



End of Term Letter

Headmaster

Dear students, parents and friends,

I know it's nearly the summer holidays when Open Evening is out the way. Four students and I perform five speeches each, with my role being to describe our values to a hall full of keen young men staring wide eyed at all the flags, trophies and gold leaf. It's a fitting way to recentre myself on the fundamentals of what we are about as a school at the end of another busy year, to reflect on what it means to be committed, compassionate, courageous and creative.

I was struck by the astonishing commitment of our staff on the training day held after Open Evening. I ran an activity introducing next year's school development plan by reflecting on the huge strides our staff have made in their teaching techniques and pedagogy over the past ten years. We discussed how much assessment had progressed with students still regularly engaging in self and peer assessment in red pen to aid their metacognition, staff giving precise feedback in green pen, all of which is then responded to in purple in dedicated lessons to ensure feedback is useful and impactful. We discussed staff's use of success criteria and models to really demonstrate what success looks like to students before and after they attempt a task. We reflected on how we had built regular opportunities for retrieval practice into our lessons through mini knowledge quizzes, use of mini whiteboards, low stakes multiple choice tests and the use of software like Carousel, Seneca and Dr Frost. We also celebrated how high levels of challenge and academic press had been designed into the curriculum by providing Deep Thinking Challenges for students to take them off specification, as well as by launching highly academic courses like Politics, Philosophy and Economics in Y8-10, Civilisations in Y9 and the EPQ at Sixth Form. At the end of the session I was struck by the astonishing commitment of our staff to their own professional learning and their tireless pursuit of becoming ever better teachers. They are a model for us all.

Compassion was on display during our First Give competition for Y10. Councillors Barry Lewis and Muhammad Sadiq helped me, Mr Jones and Tom Phasey (our Head Boy) to judge which house made the strongest case for a £1000 donation to their chosen charity. We heard about the very personal connection of members of Bridges House to the work currently being done in Alzheimer's research, the high awareness of the importance of CPR training in Carew, the worrying trends in domestic violence from Mandeville, the deep concern of young people regarding knife crime in South London from Radcliffe, the inspiring work done in food banks by members of Ruskin and the lived experience of coping with scoliosis in Woodcote. Woodcote House won the day with an impassioned plea for greater funding into such an under-publicised condition that affects a great many young people. The panel were deeply impressed by how articulate, imaginative and sensitive all presenters were.

I was struck by the courage and bravery of school staff working in Greenshaw Learning Trust schools in Gloucester on my recent visit there to learn more about the work of the trust we recently joined. I had the privilege of seeing the work of teachers and leaders in Holmleigh Park High School, Gloucester Academy, Barnwood Park and Henley Bank High School. Three of these schools had been facing significant challenges before joining GLT with poor behaviour, low attendance and outcomes below national benchmarks. The school leaders that I met had faced these challenges head on, bringing in robust behaviour policies, training teachers to very high level pedagogical standards and working hard to bring both parents and students onside pastorally. The results were very impressive with superb behaviour, high attendance and fantastic student outcomes. It is clear that we can learn a lot from working alongside professionals in such different contexts to our own and that we too have much to give from our own highly successful educational model.



End of Term Letter

Headmaster

The creative talents of the School were on full display at our recent Classical Drama Ensemble. Students from Y9-Y12 performed a range of pieces from some of ancient Athens' most famous plays including the founding of Cloud Cuckoo Land in Aristophanes' Birds, a rap battle between the great tragedians Euripides and Aeschylus in The Frogs, women seizing control of the state from the men in Assemblywomen and Lystrata and the terrifying Furies, persecuting the tragic hero Orestes who has killed his own mother in vengeance for the murder of his father. Some parts were hilarious, others terrifying. It was a real grammar school triumph.

All in all our values are thriving and I'm extremely proud of what has been achieved by both students and staff this academic year.

As ever I would like to thank the PTFA for their incredible hard work and dedication. Once again, they have raised well over £100,000 for the school and have funded a huge range of projects including: camping equipment for our Scout troop, fiction books for our library, video analysis tools for WCCGS rugby, a new languages tie, PC replacements for Private Study, a new lighting desk and rig for the Main Hall, and of course our new cricket nets. Thank you PTFA!

We must also say goodbye to some much loved staff:

Ms Devereux joined us this year covering for Ms Richards whilst on maternity leave. Ms Devereux also worked at the school, including leading our drama department, between 2003 and 2007.

Mr Smith joined us as a cover supervisor in 2023. He has also supported our PE and Games department. He will be moving on to become a cover supervisor at Emanuel School.

Mr Ford joined the School in 2021 as an economics teacher and has played a key role in supporting both rugby and cricket. Mr Ford is also an Old Boy of the School being in Ruskin House. Mr Ford is going on to teach economics and business studies at Trinity School.

Ms Caliste joined us in 2020 as a reprographics officer and was then promoted to admissions and marketing officer. Ms Caliste is going on to be PA to the Head Teacher and Cover Manager at Norwood School

Mr Hennah joined the school in 2018 as a cover coach. He is going on to be groundsman at Eltham College.

