

4 November 2019- Issue 5



THE WALLINGTON WEEK

Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to everyone after half term.

Firstly congratulations to Dana, one of our Year 13 students, who recently won the Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award. This is an amazing achievement, particularly given that there were over 6,000 entries this year from across the UK and from 76 other countries. Her poem will be published in a printed winners' anthology available from March 2020 and a copy of her poem entitled 'my mother, with eight chemo sessions to go' can be found in this edition of the Wally Week.

Year 13 as a whole have been busy with their university applications over the last few weeks with many now having submitted their applications to UCAS. Last week fifty three students sat their Oxbridge entrants tests or their BMAT exam (for medicine) and this week we have around fifty Year 12 students sitting a 'mock' BMAT exam.

Finally we had the GCSE Music Recital last Tuesday. This involved Year 10 and 11 Music GCSE students. This evening gives the students a valuable opportunity to perform in front of an audience and as usual, the standard was very impressive. Well done to all the performers and thank you to everyone who came along to support them.

Have a great week

R V Booth
Headteacher

October 100 Club Winner

Congratulations go to Sharon King who is our winner in the October 100 club.

The Week Ahead

Monday 4 November

09.45-12.05 - Practice BMAT

Tuesday 5 November

Year 7 Netball v Nonsuch 7 A-D (A)

Wednesday 6 November

08.25-14.50—Enrichment Day (1)

Thursday 7 November

08.00-16.00—Farraday Challenge - 16 Year 9 students

11.15—Senior Maths Challenge

Friday 8 November

19.00-22.00—PFA Quiz Night

Sutton Night Watch – Shoeboxes

As you know we are now organising the Shoebox collection for Sutton Night Watch. There are a few differences between this charity and the old one:

* Firstly, these boxes will be sent to the homeless, so you can make shoeboxes for adults (male or female). However if you would still like to make it for children, you can!

* Secondly you do not have to include £5 as the boxes will not be transported overseas; they will be distributed in this country

* Finally you will not be receiving labels so you will have to write on a piece of paper if it is for a girl, a boy, a man or a woman and the age group.

Suggested items you can include:

Hat, gloves, scarf, boxes
socks (thermal if poss)
shampoo, comb
shower gel/body wash
toothbrush, toothpaste
Deodorant
Lip Balm
Razors
Tissues / wet wipes
Torch (pref wind up type)
Note pad, pens, pencils
Chocolate, sweets, cereal bars
Christmas Card

If you still want you can personalise your box by including a letter to the person who will receive it. The collection date has been postponed to 19 November so please bring it in for that date. Thank you very much if you have any further questions please email me: tpremraj14@wallingtongirls.org.uk

Dates for your Diary

Monday 11 November

Year 11 Mocks to 22 November

Monday 11 November

10.45-15.30—Science A level lecture, The Savoy - 20 students

Tuesday 12 November

Year 9 Netball v Croydon A-C (A)

GCSE Prizegiving

Wednesday 13 November

08.50-10.50—Year 8 PSHCE - Healthy Relationships

Thursday 14 & Friday 15 November

Year 12 & 13 Art/Photography Significant Testing

Thursday 14 November

Year 7 Netball v Harris Sutton 7A (H)

Year 8 Netball v Harris Sutton 8A (H)

Tuesday 19 November

08.00-16.00—Amazon, Women In IT - 7 Year 8 students

19.00—KS3 Recital

Wednesday 20 November

Year 9 Netball v Nonsuch A+B (A)

Thursday 21 November

08.25-14.50—PFA mufti day.

