



# Wallington

County Grammar School

## Parent workshops 2024-2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

At Wallington County Grammar School we believe that it is important to educate and assist our parents and carers in dealing with issues that may affect their son/daughter. Please find below a list of the free workshops that will be taking place this academic year. If there are any workshops you feel we should consider running, or issues you would like covered, then please do not hesitate to contact me. Similarly, if you are qualified to run a workshop and would like to provide us with a service please email [downen@wcgschool.co.uk](mailto:downen@wcgschool.co.uk)

Some of the workshops will be running virtually whilst others will be face to face at WCGS so please look carefully at each location information.

Yours sincerely,

Duessa Owen  
Deputy Headteacher

### Parent Information Evenings

**Year 7 Parents/ Carers and Students.**

**Thursday 19th September 2024**

**6:00-7:30**

**This event will be held at WCGS in the school hall.**

This is an extremely important evening in the school year for Parents and Carers to hear about key initiatives and events that will involve and affect your son in the coming year. These include information on our new core values, key developments on how we ensure appropriate levels of challenge for your son in lessons, feedback on the end of year parent voice survey and key changes in how we will report on student progress to parents/carers this year. **Students must attend this event in school uniform. This event is being led by Mr Bean, Headteacher and Mr Collins, Year Leader for Year 7.**

**Year 8 Parents/ Carers and Students.**

**This is a Virtual event.**

Mr Henderson will send to parents/carers in the next few weeks a series of recordings and information that parents/ carers/students need to know about life in Year 8.

**Year 9 Parents/ Carers and Students.**

**This is a Virtual event.**

Ms Rao will send to parents/carers in the next few weeks a series of recordings and information that parents/ carers/students need to know about life in Year 9.

**Year 10 Parents/ Carers and Students.**

**This is a Virtual event.**

Mr Garrod will send to parents/carers in the next few weeks a series of recordings and information that parents/ carers/students need to know about life in Year 10.

**Year 11 Parents/ Carers and Students.**

**This is a Virtual event.**

Mr Davies will send to parents/carers in the next few weeks a series of recordings and information that parents/ carers/students need to know about life in Year 11.

**Year 12 Parents/ Carers and Students.**

**Wednesday 18th September 2024**

**6:00-7:30**

**This event will be held at WCGS in the school hall. This is a compulsory event.**

This is an extremely important evening in the school year for Parents and Carers to hear about key initiatives and events that will involve and affect your son/daughter in the coming year. These include information on our new core values, key developments on how we ensure appropriate levels of challenge for your son in lessons, feedback on the end of year parent voice survey and key changes in how we will report on student progress to parents/carers this year.

**Students must attend this event in school uniform. This event is being led by Mr Bean, Headteacher and Ms Paradis, Year Leader for Year 12.**

**Year 13 Parents/ Carers and Students.**

**This is a Virtual event.**

Ms Ball, Year Leader for Year 13, will send to parents/carers in the next few weeks a series of recordings and information that parents/ carers/students need to know about life in Year 13.

## **Workshops**

**Workshop 1- please see the bottom of the page which contains 9 videos and a blurb on each video**

**Theme- E safety**

**Location - online links to watch when you wish**

Alan Mc Kenzie is an online safety specialist who wishes to educate all parents on how they can support their son/ daughter make the correct choices online. Online safety is a huge and important area. Whilst many of us did not grow up with technology, it is integral to the lives of our children. In school we have lots of lessons throughout the school year to teach the children about keeping safe online and it is important that you are aware of the risks and issues too. Below, you will find instructions to a series of short videos. These are free to you as a parent/carer of a child in our school and are brought to you by a nationally renowned specialist. The videos will take you through a series of issues, they are non-technical and provide you with support and guidance.