Mr Antwi joined the school staff in 2017 as a site supervisor. He is going on to a well earned retirement.

Mrs Bryan joined us in 2016 as our librarian. She has also been one of our Emotional Literacy Support Assistants. Ms Bryan is also retiring.

Mrs Colombo joined us in 2016 as a teacher of modern foreign languages. She is changing career and will be supporting those going through childbirth as a doula.

Mrs Slade joined the school in 2015 as a biology technician. She too is off to enjoy a happy retirement.

I would like to thank all staff for their hard work and dedication this year and would like to wish everyone a happy and restful summer holiday.

Your faithfully,

Jamie Bean
Headmaster
Wallington County Grammar School



Department of English: Summer Read 2024

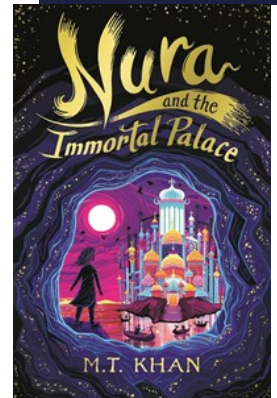
City of Stolen Magic by Nazneen Ahmed Pathak

India, 1855. The British rule, and all across the country, Indian magic is being stamped out. More terrifying still, people born with magic are being snatched from their homes. Rumour is that they are being taken across the sea - to England - by the all-powerful, sinister Company. When Chompa's home is attacked and her mother viciously kidnapped, Chompa - born with powerful and dangerous magic that she has always been forbidden from using - must travel to the smoky, bustling streets of East London in search of her. But Chompa will discover far more treachery in London than she had bargained for - and will learn that every act of her rare magic comes with a price...



Nura and the Immortal Palace by M. T. Khan

A magical adventure rooted in Muslim culture and tradition that follows a young girl's journey from modern-day Pakistan into the world of the jinn. Nura has worked all her life in the mica mines, earning just enough to keep her family afloat – and enjoy the odd delicious gulab jamun from the market. Some day she's going to find the Demon's Tongue, a legendary treasure buried deep in the mines, and her family will never have to worry about money again. But when a terrible accident buries her best friend below ground, Nura goes in search of him and passes over into the magical and terrible world of the jinn. Across a pink sea and under a purple sky, she finds her way to a palace, where great riches and a whole new life are on offer. But it's not long before Nura discovers this world to be as unfair as the real one, and that trickster jinns will always live up to their reputation...



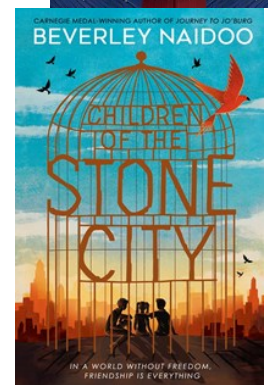
The Witchstone Ghosts by Emily Randall-Jones

Autumn Albert can see the dead – much to her annoyance. But when her dad dies in mysterious circumstances, he's the one ghost who doesn't appear. A curious instruction in his will sends Autumn to Imber, the storm-soaked island of his childhood: a place marked by tight-lipped locals, strange stacks of witchstones – and even fewer ghosts. Soon Autumn is ensnared in a dark and twisty mystery, which must be unravelled before the sea rises up and history is doomed to repeat itself...



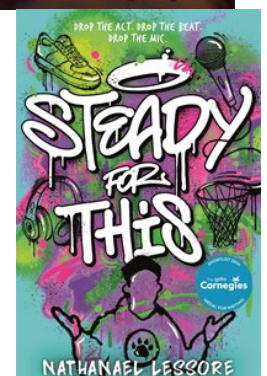
Children of the Stone City by Beverley Naidoo

Set in a world where Adam and Leila and their friend Zak live as Nons under the Permitted ruling class. Then, when Adam and Leila's father dies unexpectedly, their mother faces losing her permit to live in the Stone City with deportation to where she was born. Before music-loving Adam can implement his plan to save Mama, Zak is arrested for a bold prank that goes wrong, with far-reaching repercussions for them all...



Steady For This by Nathanael Lessore

Shaun (aka MC Growls) is ready to drop his best bars and smash the competition at Raptology. That way, he's convinced Tanisha, his crush, will finally give him a chance. But when a livestream practice goes epically wrong, Growls's dirty laundry is literally exposed. He's finally achieved his dreams of going viral - not in the good way. Now Tanisha won't look at him, he's the joke of the school and there's no way he can show his face at the competition. Will he ever catch a break? Then a new girl on the block appears who might be just the friend Growls needs. Especially when she points out that Raptology could be the answer to his problems after all...





