



# Wallington

County Grammar School

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PROSPECTUS 2024-25



# Wallington County Grammar School

“

WCGS  
MAKES ME FEEL **AT  
HOME** AND I HAVE  
MADE LOTS OF NEW  
**FRIENDS** SINCE  
JOINING.”

KISHAUN,  
CAREW HOUSE

# WELCOME

I am delighted that you are considering choosing Wallington County Grammar School, one of the best schools in the country. Our motto is Per Ardua Ad Summa, 'Through Difficulties to the Heights'. Coming to school here as a student or professional means that we reach those heights daily by being part of such a successful educational organisation. What makes us great is that we meet life's difficulties together, as a community and a family, using our core values of compassion, courage, commitment and creativity to achieve excellence.

We believe that we should always show compassion to others, making decisions without self-interest and supporting all those in our community to be happy and successful. We must have courage, never being afraid of failure, but embracing it to learn from our mistakes and better ourselves. We are committed, not just to reaching academic success, but to enriching ourselves as scholars, athletes, artists, musicians, actors, debaters and anything else we set our minds to. Finally, we are creative, always being willing to consider different solutions and think deeply about the challenges we face as individuals and as a society. Above all, we celebrate our incredible students through a culture of praise and recognition to make sure they leave us with the conviction that they can achieve anything they put their minds to.

Being a boys' selective school, founded in 1927, that welcomes girls into the Sixth Form, we work within Greenshaw Learning Trust to blend the best of tradition with innovation to engage and inspire our students to be the very best they can be. Because of this, our students achieve examination results within the top thirty state schools nationally and go on to gain places at the world's top universities. Ofsted recognised the achievements of our wonderful students and staff, grading the school as 'outstanding' in all categories in 2022. I am incredibly proud to have devoted my entire teaching career to this school and look forward to many more moments of pride and delight in seeing the heights that our students reach each and every day.

**Jamie Bean** • Headmaster



# OUR CURRICULUM

Wallington County Grammar School provides a broad and deep academic curriculum that aims to equip all students with the necessary knowledge and values to lead happy and successful lives and to participate in and lead our country's democracy.

The first aim of our curriculum is to develop the core values mentioned in my welcome to the school – commitment, compassion, courage and creativity. They are at the centre of all we do and are recognised and rewarded through our praise policy and regular reports to parents. They are also developed through our rich pastoral curriculum and weekly assemblies.

Secondly, we intend to provide a broad, academic and liberal curriculum that equips students with the body of human knowledge and different ways of thinking necessary to succeed in and enjoy their education, careers and wider lives. This is why we employ only highly qualified, specialist teachers to deliver our ambitious curriculum.

Thirdly, we do not want our students to simply study the national curriculum and examination specifications with grades being our sole focus. We aim for our students to become true scholars of the disciplines that they are learning so that they

achieve a deep and sophisticated level of knowledge and understanding. This is why we provide students with a three-year Key Stage 4 programme so that they can go beyond the already challenging GCSE specifications to truly explore the subjects that they love through enrichment topics and tasks. It is also why we include Deep Thinking Challenges in every lesson to push students out of their comfort zone and engage them in the value of scholarship.

Finally, we aim for all our students to have the necessary knowledge and confidence, not just to participate in the democracy of the United Kingdom, but to lead it. This is why we place politics in our core academic curriculum through timetabled Politics, Philosophy and Economics lessons, dedicated dropdown days and clubs and societies.



# SUBJECTS

## Key Stage 3:

- Art
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Classics
- Computer Science
- Design and Technology
- Drama
- English
- Food Technology
- French or Spanish
- Geography
- History
- Latin
- Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physical Education/Games
- Physics
- Religious Studies
- Wellbeing



THE SCHOOL **PUSHES** US TO **STUDY MORE** AND MORE AND, THEREFORE, ALLOWS US TO GO **BEYOND THE NATIONAL CURRICULUM.**"

ETHAN, CAREW HOUSE



# THE CO-CURRICULUM

The co-curriculum of Wallington County Grammar School takes students beyond the classroom and national curriculum to provide rich and diverse experiences that help develop well-rounded scholars and citizens.

