



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Wallington County Grammar School

As you can imagine, this time of year seems awfully quiet in a school used to having 1056 students filling our corridors. As I write this, Years 9 and 10 are engaged in their end of year examinations, their teachers quietly marking their work to provide feedback in the most timely manner possible to allow the students to go to work with the purple pens! The Upper Sixth and Year 11 are of course also on examination leave, calmly focussed on the task at hand and giving their all to achieve their personal best in their A Levels and GCSEs. There is no doubt that they face a very significant task in light of the changes made by the government and examination boards in the last few years. Many have prepared for redesigned A Levels that test more challenging skills and deeper levels of content. Some have had to cope with reduced levels of controlled assessment with more weight being placed on their final examinations. Our Year 11 have even had to get used to no longer considering success to be in the form of an A or A* in their English and Mathematics GCSEs and instead have their sights set on grades 7, 8 and even 9 for our most able and hard working students.

What is also true is that, in the national context, if anybody is going to succeed in meeting these challenges it will be our students! They are incredibly focused, driven and talented young men and women who have worked their socks off for this moment. They have also been prepared by some of the finest teachers in the country who are experts at navigating the periodic curriculum change that we experience as a profession. I look forward to this summer very much indeed and have no doubt that I will experience my usual bitter sweet emotions in saying goodbye to many cherished students but knowing that they are going on to some of the best universities in the world and will achieve very great things indeed. I would wish them all luck but I know that they will not need it!

Jamie Bean, Head of School

PTFA Update by Katherine Herrick, Chair WCCGS PTFA

11+ Familiarisation Tests

The big news this term is that our hugely successful familiarisation tests are now underway for 2017. This year dozens of volunteers will be helping to run 20 exam sessions, over 10 separate days. Most sessions are now sold out and with just a few places left we have raised a fantastic £66,000 for the School. We would still welcome volunteers to assist in invigilation and marking for the sessions still to run during some weekends in June and early July so if you could spare time to get involved for a morning or afternoon please email Kate at helpers@wccgsptfa.com. Contributing to test days is a good way to get to know other parents and is an easy way to contribute substantially to our school.

Induction BBQ

Apart from the familiarisation tests, as always in the Summer term, all our efforts go into preparing for the annual Year 7 Induction BBQ. Many of us have fond memories of turning up with our son on a, more or less, sunny summer afternoon so he could start to get to know his new school. It is a very important and enjoyable event in the calendar and if you think you might be able to help please do let us know. Apart from volunteering, offers of cakes, raffle prizes and second hand uniform in good condition would all be very welcome. If you think you can help in any way please contact Lynne at Info.wccgsptfa.com

PTFA Meetings

All parents and guardians of children at WCCGS are automatically members of our PTFA. You are entitled to participate and vote and we are always thrilled to see new faces at our meetings and to hear new ideas. Our meetings are usually held on the first Tuesday of the month and our next one will be after half term at 7.30pm on 6th June. If you can't make it to meetings (and not all of us can) but would still like to contribute to our activities in some capacity please just drop us a line at info@wccgsptfa.com

If you would like more details of upcoming events or uniform sales you might be interested in our new Facebook page (Wallington County Grammar School PTFA) or you can visit our website www.wccgsptfa.com

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.



Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge 2017 by Miss Ball

On Wednesday 3rd May Rafid Chowdhury 10W participated in the Regional Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge, hosted by Carshalton High School for Girls and he performed brilliantly! This was incredibly challenging for him and he was outstanding. His speech was on the topic of 'Failure, a curse or a blessing?', a topic that he delivered with vigour and confidence. To represent his school amongst some of the most outstanding young speakers of the borough was a real accomplishment and we are all incredibly proud of him.



Year 11 Meet the Sixth Form Event by Finlay Moore, Lower Sixth

As the Year 11 students gear up for their GCSE exams, the upcoming possibilities and challenges of Sixth Form life can be forgotten. Therefore, providing them with the opportunity to discuss their A-level options with Year 12 students is crucial in ensuring they continue to look forward and

make the best possible choices for their next stage in school life. The first venture of next year's Student Leadership Team was a great success; getting thirty Lower Sixth students to give up their time and present their work, whilst answering as many questions as possible. The Year

11 turnout was particularly promising, with vast numbers of students making the most of this opportunity and doing everything they can to guarantee their next two years are successful ones.

Live My Digital: Learning about digital living, together

The Girls' Day School Trust has created '[Live My Digital](#)', a unique video series to help parents help their children to stay safe online. The series consists of six short films for parents and six matching films for children to empower families to use social media safely and responsibly.

The videos look at the ways in which the internet and digital technology can be used positively by young people as well as identifying the potential issues they may face. The most critical themes in online safety today are covered including:

- Cyberbullying
- The digital footprint
- Identity and self-esteem
- Relationships and grooming
- Security and privacy
- Sexting

We hope that the films, together with the downloadable online safety factsheets, will help encourage and support open discussions in your family about how to enjoy the online environment whilst staying safe.