Department of English: Summer Read 2024(Continue)

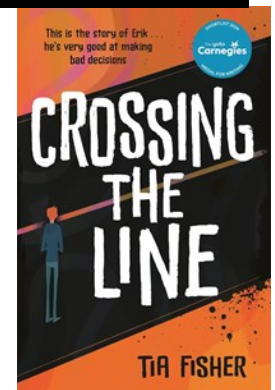
Rebel Skies by Ann Sei Lin

A beautifully written and pacy teen fantasy adventure, set in a world of flying ships, sky cities and powerful paper spirits. Inspired by Asian cultures and exploring themes of empire, slavery and freedom. Kurara has never known any other life than being a servant on board the Midori, but when her party trick of making paper come to life turns out to be a power treasured across the empire, she joins a skyship and its motley crew to become a Crafter. Taught by the gruff but wise Himura, Kurara learns to hunt shikigami – wild paper spirits who are sought after by the Princess. But are these creatures just powerful slaves, or are they beings with their own souls? And can a teenage girl be the one to help them find their voice – and change the course of an empire?



Crossing the Line by Tia Fisher

A powerful novel exploring how teenagers can be swept up into county lines. Erik's life has been falling apart ever since his dad died. Homework and being good at school stop feeling important when you're the new man of the house. When Erik's bad behaviour attracts the wrong crowd, he's sucked into a terrifying new world of drug dealing, trap houses and violence. Making money feels good but Erik soon learns that a small favour can become a huge debt. And when his sisters' lives are threatened, Erik will have to cross one more line to save them.



What the World Doesn't See by Mel Darbon

Maudie and Jake's family is falling to pieces - their mum's been struggling with her grief since they lost Dad and one night she vanishes. When Jake is put into care, Maudie can't take it any more. She comes up with a wild plan to pull their family back together - by kidnapping Jake. On the run in Cornwall, Jake and Maudie each find something they hadn't expected - freedom and love. But can they find Mum and a way to heal together? A powerful and insightful novel about grief, disability and first love; a story about getting lost and finding yourself.



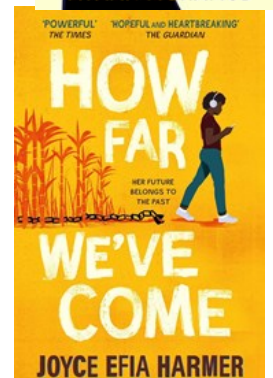
You Think You Know Me by Ayaan Mohamud

Hanan has always been good and quiet. She accepts her role as her school's perfect Muslim poster girl. She ignores the racist bullies. Then her friend is murdered and every Muslim is to blame. The world is angry at us again. How can she stay silent while her family is ripped apart? It's time for Hanan to stop being the quiet, good girl. It's time for her to stand up and shout.



How Far We've Come by Joyce Efia Harmer

Enslaved on a plantation in Barbados, Obah dreams of freedom. As talk of rebellion bubbles up around her in the Big House, she imagines escape. Meeting a strange boy who's not quite of this world, she decides to put her trust in him. But Jacob is from the twenty-first century. Desperate to give Obah a better life, he takes her back with him. At first it seems like dreams really do come true – until the cracks begin to show and Obah sees that freedom comes at an unimaginable cost...





Geography Department:

Year 7 Geography '30 Days Wild'

In June Y7 took part in the Wildlife Trust's annual 30 Day's Wild Challenge. Throughout the month Y7 have been learning more about the great outdoors and their local environment. They have challenged themselves to engage with nature in many ways, by going on nature walks, bird watching and building homes for insects to name a few. It has been great to see how much they have engaged with the world around them, especially in their gardens and local parks that they sometimes take for granted.

National Festival of Fieldwork

Every year schools celebrate the incredible learning opportunities that fieldwork provides for enhancing classroom teaching. This year Y7 have been investigating the biodiversity around the school site. Over a series of lessons they chose their questions and equipment and completed their investigation. They were really thoughtful in the questions they chose and how they went about their investigation. One of the most important stages of fieldwork is reflecting on the process and there were lots of critical evaluations of their fieldwork and ideas for next time.



Y9 have been experimenting with different fieldwork methods and equipment in Beddington Park. They focussed on how to work as a team to ensure they collected reliable data.





Music Department:

Summer Concert 2024

This year's Summer Concert was another great success for our music department. The audience was treated to a wide range of performances, ranging from Baroque songs to more recent heavy rock head-bangers. A standout turn from Chuk Eze and his rendition of "Billie Jean" brought the house down, and it was amazing to see such a vibrant show of talent within the school; here's to the many more concerts to come!

By Barney Downer, L6WO





Drama Department:

National Youth Theatre Places Awarded

Kyle Onyango is celebrating after receiving an offer for the coveted National Youth Theatre programme for 2024. Thomas Phasey was successful last year and is taking part in the RADA summer school programme this year. Tom is determined to pursue a career in theatre, and we are all totally behind him here at WCGS.