The House System is at the very heart of school life. All students are assigned to one of six houses named after local people and areas of distinction: Bridges, Carew, Mandeville, Radcliffe, Ruskin and Woodcote. Students are allocated to form groups based on these Houses and participate in a multitude of house competitions throughout the year that contribute to the overall winner of the Cock House Cup. These include rugby, cricket, athletics, football, basketball, drama, music, art, literature, debating, chess, maths challenges and the Commendations Cup. The defining house event for Year 7 is the Manor Trophy, during which students run an assault course through Beddington Park whilst being cheered on by the whole school community. It is a glorious event that is enjoyed by runners and spectators alike.

Sport and the arts are also central to our school ethos. All Year 7 students will learn rugby and cricket, with a huge range of other sports being taught and developed through our PE and games curriculum, as well as during clubs. These include table tennis, football, badminton, basketball, gymnastics, athletics, etc. Our elite rugby and cricket provision allow us to compete with the top schools nationally and we run regular tours abroad to Canada, South Africa and Sri Lanka. Regarding the arts, we run a whole school production each year, as well as numerous other performances and recitals by our many actors, musicians and orchestras. We have a full team of peripatetic music teachers who deliver instruction in a wide range of instruments and we also provide small group tuition from the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art.

Clubs and societies time is built into the school timetable so that all students have regular opportunities to pursue and expand their interests. Our current offering includes: the Duke of Edinburgh Award, politics, debating, Scouts, chess, journalism, world cinema, LGBT+, football forum, medicine, anime, Warhammer, as well as those linked to different subject disciplines, career pathways and cultures. Our flagship society is the Hutchins Society, during which students present academic papers to the rest of the School on areas of interest and study.

Students are encouraged to take an active role in leading the school, be it as a Form Captain, member of the School Council, prefect or even as Head Boy or Head Girl. Notable achievements of our student leaders include raising thousands of pounds for charity through our annual Raising and Giving (RAG) Week and Movember campaigns, contributing to our assessment and homework policies, organising table tennis tables to be placed in playgrounds, as well as developing our provision in the WCGS café.

Finally, the school also runs a huge number of trips, both domestic and abroad. A large number of Year 7 take part in the Great North Trip during their first summer term and activities weeks are run each year to provide further opportunities for exploration beyond our gates. We run ski trips, water sports holidays and tours of the classical sites of Greece and Rome. In a normal year, we will run over 80 educational visits.

# PASTORAL CARE

Every student and staff member becomes part of our WCGS family when they join the school and remain so for the rest of their lives.

We are renowned for the quality of the pastoral care that we provide and this starts before students even join the school with a full induction programme including our PTFA barbeque, four induction days, our sports induction and 'Meet the Head' meetings for all parents. On entry into the School, all students are assigned to a House form group with a dedicated tutor who will support them through any difficulties that they face. Form tutors are led by year leaders, who are in turn led by key stage leaders, which means there is always someone there to support a child when needed. We also have a dedicated school counsellor on hand if more specialist support is required.

The school has a zero tolerance approach to bullying and discrimination in any form and we seize every opportunity we can to celebrate the diversity of our students through the wellbeing curriculum, assemblies, diversity working parties and various societies. This is at its best during our annual Fashion and Talent Show during which the Lower Sixth host a wonderful celebration of the many talents and diverse cultures of our school community.

Our Special Education Needs Department is run by our SENCo and Deputy Head Teacher Mrs Owen. We currently employ two teaching assistants who work with children with a broad range of needs, most notably those with high functioning

autism. The school works closely with the Sutton Autistic Service, CAMHS and a wide range of other agencies to ensure specialist support for all our students that need it.

The school runs a dedicated Wellbeing curriculum that addresses such issues as building healthy relationships, substance abuse, e-safety, anti radicalisation, dealing with discrimination, and mental health. This is supported by weekly form time sessions and assemblies during which the most pressing pastoral issues are discussed and debated openly and freely. We also provide a huge amount of support for parents through regular parent workshops on pastoral issues and those related to the progress of their children. We host annual parents' evenings and provide at least two reports a year commenting on students' progress, attendance, commitment, conduct, organisation and ways that parents can support their children further.



WCGS REALLY  
**SHINES** WHEN IT COMES  
TO THE **HOUSE SYSTEM**  
AND HOUSE EVENTS –  
THERE'S JUST SO MANY  
EVENTS AND THE HOUSE  
**SPIRIT IS AMAZING!!**

VINI,  
U6TH RADCLIFFE

# TEACHING AND LEARNING

To see a WCGS lesson is to see students with a genuine thirst for knowledge and a keen sense of scholarship stretched to the boundaries of their ability. It is to see expert teachers deliver inspiring subject knowledge and encourage discussion, research and debate, to develop confident, independent thinkers.