Friday 22—Monday 25 November

Wallington Weekend—no staff or students in school

Tuesday 26 November

08.25-14.50—Year 11 Mock GCSE Art (1)

Wednesday 27 November

08.25-14.50—Year 11 Mock GCSE Art (2)

08.50-10.50—Year 9 PSHCE - Consent

16.00-18.00—Careers Evening (1)

Thursday 28 November

08.25-14.50—Year 11 Food Practical Mock NEA2 Exam Group 1

08.25-14.50—Year 11 Mock GCSE Photography (1)

17.00-18.30—University Taster Event - Open to Y11 & Y12 students & their parents & Nonsuch High School for Girls

18.00-19.00—New York 2020 Parents' Information Evening

Friday 29 November

08.25-14.50—Year 11 Food Practical Mock NEA2 Exam Group 2

08.25-14.50—Year 11 Mock GCSE Photography (2)

09.00—BMO Round 1

09.00—Senior Kangaroo

Saturday 30 November

PFA Christmas Fayre



Unpacking the 8 Principles of Expert Learners with Mr. Donnelly

Knowledge is power

Living in the internet age, where information is just one click away, it is quite common to hear people dismissing the importance of knowledge and claiming that a modern education system fit for the 21st century should simply focus on developing students' transferable skills (e.g. in problem solving, analysis, creativity, etc.). However, there is a growing body of evidence which strongly suggests that such an approach is deeply mistaken. Not just because there seems to be good reason to doubt the very existence of transferable skills, but also because skills cannot be separated from knowledge, and therefore to focus exclusively on developing the former at the expense of the latter is quite literally impossible. Skills are context specific and bound up with knowledge. For example, if you want to write a decent history essay about the causes of the French Revolution you are going to need to know a lot of factual information about 18th Century France and the academic conventions of essay writing in History.

This is why knowledge is power; without lots of factual information about a topic we cannot think well about it. When comparing themselves to experts, students can often fail to grasp this truth. Thinking that expertise is a special gift that a lucky few have possessed since birth. No, expertise is the fruit of knowledge. Be optimistic and have hope. If you want to be a great geographer, a majestic mathematician, a super scientist, etc. the path to success is open to all, and its name is knowledge. Be warned, not all knowledge is equal, and some is more important than others. Your teachers will be able to point you towards the good stuff, but take heart, your mind is not fixed and like a muscle can always grow if fed a rich diet of powerful knowledge.

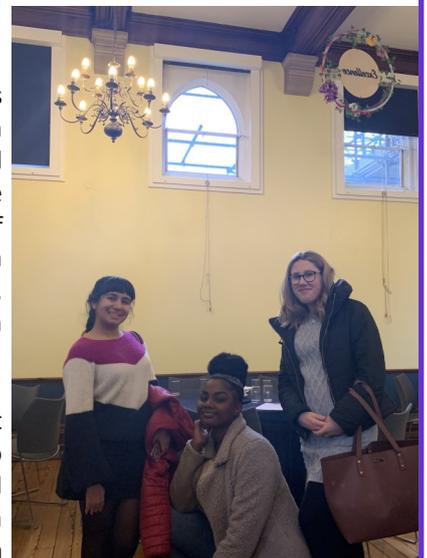
Modern Foreign Languages visit to Girton College, Cambridge University

On Wednesday 23 October, Kabirah, Grace and I went to a Modern Foreign Languages taster day at Girton College in Cambridge University. The day started off with a presentation about why studying a language, in particular at Cambridge, is beneficial and a really important degree. We learned about what is involved in a degree, for example the year abroad, studying the history and culture of the given language and the range of languages available to study. From this we learned the advantages of studying a language at degree level when applying for jobs and the analytical skills it offers. Next, we participated in a translation session for our chosen language with different people on our translation tables, and learnt more about the origins of translations.

It was a very refreshing experience to do these activities with new people as it encouraged us to learn new techniques and to work with new people. Later on, we also received sample lessons including: German film, French literature and the Spanish civil war followed by a lesson in a language. Kabirah had a session in the use of linguistics in The Third Reich and how the Nazis used language to persuade people. I had a session in French literature, which I particularly enjoyed, as in my opinion it was really interesting and involved two of my favourite subjects; English and French. For their lesson in a language, Kabirah and Grace had Italian, where they learnt some basic phrases they could use in Italy. I had a general lesson in French where we learnt more about how French language was brought into the English language and a bit more about the origins of French. Finally, at the end of the day we had a Q&A session with students who are currently studying at Cambridge, where we could anonymously ask them about uni life, language courses and even extra curricular clubs that we could get involved in. We also learned some more about the admissions process.

