



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Wallington County Grammar School

I spoke to you at the start of the year about our exciting plans for the future. As our 90th year draws to a close I can confirm that these plans are nearing fruition. Staff met back in the summer to discuss our shared vision of what qualities students need to successfully meet life's 'difficulties' to reach the 'heights' that we speak of in our motto. We envisioned what those 'heights' might look like and what strategic changes the School could make to help our students still further in reaching them. The School Council has now completed the same exercise under the expert leadership of Vaseharan Suntharan and I now ask you, our parents, carers and friends, to make your contribution. Please use the following link, <https://goo.gl/forms/iMt72CnAD6kiokj2> to have your say. I very much look forward to seeing your responses and using them to create our 'Outline for the School 2018' that will be published in the Spring. WCGS has not had an 'Outline for a School' since Mr. Walter Hutchins summarised his plans for the School back in 1945 and I look forward to putting this new strategic vision to good use to inform the development of all aspect of school life.

In other news, you may already have heard that, for the first time, students in WCGS were in the top 1% of schools nationally for progress in their GCSEs last summer (a measure known as Progress8) making us the third best boys school in the country. This is the government's headline measure for the success of a school and is wonderful news, my congratulations go out to all students who sat their GCSEs last summer and the fantastic staff that supported them over five years. It has also been a joy to see our students develop in a wider sense in many of our regular events including the most busy Autumn Concert that I have seen in my time here. Other highlights have included House Drama, from which Carew emerged victors and of course the Manor Trophy awarded to the victors of the Year 7 Assault Course which was also very well attended by parents. Other enriching opportunities have also been provided through our co-curriculum including the ever popular robotics club that I recently tweeted about and a lecture delivered by Mr Gavin Barwell, Chief of Staff to Mrs Theresa May and the Number 10 team.

With the enormous help of our PTFA, we have resubmitted our bid for a new Design and Technology/Music Block this December. We feel more confident than ever that this will be approved by the Education Funding Agency, especially with the incredibly generous contribution of £150,000 made by our PTFA to help fund this project. I will keep you all updated of any progress in this matter and I thank all members of the PTFA for the hard work and overwhelming generosity that have helped make this bid possible.

We must also say goodbye to a long standing and much cherished member of staff in Ms Tovey who joined us in 2007 and is leaving to become Director of Sixth Form at Royal Russell. In her time here Ms Tovey has been Subject Leader of English, Director of the Communications Faculty (which included Modern Foreign Languages) as well as Director of Sixth Form. She has met with incredible success including seeing English regularly within the best schools in the country for examination results not to mention a complete overhaul of pastoral care and academic mentoring in the Sixth Form which culminated in an 'outstanding judgment' last January. More broadly, Ms Tovey has had a part to play in the success of hundreds of young men and women who have gone onto the very best universities in the world as a result of her leadership. As mentioned earlier this year, she will be succeeded by the very able Mr Robertson who will handover his previous roles to Miss Farlow who will become Senior Teacher (SESCO and Subject Leader of Biology) and Mr Hasan who will become Year Leader for the Upper Sixth.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Jamie Bean, Head of School

The Big Red Box by Mrs Weddell.

This Christmas the Student Leadership team has decided to support the 'Big Red Box' charity in collecting food for the neediest families in South London. Their mission is to support those in the local community who might otherwise go without during the festive period. Over the past six years they have distributed over 5000 food boxes to those in need across the South East of London.

We are delighted to say that, thanks to your generosity, we should be able to send out at least 20 food hampers from students in Y7-10. These donations will make a huge difference to those who are struggling to make

ends meet and we are so grateful for every donation, big or small, that is offered. What a fantastic reminder of how we can share love and hope during this special time of year!



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.

**PTFA Update by Katherine Herrick, Chair WCGS PTFA chair@wcfgsptfa.com**

As usual the PTFA started the new school year by hosting a year 7 and 8 disco. For the new year 7s it is often the first big social event of secondary school and it is great to see all the boys, as well as the girls invited from local schools, having such a fun evening. Particular thanks is due to our sixth formers who assisted on the night to help make it such a success.

This term we also held our Murder Mystery event 'Who Killed the Pop Star'. Tickets for the evening were all sold out well ahead of time so apologies to those people who were not able to book and thank you very much to everyone who came along and helped make it such a success. A huge thank you goes to the fabulous cast of WCGS staff for a tremendous and very funny performance.

In addition to social events the PTFA have continued to provide refreshments at School events such as the House drama and the carol concert. Our second hand uniform sales at parents evenings have been particularly popular so if you have any uniform in good condition that your son has grown out of please could you donate it by handing it into the School Office in a bag clearly labelled 'PTFA uniform'.