The school takes an evidence-based approach to teaching and learning and our pedagogy is based primarily on the expert design and delivery of a stimulating and intellectual curriculum. Teachers go above and beyond to engage and inspire their students, using their rich subject knowledge and a deep understanding of how students learn to create a real sense of scholarship in their classrooms. As mentioned previously, Deep Thinking Challenges are built into all lessons to provide stretch and challenge for those students who are ready. Opportunities for 'retrieval practice' are also regularly included in lessons to support the long-term acquisition of knowledge rather than students learning key concepts and only revisiting them during their revision. We also take a rigorous approach to checking student's understanding through regular assessment.

Lessons in the school take a variety of formats with teachers never shying away from imparting their

deep knowledge of the subject or asking students to work in silence when practising key concepts. On the other hand, they are also extremely creative with pair and group work opportunities being provided in most lessons to promote a sense of collaborative learning and practical, hands-on activities being used to stimulate interest and deepen learning.

Homework is set in all year groups and is used both to prepare students for future learning and to consolidate knowledge from previous lessons. The school's online provision is well developed and is delivered through Google Classroom with collaborative documents and self-assessing quizzes often used in classwork and homework. It is expected that all students have access to a laptop or computer at home and the school will support those families who need financial help to make this a reality for all students.

“

I ENJOY MY LESSONS AND HAVE LOTS OF OPPORTUNITIES TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TOPIC WE ARE COVERING.”

AARUSH,  
BRIDGES HOUSE



# OUTCOMES

The staff of WCGS aim for every one of our students to achieve academic success but also to send them off to the next phase of their education as happy, confident young men and women instilled with our values and ready to lead in shaping the country's future.

Our students excel academically and this is reflected in their outcomes. Overall, our examination results place us within the top thirty state schools in the country.





















At A Level, 24% of grades in 2024 were at A\* and 62% were at A\*-A. The school won a diamond award from Alps for being in the top 1% of schools in the country for progress made from GCSE to A Level.

At GCSE in 2024, 27% of grades were at grade 9 and 74% were at 7 or above. The school's Progress 8 score, the government's headline measure for secondary schools measuring progress from Key Stage 2 to GCSE, was well above average with students making 0.95 of a grade more progress than in the average school.

Following their examinations, our students go to the best universities in the country. On average, we have sent ten students a year to Oxford or Cambridge over the last three years with 97% gaining university places, 63% being in the Russell Group. The most popular courses chosen include: Aerospace Engineering, Ancient History; Architecture, Biomedical Sciences, Chemistry, Computer Science, Dentistry, Economics, Geography, History, Law, Mathematics, Mechanical Engineering, Medicine, Natural Sciences, Pharmacy, Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) and Physics.

“ I FEEL I CAN REALLY FLOURISH AT WCGS AND ACHIEVE WHAT EVER I WANT TO BE.”  
ADVAY, BRIDGES HOUSE

“ STAFF ARE VERY SUPPORTIVE AND IF I EVER HAVE A QUESTION, THEY ARE WILLING TO SUPPORT ME.”  
NOAH, BRIDGES HOUSE

 1,117 students, Sixth Form: 325 boys and 41 girls	 6 houses 40 House competitions	 Graded 'outstanding' in all five areas by Ofsted	 2024 GCSE grades 7-9: 74%
 A Level attainment: Top 1% in the country	 2024 A Level grades A*-B: 87%	 55,005 commendations awarded last year	 11 students going to Oxbridge or Ivy League universities
 119 students at Top 20/Russell Group Universities	 1 current international sports person	 64% of rugby games won	 60% of cricket matches won
 83 Educational visits last year	 54 second languages spoken	 98% Lower Sixth attendance	 168 students supported by Pupil Premium
 £6,563 raised for five different charities	 59 different clubs and Societies	 35 Sixth Form clubs	 Greenshaw Learning Trust: Now 36 schools



We are a proud member of the Greenshaw Learning Trust, a 'family' of like-minded schools that collaborate to provide mutual support, share their good practice and learn from each other, whilst retaining and developing their own distinctive character.



# Wallington

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