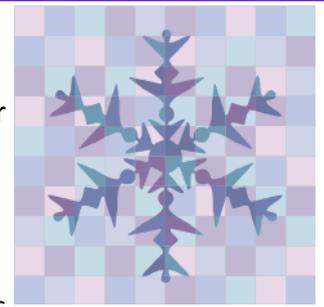
Overall, we all thoroughly enjoyed the day as it was highly informative and also interesting, and in particular, it has helped me make up my mind that I would like to study languages at university.

Tilly—11 Johnson



Keeping Safe in the Community

Now that the darker days have drawn in for winter, we wanted to remind our students about keeping safe when out in the community.



Top Tips and important numbers:

If you need to phone **999** but can't speak for a safeguarding reason; operatives may ask you to **cough or tap the keys** on your phone in response to questions. The call will then be transferred to the **Silent Solution** team. Callers will then hear an automated police message which lasts for approximately 20 seconds and begins with the phrase "you are through to the police". It will then ask you to **press 55** to be put through to a special team.

British Transport Police: To report a non –urgent crime in a discrete manner whilst on public transport - use the text service **61016**



5 tips for staying safe in the dark:

It's that time of year, summer has been and gone, and winter is fast approaching. We are all thinking about Halloween, Bonfire Night and Christmas, and the dark nights are starting to draw in. Undeniably it's important to stay safe and be cautious at all times of the year. But it's particularly true this time of year; the mornings stay darker for longer and the afternoons and evenings become darker sooner. So, below are a few top tips on staying safe.

1. Stick together

Whether you're leaving school late or going to a friend's house avoid walking by yourself. - try to walk with others that you know; safety in numbers is key when it comes to walking in the dark.

2. Know your route

If you have to walk in the dark, especially if you're on your own, be sure to know where you're going. Stick to well used main roads and pedestrian areas, and ones that are well lit. Avoid cutting through remote alleyways, parks, wasteland and canal towpaths.

3. Stay in touch

Make sure someone knows where you're going and what time they can expect you back. And remember, when going out for the night to have a fully charged phone.

5. Be alert

If you do have to walk alone in the dark, avoid things such as listening to music or talking on the phone for too long. It's important to be fully alert and aware of your surroundings, without any distractions. It's also a good idea to keep any valuables such as phones, headphones, money, keys etc. hidden, as they will draw attention to you.

We have delighted to announce that Dana in Y13 has recently won the Foyle Young Poet of the Year award, which is the largest competition for young poets in the world—what a great achievement. This is her poem.

My mother, with eight chemo sessions to go

there's a green chair that sits in my living room.
i'm pretty sure that it stands taller and older than me;
for years it's housed the bodies of my family and friends
and it still smells like the wet fur of our first dog.
i've never felt more ashamed than when sitting on the chair
as my mother, a woman who stands like a gnarled oak tree,
attacked the living room with a feather duster.
my mother, five weeks into chemotherapy, carried the vacuum cleaner,
scrubbed the floors, wiped away the grime from the shelves.
my mother, five feet four inches tall, climbed the furniture to swipe at the ceiling.
"this is why you have to do it every week" she told me
with laboured breath and sweat pooling on her forehead,
gesturing to the clumps of dust under the sofa that resembled her falling-out hair.
"because," she said, "the dog will leave hair everywhere"
and it was with a grimace that i realised my mother would soon be like the dog,
hair falling from her head like dandruff.
i made a joke about selling the dog, buying a hairless one,
"it would make less of a mess," i said with an easy smile.
but it wasn't easy.
or light.
or fine.
because i stayed in that green chair, while my mother cleaned.
my mother, who had spent the week before bed bound, ashamed of her own
sickness.
my mother, who threw up quietly into the toilet bowl so she wouldn't alarm her
children.
she bumbled around the living room, vacuum following her like a dark cloud.
she hauled furniture around the room, picking up all of our mess.
i watched her toiling away and did nothing.
i saw her breaking her body more than it was already broken for her family and stayed silent.
i don't know why i didn't offer myself up for her.
all i knew was that admitting she needed my help was admitting she was sick.
the woman who taught me independence needed me, and i was too scared to give
myself away.
but what can you do when you see her like that?
when your mother buys headscarves to hide the bald patches
and expensive hand cream for her cracked skin,
it is easier to do nothing. it is easier to pretend life is what it used to be.
to pretend you're still living a life where nobody owns a year long parking pass
to the hospital.
just because my mother jokes about the doctors stabbing her with needles,
it doesn't mean i want to hear about it.
instead i sat in the green chair, a collection of lumps
destined to become an unwanted family heirloom,
and i pretended i couldn't see the exhaustion framing her face like a fringe.
i was too scared to help her, and too ashamed to realise.
"even when i'm sick," she told me, "the cleaning still needs to be done."