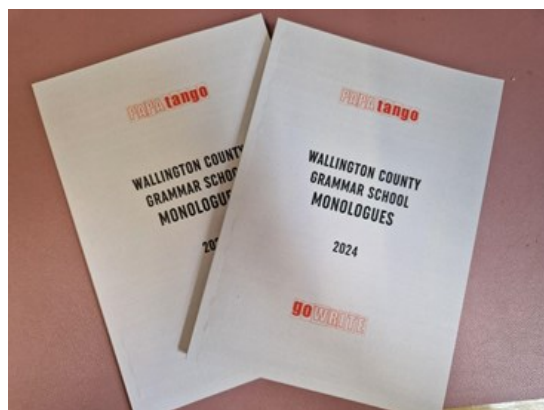
The National Youth Theatre is a prestigious theatre and arts organisation, whose alumni include many successful UK performers and technical theatre experts. As well as participation in a

summer course, winning a place means becoming a NYT member with access to auditions and professional castings, creative training opportunities and invitations to audition to the NYT Rep Company. The boys are eagerly awaiting the course as the summer approaches. Leader of Drama Mrs Shear said: "I am delighted for these conscientious and talented drama students. The competition to gain a place on the NYT course is intense so they have done extremely well. The programme itself provides fantastic experience and training, and membership of the NYT will bring many opportunities which I'm sure they'll fully make the most of."



PAPAtango - goWRITE

Year 9 Drama GCSE students had the wonderful opportunity to take part in a monologue writing workshop funded by The Arts Council. This will climax in the publication of their work in a book, alongside professional actors performing their work for them to view a screening of these performances. Sriram Yeleswarapu said "I feel delighted to become a published writer because I can take what I learnt from this and further enhance it in my next stage in life, if I ever want to publish a book in the future I can take what I did with PapaTango as a foundation. This can also help with my CV, universities across the UK recommend students to take part in any writing competitions or essays."





Drama Department: LAMDA Success!

Our resident LAMDA practitioner Victoria Speed has been blown away this academic year by the students' talents and determination. The March 24 session saw 95% Distinction.

With special mention to **Lakshin Wickramasekera** for Distinction 89

for Bronze medal Public Speaking

Tom Burke for Distinction 82 for Bronze medal Acting

Jack Mitchell Distinction 86 Grade 3 Acting

Si He Nan Distinction 86 Grade 3 Acting

Sheranko Fernando 88 Distinction Grade 2 acting

Taonashe Machaya 84 Distinction Grade 2 acting

Rian Shah 87 Distinction grade 3 Public Speaking

Ismael Mirza 86 Distinction grade 3 Public Speaking

Armaan Gupta 93 Distinction grade 3 Public Speaking

Ben Tanner 93 Distinction grade 3 Public Speaking



Open Evening

The Drama Department impressed the Year 6 visitors with the wonderful display of talent and facilities available here at WCGS in Drama. Students from Year 7 performed script extracts from Lord of the Flies and Year 8 created highly creative performances using brown paper puppets they managed to create themselves.

Visitors were able to see the costumes from this year's school musical production of Peter Pan playing on the big screen as well as meet our wonderful Drama prefect Barney Downer.



Work Experience - Footprint Scenery

Two of our wonderful A level drama students are thrilled to have been offered a highly advanced work experience placement with Footprint Scenery. The students will get phenomenal hands-on experience of creating scenery, their steel toe cap boots are at the ready! Careers in the creative arts are in abundance in the U.K and we are excited for them to come back with tales of creative aspirations they can share and promote.

<https://footprintscenery.co.uk/>





Drama Department:

Creative Spark - A future in design

The Technical and Visual Arts team had the opportunity to work with Dan Terry from Creative Sparks learning how to operate desks, rig and design theatre lighting. This was an excellent opportunity to learn about the possibility of a career in the theatre industry. The students found the experience “electrifying!” GCSE and A Level students then used this experience in their exams which was extremely beneficial. Dan Terry was very impressed with how quickly the students learnt how to complete complex programming.



Year 11 Crucible workshop

The Year 11 GCSE Drama students relished the opportunity to take part in a Crucible workshop inspired by the National Theatre Conference. This was a fun interactive revision session that covered aspects of the course and challenged the students to discover the social, political and historical context of Millers’ play.



Year 8 Puppetry

Year 8 students have been exploring the practitioners Gyre & Gimble. These puppeteers place puppetry at the heart of storytelling. Their work is inspired by the interplay of movement and design, daringly fusing traditional and innovative techniques. The Year 8 students created compelling characters that led audiences through fantastical, improbable and even impossible stories.





MFL Department:

Visit From College Rameau (Versailles)

On the 24th April, 40 students of year 9 and 10 (4eme et 3eme) from our partner school in Versailles visited WCGS for the day. Most of year 9 French were able to meet their pen pals and they were able to practise their French in “speed dating” activities.

At lunch time, year 11 prefects escorted students to the year 11 playground. This was an opportunity for all other year 9 students (and other years) to meet with the French students and have a chat.

