



A Note from the Head

The first half of the Autumn Term has been an enjoyable and productive time for all of us here at the School. In general and importantly the pupils are becoming more involved in the life of the School and thereby enriching their own experience and contributing to the success of the School.

In addition, I have been most pleased with the support from parents regarding uniform and there is no doubt that the boys and girls are looking more presentable, allowing us to concentrate on our core work, teaching and learning.

The Governing Body has started the process for recruiting the new Headteacher. The advertisement will appear sometime during November with a view to interview in January 2010.

Finally, I wish everyone an enjoyable half term break.

Peter Smart, Acting Headteacher

Record Numbers Sit the Entrance Exam

It was a sunny Saturday on 19th September when the entrance exam took place this year and 1608 pupils came along to take the test.

For the second year running the PTFA provided refreshments for the parents on the school field which helped to distract them for a couple of hours whilst their sons were knuckling down to the test.

Results were turned around again in just over two weeks and successful pupils and their parents attended one of two "mini" open mornings so that they can make that all important decision about which secondary school to choose for their son. Of course we want them to choose Wallington!!

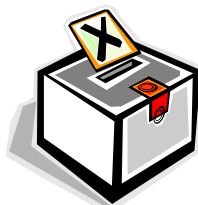
School Council Nominations

The School Council was reintroduced at WCGS in 2007 and is going from strength to strength. The School Council gives the students a voice, with elected members representing the ideas, opinions and concerns of their group.

Students recently stood for election and, in true democratic style, they declared their policies and were elected to office by means of a ballot.

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected to represent their year group:

- Y7 - Sean McNamara-Guiheen, Latif Muhammad
- Y8 - Ali Bhamani, Max Heath
- Y9 - Cole Senior, Ali Abbas Walji
- Y10 - Nelson Charles-Nwufoh, Matt Royle
- Y11 - Stephen Clarke, Ajay Rose, Jarad Sweeney



Sports Hall & Food Technology Update

Those of you who have visited the School recently will have seen that the building of the Sports Hall is progressing well.

The main structure has been built and the floor was installed earlier this month. Building work is on schedule and it is estimated that it will open in March 2010. It will be a huge asset to current and future students of the school.

As you are probably aware it is the Government's intention to provide Food Technology facilities in all secondary schools.

Grants for building work at WCGS have been made available and the School has appointed architects to design and manage the project. The plans have been drawn up and we hope to begin the planning process soon.

European Languages Week

During the week of 21st-25th September WCGS students celebrated European Languages Week both in and out of MFL lessons.

In Modern Foreign Languages Years 7 and 8 learnt about the geography of France. KS4 classes were engaged in a debate on the use of languages around the world and also watched a DVD, produced by CILT, featuring employers, employees, celebrities and politicians from the UK who were discussing the importance of MFL at work nowadays.

Other cross-curricular activities were organised in Citizenship, Economics, English & PE lessons. Students also had the opportunity to watch a French action comedy "Taxi 2" after school and a French breakfast was organised in the canteen.

£33.00 was raised for the School Council's chosen charity of the year - Make a Wish Foundation. It was a successful week raising the boys' awareness of the importance of languages.

Ruskin House Charity Week



The first House Charity Week of the year was a tremendous success! It began with a Year 7 & 8 Treasure Hunt and continued throughout the week with Dodgeball and Basketball competitions and a Jumble Sale. The week finished with a lunchtime concert in the Hall in which Ruskin pupils and staff alike showcased their musical talents to a large appreciative audience.



Mr Mumby's rendition of the Kinks' 'You Really Got Me' was particularly awe inspiring. The week showed how enthusiastic the members of Ruskin are!

We also raised £145 for the Make a Wish Foundation. Ruskin Rules !!

Commendations



Congratulations to the following boys who currently have the most commendations within their year group. Well done everyone, keep up the fantastic efforts!

Y7—Ben Gilbert 23, Aaron Akpojaro 21, Tariq Ali 21

Y8—Daniel Goodair 28, Arsalan Harris 20, Leo Rudolph 20

Y9—Colm Molloy 25, Ajay Tirumala- Adisesh 17, Charlie Du 17

Y10—Khamiel Fletcher-Lord 30, Rawa Burhan 21, Faraz Bukhari 8

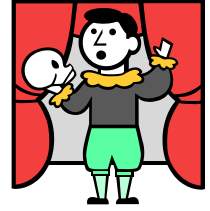
Y11—Clive Olamiju 16, Dominic Powell 16, Ajay Rose 16

L6—Gogulan Karunanithy 14, Ella Brimelow 12, Joe Williamson 12

U6—Dominic Newman 7, Holly Davis 6, Alex Hart 5

House Drama Festival

All six houses are in the middle of rehearsals for the House Drama Festival which will take place on Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th November.



