update by Mr Thomas

This half term has been another exciting one for our budding Food Technologists. The Year 8s have been busy on their mini project, in which they have been let loose to create any dish of their choice. Some of the resulting foods have been simply amazing, from sushi (pictured), to salmon, and from paella to pizza, well done to all the Year 8s for their hard work.

Our GCSE students continue to produce excellent work and incredibly tasty food, with this half term giving our 14 Year 11 pupils the chance to visit the Nightingale training restaurant just down the road. All the students thoroughly enjoyed eating and critiquing the food and service, and will hopefully find the visit very helpful for their Hospitality controlled assessment which will be taking place soon.



British Physics Olympiad (BPhO), Mr Croft

We had 8 students in the Upper Sixth enter the British Physics Olympiad this year. It is a nationwide competition run by the Department of Physics at Oxford University to find the very best A-level Physics students in the country through testing their reasoning, problem solving skills, and their application of Mathematics.

Emily Furlong, Mohit Patel, Sean McCoy and Volodymyr Bogdanovic received a commendation. Four of our students who entered received medals. Kishan Patel and Tani Afolabi both received a Bronze II; Mithushan Iyampillia a Silver (awarded to the top 400 students in the country) and Diamore Marke was awarded a Gold medal (awarded to the top 180 students in the country). Many congratulations to everyone.

Year 10 Inner Drive Resilience Workshops, Miss Ball

On Wednesday 18th Jan 2017 Inner Drive visited WCCGS to present a series of short workshops to the year group focussing on resilience, well-being and growth-mindsets. These are all topics that, this year, have been a central theme running through form times and Miss Ball therefore felt that this would be an amazing opportunity for our young men.

The workshop provided opportunities for our students to explore questions such as: what is a mindset?; why do I try/opt-out?; how can I persevere and develop more resilience?: how will I

use these techniques as my GCSEs creep closer? etc.

The Inner Drive team complimented our young men, especially those in the morning sessions, for their commitment to the tasks, their enthusiasm and their efforts in the workshops. Miss Ball was told that behaviour had, been very impressive.

Some of the feedback that the pupils gave included 'it was useful as it helped me reflect upon how to avoid regrets...I learned to try to be more resilient and that failure is ok to en-

sure success', 'I liked the interactive tasks as they helped me to reflect on how proactive I am and how good risks can be beneficial – I think I will try to take more of these in the future'.

Thank you to the Year 10s for their contributions – I hope that they take some of these ideas and experiences to help support them in the vital months ahead. More resilience, positive risks and optimistic mindsets will definitely be beneficial in all aspects of their lives.

ARTS NETWORK SUTTON

YOUTH ART EXHIBITION

Tuesday 14th to Sunday 26th March 2017

Europa Gallery, Sutton Central Library

Wallington County Grammar School will be participating in the Sutton Youth Art Exhibition yet again this year.

Special Commendation Certificates for the two works with most impact from each participating Secondary School will be awarded by The Mayor and Deputy Mayor at the Preview on Thursday 16th March at around 6.45pm. Students, friends and family are warmly invited to attend the presentation.

Local Artist and Sculptor Abel Kesteven will be speaking at 6.30 pm. Abel works with pastel, charcoal and ceramics and will talk about his work and career.



Art Club by Mrs Donald

The boys are producing excellent mosaic art in various forms, which can clearly be seen in the finished outcomes below. I am very impressed with their continued enthusiasm, commitment and creativity.



Our House by Mrs Weddell

This year, we are delighted to invite you to an all-dancing, all-singing performance of 'Our House'! Students from across the School have collaborated to bring to life the best-selling Madness musical.

This roller-coaster ride follows Joe, your average 16-year old, who makes a decision that turns his life upside down and leads him along two possible paths. The performance dates are **22nd - 24th March**, and tickets are £7/£5, or £20 for a family ticket. Tickets will be on sale via ParentPay from 20th February, but do put these dates in your diary **today!**



Netball News by Miss Gayle

Malta 2017 Netball Tour Sponsored Walk

On Sunday 5th February 2017 the Netball Tour girls, Miss Gayle and Mr Mehta walked from WCCGS to Buckingham Palace in 3hrs 35mins to raise funds for the Malta 2017 Netball Tour. Well done!

If you have not donated and would like to do so, please visit our fundraising page - <https://www.gofundme.com/wccgs-netball-tour-2017>



On Wednesday 1st February we played away at Caterham:

A team, very close match but lost 11-10 in the last 30 seconds!

B team, lost 11 - 5.

Despite the results, we were pleased to see the girls play extremely well as a team.

Sainsbury's Active Kids 2017 – once again we shall be collecting vouchers. Please send any vouchers into school where they should be placed in the collection box at Student Services.

Thank you for your support.

