



*It has been a wonderful half term here at Wallington County Grammar School, crammed full of interesting trips, gripping rugby fixtures, crucial parents' evenings and memorable learning experiences for our students. For those not already doing so, I would urge you to join Twitter and follow us on @WCCGSutton to gain a greater insight into the daily rhythm of the School. Each week I walk around school to take in the learning that is occurring and each week I come across exceptionally well planned activities, some classrooms humming with excitement and some quiet with intense focus. I am getting into the habit of tweeting what I see with the aim of sharing these special moments with the wider world and also with the more unintended consequence of causing the subjects of these tweets to swell with pride knowing they will be the face of the School this week.*

*It has also been a great pleasure to see how quickly our new staff have settled into life at Wallington. You will see many of them feature on the twitter feed and it really has been wonderful to see Computer Science flourish under the expert guidance of Mr Barwick (who is having a very exciting year having just become a father too!), Mrs Turner establishing Wellbeing as a Subject Area that provides a key source of support and guidance for all our students and also Mr Dicker who is working so valiantly in Economics and Business Studies having welcomed back Mr Collins for a brief period whilst we wait for Miss Sing, our new teacher of the subject, to recover from ankle surgery. Mrs Lenaghan has also begun to have a huge impact, organising an excellent programme of speakers for our Sixth Form Enrichment sessions in conjunction with Dr Meek. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all new staff for the hard work they have put in over the past few weeks and how quickly they have become part of the Wallington family.*

*Finally, I would also make mention of our School Development Plan which is already having a significant impact across the School. Deep Thinking Challenges are now present in the majority of classrooms and are being used very effectively to stimulate the thinking of our students and to challenge them with ever more difficult concepts and questions. Ms Tovey, Mrs Jennings and Mr Robertson have also had an immediate impact on our Sixth Form with attendance never being better and ever more homework being set to enhance levels of learning outside of the classroom. Our Middle Leaders have done a superb job in leading our second Sixth Form Private Study facility and it is with great pleasure that I can announce that we have now opened our new block which contains two top spec Physics laboratories and a brand new Drama Studio.*

*We will unfortunately say goodbye to two members of our non-teaching staff in the coming weeks with both Mrs Windmill, our Learning Resource Centre Manager, and Mrs O'Shea, our Pastoral Support Officer for the Sixth Form, leaving us. They have served the School for a great number of years between them and I would like to publicly thank them for all they have given. I hope you enjoy reading the rest of this newsletter to gain an even greater insight into life at one of the best schools in the country.*

**Jamie Bean, Head of School**

### **PTFA Update by Steve Crosby, Chair WCCGS PTFA**

#### **11+ Familiarisation Tests**

The PTFA will shortly be embarking upon organising a further program of 11+ Familiarisation Tests for 2017. These tests are designed to assist Year 5 students gain valuable 'exam condition' practice before taking the real 11+ test in the hope of joining our school, or other selective schools in the area.

This project not only provides invaluable experience for the aspiring young students wishing to attend our school but it also raises considerable funds that can be put to fantastic use for the benefit of our own children.

If any parent is able to help run the Tests programme, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please let us know by emailing [info@wccgsptfa.com](mailto:info@wccgsptfa.com)

#### **Year 7 and 8 Disco**

We have just hosted another enjoyable evening for the younger students at the School who had a great time partying the night away with some of the girls from local schools. Our own team of parent helpers was augmented by the Sixth Formers at WCCGS who assisted in ensuring

that the event was safe and ran smoothly. The response was fabulous and we shall be running another event in the spring.

#### **PTFA Meetings**

Our next PTFA meeting will be on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 7.30pm at the School. Please do pop along and say hello in person. And even if you can't make it, the PTFA would still love to hear from you, so please just drop us a line at [info@wccgsptfa.com](mailto:info@wccgsptfa.com) if you're happy to give up a couple of hours of your time during the course of the school year.

The PTFA's AGM will follow shortly afterwards, before the end of term, when a new committee will be elected. If you like the idea of taking a role please let us know as it is always a pleasure to see new parents join in.

That's all for now. Wishing you all well.