Each House has been responsible for writing its own play which the students will be directing themselves. Cast members range from Year 7 to Upper 6th. **Tickets will be on sale shortly after half term so pop a note in your diaries now and come along to support your House!!**

Music News



Music rehearsals have started well this year with levels of attendance much higher than last year. Pupils are working hard to learn the repertoire for our forthcoming events. Next half term we have the Autumn Concert on Monday 23rd November. **Please Note this date has changed from 12th November.**

Young Voices Concert O2 Arena - 02/12/09

Carol Service - 10/12/09

Concert Tour to Ghent, Belgium 19-23 Dec.

Thank you to all parents for their continued support and we look forward to seeing you later in the term.

The Times Books for Schools Tokens



We would like to thank everybody who has brought in tokens for this scheme. We have so far been able to claim 20 books which is fantastic, considering many of the books require at least 70 tokens!

The scheme is running this term as well so we would be grateful if you do read the Times and/or Sunday Times could you continue to send your tokens into School. There is a collection box in the main school reception and also in the Library. Many thanks!

WCGS Cross-Country

It has been a busy first half term for the WCGS Cross-Country team with attendance at no less than 5 meetings. Oxted continues to be the school to beat but with over 20 WCGS runners regularly competing in the Saturday morning league, we are presenting some serious competition. Special mention to Toba Agunsoye, Jason Obiri-Yeboah, Joe O'Donoghue, Oliver Fotouhi and Sam Gilbert for strong performances. Our senior team consisting of Adam Gye, Scott Fanner and Dan Willmott. They are all consummate professionals and the strongest team around but we are currently struggling to claim duly-deserved victories due to the lack of a 4th runner. **Yr 11 and 6th Form take note –if you can run ... your school needs you!!**

Junior and Inter teams took part in Round 1 of the English Schools but unfortunately did not make it through to the next round.



However, the recent Sutton Schools' Cross-Country Championships did bring more success with Yr7, Yr8 and Yr9 Boys' Teams achieving 3rd position and Yr 12&13 Boys placed 2nd.

For the first time in the history of the School, a Senior Girls team also competed earning 3rd position. **Well done to Sophie Ovens, Christine Diesel, Ruth Greenhill, Ella Brimelow and Bethan Chaplin-Dewey for making WCGS history!**

Well done to all students who have taken part in fixtures this year, especially newcomers, as our Cross-Country squad is going from strength to strength. Similarly, attendance at Cross-Country and Fitness Club is increasing with numbers regularly in the 30's. **'Run Get Fit ... Get Happy' !**

..... and finally, the staff are doing their part with a WCGS Staff Team competing recently in the Croydon 10K. Whilst we were unable to retain the corporate team prize from last year, there were strong performances from all. Mr Boothroyd, Mr Marlow, Luke Cook (U6th), Mr Moran, Mrs Curtis and myself - Dr. Whiting. Maybe in the future members of the PE & Games Dept. will join us - once they've got some serious training in of course!

Well done also to those students who completed the 3K fun run!

Year 10 Work Experience Information Evening

It was lovely to see so many parents and students at the recent Work Experience Information Evening; thank you for giving up your time to attend. Those parents who were unable to attend should have now received an envelope containing a green information sheet and an orange permission slip, the latter of which should be completed and returned to Mrs Atkins in the Careers Office.

We are pleased to report that there has been an enthusiastic and positive response from the boys, with many already applying to employers for a placement.



Half-term would be an ideal opportunity for your son to work on his CV and Letter of Application; copies should be placed in his WEX Handbook at school.

A reminder that once a placement has been confirmed by an employer, either verbally or in writing, your son should then enter the details on the blue Details of Work Experience Form which can be found in the Careers Room. This should be handed to Mrs Atkins so that the necessary checks can be carried out.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Chess Update

Two external events this term so far

The year opened with a Chess jamboree held at and hosted by Wilson's School. Here we enjoyed a good evening of chess playing in a tournament against 7 other local schools.

In October we played at home to Guildford Royal Grammar School where we had an exciting 3-3 draw! We have a new Chess Captain—David Jones and a new Vice Captain—Rohan Gupta.



Touchline News

A pleasingly ruthless performance v Tiffin set the tone for a very good half term for the 1st XV. The destruction of Trinity 60-12 in the Daily Mail was particularly nice because they dropped us from their fixture list for this year!

Our best performance was easily v John Fisher in the next round where everyone stepped up to the plate and performed maximally despite us losing narrowly. Unfortunately the hangover from that effort negatively affected our performance v London Oratory last weekend and we had our worst effort of the term!

Nonetheless we are beginning to believe in ourselves and we know that we can compete and beat anyone on our day!

Senior Rugby is very strong at present with the 2nd XV only losing once and the U16's undefeated. The Canada Rugby Club Tour inevitably had contributed to our success at this level.



Junior sides are finding success harder to come by but they should know that they are generally closing the gap year on year. The U13a team has already turned around several defeats against opposition from the 2008/2009 season **Well done!!**