## **Workshop 2**

**Mr D Jones Assistant headteacher WCGS**

**Theme- revision**

**Location- please follow this link on the school website**

**<https://www.wcgs-sutton.co.uk/page/?title=Revision&pid=51>**

## **Workshop 3**

**Thursday 17th October 2024**

**6:30-7:30**

**Theme-UCAS information evening**

**Location- This event will be held at WCGS in the school hall. This is a compulsory event.**

This event is for Year 12 students and parents/carers to attend. Mrs Jennings and Ms Paradis will be educating parents/carers on the UCAS process.

## **Workshop 4**

**Thursday 14th November 2024**

**6:00-7:00**

**Theme-American University information evening**

**Location- This event will be held at WCGS in the school hall.**

This event is for students and parents/carers to attend, if a student wishes to hear more about studying at an American university. This is for Year 10, 11 and Year 12 students and their parents/carers.

#### **Workshop 5**

**Friday 8th November 2024**

**3:30-4:30**

**Theme-Parents of those students with a diagnosed SEN meet and greet.**

**Location- This event will be held at WCGS in the food tech room- please meet in reception.**

**This event is for parents of students who are SEN- it is an informal gathering to meet parents and the SEN team.**

#### **Workshop 6**

**Monday 10th February 2025**

**6:00-7:00**

**Theme- E safety ( please read this link to read more about the breck foundation-  
<https://www.breckfoundation.org/speaker-sessions>)**

**Location- This is a live Virtual event- a link will be sent to parents /carers near the time.**

#### **Workshop 7**

**Monday 7th July 2024**

**6:30-8:00**

**Hayley Cameron**

**Theme- transition from Primary to Secondary school**

**Location-This is a live Virtual event- the link is below**

Hayley Cameron, Education Safeguarding Manager at COGNUS will be supporting parents with helpful hints and tips on how to support their son as they transition from Primary to Secondary School.

Meeting ID: 385 633 407 321

Passcode: 3H9is6

## **Workshop 1 videos from Alan Mackenzie**

### **Introduction**

Welcome to the first video of this online safety series.

**Video length: 6 minutes.**

Whatever the age of your child they will receive good online safety education in school, from early years through to college. But as parents and carers we need to know about and keep up with the risks and issues our children may face online. Importantly, we also need to know where to go for extra support.

My name is Alan Mackenzie. I specialise in the ever-changing and evolving area of online safety, mainly working in schools all over England and in this first video I will quickly introduce myself and define what online safety means. Many people think that online safety means keeping children safe online, but it's more than that.

One of the most important messages I would like to get across is that you can't know everything, neither can you watch your child 24/7. But as parents and carers we have natural curiosity; we know when something doesn't feel right or something has changed and that's when we investigate, mainly by talking to the child.

Over a period of time, you will receive another 8 emails from school, all with a link to a new video and some accompanying text. In some of the emails I will also include useful links, all of which will take you to free information and resources.

Although much of the information is okay for children, there is some information within the videos that may not be appropriate, so please take precautions when watching any of the videos (e.g. wear headphones).

Just click on the link or copy/paste the link into your browser.

<https://vimeo.com/1005105339/ff76a930fd?share=copy>

## Online Risk

Video length: 15 minutes.

Welcome to video second of this online safety series.

I mentioned in the previous email that you can't know everything. It's impossible to know all the risks and issues that our children might face online, much as it is impossible to know all the risks and issues they may face in the real world.

In this second video I discuss what is commonly called the 4C's which refers to: Content, Contact, Conduct and Commerce. The 4C's is the easiest way of understanding risk regardless of whether you think you are tech savvy or not.

Click on the link or copy/paste the link into your browser. You will also find some links below the video link that you may find useful.

<https://vimeo.com/1005105406/831c24cbd1?share=copy>

### Useful Links:

There are a huge range of risks and concerns online. Below you will find links to some common concerns.

One of the main concerns from parents is related to adult content. Here is a link that will help you to learn a little more, tips to protect your child and how you can deal with it.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/online-pornography/>

Another concern is related to youth produced sexual images (sometimes called sexting). Here you will find some very useful information. In particular I would recommend reading the document 'Look at Me'. It is quite long but it gives many useful facts, particularly in relation to vulnerable children.