Steve Crosby, Chair WCCGS PTFA

[chair@wccgsptfa.com](mailto:chair@wccgsptfa.com)

**Remember to register with easyfundraising and donate to WCCGS as you shop:  
<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/wallingtoncountygrammar>**



### **The Expansion of Folio Education Trust (formerly WCGS Federation Trust), Jonathan Wilden, Executive Headteacher for Folio Education Trust**

As has been communicated several times through this newsletter, Wallington County Grammar School is now part of a new Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) known as 'Folio Education Trust'. This includes our latest project to open a new 11 – 18 mixed comprehensive school in South Croydon to be known as Coombe Wood School. If you are keen to learn more about our new Free School project please visit – [www.cws-croydon.co.uk](http://www.cws-croydon.co.uk) where you will be able to download our latest proposal document and ask us a question about the new school. In addition to this you can also now learn more about Folio Education Trust by visiting [www.folio-education.co.uk](http://www.folio-education.co.uk).

MATs are able to set up more effective collaborative relationships within a family of schools and at present two South Croydon primary schools are consulting on whether they should academise and join Folio Education Trust. These include St Peter's Primary School, South Croydon and Park Hill Junior School, Croydon. If stakeholder consultation is successful, both schools will join the Trust in April 2017 and become feeder schools for the new Coombe Wood School when it opens in September 2018.

Regarding Wallington County Grammar School, the Trust is very proud of the public examination results that the School achieved this summer and is looking forward to the future through supporting in school improvement strategies and developing a more cost effective shared services model. As part of the MAT, WCGS has already launched its new website which can be viewed at [www.wcgs-sutton.co.uk](http://www.wcgs-sutton.co.uk) please let us know what you think.

As more news breaks regarding the expansion of Folio Education Trust I will keep you updated.



### **Police Visit with TFL by Miss Ball**

At the beginning of the Autumn Term the Pastoral Team were very fortunate to have TFL and the Police visit WCGS to help support our young men as they develop professional and respectful travel etiquette. They were able to create assemblies for several year groups to help deliver some very important messages.

The TFL representative made them aware of the roles of the drivers, the concerns of the public regarding delays, and addressed the feelings of the pupils whilst travelling; he explored their experiences and discussed key topics such as over-crowding, queuing, use of oysters etc. He was im-

pressed with our students and their excellent behaviour in assemblies and reiterated that this kind of respect must be mirrored on the busses.

The police officer then supported the messages of social responsibility, reminding our students that they represent WCGS and that their uniform was renowned. She reminded them that CCTV footage, reports from the public and the driver's reports were all taken into account when bus stops were being created. She reminded them that the bus stops outside schools/service to our students was a privilege and not a right, and that it could be revoked if behaviour was

ever unacceptable. She also reminded them that to lend an oyster card to a friend is fraud and by not paying for a fare that is theft. The boys appreciated this enlightening advice and were happy to have had some professional advice to ensure their journeys were more safe.

Overall the experience was very rewarding and it helped our students to empathise with the drivers and public to ensure that the standards of conduct whilst queuing, boarding and travelling on busses is raised and maintained.

### **Anti-Bullying Action Plan and New Website Buttons by Mrs Owen**

The Anti-Bullying Ambassadors met with Mrs Owen at the beginning of the Autumn Term to devise a 2016-17 Action Plan. The students have been busy devising Form Time resources on the WCGS Anti-Bullying Policy, as well as ensuring that the Action Plan is ready to be launched in our Anti-Bullying Assembly in November. Students are also currently working on where we should place the 6 anonymous boxes around school so that students can leave Mrs Owen feedback on any issue in a confidential manner.

Please also note that we have introduced new student and parent website buttons that enable students and parents to leave the School confidential messages that are linked to Mrs Owen's email account. The new student button will be launched with students in our November pastoral assembly. The student button can be found under the Students tab and is called 'Student Voice' and the parent button can be found under the Parents tab and is called 'Parent Feedback'.



### Digital Awareness Visit to WCCGS by Mrs Jennings

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> and Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September we were excited to welcome back to school Digital Awareness to run e-Safety workshops with Years 7 to 12. After the popularity of their student workshops in October 2015 we were keen to have Emma and Charlotte Robertson return to build upon their message from last year. So, in the summer term, Mrs Jennings began working closely with Digital Awareness to design bespoke workshops that addressed some of the important pastoral issues our students had expressed an interest in.

Years 7, 8 and 9 participated in 2 hour workshops focusing upon online bullying, debating ground rules for how to remain respectful of one another online especially when using social media apps such as Instagram and Whatsapp, and considering the difference between what Digital Awareness coined 'online banter' amongst friends versus potentially offensive or unkind and hurtful comments. Students had a lot to say and discussion flowed!! As a result, all years drew up their own guidelines for how to be respectful on social media.

### New Wellbeing Lessons, by Mrs Turner

Wellbeing lessons are in full force and being warmly welcomed by most students. We have enjoyed a wide range of topics on 'personal identity' so far and even carried out a few assessments. Students are eager to share their opinions and lesson atmosphere is enthusiastic!

