



### **Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Wallington County Grammar School**

*It gives me great pleasure to introduce our final newsletter for the academic year. We have been extremely busy with examinations, Sports Day, Year 10 Work Experience, Open Day, the Old Boys Dinner and Activities Week to name just a few of the exciting events that have unfolded in the last few weeks. I have written to you in full in my End of Year Letter but please do enjoy reading all the exciting news coming out of WCCGS.*

*Wishing you all a happy and healthy summer break.*

**Jamie Bean, Head of School**

### **Wally Boy makes Radio One, Twitter, Sky News, Capital Radio and much more... by Miss Ball**

Eddie Smith, Year 10 has made amazing impressions on the nation (and his tweeting success has been recognised as far as New Zealand) by making the most of his work experience placement. After being put in charge of Southern Rail's Twitter he has become an overnight sensation.

We were incredibly proud

of his professionalism, maturity and all around amazing composure as he answered questions from the Radio One team on Wednesday at 15:20 in which Scott Mills attempted to find out what makes our lad tick. It was great to hear one of our students shine and we are so proud of him and this amazing accomplishment. Well done Eddie, what a star.



### **PTFA Update by Katherine Herrick, Chair WCCGS PTFA**

#### **11+ Familiarisation Tests**

The big news this term has been that our familiarisation tests for 2017 have gone very smoothly and raised more than £68,000 for the School. This year dozens of volunteers helped to run 20 exam sessions, over 10 separate days. Most sessions were fully sold out and we received some lovely feedback from happy parents. We are always keen to see new volunteers so if you would like to assist in invigilation and marking in 2018 please keep an eye out for our school-wide coms. 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.

#### **The BBQ**

Apart from the familiarisation tests, as always in the summer term, we held the annual Year 7 Induction BBQ. This is a particularly important event as it offers a first opportunity for the new boys to begin to get to know their school and for parents to meet. Once again it was a hugely successful event and this year the weather was particularly kind granting us a perfect afternoon of clear blue sky and sunshine. We are grateful to all the volunteers who turned up to help on the day as well as all those who provided cakes, raffle prizes and second hand uniform. Particular thanks go to Lynne Francis for her organisation.

#### **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 in the new school year at 7.30pm on 12 September. 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](mailto:info@wccgsptfa.com)

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



Science News by Miss J Gallagher , Director of Science

### Cambridge Chemistry Challenge Competition 2017

Year 12 students recently completed the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge (a paper written by Cambridge University, directed at A\* students, stretching them beyond the A Level syllabus). I am delighted to say that Matthew Colpus achieved the highest possible award, the Roentgenium, which placed him in the top 0.78% of the more than 7000 students who entered the competition this year! He has now been invited to a residential Chemistry award ceremony in the Autumn term. He is the third WCCGS student to ever receive this award and looks set to follow in his brother Timothy's footsteps....who is currently studying at Cambridge University and also achieved the Roentgenium

award in 2015 scoring 88% on the paper, just 1% more than Matthew! Other students who performed exceptionally well achieving the Silver award were Kehinde Lawal, Syed Amer Hussaini, Neveyan Nandakumar and Niruththan Pathanchaly. Congratulations to all and thank you to Mr Moran for organising this event.



### Chemistry British Olympiad Competition 2017

Y12 and Y13 students took part in this year's Chemistry British Olympiad run by the Royal Society of Chemistry. This UK competition is a challenging written test of chemical knowledge and only students predicted an A or A\* in A Level Chemistry participate. Huge congratulations must go to Matthew Colpus (Y12) who was the only student to achieve a Gold Award this year. Congratulations to all and thank you to Mr Moran for organising this event.



### Intermediate Biology Olympiad Competition 2017

This year, all of the Year 12 Biology students took part in the Intermediate Biology Olympiad for the first time; a competition set to encourage wider reading at A Level. The following students performed remarkably well, achieving the Silver award: James Kulasingham, Wilson Tran, Dylan Pereira, Rahul Shah, Samuel Emilolorun, Hannah Khan, Jayson Gnanapragasam, Gnana Gopisetti and Giruchaandan Mohanarajah. A further 11 students achieved the Bronze award. All students will now receive a year's free membership to BioNet, an organisation who supports students interested in a future in the life sciences. Congratulations to all and thank you to Mrs Burgess for organising this event.



### Biology DNA Trip

This term Y12 students were invited to the Imperial summer school, where they visited the Department of Life Sciences. Here they gained hands on practical experience of DNA manipulation and analysis which are fundamental aspects of the modern molecular bioscience revolution. All students thoroughly enjoyed the day and thank you to Miss Khan for organising this trip.

**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](mailto:enquiries@wccgs.org.uk)**



### Medicine Trip

Y12 students attended an Evidence-based Medicine Conference at UCL. The students explored how medical professionals are required to take account of an ever-increasing pool of scientific data, owners' values and preferences, and their own clinical expertise when making clinical decisions. They spent the day discovering

how the modern evidence-based medicine approach to clinical care has revolutionised patient care in human medicine and healthcare policy. I hope the students gained valuable knowledge from this trip to use in the future and thank you to Dr Meek for organising this event.

### Science Week

Lots of events occurred during Science Week at WCCGS this year. The Physics Department worked with students to create their very own hover boards, whilst the Chemistry Department turned pennies in gold coins and created fire balls with methane gas! The Biology Department held its first Rat Dissection. The theme, "From Food to Poo",

dealt with the organs of digestion. They were able to identifying organs, tissues and compared rat anatomy to that of humans. They finished the week with the House Science Quiz, in which Carew won in all key stages! Massive congratulations to Carew!