PTFA Annual General Meeting

We held our annual general meeting at the beginning of November and following a presentation from Head of School, Mr Bean, we agreed to contribute £150,000 towards the School bid to build a new DT and Music building. This is an important project which represents a critical part of WCGS's long term plan to upgrade facilities and make all the buildings suitable for the 21st century. Now we just all have to cross our fingers and hope that the bid for the rest of the funding is successful in the spring.

Following years of commitment Alison Astrand and Lynne Francis stood down as Treasurer and Secretary respectively and Tecla Godinho and Jackie Gardiner were elected to these posts. Enormous thanks go to both Alison and Lynne for all they have done for the charity over the years and also for their decisions to remain as Trustees. The rest of the Committee was re-elected in post and Kate Leeming was elected as a Trustee.

Coming events

Next term look out for details of our annual Quiz on Friday 9th March 2018!

Our next PTFA meeting will be at 7.30pm on 9th January at school and we would love to see you and hear your views. 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 our new email address info@wcfgsptfa.org

If you would like more details about the PTFA or to find dates for our uniform sales you can visit us online at

<http://www.wcfgs-sutton.co.uk/PTFA1>

**Annual Clubs and Societies Fair**

Our Annual Clubs and Societies Fair took place on 4th October 2017. The main hall was filled with representatives from over 20 clubs, from Aviation Society to Social Science Society.

Much hustle and bustle ensued as the hall filled with students from all year groups coming to have a look around and from the representatives from the various clubs and societies seeking to gain new recruits.



Biology Olympiad by Mrs Burgess

Current Year 13 Biology students took part in the Intermediate Biology Olympiad challenge in June this year. This consisted of a one hour online exam. Many of the students received certificates acknowledging their success in the competition. Congratulations to all who received Commended or Highly Commended but a special mention must go to Abinas Sriskandarajah, Janvi Patel, George Charnock, Samuel Dugan, Arujan Chandrakumaran, Joy Cummings, George Baxter, Blessing Tarre, Sabih Jilani, Marcus Mohanathas and Arushan Nadarasa who received a Bronze level and Hannah Khan, Jayson Gnanapragasam, James Kulasingham, Gnana Gopiseti, Wilson Tran, Rahul Shah, Samuel Emilolorun, Giruchaandan Mohanarajah and Dylan Pereira who achieved a Silver level.

The students will be competing in the Biology Olympiad in January 2018. There will be other opportunities for pupils in Year 9, 10 and 12 to enter a National Biology competition during the course of this academic year. Information about these competitions will be sent to parents/carers nearer the time.



'The best night of the year'

House Drama 2017 by Mrs Weddell

It has been a busy term for our Arts Captains who, with the support of their talented peers, spent the last two months preparing some impressive performances. On 29th November, the houses battled it out on stage in a bid to win the coveted trophy and the glorious title of House Drama champions. Each house chose an opening line from a published play or book as the stimulus for their work this year, and we had an eclectic array of openers – from 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy' to 'The Go-Between' to 'An Inspector Calls'. The sixth-formers took on the challenge with relish, writing the scripts, sourcing props, rehearsing, designing their own sound and lighting, creating a programme, and in some cases going the extra mile to impress their judges.

Despite Saambavan Thambiyah's stand-out performance as our very own Ms Tovey, the winners of the prize for Best Actress and Actor were the marvellous Sebastian Jensen (Carew) and Francesca Wright (Mandeville).

So, that leaves only the question of who won over the judges. They were all fantastic performances, but it was **Carew** - led brilliantly by Jaden Gonzales-Edwards - who triumphed for the second year in a row. The 'Riches to Rags' tale reminded us all of the importance of kindness in a world which sometimes appears to value wealth above all else. Thanks to all involved for making it such a fun and exciting evening. **Three cheers for Carew!**



Anti-Bullying Update

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors, KS3/4 form times

Our group is focusing on KS3 and KS4, our main role this year is to go to form times and inform pupils about the Anti-Bullying Policy. We also are tasked with communicating to the form groups the most effective ways to utilise other ambassadors and communicate their problems; such as the anonymous boxes around the school. Our main objective, different from last year, is to ensure that we can teach forms the seriousness of the topic Bullying, whilst our sessions remain light and open with varied content. We need to make sure our resources differ each time we meet with forms thus preventing pupils from feeling disengaged or disenfranchised with the Anti-Bullying ambassadors as a whole.

We are aiming to make sure that our presentations are interactive and take a variety of different forms such as case studies, quizzes, PowerPoints, or even themed games. We hope to be able to take feedback from our key stage as well.

Group Members: Sachin Shah, Inesh Sood, Ramit Bag, Saurev Ruparelia, Sultan Tahir and Keyaan Choudhary.