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/sexting/>

## Online Gaming

Video length: 12 minutes.

Welcome to the third video of this online safety series.

In this video I discuss the topic of online gaming and emphasise that whilst to some, gaming just means playing games, but to children it is quite different and there are 2 main reasons for this:

- A large number of children of all ages play games to socialise - their friendship groups.
- A small number of children play games to escape something that is, or has, gone wrong in their lives. In other words, they use games as a coping mechanism.

Click on the link or copy/paste the link into your browser. You will also find some links below the video link that you may find useful.

<https://vimeo.com/1005105680/d220a5cef8?share=copy>

### Useful Links:

Gaming – the benefits:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-gaming-advice/online-gaming-the-benefits/>

Gaming Hub - Lots of useful information here: gaming age guides, what you need to know, choosing the best games, setting limits and more:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/online-gaming-advice/>

Common Sense Media - If your child is asking you about a game and you're not sure, it's worth having a look on the Common Sense Media website where you can find advice and opinion about thousands of games.

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org/game-reviews>

Taming Gaming - this is a brilliant resource for parents, with lots of useful information. The site is owned by a father who is a big gaming enthusiast.

<https://www.taminggaming.com/features/Curated+Lists+of+Amazing+Video+Games+that+Parents+Love>

Ask About Games

A great site to get lots of useful information and tips.

<https://askaboutgames.com>

## YouTube

Video length: 10 minutes.

Welcome to the 4th video in this series.

In this video we look at one of the most popular activities where I discuss what types of content is most popular with children and some of the risks and issues.

YouTube was originally designed for persons 13 years and over. If you're not aware there is another version of YouTube which is specifically for younger children, called YouTube Kids. I like YouTube Kids, there are some great parental controls that can be used. However, the content on YouTube Kids is for very young children, so it's not a surprise to see younger children using the main YouTube service.

Click on the link or copy/paste the link into your browser. You will also find some links below the video link that you may find useful.

<https://vimeo.com/1005105808/9b9f26861b?share=copy>

### Useful Links:

In the video I mention some features in YouTube which can help you as a parent. These are Supervised Experience (in the main YouTube app) and Parent Allowlisting (in the YouTube Kids app). This link has 5 short videos explaining what these are and how to set them up:

<https://www.esafety-adviser.com/youtube-parental-restrictions/>

Information on the Google Family Link app, which also includes how to set up a Google (plus YouTube) account for children under 13:

<https://families.google/familylink/faq/#:~:text=Parents%20can%20also%20create%20a,device%20with%20their%20new%20account.>



## Social Media

Video length: 13 minutes.

In this video we're taking a look at social media. I'm only covering the basics as social media is huge, it is the one area where we find all the most serious issues (content, contact, conduct and commerce) but I have also included some links below the video link that I hope you will find useful.

<https://vimeo.com/1005105923/f1fb97f91c?share=copy>

### Useful Links:

Common Sense Media – this is a one-stop shop to find further, useful information for parents. Whether it's an app, a game or a book it's a good chance it's here. Just use the search bar at the top of the page.

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org>

TikTok Safety and Wellbeing features:

<https://newsroom.tiktok.com/en-gb/safety>

Instagram – a guide for parents.

<https://about.instagram.com/community/parents>

Live streaming – risks and advice:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-is-live-streaming/>

Social Media Risks and Rewards

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/social-media-advice-hub/>

Disrupted childhood – the cost of persuasive design:

<https://5rightsfoundation.com/uploads/Disrupted-Childhood-2023-v2.pdf>

How to spot dangerous online challenges:

<https://www.flipsnack.com/internetmattersorg/how-to-spot-dangerous-online-challenges-internet-matters/full-view.html>

Snapchat – latest safety features:

<https://values.snap.com/news/new-features-to-help-protect-our-community?lang=en-GB>

## Child Exploitation

Video length: 14 minutes.

Welcome to the sixth video in this series of online safety videos.