After lunch, whilst teachers exchanged ideas and planned for all of Rameau’s students of French to write to our year 9 and 10 next year, the French group went on a quest on Wallington High Street and in Carshalton, where their mission was to find key “landmarks” and ask questions in English.

All year 9 students have now sent a letter to the Versailles school and will be eagerly awaiting a reply at the start of the new school year.

And, in October 2024, 33 year 10 students will go to Paris and visit Collège Rameau and discover what school is like in France.

I could not finish this article without thanking year 11 prefects for their work: they were the epitome of courtesy and efficiency. Thank you, Ms Paradis and teachers, for allowing them to help and make the day run smoothly.

By C Mortreuil





MFL Department:

Shikshak Vandan Diwas – “Teachers Appreciation Day”

I was surprised and honoured to be invited by some of my students to the Teachers’ appreciation day organised each year by HSS Croydon (Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh).

Ms Rao and I made our way to Coombe Woods School where we met with other teachers of both secondary and primary schools in the Croydon area. Ms Rao was wearing a beautiful outfit, and the colourful dress of our hosts was a sight to behold.

We were invited to witness and join in a typical weekly event, where families and children meet to socialise and take part in wellbeing, physical and spiritual activities.

A short forum followed where teachers were asked about their experience of teaching and what made it such a special and profound partnership with young people.

Thereafter, each student presented their teacher with a small gift as a token of thank you and said a few words of personal gratitude.

Despite the fact that National Day of Thank a teacher was on the 19th June, I think that most of us were not aware on the day. So, to be recognised and feted with fellow teachers was an occasion I will cherish.

Thank you HSS for caring about teachers and instilling such strong values of respect and selfless citizenship in our young students. I can definitely say that below, Tanish, Armaan and Soham all embody those values.

By C Mortreuil



**MFL Department:****Laila's Inspiring Visit to WCGS**

We were delighted to welcome back former student Laila March for a brief but impactful work experience from the 19th to the 21st of June. Laila attended WCGS from 2015 to 2017 and has recently been accepted into the University of Cambridge to train as a Modern Languages teacher. However, she had not yet had the opportunity to work in a British secondary school, a recommended experience before starting her course.

Laila fondly remembers her time at WCGS and credits the school with significantly supporting her academic success. She relished the chance to return and see the school from the perspective of a teacher rather than a student. During her visit, Laila assisted with our French and Spanish classes and shared her rich university experiences and travels abroad with our 6th formers. Laila's language skills, particularly in French and Arabic (subjects she studied at Oxford University), have opened exciting job opportunities for her in places such as Morocco and Guadeloupe. Her stories were not only inspiring but also highlighted the practical benefits of learning languages and exploring different cultures.

Laila's visit was a wonderful reminder of the lasting impact WCGS has on its students and the far-reaching opportunities that a strong education can provide. We wish Laila the best of luck in her future endeavours and look forward to hearing more about her achievements as she embarks on her journey to become a Modern Languages teacher.

– by Mrs A. Gabriele





MFL Department:

A Cultural Exchange with Sofia

From Monday, the 24th of June to Wednesday, the 3rd of July, we had the pleasure of hosting Sofia, a 14-year-old Spanish student from Barcelona. Sofia is the niece of Beatriz Infiesta, whom many will remember as one of our beloved former language assistants.

During her stay, Sofia attended lessons and actively assisted in our Spanish department. She conducted one-to-one conversation sessions with our Year 9, Year 10, and 6th form students, and helped the lower classes with various activities such as pronunciation practice and small group work. This proved to be a wonderful cultural exchange and a valuable learning opportunity for everyone involved. Our students were able to put their language skills into practice and see firsthand the benefits of knowing another language for communication purposes.

The Year 10 students, in particular, found this experience enriching, as they had the chance to ask Sofia questions and relate to her background, having recently been on a school trip to Barcelona. This connection made the cultural exchange even more meaningful.

Sofia's feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. She thoroughly enjoyed her time with us and hopes to repeat the experience in the future. We look forward to welcoming her back and continuing this fruitful exchange.
By Mrs A. Gabriele