Anti-Bullying initiatives by Sonak Patel 11G

I am part of the Anti-Bullying group and we have planned the events that will take place in February for Anti-Bullying week including:-

- ◇ Students and teachers have agreed to bake cakes to contribute towards a Bake Sale.
- ◇ Many teachers have agreed to incorporate elements of anti-bullying information into their lessons during that week.

We have sold as many as 60 anti-bullying badges to different year groups across the school and already raised money to give to anti-bullying charities. At the last meeting we judged all the anti-bullying posters that students in different years made to promote anti-bullying and the creators of the two winning posters won a £10 amazon vouchers each.

Competition Winner by Mrs Owen

Year 11 student Andrew Ronayne won the whole school Anti-Bullying Poster Competition. He won an Amazon voucher and Andrew's poster will be displayed in all form rooms and around the school. Well done.



Author visit by Mrs Bryan

We had the pleasure of welcoming Alex Scarrow, author of the TimeRiders series, into school on 19th October. Year 7 and Year 8 students were enthralled by Alex's brilliant presentation in the main hall, which captured the essence of his science fiction books aimed at young adults. This was followed by two workshops where students were encouraged to consider weird and wonderful 'what if...?' scenarios, to fire their creative juices.





Sixth Form Enrichment: Engineering Option by Mrs Smart

Engineering today offers some of the most exciting and challenging careers on the planet. Everything in the man-made world from the clothes that we wear to the cars that we drive, from our smartphones to the shampoo that we use to wash our hair has been designed and manufactured and engineers have been involved! Engineers relish solving problems, thinking “outside of the box” and working in teams with less than ideal resources to create innovative solutions! Nationally, there is a desperate shortage of Engineers. It is estimated that 186,000 engineering graduates will be needed each year for the next 7 years to fill the engineering vacancies. Supply is unlikely to meet demand and, as a result, lucrative and fulfilling careers are available for both men and women in a diverse range of engineering disciplines. To help inspire students in the Sixth form, the Design and Technology Department has been running an Engineering Enrichment option this term.

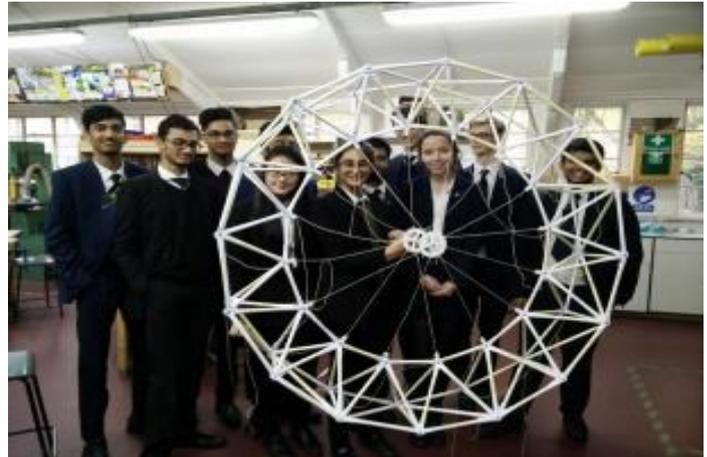
Students are being given real-world challenges to solve. Our first project, a Civil Engineering challenge, was set in Nepal where there are over 200 river crossings using just a single cable with a pulley wheel and sling. School children dangle precariously over the raging river below and propel themselves across using their bare hands to pull on the cable. Lives (and many fingers) have been lost and the Nepalese Government has promised to replace these dangerous crossings with fixed bridges in the next 2 years. The group was divided into teams and each set about researching and making a Truss bridge to span a 1m gap using paper tubes. A competition was held to test each bridge to destruction to see



which was the strongest bridge but using the least materials. Some bridge failures were dramatic and others more ‘graceful’!

Students started to appreciate how forces are transferred and the importance of Triangulation and of Quality of Manufacture!

As a follow-on project (now that we could make paper tubes to perfection!) we created a Millenium Wheel. This was an exercise to appreciate the importance of working to a



Specification and to deadlines. Eight teams were each given a specification for one section of the wheel. The importance of measuring accurately and assembling parts exactly as required was recognised on assembly when some sections could not be joined together! One ‘Contractor’ missed the deadline and a “whole project” delay occurred! Eventually all parts were connected!

Thinking that it might be fun to motorise our Millenium Wheel, we put our Electronics Engineer’s hats on to learn how to control devices. Using Crumble software we programmed stepper motors to move forwards and backwards by set amounts at controlled speeds. These programs were downloaded via cable from the computers onto Crumble Microcontroller boards connected to small motors and the motor movements checked! With an appreciation now for using microcontrollers, the group have decided to get even more “hands-dirty” and have each ordered an electronic kit to make. These range from stereo amplifiers to mini-desk fans and even a flashing Christmas tree!