Dana—13DLE

MUSIC NEWS

Autumn 2



Dates for your calendar

- GCSE Recital, Tuesday 29th October
- KS3 Music recital. Tuesday 19th November, hall, 7pm
- Carol service at St Patrick's Church. Tuesday 3rd December, 7pm
- **MUSIC DEPARTMENT CONCERT, THURSDAY 12th DECEMBER., 7PM, HALL.**
PLEASE KEEP THE DATE FREE.

KS3 MUSIC RECITAL

There is a KS3 Music Recital in the hall on Tuesday 19 November at 7pm. You will need to hand in completed forms by Tuesday 12 November which will be handed out in Music class. Be in the hall at 6:45pm. Entrance is free. You do not need to wear uniform, but wear clothes appropriate for a recital.

**Tomorrow's
Engineers
Week**

4th-8th November

Things you could do to find out more about engineering:

- Visit the FROG STEAM page and check out the resources and websites
- Complete the 'meet the future you' quiz on FROG / STEAM careers
- Look at the '**Engineers on a Mission**' videos on FROG/ STEAM/ careers
- Attend the **Engineering Society's** meeting Tuesday lunchtime in C1
- Attend the **STEMillions** meeting Friday lunchtime 8 November in T06
- If you are over 13 you could follow twitter.com/Tomorrows_Eng

Clubs and Opportunities for our Students

YEAR 7 + 8 GYMNASTICS CLUB

If you have never done gymnastics before, but would like to try something new, come to the **Monday Lunchtime** club in the **Gym** with Miss Lovell.

It is a great opportunity to learn new skills, choreograph routines and be part of a performance for the Gym and Dance Display! All abilities welcome!



Year 7 Netball Interhouse

Where: Courts
When: Wednesday 20 November
3 - 4.15pm
Who: Team of 9

**Games captain to organise teams
**We will be starting promptly at 3pm



Year 8 5-a-side Football Interhouse

Where: Field
When: Thursday 7 November 3 - 4.15pm
Who: Team of 7

**we will be starting promptly at 3pm
** you must wear football boots



Express and Empower yourself through Spoken Word Poetry

'I know, I wish, I will' is the Spoken Word Poetry competition which gives young people a voice to express their identity and views towards the future.

500 entrants from across the nation will be selected to perform their poetry on stage in London's West End, featuring in an epic 25-hour spoken word poetry marathon. Successful entries will be published in the souvenir book, creating a record of the nation's young voices in 2020.

Miss Mason will be running sessions for you to understand more about Spoken Word Poetry and practise your skills. The sessions will run at 3pm every Wednesday from 13th November in 62 up until the closing deadline. 20th December 2019. Come along to learn more and sign up!

Sixth Form Event



Winter Masquerade Ball

Date: 17th Jan 2020

Time: 7-9.30 pm

Location: Hall

Tickets! - profits go to Greenpeace

£5 early bird

£7.50 with +1

PFA Disco

Great Halloween Disco on Friday, organised by the PFA, thanks go to them for organising and helping out so our students could enjoy themselves.