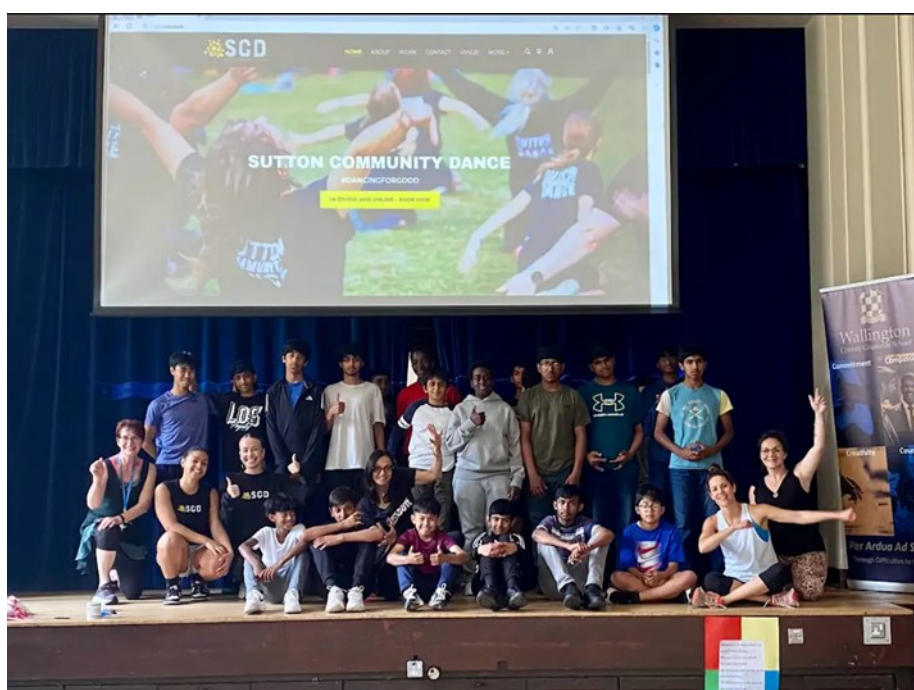
MFL Department:

Activity week (17th-19th July)- Street Dance and Paris Olympic Experience

During Activity week, the MFL department organised a series of activities designed to challenge students and help them step out of their comfort zones. The events included a 2-hour SCD street dancing workshop and a variety of games to get students into the Paris Olympic spirit. Activities ranged from *pétanque*, five-a-side football, sack race, egg and spoon races, hobby horse races and dressage competitions. Students also spent a day at the Velodrome in Herne Hill to practise their bicycle riding skills.

Despite some initial reluctance, the students overcame their hesitations and ended up having a fantastic time, as the pictures below can testify. Well done, boys!

By a proud MFL department (Mrs Mortreuil, Miss Colombo, Miss Paradis and Mrs Gabriele)





MFL Department:

Activity week (17th-19th July)- Street Dance and Paris Olympic Experience



“Pétanque” competition



Hobby horse race



Hobby horse dressage



Winners of the MFL Olympic Games – Team Djibouti

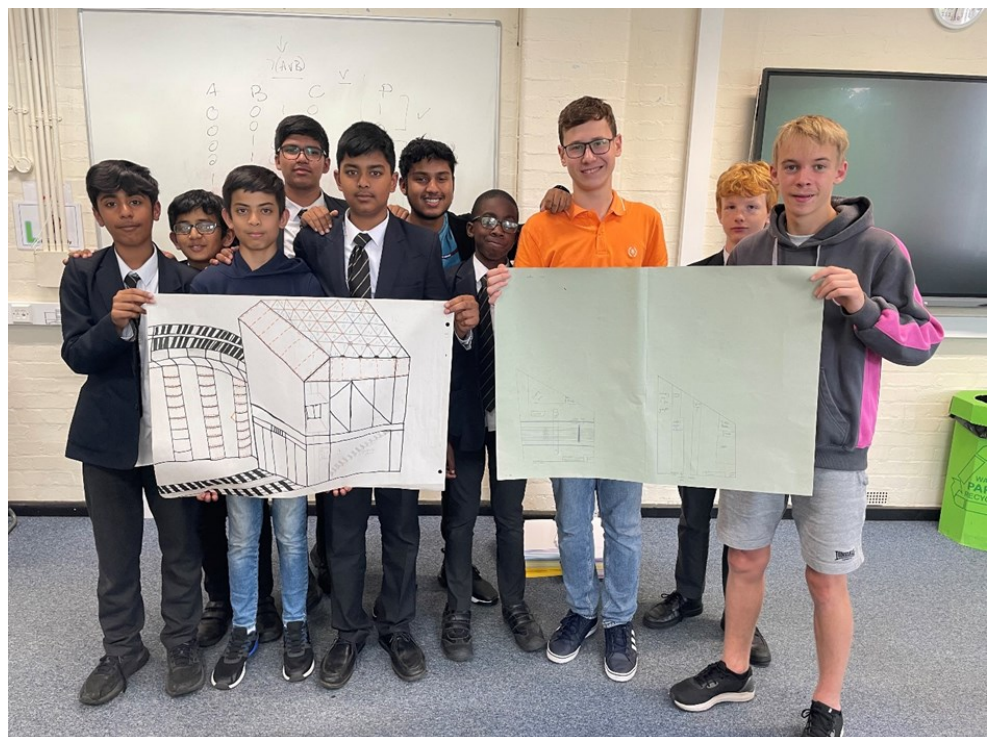


Club and Society

Design Engineer Construct! Club

This term students in the Design Engineer Construct! Club have been working on their entry for the Design a Rail Station Hub and Route Challenge. This challenge is undertaken by students around the world with the guidance of engineering companies. WCGS students initially worked in two teams to create their designs, they selected a location in the UK, researched sustainable building materials and designed an ergonomic and environmentally conscious rail station hub. In the final stages the two teams decided to collaborate and combine their design ideas. They have written up a very impressive report and drawn the plans using modern building methods including creating pods that can be built off site and joined together on site. It has been brilliant to see some of the boys involved emerge as leaders and to see them all develop their interests in different aspects of the designing process. Following a final presentation the finished design has been submitted into the worldwide competition and we await the outcome. Whatever the outcome the boys have shown commitment and creativity in rising to the challenge of taking part in such a unique project.