Happy Christmas from the Design Technology Department!





'Cats' at the Epsom Playhouse by Noah Reed, Year 9

In November 2017 the school organised a trip to the Epsom Playhouse to see a performance of Cats. Four of our teachers were part of the cast: Mrs Curtis played Grizabella, Miss Ball played Demeter, Mrs Weddell played Bombalurina and Mrs Martin played Cassandra. The performance was amazing, the singing was of very high quality and the dancing was choreographed well. The set was very good; it was realistic, simplistic and greatly contributed to the performance. The costumes were impressive too! I think that the fact that our English, Drama and Music teachers have got involved in a proper musical was really important because it showed us that our teachers' passion for their subject extends far beyond the lessons. Overall the show was impressive and our teachers really stood out; my friends and I had a great evening.

KS3 Art Club by Mrs Donald

Since Art Club commenced in October, every Tuesday afternoon sees Art Room 2 buzzing with energy, chatter and creativity.

Each student has been given a wooden base on which they will create a mosaic, using an assortment of colourful ceramic tiles. They have produced some impressive, intricate designs and are now developing their tile cutting skills with the use of nippers. I am really pleased with the progress made so far – keep up the good work boys!



Art Trip to the Tate Modern by Alex French, U6

The Tate Art trip was a fantastic opportunity for the Sixth Form Art students to view works of artists that they had already been studying in school, as well as to discover new pieces of interest. Students arrived early that morning on the Southbank, outside Waterloo Station and were able to enjoy the views across the river as we walked along it towards the Tate Modern. Upon arrival at the gallery the group was immediately impressed by the architecture and the scale of some of the temporary instalments in the entrance hall.

Aside from the building itself, the vast array of top tier works of art gave all of the students the chance to dive deeper into the research they needed to carry out for their A-Level Art projects at school. From Miro to Rothko, it was clear that we would have an excess of amazing art to explore. Additionally, if anyone wanted a picture of the London skyline, a journey up to the top floor of the gallery would provide a great 360 degree view across the surrounding area.

Having completed our visit to the Tate Modern we made our way by riverboat to the Tate Britain, where we were able to find even more work by British artists including Francis Bacon and Jacob Epstein. It was clear that the students were keen to explore the halls filled with pieces from the likes of such artists.

All in all, the trip allowed the Sixth Form students to acquire new, in-depth knowledge that will be useful for the projects they are currently developing. Many thanks to Mr Holding for organising the day and accompanying us throughout the course of our visit to both Tate Galleries.



Illustration workshop, Eleanor Shakespeare visits our Year 11 Artists by Mr Holding

On Tuesday 7th November, we were lucky to receive a visit from a current darling of the illustration world, Eleanor Shakespeare. She ran a collage workshop with year 11 GCSE art students providing inspiration for their current coursework project 'Order and Chaos'.

Students were enthused and engaged with this session and all managed to produce meaningful outcomes that will contribute to projects.

Eleanor frequently contributes illustrations to many journals, periodicals and newspapers such as The Guardian, Variety, TES, Creative Review, The Washington Post and The Sunday Times. In addition Eleanor has had three books published worldwide; 'Collage and Keep', 'Cut, Paste and Create' and 'Stormy Seas.'





Play in a Day

On Friday 3rd November, all of Year 7 worked together in forms to plan and perform a single act from a play called, "The Monster Mash". We had the entire morning to prepare our act with the help of 6th formers from each house. We started by splitting our form into those who would act in the play, and those who would design the set, costumes and programmes.

The morning flew by with all the acting, prop making, designing and dress rehearsals. It was a challenging time as we needed to make sure each actor knew their part and how they should move on the stage. We also needed to make sure that the costume designers were able to tailor clothes to each individual student as well as the character they were playing. When we took to the stage for our dress rehearsal in the hall, we were able to fine tune our performance and see all our hard work coming together. Our form tutor and 6th formers were awesome in organising the entire class and we relished every moment in arranging our play and seeing it come together.

When the entire year group met in the Hall after lunch, we were able to see how each form interpreted their part of the play and which acts they were given. We observed each performance and were able to watch the entire play come alive! The overall performance was FANTASTIC – The various stage crews set the scenes brilliantly and we were able to show Year 7, our form tutors, Mr Davies (the judge!) and the 6th formers the result of all our rehearsals.

Although Carew won the trophy for the best play/act, the entire day was exhilarating, as we got on with our individual tasks but came together as a team. Things didn't go to plan, as some characters didn't have obvious costumes, but the designers came up with inventive solutions! Some people forgot their lines but we were able to improvise, and despite making them up, nobody seemed to notice! The camaraderie between our form and the fun we had made us a stronger unit and made some memories that we will not forget!

