



# Wallington High School *For Girls*

HEIRS OF THE PAST, MAKERS OF THE FUTURE

## THE WALLINGTON WEEK

### MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Dear all,

We are now four weeks into the new academic year and it is good to see that everyone has settled back into school life and getting involved in the broader aspects of school life.

Year 13 are now fully involved in the UCAS process with the first deadline for Oxbridge, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary and certain other courses fast approaching. Staff are busy writing references as well as supporting students with their personal statements and the first set of applications are starting to be submitted.

To support our prospective medics in their applications, we recently held an evening of Multiple Mini Interviews. This year everyone applying for Medicine or Dentistry had the opportunity to take part in a series of short fire interviews, role plays and tasks, reflecting the selection process they have to undergo for their degree place. Many of these stations were run by doctors and other medical professionals so thank you to everyone that came along to help including staff members.

This week Mr. Donnelly gave an assembly to years 9-13 on compassion. It started with a challenging thought-experiment by the philosopher Peter Singer about the many lives around the world which we fail to save, turned to a controversial critique of empathy from the psychologist Paul Bloom, then concluded with an observation about the complexity of moral decision making, human nature and the need to show compassion in the way we discuss and debate political and social issues. For years 7 and 8, Mr Donnelly gave an assembly on the essential role memory and knowledge play in the development of expertise, and what students can do to increase their chances of mastering academic subjects (e.g. reading and thinking).

Thank you to everyone who came to the Year 7 and also the Year 10 Parents Information Evenings. Both evenings provided an opportunity for parents to meet their child's form tutor, learn about important information with regards to their child's journey through Key Stage 3 or Key Stage 4 (GCSE) as well as how best parents can help support their child during this time. Copies of the PowerPoint can be found on the school website.

Finally, I have included a request in this week's Wally Week asking parents to be considerate if parking or dropping/picking up their daughters from school. This includes not blocking the entrances to the school as well as not parking illegally on the yellow lines on both sides of the road outside the school which is extremely dangerous for pedestrians and other road users. I have received numerous complaints from local residents, including reports that some parents are blocking drives and refusing to move when asked, and the time it takes responding to these is starting to prove a real distraction. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Have a great weekend.

MR R BOOTH  
HEADTEACHER



## PARKING AROUND SCHOOL

Please can I remind parents and carers that we enjoy a cordial relationship with our neighbours. Please be considerate if parking on the road especially when dropping off or collecting your daughter. We ask that you do not block entrances, exits, garages or park in a way that will cause them inconvenience. Please do not block the staff entrances to the school. Unless your daughter is ill and you have been called to collect her from school or you hold a permit from ourselves, there is absolutely no dropping off or parking on school premises. Please remind your daughters to be vigilant at all times when entering and leaving the school and to be mindful of her own safety—there is a great deal of traffic around the school at all times but especially at the beginning and end of the school day.

**MR R BOOTH  
HEADTEACHER**



## COMING UP - INSET DAY 5TH OCT

A reminder that we will be having an INSET day on Wednesday 5th October 2022. Students will not be coming into school on this day.

**MR J PARKINSON  
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER**

## REPORTING AN ABSENCE

If your child is ill, Parents/Carers should email the school by 9.30am every day they are absent stating the reason for absence. The e-mail address is: [attendance@wallingtongirls.org.uk](mailto:attendance@wallingtongirls.org.uk). If the absence is due to a positive Covid test result, then please include “Covid” in the subject of your email and include the date on which your child tested positive.

## SICKNESS RELATED ABSENCE

School policy states that: ‘if your child has been sick or is suffering from diarrhoea or both, they should remain at home until their symptoms have cleared. Your child should not return to school until at least 48 hours have passed since the last episode of vomiting/diarrhoea.’

## COVID RELATED ABSENCE

Students with mild symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat, or mild cough, who are otherwise well, can continue to attend school (if a student arrives at school with symptoms they should try to complete as much of the day as they possibly can before attending first aid). Students who are unwell and have a high temperature should stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people. They can return to school when they no longer have a high temperature and are well enough.

If a student has a positive COVID-19 test result they should try to stay at home and where possible avoid contact with other people for 3 days after the day they took the test. The risk of passing the infection on to others is much lower after 3 days if they feel well and do not have a high temperature.

**MISS M GOUGH  
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER  
DESIGNATED SAFEGUARDING LEAD**



## YEAR 7 HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY

All 210 students will take part and the top 8 in the year group will go on to represent Wallington Girls in the Sutton schools cross country and English schools competitions.

Students in Year 7 to attend school on Tuesday 4th October in their PE kit, ready for Period 5.

MRS S COLLINS  
DIRECTOR OF SPORT AND ART

## YEAR 12/13 OXO TOWER - MATERIAL MATTERS EXHIBITION

On Friday 23rd September, Year 12/13 Design and Technology students ventured into London to learn about the importance of materials and their ability to shape our lives.