### Crest Award

This year 19 students took part in the CREST Award scheme, which provides science enrichment opportunities to inspire and engage students. The Gold Award was completed by Y12 students and allowed them to conduct real research projects. Some of their projects included: Can the immune system in the human body and its genetics be modified to cure leukaemia? What is the most effective way of cleaning up oil spills? Which type of bridge is the best to cover an ocean? This year one Y9 student (Ramit Bag) also completed the Silver Award researching into future travel! Congratulations to all and thank you to Miss Kershaw and Miss Billy-Pedro for running these awards this year!



### Biology Field Trip

This term Y12 students visited the Seven Sisters Country Park to complete some fieldwork on sampling techniques. They worked with the Wildlife Trust and were able to analyse and compare a range of species in different habitats. Sadly the weather did not hold out for the students but nevertheless they all enjoyed the day and thank you to Mrs Burgess for organising this trip.

### Food Tech by Mr Thomas

The Summer term has been as busy as ever in the Food Technology Department. To kick things off, twenty-four Year 10 and 11 students finished and handed in their coursework for their Catering and Hospitality GCSEs respectively. A huge well done to all of these students for their hard work.

Y10s have now started the Hospitality course and as part of this, helped out with the hugely successful Arts Showcase evening by providing a selection of snacks and treats which they prepared alongside the Y9 students.

Our annual Year 8 project asks the students to make an innovative food product. This year has impressed, as always, with ideas ranging from a melting lava cake, to marshmallow soufflé, as well as some tasty looking prawn burgers.

With Y7s, we hosted international food tastings, where we asked the students to bring in some food from their native

countries for us all to try. A huge thank you to everybody who provided something for these spectacular lessons, especially to those who made dishes from scratch; a special mention must go to the two Grandmas' dishes, including some genuine Russian dark chocolate and dried plum, and a lovely Brazilian coconut cake.

Finally, but by no means least, a group of twenty-four students from years 7-9 are about to embark on a cultural journey to Normandy to sample the French way of cooking and eating during the annual Activities Week. The boys are looking forward to things such as a tour of a biscuit factory and goats cheese farm, as well as the opportunity to try snails and frogs legs! In summary 2016-2017 has been a very successful year for the Food Technology department, and I wish all the best to all of the students, to Ms Nunes, and to the new Technician who will start at WCCGS in September.



**Drama News by Mrs Weddell**

**Summer Showcase, 29 June 2017**

This year, we opened the doors to the Quad to share in a delightful picnic with over 70 Wallington friends and parents. Although the sun wasn't shining, our students dazzled with their musical, dance and drama skills, all of which were topped off with some delicious canapés provided by our Food Technology students. Highlights included a Year 10 'Shape of You' mash-up, a haunting scene from Macbeth by our Year 8s, and some celestial notes on the cello from Freddie Grimwade. We look forward to seeing this event grow next June.

**Year 10 Play-in-a-Day with Park Hill Junior School, 26 June 2017**

Last month, our Year 10 Music and Drama students were given their biggest challenge yet: create a set of 5 performances in a single day with the help of 30 enthusiastic

Year 5 students. Using Disney stories as a stimulus, the WCGS boys worked in pairs to direct a small group in devising their own original work. They led their rehearsal time with imagination and passion, inspiring the younger pupils to commit and perform at their very best at the end of the day. At the end of the process some of the students reflected:

'It was a real privilege to be given a chance like this. It was a bit of a risk letting us lead, but I'm so glad it worked!'

'I can't believe how much energy you'd need to be a primary school teacher.'

'We should do something like this again next year. But bigger and better!'

**Well done gentlemen!**

**Sleeping Trees Theatre Performance and Workshop**

As part of our Activities Week, the English and Drama Department ran a theatre-focused day and were delighted to invite the physical theatre company 'Sleeping Trees' into school. This theatre trio, Josh, John and James, enthralled the boys with their performance of 'Treasure Island', before leading them through a set of devising techniques that will help them to create their own work by the end of the week. So what did the boys think of this wacky and energetic style of theatre?

'The performance was extremely hilarious and imaginative, and the workshop was exciting.'

'Utterly spectacular and impressed to hear that every performance of their Treasure Island show was different because they use so much improvisation.'

'They cleverly combined physical theatre and comedy.'

'They made me think more creatively.'

'The fact that they used no props, just themselves, made it even more amazing.'



'I was laughing every 30 seconds!'

**How can I help my son use his phone responsibly? By Miss Ball**

E-safety is such an important topic and it is clear that this is something that our children are incredibly knowledgeable about. However, it is hard for us as parents to support them as they navigate this ever changing and challenging online world if our online IQ is not up to scratch; so what can we do?

There are so many supports online for parents. The following link for example has guides for parents on how to help their children use some of the most popular apps and websites e.g. Snapchat, whatsapp, Youtube etc. Have a look!

[https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/How-to-guides/?mc\\_cid=d4de9fe0d3&mc\\_eid=92ce6fff55](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/Support-tools/How-to-guides/?mc_cid=d4de9fe0d3&mc_eid=92ce6fff55)

These resources are amazing! And remember, if you want to report anything or if you have questions or would like some more supports, please email the WCGS E-safety Lead at [eball8@suttonmail.org](mailto:eball8@suttonmail.org).