By Rushil Parimi, Ishan Nautiyal, Pradyumn Mattipalli and Mohammad Hussain (7 Ruskin)

Movember

**by Dylan Camakamma (Vice-Captain of School),
on behalf of the Student Leadership Team**

The Student Leadership Team is incredibly proud of the success of this year's 'Movember' campaign, thanks to the effect it has had on both students and staff alike. The annual campaign, set up by the Movember Foundation, is targeted at addressing issues surrounding men's health, in particular; physical inactivity, prostate cancer, testicular cancer and poor mental health. This year it was decided that we would target the latter two issues, due to the fact that we felt that these were most applicable to the age groups within the school. We were able to create awareness for the issues surrounding testicular cancer and poor mental health through a number of presentations and talks made to all year groups alongside putting up self-awareness and self-check posters throughout the school, in form groups and on noticeboards.

Whilst the school's efforts for fundraising have previously been targeted at the Movember Foundation, we wanted to find a smaller charity. We felt that the money would have a much more profound effect so would be far more beneficial to a smaller charity plus we would be able to see, first-hand, the impact of our contributions. Thus, the decision was made to split

this year's money between the Movember Foundation and BaggyTrousersUK. The latter is a charity set up specifically to create awareness for testicular cancer but also to support those who have been diagnosed with this type of cancer. The charity supported us in a number of ways by providing us with a number of self-check posters but also by proposing a number of events we could run in order to fundraise.

The events we ran this year have ranged from the traditional waxing of the First XV Rugby team, to brand new events such as the Girls' Molympics. Special mention goes to Andrew Togbolah (U6RU) who won the Senior Molympics and Year 8 Bridges, who won our House Bake Sale competition and raised an amazing £80.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and guardians for aiding our campaign and we hope that this success can be reciprocated in years to come.

On Tuesday 16th November 2017 family and friends of Wallington Old Boy Michael Grace came into school in order to donate a defibrillator in memory of Michael who passed away from SADS last year on the same date. They have also provided training on how to use it.

We thank them for this gift and making our school a safer place.





Another successful Languages Week by Mrs Mortreuil

WCGS Celebration of Languages spanned a whole week in September with a variety of events organised by the MFL department and Upper Sixth students Oliver Bricknell and George Baxter.

The KS4 and KS3 assemblies reflected on the importance of languages for work and enjoyment. Sixth Form students shared their passions and dream careers whilst the audience had to guess fairy tales read in Spanish and French by Mrs Mortreuil and mimed by a talented group of year 8 students, Freddie, Nathan, Hussain, Aimua, Anesh and Dominic.

Thursday was undoubtedly the highlight of the week with teachers from all departments showcasing not only their musical abilities but their language skills. Comperes Oliver and George led the variety show with gusto. Mrs Curtis sang in Mahori, Mr Weston and Dr Young showcased their new and improved version of La Mer and the inseparable duo of Mr Bean and Mr Jones threw themselves in the liveliest Bamba. Let us not forget Mr Dicker, clad in leather and sporting a dog collar, singing a German punk song, Mrs Gabriele amazed all with her beautiful voice and the opera bouffe from Ms Weddel, Mr McLaughlan and Mr Rhodes-Brandon. The hall was heaving with talent and the applause for all numbers was deafening. Thanks to students who attended and the money raised is being spent on resources for all students.

On Friday Year 7 enjoyed a 2 hour workshop led by Ms Paradis. They discovered more about a variety of languages with Andrew, Alim and Daniel giving a taster lesson in their home language and they had even more fun learning to use sign language.

The MFL department heartily thank George Baxter and Oliver Bricknell who led and organised the events of the week, combining this with their homework and still not missing a single deadline. They revealed themselves as outstanding presenters whose enthusiasm for languages is contagious.



FGM Training by Dante Stamp

A class of twenty five received training by Rasha on FGM. We learnt about the 4 types of FGM practices and also the ages of the victims. Rasha gave us an alarming statistic that 500,000 victims of FGM reside in Europe. We then explored who carries out the process and where this type of illegal surgery takes place. Lastly we discussed how we can approach raising awareness to the younger years and educating them appropriately with censored language according to their age.

It was a very well rounded session which opened my eyes on the harmful effects of FGM and how it needs to be stopped as soon as possible.



**The Wallington Termly Review: Student Voice
By Sam Featherstone**

The Autumn Term in Wallington has come to an end, but it is also a beginning. This has been the start of the school year, with new students coming in and finding out what Wallington is all about, and older students have come to the turbulence of GCSEs. This is where I find out and share what the students think of the first term of the year.

Year 7

As with every year, Year 7s come into Wallington with energy, enthusiasm and childish innocence. They have been introduced to the school with activities like the assault course, play in a day and others, and look forward to what is to come. "I've been really enjoying it here, play in a day was great!" said Rubesh. On the assault course, Paramdeep said it was disgusting but was really great fun.