### Drama News by Mrs Weddell

#### Our House

We are four weeks into rehearsals and the first section of Our House is starting to come together! We will be performing the show on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March, so do pop these dates into your diary. We would like to create DVDs of the show this year so that parents are able to keep a memory of their son/daughter's performance. If you are a parent or carer of a Wallington student and you have a particularly good video camera that you would be willing to use to film the show, please do get in touch with Mrs Weddell at [aweddell2@suttonmail.org](mailto:aweddell2@suttonmail.org)

#### The Invisible Man

A group of 22 Year 7 and 8 students have participated in 3 Arts workshops this term, exploring the story of H.G. Wells' 'The Invisible Man' through script writing, puppetry making, and experimentation with Shadow Theatre. Their work will culminate in a short performance at Wallington Library on 28<sup>th</sup> October. Doors are open at 12:15 and tickets are absolutely free, so please do come along and see what they have been doing. To avoid disappointment, you can also book your place in advance using the following link:  
[www.suttoncouncilartsandculture.eventbrite.com](http://www.suttoncouncilartsandculture.eventbrite.com)



Years 10, 11 and 12 looked at the impact of having a digital footprint upon future university applications and employers, and examined some of the more innovative and creative ways that online CVs are being produced using film and new technology, as well as considering the current law on posting and sharing of sexually explicit images and sexting.

Digital Awareness also hosted a lunch for new and aspiring video bloggers and YouTubers which was attended by students from Years 7 to 13 and offered the opportunity to share interests, hear advice on how to set up and promote your own channel, and even, amongst the older students, obtain sponsorship. It was really inspiring to learn from our most experienced YouTubers in the Sixth Form.

All in all, these two days were incredibly interesting for everyone involved and we look forward to working with Digital Awareness again in the future.

**We are always keen to receive parental views. Any suggestions for improvement, ideas for implementation or comments on what we have done well, please email Mrs Owen on [enquiries@wccgs.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@wccgs.org.uk)**



### Languages: More Than Just a Grammar Book! By Laila March, Upper Sixth

Two weeks ago we celebrated Languages Week at WCCGS, where I (and my fellow Language Ambassador, Stephanie) along with some other languages students, held assemblies throughout the week, explaining why we had decided to study either French or Spanish (or if you're me, both!) at A-Level and why we were so passionate about languages.

Languages are something that are really important to me and I thought I'd reiterate to you why they are so important and why you should consider studying them in the future if you don't now:

- Being fluent in a language can lead to better job opportunities – having the ability to communicate in more than one language makes you more valuable to a company that is looking to expand.
- You can discover a culture different to your own – travelling abroad and being able to speak to the locals in their native tongue – even if it's just a few words – is what learning a language is about.
- Learning a language is more than just a grammar book – of course, knowing the basics are essential but once you become more fluent you can discover literature, film, art etc in your target language.
- Don't disregard your home language – you may not see it as useful now but there are many jobs that look for those who speak uncommon languages.
- Pick up a language at university – you may not like the language you study at school but there is an assortment of languages which you can study ab initio at university ranging from Russian to Sanskrit, the choice is yours!
- Lastly, having a language degree does not limit you to being a teacher – if you ask most language teachers they'll have done something prior to teaching like working in a bank/travel agents/being a diplomat etc the opportunities with a language degree are endless.

### Government and Politics Trip to the Houses of Parliament by Kareem O'Sullivan-Patel, Upper Sixth

Last week the Upper Sixth Government and Politics class had the rare privilege of being allowed to go on a trip, albeit not one to a hot and sunny place. It is not often that the department has the privilege of a day off. Thus, one can imagine the happiness Mr Watkin felt when told he could take his class to his old workplace, the Houses of Parliament, for a tour focussing on one of the driest of Britain's governmental procedures, the Select Committee (this is not to say, however, that we found it as such). As a brief explanation, select committees are a group of MPs, usually around eleven, chosen by each party, whose purpose is to scrutinise their respective government departments. On paper they might sound quite dull, in practice many would probably arrive at the same conclusion, though thankfully the trip was nothing of the sort. We were accompanied on the trip by Mr Robertson, who seemed somewhat more interested in Parliament one hundred years ago than the present day Parliament!