“ *Visiting the Material Matters exhibition and learning about different sustainable materials was eye opening. I knew about the sustainability of everyday materials like wood, but at the exhibition I was introduced to a wider range of unique materials such as cork and bioresin.*

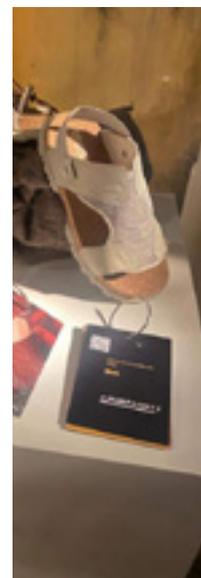
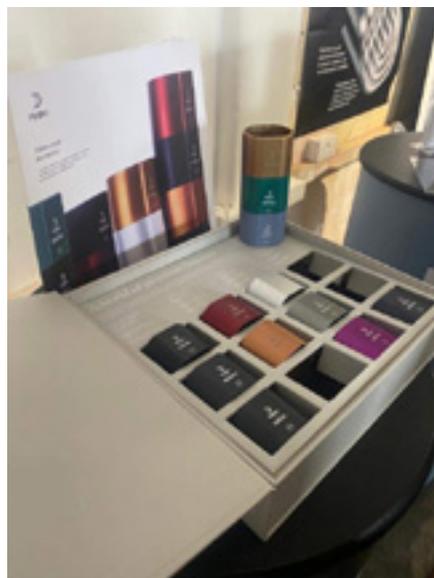
*A particular product that stood out to me was a chair made out of wool! You'd think that would be impractical, but the combining of Herdwick wool with bioresin Solidwool turns the way wool is used on its head to create a beautiful, strong and unique composite material - a sustainable alternative to injection moulded plastics. Another product that struck me was a sandal where the sole was made completely out of plant-based material and the straps out of up-cycled leather from car seats.*

*Next door to the exhibition was the Oxo tower, which featured the SUCK UK Alternative Gift shop. It displayed a variety of unusual and random but interesting products for sale, from the dead fred pen holder to finger puppets. Overall, the visit was incredibly insightful, and I left with more knowledge on creative ways of designing sustainable materials.*

- RIDHI, Y13

## 15K TOUGH MUDDER

Congratulations to Mr Carr, Ms Chatfield, Mr Ghundale, Ms Horton and Mr Parkinson who completed the 15k Tough Mudder course last weekend. Despite the mud, ice cold water, high climbing and electric shocks they were all still smiling!





## Y11 STUDY SKILLS DAY

On Thursday 22nd September, Year 11 took part in a carefully curated Study Skills day. Here's what one of our Year 11 students had to say:

“ *During study skills day we took part in a series of sessions where we were taught good study habits, how to effectively note-take and we were reminded of the importance that looking after our mental health will have during such busy and demanding year ahead.*

*Myself and many others often make the common mistake of revising one subject for hours, however, during our study skills day it was made evident that through spaced learning; a technique that involves studying varied topics for 20-minute intervals with a short break in-between, enhances your long-term memory. Another technique we learnt about focussed on a note-taking technique called Cornell notes. This method involves splitting your page into 3 and using your main note-taking area for concise notes, a smaller column for key words and questions and a short summary at the bottom. We also explored the difference between active and positive revision.*

*My favourite part of the day was the yoga and mindfulness session as it emphasised the importance of staying active during exam periods and having time to relax. It showed us that being active can be as easy as taking part in some de-stressing stretching activities.*

*Overall, I think this day was enjoyable and informative, advising us on the most useful and productive study techniques and highlighting the importance of prioritising wellbeing. It has really helped me feel more prepared for the upcoming exams! ”*

- ALEENA, Y11

## EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

On Monday 26th September, students celebrated European Day of Languages by completing a language quiz and tasting different European dishes such as churros and chocolate sauce, chicken Cordon Bleu, minestrone soup and vegetable parmigiana.

Next week we will announce the winners of KS3, KS4 and KS5.

MR C BERMUDEZ CARO  
JOINT HEAD OF SPANISH





## TRINITY COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE - LINGUISTICS ESSAY PRIZE

We would like to congratulate Hannah, Y13 who has been commended for an essay submitted for the Trinity College Cambridge Linguistics Essay Prize 2022.

This year the college received their highest number of entries to date with there being over 100 essays submitted. The college only send out three commendations, per year in addition to awarding the First and Second Prize.

Hannah's essay covered an innovative method of communication called "code-switching" and the impact this technique could have on an individual and their emotional and intellectual development.

If you would like to read Hannah's essay, please click [here](#).

Congratulations Hannah!



## YEAR 13 MULTIPLE MINI INTERVIEWS - FOR ASPIRING MEDICS

On Wednesday 21st September the school ran a Multiple Mini Interview evening, curated by the school's outstanding Careers Leader, Mrs Z Hole.

The evening consisted of a talk from St George's hospital, various interview stations staffed by medics/trainee medics. We also had student helpers who performed as patients to make interviews more realistic.

Quotes from the day:

*It was able to reinforce the idea that interviews are a chance to prove yourself and show your personality. Many feel that it is a difficult obstacle that is extremely pressuring but this helped to change my mindset about interviews.*

*I found the mock MMIs extremely useful as it was a good introduction, and made me realise what my strongest and weakest stations were.*

- Y13 STUDENTS



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