We are always keen to receive parental views. Any suggestions for improvement, ideas for implementation or comments on what we have done well, please email Mrs Owen on enquiries@wccgs.org.uk



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS BY OLD WALCOUNTIANS

(This is the seventh in a series of articles about prominent Old Boys of the School)

ERIC SMITH joined the School in 1948 and his keen interest in firearms and ammunition gave a clear indication where his future would lie. On leaving, he joined the RAF and achieved notoriety on 3 November 1962 when he was a member of the duty helicopter crew of No. 22 Squadron Detachment of RAF, Chivenor. At 07.10 the aircraft was scrambled to the scene of an incident at Lands End, where the French fishing trawler 'Jeanne Gougy' with a crew of 18 men, had run aground and was lying on her side with heavy seas breaking completely over her. The helicopter began an immediate search for survivors and a body was seen floating face downwards, supported by a life jacket. Sergeant Smith was lowered into the sea and, although he was repeatedly submerged in breaking waves of twelve to fifteen feet in height and swallowed a considerable amount of sea water and oil, he succeeded in securing the body and bringing it into the aircraft. As the tide receded, signs of life were seen in the wheelhouse and the helicopter, which had gone to refuel, was recalled. By the time it returned four men had been rescued by means of the Cliff Rescue Gear, but a fifth man remained in the wheelhouse, too weak and exhausted to reach the rescue gear. It was decided that the only way to rescue the seaman was for the winchman to be lowered through the door of the wheelhouse. In appalling weather conditions, with waves breaking continually over the wheelhouse and the whole ship rocking under the impact, Sergeant Smith was lowered into the vessel. He succeeded in reaching the seaman and dragged him into a position from which he was winched to safety. It was ascertained from this man that there was another survivor in the bridge superstructure. Sergeant Smith was again lowered into the wheelhouse and extricated the exhausted seaman who was also rescued. Despite his own exhaustion and the constant nausea he was suffering through swallowing sea water and oil, he insisted on making two further descents to see if there were any more survivors on board. During the whole time he was on the vessel, he was in the greatest personal danger from the heavy seas which pounded him.

There was the added risk that the winch cable might become fouled on the rigging of the superstructure of the vessel, which would have left the aircraft captain no alternative but to cut and jettison the cable, thus leaving Sergeant Smith in the same position as those he had saved. He showed courage, devotion to duty and utter disregard for his own personal safety throughout this hazardous operation.

Eric Smith was awarded the George Medal for his outstanding service. The French also made him a Chevalier de l'Ordre de Mérite Maritime.

IAN MARTIN came to the School in 1946 and was a prominent member of the Arts Sixth. He was awarded an Exhibition to Christ Church, Oxford, where he gained a first in English. After National Service in the Royal Navy he joined the BBC's current affairs department and worked on the ground-breaking series *Face to Face*. He then moved to Thames Television where he edited ITV's prestige documentary series *This Week*. He was controller of features, education and religion for almost ten years, during which time he won the first of two Prix Italias for *La Cantata di San Nicola* (1977) composed by Benjamin Britten. He then became head of documentaries and later head of music and theatre.

He was the executive producer of the first telethon on British television in 1980, which raised £1.25 million for charity. At Thames he was also responsible for a quarter of ITV's output for schools as well as innovative education programming such as the hugely successful *Botanic Man* with David Bellamy. As a keen proponent of the arts, he also brought opera and theatre, such as Johnathan Miller's celebrated production of *Rigoletto* and Kenneth Branagh's *Twelfth Night*, to a wider commercial television audience.

In 1992 he co-founded the production company HD Thames and went on to win a number of international awards, including an Emmy. The company pioneered the introduction of high-definition television with prestige projects which included the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer in 1994 and the musical *Les Misérables* in 1995. He was a dedicated member of Bafta and a former chairman of its Television awards committee.

He was a committed supporter of many local and national charitable

events, especially Christian Aid. With 'From Workhouse to Welfare' (1969) he published a book showing his concern for serious social issues.

Ian died in August 2011 at the age of 75.

DAVID GIBSON joined the 1947 intake to the School. He proved to be an outstanding athlete and games player. He won international rugby caps for England as a full back and proved to be equally adept as a cricketer. He broke the School batting record in 1952 with a score of 116 not out and made many excellent returns when bowling.

He decided to join Surrey as a professional cricketer and in his County Championship debut against Gloucestershire in 1957 took 10 wickets in the match. He deputised for the unwell Alec Bedser in the County Championship winning side of 1958 and became a regular in the side. In 1965 he came within 4 runs of making 1000 runs (including scores of 95 and 98) for the season and took 86 wickets. Cartilage trouble forced an end to his career and he retired in 1969. He played in 185 matches; took 552 wickets at an average of 22.22; and scored 3143 runs at 18.93.

He moved to Australia in 1980 and worked for the Bradman Foundation at the Museum at Bowring. He died there in June 2012 at the age of 76.

ARNOLD LONG joined the School in 1951 and quickly made his mark in School cricket when he was promoted from the Colts XI in 1955 to add strength to the batting of the 1st XI. He went on to captain the 1st XI.

He played first class cricket as a left-hand batsman for Surrey between 1960 and 1975 and became known by the nickname of 'Ob'. He was the second Wallington schoolboy to represent the County at the time. Arthur McIntyre, the Surrey and England wicketkeeper, took Arnold under his wing and taught him the art of wicket-keeping. As wicket-keeper Arnold claimed 1046 victims in 452 games over a 20 year career. These included 805 dismissals for Surrey; putting him third in the county's all-time records. In 1972 he took 74 catches and made 91 dismissals in all, both of which are Surrey records for one season.

He transferred to Sussex in 1976 and was appointed as captain of the side between 1978 and 1980.