Starting off with a tour, we began in the Robing Room in which the Queen waits before she delivers her speech at the opening of Parliament every year. The rooms are large and, as typical for any sort of traditional procedure involving the British Royal Family, grand, with the walls licked with gold. Ceilings twelve feet above us and windows almost just as large; it is not difficult to see they were built for the aristocracy of the country. Paintings of British monarchs line these cavernous spaces while great battles like Trafalgar and Waterloo are immortalised in wall-sized artworks. After passing through these

rooms we were led into the House of Lords, where the Queen makes her yearly address to MPs and Peers. Once again gold seemed to be everywhere. Afterwards, we proceeded to the Commons, where MPs sit, which was surprisingly small. The close proximity within which MPs are sat must make for a tense atmosphere for more controversial debates in the Commons. Though the by-product of this was that it is a considerable struggle to fit all 650 MPs in at the once. The room was considerably less ornate which was perhaps fitting given it is for the "commoners" as opposed to the Lords and Ladies. Once we had reached the committee, one of my classmates took to acting as the chair of the pretend meeting and we took great pleasure in acting out an inquiry, with various other classmates questioned. After the tour we were taken back to the education centre where the day had begun and were given the task of debating the motion *Select committees are an efficient and effective way of scrutinising the government.*

All in all, the trip was highly educational and informative, yet not in any sense boring. I think the class as a whole would like to thank Mr Watkin for his extensive contacts and experience in, and knowledge of, the Houses of Parliament; it certainly made the event much more enjoyable with him being able to recall various stories from his time there. The entire class look forward to their next trip which will be to the US Embassy; if Parliament was anything to go by, it will certainly be a day to enjoy.



### Co-curricular Activities, Autumn Term 2016

This has been an incredibly busy half term from a Co-curricular perspective! Our annual Clubs and Societies Fair held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October saw the perimeter of the main hall populated with over 30 Clubs and Societies promoting their offer and attempting to recruit some of the 500 or so potential members who had come to look around. From Art to Spoken Word, from Engineering to Science Fiction and many more besides, there was something to appeal to everyone. Clubs and Societies are now well underway for this term and new members are always welcome. Parents and students alike are invited to visit the school website to see the Clubs and Societies timetable as well as information on a range of other co-curricular activities. Please note that the timetable is susceptible to change and that students should also look out for notices on the Co-curricular noticeboards around school for advertised society events and meetings.

Class representatives have now also been elected to serve on the Student Council which has an important say in generating ideas and contributing to the School. The first Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 Student Council meetings this week were typically productive with ideas about contact books, the café

and developing the House competition proving particularly popular.

Our Sixth Form Enrichment Lecture Programme commenced this term with a former pupil sharing his experiences of applying to and being at University. Subsequent lecture topics have included The US Presidential Election, Student Finance and Why Study Criminology? Upcoming lectures include Working for Google and How the IT industry is Evolving, Leadership Characteristics in School Which are Transferable to Other Industries and An Introduction to Digital Marketing. Contributors to our lecture programme have included staff, former pupils and external agencies; we thank them all for their time and input. Running parallel to our Lecture Programme are other Enrichment options that students have been able to opt for to suit their individual needs, interests or aspirations, including food technology, STEP, Crest, languages, art, rugby and netball.

By the October 15<sup>th</sup> deadline, 87 UCAS applications for students applying for medicine, dentistry and/or Oxbridge had been sent. Subject areas will begin supporting applicants with interview preparation while students should now be putting

as much effort as possible into preparing for any admissions tests on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Our independent careers adviser has been in school one day per week since the start of term and our Upper Sixth and Year 11 students are the focus this term in order that they have an opportunity to talk about their post-18 and post-16 plans.

Many parents, carers and Year 10 students attended a workshop last week at which the process of work experience and all important dates and deadlines were revealed. Work Experience dates for our Year 10 students are Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017. Mrs Tracy Bell from Sutton Education Business Partnership was present to explain their role in checking and approving placements once they have been found by students. Particular thanks to Danyal Nawaz, a Year 11 pupil, who came along to share his experience of participating in work experience last year. Mrs Lenaghan is available to offer support to current Year 10 students seeking work experience placements and coming soon, a Work Experience Jobs Board at the back of PS2. If you could offer a work experience placement to any of our students then please do get in touch:

[llenaghan@suttonmail.org](mailto:l.lenaghan@suttonmail.org)

### Geography Society by Will Johnston – Co-President of Geography Society

For some, there is a real stigma around the subject of Geography, especially within a grammar school where subjects such as Science and Maths dominate. We reintroduced the Geography Society to show people how vast and relevant the subject really is (and that it isn't just an opportunity to "colour in"). In our talks we have covered topics ranging from the Syrian refugee crisis, to the Rio

Olympic Games, to the theoretical end of the world. So far the Society has been really well attended by all year groups, with Sixth Form in particular finding it an excellent synoptic aid to their study. The Society is always concluded with an interesting debate about the talk too! We would love to see you there, and if you're up to it, maybe even do a talk?!