You can access the videos here: www.qdst.net/livemydigital

Revision Tips

Don't forget to visit the School website for helpful advice related to **exams, revision and beating exam stress**:

<http://www.wccgs-sutton.co.uk/Revision>

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



The Lower Sixth Fashion and Talent Show 2017 by Zahra Ali L6CA

On Thursday 26th January, the WCGS school hall once again became host to the Lower Sixth's annual Fashion and Talent Show. With our enticing hosts, Dev Bathia and Yusuf Sadiq and their slapstick humour introducing the show, the night was set to be a success and the impressive crowd turnout that packed the hall to maximum capacity created an even more energetic atmosphere.



The fashion aspect of the show followed 4 distinctive themes, the first of which was 'Disney' which inevitably propelled the audience into a state of nostalgia. This theme included catwalks from Peter Pan and Tinkerbell all the way to High School Musical, finishing with our very own dramatic re-enactment of the Lion King's most memorable scene. The 'Decades' theme took the audience through various eras encompassing 1980s gangster with 1920s Jazz and modern day hip hop conflicts. Our third theme, 'Sports and Professions' allowed some of our extra-curricular commitments as well as future aspirations to shine through including catwalks of Sumo wrestlers, police officers, golfers, Trump vs Obama as well as appearances from Wallington's very own rugby, football and cricket teams. Our final theme, 'All Around the World' embraced the cultural diversity of WCGS comprising of African, Asian, Nordic, Middle Eastern and Hawaiian fashion.



The talent acts reached a new standard this year with Danielle and Marie's (U6) performance of a cultural dance opening the show whilst entertaining the audience's expectations to Emma and Dylan's compelling rendition of 'Stay with Me' as well as Arun's (Year 11) ingenious magic trick that shocked the audience. The 'grime' concert, featuring some of Wallington's finest, was a particular audience favourite so much so that our social media promotion of the event, to our amazement, resulted in the artists of these popular songs such as Giggs and Section Boyz reposting videos of our rendition to their thousands of followers on their social media pages.

The night finished on an especially powerful tribute to Jamal Ottun which

included members of his family and friends celebrating his life, most notably with their uplifting rendition of 'Stand By Me', a song that Jamal himself performed at his Fashion and Talent show.

Raising £1669.42 for our chosen charity, Sutton Food Bank which supports the hunger crisis in our local community, the show was an inevitable success. The event took several months of extensive planning and stressful last minute rehearsals to accumulate into our final show thanks to the hard work of our leadership team that included Sam Zubaid, Zahra Ali, Danielle Ajose, Jaden Gonzales-Edwards, Sooriya Sugunajasan and Tilda Vernerholm. Special thanks also go to Rory Baird and Charlie Lawrence for their dedication to the technical aspects of the show.

The Fashion and Talent Show was a fantastic night for the entire Lower Sixth, bringing us all together for the first time to create an event that we were all truly proud of.



Year 7 Fundraising for Lepra by Mrs King

Lepra is a UK-based international charity that helps people who find themselves trapped by disease, poverty and prejudice. They work overseas in India, Bangladesh and Mozambique and work to improve the lives of those who have neglected tropical diseases like leprosy and lymphatic filariasis. They have been fighting disease since 1924 and are one of the world's leading authorities on leprosy". Year 7 have worked really hard fundraising this year and completed a Zumba workout and other fundraising activities. In total, Year 7 raised an amazing sum of £1791.58 for the charity and were presented with a plaque and certificates from Lepra. Well done everyone!

More information on the work of Lepra can be found at www.lepra.org.uk.





WCGS Staff Marsden March - 19th March 2017 by Mrs Mortreuil and Mr Davies

Each year, the staff at WCGS undertake a number of activities and enterprises to raise money for a range of charities, which have either a local impact, or which are held close to the hearts of either staff or students. The Royal Marsden is one such charity, which falls into all three of these criteria. Over the last six years the Marsden to Marsden Walk event has raised over £8.2 million to help build a future beyond cancer.

On 19th March, four intrepid staff from WCGS (Mr T Davies, Mrs J Johnson, Mrs C Mortreuil and Mrs S Smart) met at South Kensington and made their way to the start line of the 2017 **Marsden to Marsden Walk**, a 14 mile trek from Chelsea to Sutton. Despite early drizzle, the day turned out to be warm and sunny and the long walk allowed us to have quality time together rather than the usual rushed encounter in the staff room at break time.

But above all what an experience! The idea that you start and end the March at a hospital helps focus your mind on both the struggle of those people doing all they can to heroically battle against illness, as well as the magnificent care, support and expertise being offered by those talented medical professionals who work there, and those people conducting vital research to ensure that a cure for cancer can be found. Each of the people we were lucky enough to walk alongside has their own story, and it reminds you just how many people are touched by this charity.

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to thank you for your generosity and support. To date we have received over £1,000 in donations (£980 on our fundraising page alone). We have been sincerely touched by both the amount of money people have donated, which wildly exceeds our modest goal, and also the warm



(and often personal) messages left. You really are too kind, and we are so grateful to you all whether you left your name or preferred to stay anonymous.

Our fundraising page remains open until **19th June** should you wish to add to the outstanding generosity of our supporters.