By Mrs Martin-Evans





Art Department:

Student Art Exhibition at Vellum Mill Gallery

For a week in July, Vellum Mill Gallery in Carshalton housed an amazing Exhibition of GCSE and A Level work by WCGS artists. Vellum Mill is a relatively new gallery space close to the school and we are very excited to begin working with the team there. Our Year 11 and 13 students are incredibly talented and we were thrilled to be able to share their work with the wider public.





Art Department:

Trip to The Wallace Collection

In July, artists from Years 9 and 10 visited the Wallace Collection, a national museum near Oxford Circus, to participate in a workshop called 'Sketch'. The workshop was run by a professional illustrator who gave the students great ideas about how to make effective observational drawings whilst in the gallery space. The Wallace Collection is a fascinating gallery full of exuberant paintings, precious artefacts and decorative design work. The collection was bequeathed to the nation by Lady Wallace at the end of the 19th century. WCGS students made some excellent drawings, especially their tonal studies of armour and responses to a painting by Diego Velazquez. We were very proud to be the teachers of such an engaged group of students.





Art Department:

Digital Art Club

Tuesday Digital Art Club were very fortunate to have the expertise of Miss White during the summer term. Miss White is a specialist in animation and taught the students how to produce stop motion animations using card and split pins. Students were able to showcase their work at a special screening complete with popcorn and snacks.



Friday Art Club

Students in Friday's art club have been extending their Photoshop skills by creating their own digital animations. They have had fun reinventing famous paintings into humorous moving pieces, such as Edvard Munch's famous Scream face jumping out of Andy Warhol's Heinz soup!

Visit from Sujata Setia

On Friday 7th June we were very fortunate to host photographer Sujata Setia who spoke to Year 9, 10 and 12 students about her photography practice. Sujata has won numerous awards for her work and has been published by The Times and her work has been featured on CNN and the BBC. Sujata spoke about her work with different communities and the importance of helping people find their voice through creative practice. Our students found the sessions fascinating and asked very thoughtful questions about Sujata's portfolio.





Classics Department

Archaeological Volunteering

Over the summer I am volunteering at the Cocks Farm Abinger archaeological dig with Surrey Archaeological Society. The dig is located about 50m away from a Roman villa and is investigating the surrounding farmland of the villa and how it has been almost continually used as arable land since the Neolithic period - over 5000 years ago! Now I don't want to make anyone jealous, but it's been tremendously exciting mapping out the ancient field boundaries and plough lines. And if this wasn't enough, I've attached a photo of a hobnail from a Roman shoe and a neolithic flint scraper (used for cleaning animal hides) found onsite. I look forward to the rest of the dig and will be sure to give credit to the WCGS Classics Department when we find the Ark of the Covenant.

By John Stokes



Oxford Classics Writing Competition

Nasser Al Marei in Y9 was highly commended in the Oxford Classics Writing Competition which over 20 of our students entered. His entry is attached here.

In the depths of a cave, lie rubble and treasures,
Ruins of a bygone era, desecrated by its worshipers.
Yet spared beneath the heaps of gravel and dust,
An artefact, left untouched.
An infant captured in metal.
Moss consumes the young child's skin,
Chips and cracks, wrapped around, spread thin.
Yet his sculpted eyes, preserved, like new,
Can now only be found, in just few,
Glistening into the starry pool cave.
But born in a cursed land,
Its people faced extinction.
Tides were enraging,
Volcanoes blazing.
All that was left was the smouldering debris,
Waiting for a new life to be born.
But still encapsulated in the memory,
Young Zeus crawling back to Rhea for safety



Classics Department

WCGS Classical Drama Ensemble

On the 10th of July, The Classics department demonstrated its dramatic skills with an ensemble of scenes from Greek Theatre. Students from year 8 to year 13 engaged with the interesting source material, adapting and modernising the older scripts to fit a modern audience. Many groups brilliantly brought Aristophanes' timeless comedies to life and some others vividly brought tragic scenes to the stage. From rap battles to feathery plumage, the funniest moments had the audience in stitches whilst the dramatic scenes had the audience on the edges of their seats. Special thanks have to go to Ms Boland for overseeing the entire incredible event and to each of the students who participated both on and off stage to bring it to life.

By Noah Findell





Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expeditions

Bronze

On the first two days of activities week, 73 students completed their Bronze Qualifying expedition in the Surrey Hills, walking between Milford and Godalming in the Surrey Hills Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty with our expedition partners Activ Adventures. They planned their routes through the countryside carrying all of their kit and camped overnight in Garner's Field campsite near Tilford. The boys must now complete all of their remaining sections to gain the Bronze Award. Well Done!