### Recruitment

Due to the departure of Mrs Windmill and Mrs O'Shea, we currently have two vacancies, one for a School Librarian and one for a Pastoral Support Officer. If you would be interested in either of these roles or would like further information, please contact Mrs J Johnson on [personnel@wcgs.org.uk](mailto:personnel@wcgs.org.uk).

**Please remember that if you are visiting the School or waiting for your son/daughter at any time of the day, please park considerately in neighbouring roads avoiding The Manor Way and Derek Avenue and not over dropped kerbs. Thank you for your co-operation.**



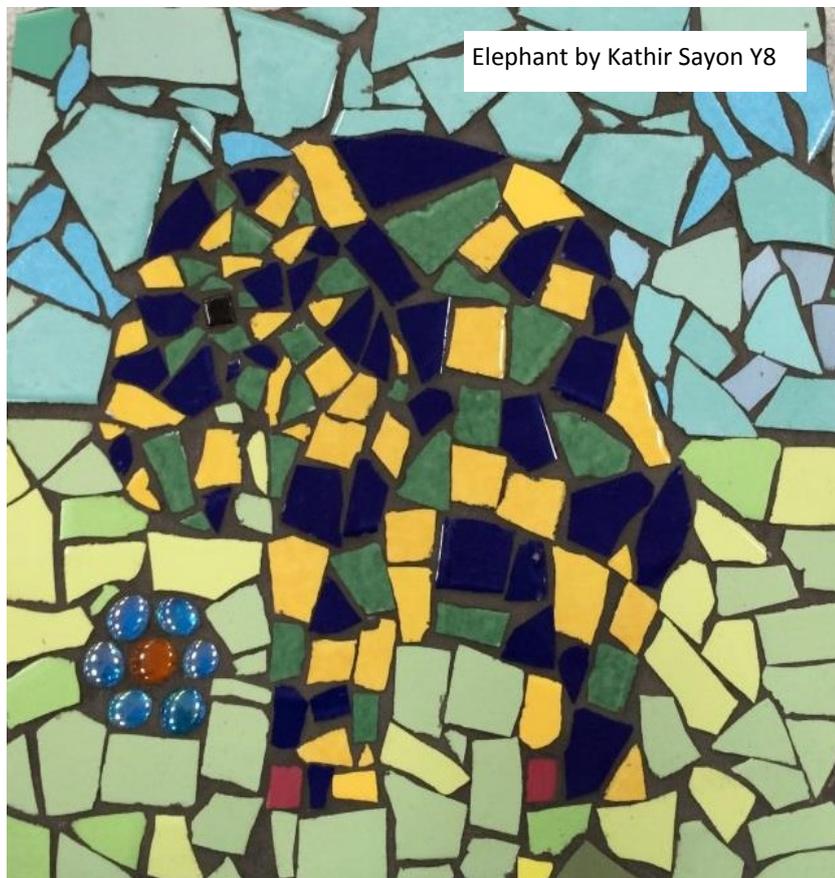
**School Games Gold Mark for WCGS**

The PE department are very proud to announce that WCGS has been awarded the 'School Games Gold Mark' for our commitment, engagement and delivery of competitive school sport in the 2015/16 academic year. This is a great achievement for WCGS and a great reward for all the hard work that the staff, students, volunteers and parents have put in to the wide variety of sports we currently compete in at borough, county and national levels. The PE department would like to thank Millwood Servicing Ltd. for their continued sponsorship of sport at the School and also WCGS's fantastic PTFA who continue to be great supporters of sport at the School, without their financial support we would not be able to give our students as broad a sporting experience.

If you would like to enquire about any sponsorship opportunities within sport at WCGS please contact the Director of Sport, Mr D Johnson, by emailing him at [djohnson61@suttonmail.org](mailto:djohnson61@suttonmail.org).



**Art Club - Years 7 & 8**



Learn a new skill and make a mosaic masterpiece

**ART CLUB**

Every Wednesday after school

3:10-4:00pm in Art 1

See Mrs Donald (Art Technician) for more details

Art Club commences after the half term break for students in Years 7 and 8. There are 15 place available and each student will create a piece of mosaic wall art. If you are interested, please contact Mrs Donald, Art Technician, as soon as possible - [tdonald2@suttonmail.org](mailto:tdonald2@suttonmail.org)