Year 8

Year 8s have come into their second year at Wallington, no longer the youngest. The first term before they pick their GCSEs, it is important they have experience of all subjects and what they have to do next year. "Not much has changed" said Seb, "but there is more work." However, Dan Levine thought that "not much had changed" apart from "teachers were stricter!"

Year 9

Year 9s have arrived into the first year of GCSEs and the learner wheels are off. They have been introduced to their first year of true work, but it is all worth it for the future. A touch nostalgic for the days of Year 7 and 8, they have still knuckled down to work for their teachers. "It's been challenging" said Henry Milne, "in Year 7 and 8 we did fun things like going to the zoo, but now it's mainly work. But I'm still doing work as my teachers ask." Also in Year 9, new students have come into the school. Being one myself, I found it interesting to find out what they thought of this term compared to their last school. "I don't regret coming here" said Rudy, formerly of Riddlesdown. Mohammed, coming from Harris in Crystal Palace said "They have better ways of teaching."

Year 10

Coming back to school in the lead up to GCSEs, many Year 10s feel tired and overworked (I certainly do!). The shackles put on teachers are well and truly off, and with workloads piling up, Year 10s realise there is less and less time for fun. However, they realise the expectation on them, and most are getting on top of their work. "There is a lot of work" said Pravin Mahendrakumar, "but I am getting on with it." Last year, the current Year 10s felt they had less activities compared to other years. This term they were able to watch an adaptation of Macbeth with the Year 11s, performed by the National Theatre. "I enjoyed the play" said Joe Cady, "It was well acted."

Year 11

Year 11s have come to the year of GCSEs, a year of severe worry and mass revising. While no-one can say that they look forward to GCSEs, they count down the days to the all-important exams in June. "It's a challenging and stressful year" said Irtiza Jafri, "but you've got to push through it." Stephen Morris said "The GCSEs are an overwhelming pressure, and terrifying." The support in the school is amazing, however, with teachers, subject leaders, year leaders and senior leaders all helping out. Many Year 11s have looked at other schools for A-Levels, but all have described them as backups. It is encouraging that many have decided they want to stay.

Want to write an article for The Record from a student perspective?

Keen on a career in Journalism and want an opportunity to build a portfolio of work?

Please speak to Dr Meek or Mrs Lenaghan to find out how to contribute to the new student voice section of The Record.



**Year 10 Mock Interview Event
by Mrs Lenaghan**



On Wednesday 6th December, Private Study 2 was transformed into a mock interview room. Year 10 students had already prepared a Covering Letter and CV for one of three jobs during Wellbeing lessons and were interviewed during the day by an employer, about that job role.

We were joined by eight employers from the boroughs of Croydon, Kingston and Sutton. Some were self-employed and others were from organisations including HSBC, Subsea 7 and Saipem. We were also supported by Dr Helen Gray from Croydon Young Chamber.

Sincere thanks to all those who gave up their time on the day to support our students in gaining both confidence to seek work experience placements and valuable work-related skills that will be of benefit to them in the future.

**Update on Coombe Wood School
by Jonathan Wilden, Executive Headteacher for Folio Education Trust**

Dear Future Parents, Carers and Friends of Coombe Wood School,

As we approach Christmas 2017 Folio Education Trust wanted to update you on the progress we are making towards opening Coombe Wood School in September 2018.

Progress so far is excellent however at this stage it is important though to remind ourselves that work on this project remains at risk until such time as planning permission to place the temporary school buildings on the proposed site of Coombe Road playing fields is approved alongside the adoption of Croydon's Local Plan.

Planning for the Temporary School

A planning application has been submitted by the ESFA (Education and Skills Funding Agency) to Croydon Council to site a temporary 8 classroom block on Coombe Road Playing Fields that will act as a dedicated home for the first cohort of children in September 2018. This application is being considered and we hope to have an outcome by 8th February 2018. Prior to this we hope to hear in late January 2018 that Croydon Council is adopting the Local Plan following public consultation and modifications which consider whether Coombe Road Playing Fields is an appropriate place to build a new secondary school.

Admissions

Folio Education Trust has organised an admissions process outside of the coordination of the CAF (Common Application Form). Using the same deadlines, Coombe Wood School received 530 applications for the 180 places available. In addition to this process 200 children attended a Sporting Aptitude Assessment to identify children in the area who would benefit from gaining a place at the School through its Sporting Aptitude entry criteria. 18 places out of the 180 places available will be awarded under this criteria.