Summer Showcase - Thursday 29th June, 6:30pm by Mrs Weddell

We are opening the doors to our Quad for an open-air showcase, a celebration of all that our students have achieved in the Arts this year. There'll be singing, dancing, fairy-tales, rock music – what more could you wish for on a summer's evening?! Bring along a picnic blanket and some light snacks, and the students will provide the entertainment. This is expected to be a popular event and numbers are limited. Look out for tickets on Parentpay, available from **Tuesday 13th June**.



Self-Discipline Endeavour Excellence

Active Kids vouchers can no longer be collected from Sainsbury's but they can still be donated to the School until the end of June. If you do have any vouchers at home please bring them in and put them in the collection box at Student Services.



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS BY OLD WALCOUNTIANS

This is the ninth in the series of articles about prominent Former Students of the School

DENNIS HUNTLEY joined the School in 1940 and left in 1946, shortly after the war had ended. He went on to study at Wimbledon School of Art before attending London University.

He is a sculptor, furniture designer and author. For several years he was Head of the Sir John Cass School of Art and in 1970 became a Fellow of the Royal British Society of Sculptors. He has completed works for cathedrals, individual collectors and other organisations. Among his most notable works are his sculptures in Clipsham stone of St Cecilia, Lady Margaret Beaufort and St Hubert and 'Piety' at Guildford Cathedral and two limewood angels in the Children's Chapel there. 'The Scholar', a semi-abstract metal figure, at the former Henry Thornton School in Clapham is equally highly regarded, whilst his painted woodcarving of Anne Boleyn created in 1967 was awarded the Sir Otto Beit Medal for the best sculpture outside London anywhere in Britain or the Commonwealth.

He has broadcast on sculpture for the BBC and Thames Television and, in 1976 wrote a book entitled 'Modelling and Sculpture'.

ALEC MONK was Captain of the School and Captain of Rugby in 1961. He gained a degree in PPE (specialising in Economics) at Jesus College, Oxford in 1965.

After graduating he was appointed as Research Assistant to Professor S J Merrett in the Department of Applied Economics at Sheffield University. Two years later, he joined the London Business School as Financial Officer, Research Staff, where he concentrated on corporate finance and taxation and teaching capital budgeting to businessmen. Some of his research work was published. During this time he also acted as a consultant and was the leader of the first natural gas market survey in the UK for British Gas.

His career in business began when he joined Esso Petroleum as Senior Financial Assistant in the Treasurer's Department in 1967. He then moved to Rio Tinto Zinc Corporation where he quickly rose through the ranks and in 1974 was an Executive Director of the main board with responsibility for the group's capital investment project screening, financial planning and mergers and acquisitions worldwide. He was simultaneously Chairman and Chief Executive of RTZ's primary aluminium activities outside of Australia, which involved nearly a year spent in negotiations in Brazil. His next appointment was to be Director and Vice President of AEA Investors Inc. (New York). There he operated on behalf of a leading and

wealthy group of American businessmen and families and three major financial institutions (American Express, First National Bank of Chicago and Pincus Warburg), to identify, acquire, finance and manage companies that could later be sold to obtain capital gain. Acquisitions were in the purchase price range of \$30 million to \$300 million and involved companies in fashion, retailing, mail order, Coca-Cola bottling, oilfield services and shoe-retailing.

In 1981 he was appointed Chairman and CEO of the Dee Corporation plc (previously Linfold Holdings and later the Gateway Corporation plc). The Corporation was primarily a food wholesaler with pre-tax profits of £8.6 million and a market capitalization of £57 million. At the time of its acquisition as Gateway, following a contested bid in July 1989 and his consequent resignation, it had a workforce of 83,000 people and had become the third largest food retailer in the UK with pre-tax profits of £213 million and a share price that had increased ten times in eight years to £2,250 million. During this period several major acquisitions, including Key Markets, International Stores and Fine fare, were made and the Company was quoted on the New York Stock Exchange. In 1984 he was voted Super-marketing's Retailer of the Year Award and from 1987 to 1989 he was President of the Institute of Grocery Distribution.

A four year spell as Chief Executive of Tri-Delta Corporation followed. This was a small private company set up in conjunction with a Canadian and a Swiss company to engage in mergers and acquisitions. He then participated in a number of acquisition studies, did some consulting and pursued his own business interests, whilst at the same time giving a significant amount of his time to educational charities. From 1998 to 2003 he was the first non-family Chairman of Charles Wells Ltd, the largest family brewer in the UK. Following a decade when the company had struggled and profits were falling, he wrote a major paper suggesting a radical new strategy for the company. The fortunes of the company were turned around totally and the company has continued its transformation to the present day.

Over the years he has been concerned with many activities involving educational institutions and with extensive fund-raising. His attachment to the academic world is evident from the fact that he was made an Honorary Fellow of St Hugh's College in 1985 and awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws by Sheffield University in 1988. In 1999 he was made an Honorary Fellow of Jesus College and he was appointed a Foundation Fellow of New Hall, Cambridge in 2001. He was Poole Harbour Commissioner from 2009 to 2012.