This is a difficult video to watch and listen to as the content centres around the growing statistics of children being exploited online, including sextortion (financially motivated extortion). It is a vital area of which every parent/carer should know about.

Importantly, please do be aware of your own state of mind before you watch, and be aware of your surroundings. This video is NOT suitable for children.

<https://vimeo.com/847268499/a01b53cdfc?share=copy>

### Useful Links:

Internet Watch Foundation - Talk Checklist

Clear, practical advice to keep your children safe.

<https://talk.iwf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Parent-Resource.pdf>

Internet Watch Foundation 2024 Report (for 2023 statistics)

**Note: this report contains language and explanations that some may find very upsetting.**

<https://www.iwf.org.uk/annual-report-2023/>

Internet Watch Foundation - Supporting children with SEND

<https://talk.iwf.org.uk/children-with-send/>

Internet Matters - Teens, Sexting and Risks

<https://www.internetmatters.org/about-us/sexting-report-look-at-me/>

Child Exploitation and Online Protection Service (National Crime Agency)

If you or your child is worried about online sexual abuse or the way someone has been communicating you can report here:

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

IWF/Childline Report - Remove

For use by young people who, for whatever reason, have taken and shared a nude image.

<https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abuse-safety/online-mobile-safety/report-remove/>

## **Screentime**

**Video length: 7 minutes.**

Welcome to the 7th video in this online safety series.

Screen time is a very subjective area, different people will have different opinions. In this 7-minute video I give you my opinion about screentime and some advice. Below the video link I have also added some links which you should find useful.

<https://vimeo.com/847287882/3659f7a74d?share=copy>

### **Useful Links:**

The debate about screentime - Professor Sonia Livingstone is one of the most knowledgeable people in the UK when it comes to screentime and other issues that affect children. In this article she shares some useful insights:

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/parenting4digitalfuture/2019/02/08/from-policing-screen-time/>

Screentime – getting the balance right for different ages of children:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/issues/screen-time/>

## Artificial Intelligence

Video length: 9 minutes.

Welcome to video number 8.

Artificial intelligence isn't new, but what is new is Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) and, whilst this can be used for enormous possibilities, there are many negatives too.

In this video we will take a brief look at artificial intelligence along with a few risk examples.

<https://vimeo.com/1005106449/2ffc2cd388?share=copy>

### Useful Links:

A parents guide to artificial intelligence:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/parent-guide-to-artificial-intelligence-ai-tools/>

Using artificial intelligence as a family:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/hub/parent-stories/one-parents-experience-using-artificial-intelligence-as-a-family/>

How might AI impact children's digital wellbeing?

<https://www.internetmatters.org/tech-and-kids-digital-futures/using-artificial-intelligence-safely/>

## Final Video, Useful Links and Resources

Video length: 5 minutes.

We're onto the final online safety video. This one is 5 minutes in length and is just a bit of a wrap-up. Throughout the previous emails I have shared tips and links to other useful information and below the video link I'll share a few more.

<https://vimeo.com/1005106540/586f9db661?share=copy>

### Useful Links:

Internet Matters is a fantastic resource built for parents and carers, there is a tremendous amount of online safety information that is useful, such as:

- All the most common risks and issues, along with accompanying advice according to the age of your children.
- Setting up parental controls on all the devices your children use.
- Gaming advice hub.
- Social media advice hub.
- Advice hub for children with special educational needs.
- Screentime.
- And much more.

Internet Matters

<https://www.internetmatters.org>

Common Sense Media – this is a one-stop shop to find further, useful information for parents. Whether it's an app, a game or a book it's a good chance it's here. Just use the search bar at the top of the page.

<https://www.commonsensemedia.org>

Are you worried about the way someone has been communicating with your child online? You can make a report to the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre:

<https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/>

Kids, Puberty and Tech – conversation starters for 8-12 year olds.

<https://parents.thorn.org/situation/>

Guides on a range of topics suitable for 7-17 year olds, from device access, consent, making friends and more.

<https://parents.thorn.org/discussion-guides/>