Recruitment

22 applications were received for the Headteacher position and services for both this role and that of Assistant Headteacher, responsible for driving the Creative and Performing Arts have been secured and will be shared in January once final contractual arrangements are in place. Coombe Wood School will start to recruit a group of teaching and non-teaching staff from February 2018 once planning permission for the Temporary School Buildings is secured.

We will be able to announce who, subject to planning permission and Local Plan adoption, will be asked to design and build Coombe Wood School in January. To find out more exciting news please follow Coombe Wood School on Twitter and Facebook or regularly visit our website at www.CWS-Croydon.co.uk

**Jonathan Wilden
Executive Headteacher for Folio Education Trust**



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS BY OLD WALCOURTIANS by Brian Nicholls

This is the tenth in the series of articles about prominent Old Boys of the School. The complete series will be incorporated into a history of the first 50 years of the life of Wallington County Grammar School being compiled by Brian Nicholls, an Old Boy of the School. The end product will be a hardback book, which will run to nearly 500 pages. It is nearing completion and readers of this Newsletter who would be interested in acquiring a copy are invited to notify the school of their interest.

HERBERT BARRIE, was born Herbert Bihari in Berlin in 1927. He fled with part of his family from Nazi Germany in 1936 and they settled in a flat in Carshalton overlooking a tennis court. At the age of nine he felt that tennis seemed to represent all that was good about his adopted country and he was determined never to speak German again. He won a scholarship to the School. In the Blitz he and his brother were evacuated to Weston-Super-Mare. After the war he was to learn that enquiries by his father had revealed that his mother and many members of his family had been murdered in concentration camps.

He went on to study medicine at University College Hospital London, where in his final year he decided to change his surname to Barrie. His interest in the new area of paediatrics, which stemmed from his respect for the doctors who cared for him when as a child he almost died from septicaemia, took him to Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children and then to St Thomas' Hospital. He spent a year as a research fellow in Boston, Massachusetts before returning to St Thomas' to develop his work on resuscitation of newborn babies.

A survey that analysed 132 unsuccessful attempts to resuscitate babies weighing more than 1kg at birth troubled him. Many babies were initially resuscitated only to stop breathing again. Before the introduction of mechanical ventilators, it proved difficult to go on ventilating them for hours or days at a time. He started to conduct experiments and was fortunate to have a good supply of very fit medical students who were able to cope with long spells of finger ventilation. Although this was effective, the problem of humidification arose. An electronic finger, engineered in Glasgow, was demonstrated to him and this became the prototype of current baby ventilators. On a trip to the United States he was impressed by work undertaken to resuscitate babies with oxygen delivered down a tube put into the baby's trachea. His main worry with this approach was that the use of high pressures of oxygen could be damaging to their lungs. As a result he developed an underwater safety valve in the oxygen circuit and, because the rubber tubes used initially caused irritation, he successfully switched to using plastic tubing.

In 1966 he moved to the new Charing Cross Hospital where he developed an innovative neonatal unit and money was provided for a small laboratory, the Special Care Baby Unit, where he was able to continue his research into the newborn. He also designed a neonatal ambulance, which included an incubator and a ventilator, to enable his specialised unit to accept referrals from

other hospitals.

He resigned from the NHS in 1986 but continued in private practice, working on legal aspects of medicine, teaching and sitting on the Vaccine Damage Tribunal.

He died on 20 March 2017 at the age of 89.

NICK ROSS first demonstrated his ability to perform in public when he appeared in School productions and he was a leading light when he went to Queen's University Belfast in 1966 to read psychology. He graduated with a BA (Hons) and later became a Doctor of the University. He drifted into journalism through student politics and whilst still a student, by reporting on the violence in Belfast for BBC Northern Ireland. He returned to London to present *The World Tonight* and *World at One* on Radio 4. He then moved to TV to present *Man Alive* on BBC Two and made several documentaries in a brief stint as a director and producer; one, 'The Biggest Epidemic of Our Times', was transferred to BBC One and was influential in changing public attitudes and policy on road safety. He was on the presenting team of *Sixty Minutes*, which was the intended as a replacement for *Nationwide* but failed to take off. He was also the founder presenter of *Breakfast Time* on BBC One with Frank Bough and Selina Scott as well as launching *Watchdog* as a prime time consumer series.

It was *Crimewatch*, which began in 1984 that made him a household name in the UK. His co-presenter, Jill Dando, was murdered in 1999 and he started a campaign to commemorate her. This culminated in the establishment of the Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science at University College London. He left *Crimewatch* with his then co-presenter, Fiona Bruce, in 2007. His 23 years as the main anchor to the programme marks him as one of the longest-serving presenters of a continuous series in TV history and his regular sign off, 'Don't have nightmares, do sleep well', will be long remembered. In the early days of *Crimewatch* he presented *A Week in Politics* on Channel 4 and then *Westminster with Nick Ross*. At one stage he was doing three mainstream live programmes in a day. He was used to a wide variety of formats including chat shows, travel programmes and debates, but he was most at home in live studios.