WALLINGTON COUNTY
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Silver

Our Silver cohort went that little bit further, walking Mr Connor's favourite route between Lewes and Arundel in the South Downs National Park. Walking for three days in ever-increasing heat, they were met with steeper inclines than before but did it all in fantastic spirits. Their assessors from Activ Adventures were so impressed with their navigation skills and their determination and had nothing but good things to say about working with our young men. They were inspired by one boy's appreciation for being in the outdoors, so far from the London suburbs, and seeing a different way of life - the true spirit of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Well Done all!

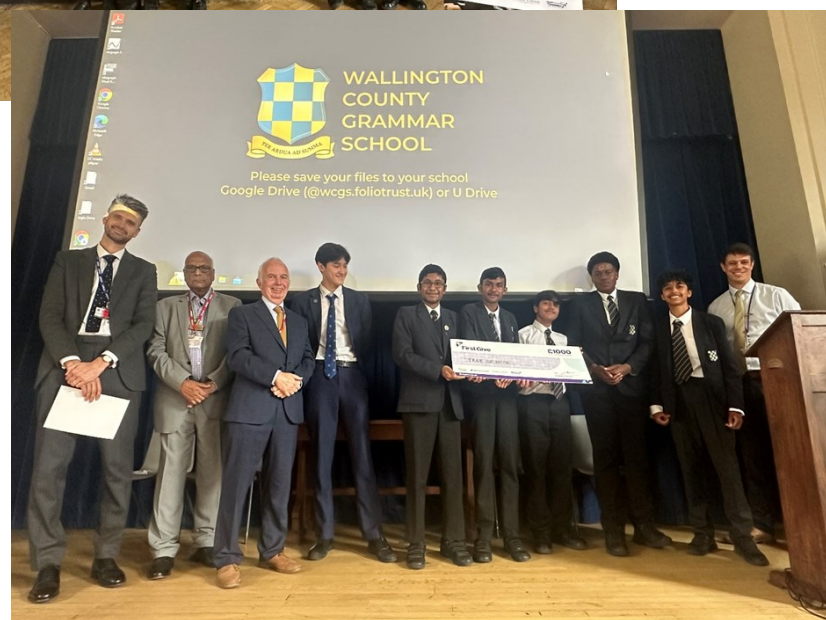




First Give

For the past few months, Year 10 students have been engaged in a programme called First Give. First Give is a charity that empowers young people to make impactful societal changes. The programme involved selecting social issues prevalent in our area and creating presentations, with the winning group receiving £1000 for their chosen charity. This year, a diverse range of social issues were addressed by the students, including Alzheimer's/Dementia, domestic abuse, knife crime, hunger, and others. Each form worked together to develop social actions to raise money and awareness for their chosen causes. Activities included bake sales, sports contests, and gaming events, which brought together students and teachers in support of these important issues. On Monday 8th July, all 6 groups presented their work to a panel of judges, including Councillor Barry Lewis, Head of the London Borough of Sutton. Ultimately, the form 10WO won the £1000 for their charity, "Tree of Hope" which is dedicated to raising awareness and supporting individuals with disabilities, such as Scoliosis. This highlighted the positive impact that young people can have on their communities and their ability to bring about change. The experience was enriching and empowering as it enabled us to develop our teamwork, leadership, and communication skills but also allowed us to build compassion for those who are not as fortunate, emphasising the necessity for awareness of certain issues that we were passionate about.

By Azain Syed 10RU





Year 7 Election in a Day

On Monday 15th July Year 7 were given their first taste of politics in the school during their 'Election in a Day' event. Following an introductory talk on democracy by Mr Dicker, the Head of Politics and Economics, students worked in small groups to create a political party that would help bring the (fictional) country of Britannia back to its former glory. Students had to come up with a set of policies that would help tackle the many problems in Britannia such as a decline in manufacturing, a rise in inner city crime, a cost of living crisis, a high degree of homelessness, climate change and high government debt. They then had to create party branding which would represent their ideas and attract the eyes of voters. In their Houses the students voted on who they wanted to take forward to the grand final.

We then finished with the best party from each House presenting their ideas to the expert judging panel of Mr Bean and Mr Waters to see who could win vital Cock House Cup points. There were a range of ideas from the sensible to the "creative" including higher taxes on the wealthy, re-nationalisation of the water industry and even bringing back Victorian workhouses! The judges were very impressed by the quality of all the presentations but following intense deliberations the Britannia Saviours (pictured) from Woodcote won the competition.

Students really enjoyed learning about a new subject and how they can make the world a better place. The good news is that they can continue this new found interest as all students will now study one hour of Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) in Years 8, 9 and 10. Economics can be studied at GCSE and A Level whilst Politics and Philosophy can both be studied at A Level for those who want to take the subjects further.