He spent a year creating a major BBC One series *The Truth about Crime*. This was aired in mid-2009 and explained the fall in crime rates and how offending can be reduced further. It was highly acclaimed as were TV shows such as *Secrets of the Crime Museum* and programmes for Radio 4 including a re-examination of the



OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS BY OLD WALCOUNTIANS by Brian Nicholls

Chernobyl disaster and that of the Air France Flight 447 air crash that provoked controversy on both sides of the Atlantic.

He was once caught unawares when waylaid by the familiar figure of Michael Aspel. The programme, *This is Your life*, did not register at first, since he was confident that his wife would not have agreed to him appearing. After initial refusal to take part he gave in to what he described as 'the nearest anyone can get to reading their obituary, the sort that's compiled just after death when people say only nice things'. In the event he thoroughly enjoyed the experience and was moved and hugely nostalgic when none other than 'Jock' Ireland walked on to say a few words.

Away from the studios and cameras, he has a wide range of philanthropic involvements centred on medical ethics and the promotion of science and evidence-led health-care. He has also played a leading role in social action campaigns, notably crime prevention, road safety and fire safety.

The Jill Dando Institute which he inspired has grown to have a substantial role in University College London, where a Department of Security and Science Crime, a Forensic Science Unit and a secure data laboratory have been established. He is Chairman of the Board of the Institute, a Visiting professor and an Honorary Fellow of UCL and an Honorary Fellow of the Academy of Experimental Criminologists. His crime science concept has been widely adopted in the UK and abroad.

He sits on several government committees, is an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and is involved with a variety of public bodies. He has even served two terms as an Ambassador to the WWF. He is President of the Kensington Society and a patron of Prisoners Abroad as well as supporting a large range of other charities.

His wife Sarah Caplin, the secondary founder of Childline, was Deputy Secretary of the BBC and a senior executive with ITV.

PHILIP WILCOX was a senior prefect and played for the 1st XV before joining the Royal Navy in 1971. Following initial sea training at the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth, he was awarded the Queen's Telescope and the Queen's Gold Medal. His initial appointment was as a navigating officer on a frigate and this was followed by command of a fishery protection minesweeper. After qualifying as a principal warfare officer he served in the frigate *Ambuscade* in the Falklands War in 1982 and was actively involved in directing naval fire support to land forces. This included the 2 Para's attack along Wireless Ridge prior to the Argentinian surrender and his ship survived an Exocet missile attack. Specializing in air warfare he then became squadron operations officer to

Captain 3rd Destroyer Squadron in *Newcastle* and *York* and was group operations officer for the evacuation of Aden in 1984. He then joined the staff of Flag Officer Sea Training where, following his Falklands experiences, he invigorated above water warfare training. He was promoted to commander in 1989 and assumed command of the destroyer *Gloucester*. He fought in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm when the Lynx helicopter operating from his ship destroyed 7 enemy warships with Sea Skua missiles. During a later phase *Gloucester* shot down a Silkworm missile which had been fired from the Kuwait coast and was targeted against the battleship *USS Missouri*. During Desert Storm *Gloucester* also avoided two floating mines. He was subsequently awarded the DSC for gallantry and sustained leadership under fire.

He moved to Naval Operations staff at the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and went on promotion to the Directorate of Operational Requirements (Sea Systems) where he was responsible for future ships and their combat systems. In 1998 he assumed command of HMS *Liverpool* as Captain 3rd Destroyer Squadron. There he had command of 6 Type 42 destroyers. He re-joined the MOD as the Director of Naval Operations in 1999 and was responsible for strategic crisis direction in key UK and UN operations. In 2001 he assumed command of the training establishment HMS *Collingwood* and formed a new Maritime Welfare School and three years later he became Deputy Chief of Joint Operations at the UK's Permanent Joint Headquarters on promotion to Rear Admiral. As well as operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, he was the Crisis Director for the UK military response to the 2005 Tsunami disaster. He became Chief of Staff (Capability) to Commander-in-Chief Fleet in January 2007, assuming responsibility for generating the fleet across all defence lines of development, and, as Rear Admiral Surface Ships, he was also chief of the surface flotilla. In the same year he was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath.

Following retirement from the Navy in 2009 he became owner/director of CEMPA (leadership) and Chairman of Maritime Films; a churchwarden of Dore Abbey; and lay co-chair of Abbeydore Deanery. In 2012 he became a member of the Bishop's Council for the Diocese of Hereford and part of the Church of England Diocese Peer Review. He is President of the HMS *Hood* Association and in 2017 was made Chairman of the Governors of Hereford Cathedral School.