



Spring Term Message



As this is the first newsletter since the confirmation of my appointment as Headmaster, I would like to take this opportunity to say what a joy and an honour it is for me to lead this school. Having taught at Wallington since September 1976 and having served variously as Head of Mathematics, Assistant Head and Deputy Head, I know this school well and I care about it passionately.

I will write to you shortly to introduce myself more formally and outline my vision for the school. For now, I would just like to say that my aim is to further encourage the innovative spirit within the school, while preserving the respect for tradition that marks us out. Wallington is a good school and it is an improving school; with your support, we can make it a great school.

Academic excellence is important to us, as it should be, but it is not the whole story. It is my earnest desire that the next few years will see sport, music, drama and other extra-curricular activities flourish alongside continued improvement in examination results. Above all, I want to see your sons and daughters fulfil their potential to become the best young men and women that they can be. I look forward to working with you in achieving this high ideal over the years ahead.

Peter Smart - Acting Headmaster and Headmaster Designate

Surrey Schools Maths Challenge

Our team of five L6 students from Wallington secured a creditable 5th place in this event which attracts most of the selective schools in the South London/Surrey area. The team, consisting of Rianna Briggs, Ella Brimelow, Tom Lines, Tom Wainford and Joe Williamson, fought off stiff competition at Kingston University on February 11th. Mr Howells accompanied the team.

Mr. R. Teague

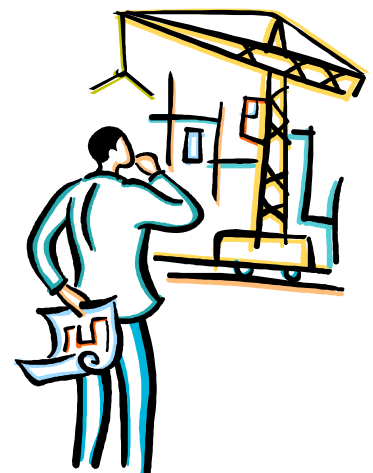


Engineering Diploma

Within the next two months, we will discover whether or not our bid to offer the Diploma in Engineering has been successful. Much hard work has gone into preparing the bid as part of a consortium with three other schools. If all goes well, WCGS pupils will be able to choose the diploma from September 2011.

The diploma will combine a rigorous introduction to the principles of engineering with plenty of practice in their application. Links have been forged with some of the leading international players in the engineering sector and, perhaps most exciting of all, we are working in partnership with a new engineering educational trust to develop cutting edge resources for the engineering diploma. If you would like further information on the diploma, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Mr. R. Teague



Art News

We visited the Wellcome Collection in Euston on 2nd February to witness the collection of Sir Henry Wellcome.

He dedicated his life to collecting objects from the far corners of the Earth, including a Peruvian body preserved for over 6000 years and Charles Darwin's walking stick.

During his life, he collected over a million objects, travelling to auctions and sales to purchase the weird and wonderful. The gallery's main exhibitions: *Medicine Now* and *Medicine Man* included a variety of collections to explore the world of perfect body image. With questions being raised such as "Why do we change our body?" or "What is considered perfect?"

"This exhibition presents a range of ideas about science and medicine since Sir Henry Wellcome's death in 1936. It reflects the experiences and interests of scientists, doctors and patients." - Extract from *Medicine Now* Flyer.

We were divided into groups and asked a variety of questions and used our imagination to create an illusory body extension, using ideas and inspirations taken from *Medicine Man*. We delved into the ideas of perfect body image and debated on the subject of cosmetic surgery and anorexia, indulging into the world of what is right and what is wrong.

"More than 150 years after his birth in 1853, this exhibition reunites a cross-section of extraordinary objects from his collection, ranging from diagnostic dolls to Japanese sex aids, and from Napoleon's toothbrush to George III's hair." - Extract from *Medicine Man* Flyer.

The complete collection is over 4 times the size of that of *The Louvre*, Paris, and it represents Sir Henry Wellcome's *Work, Rest and Play* (our exam topic) and the life he dedicated to collecting a vast array of special objects, to excite, fascinate and ultimately inspire all who visit his exhibitions. Overall, a memorable and thought provoking visit.

Harry Nolan - 11S

Student Council

It's been a tempestuous period for the School Council, with major policy issues such as the C System and of course, the appointment of a new Headmaster dominating the agenda.

Members of the Council were able to interview candidates for the Headship and make their views known, while the whole Council met with the Chairman of Governors to have the appointment process explained and interrogated.

The Council is currently overhauling its internal structure and is striving to put the direct views of the pupils at the heart of the agenda. In light of this the Council eagerly awaits the opportunity to crank up the volume of the Student Voice.

To make this happen it is imperative that if you have any ideas or comments, you do not hesitate to apprehend your year group representative and shout in their face. The Council has been elected to serve: it is up to you to crack the wicked whip of democracy and ensure that it does so.

Joshua Heath - 6CA1

Music News



Belgium Tour



During the Christmas holidays, on the 19th of December, a group of pupils ranging from Year 7 to the Upper 6th travelled to Belgium to perform a concert as well as participating in a number of activities. We were supposed to have arrived in Belgium on the Saturday, but due to the severe weather, we were unable to get to Dover which meant we had to return home. We tried again the next day at 4.30am, eventually arriving at around 3.00pm Belgian time.

We stayed at "De Draecke" and we performed a concert to elderly people. They very much enjoyed our performance and gave us some nice refreshments and chocolates afterwards.

During our stay in Belgium we took part in a lot of activities including a visit to Tyne Cot Cemetery, Sanctuary Wood (where we saw some preserved trenches from World War I), a chocolate museum, a visit to In Flanders Fields Museum and ice skating. We were also allowed to go to a variety of different shops in our free time including an excellent chocolate shop in Ypres.

We departed Belgium on the 23rd of December at roughly 1.00pm Belgian time and thankfully had no problems on the return leg of the journey. We were, however, very tired after the few days away and very glad to make it home in time for Christmas!

Sean McNamara-Guiheen - 7MA

Woodcote House Charity Week



Woodcote house charity week was a great success in terms of bringing the house together and raising money. The week was highlighted by the most ambitious and prestigious raffle that charity week had ever seen, the top prize of an ipod going to Luke Peacock (7BR).

Jonathon Pickett and Holly Davis put on a concert of rare quality, whilst Dominic Powell was instrumental in organising events and hosting the highly entertaining 'students versus teachers' dodgeball competition - the teachers came out top.

Thank you to everyone who participated and to the students whose generosity raised £193.84. Overall, a great week for the house!

Alex Pridding - 6WO2

WCGS Cross-Country

Five students competed in the Surrey x-country Championships at Reigate Priory on Saturday 23rd January. A final position in the top 20 was needed to progress through to the next round, the inter counties competition.

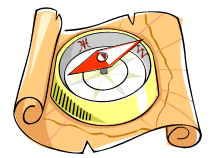
Toba Agunsoye in Year 7 narrowly missed out on a place, coming 23rd in his race. Jason Obiri-Yeboah (Year 7) also competed in the Under 13 boys. Sunny Edwards achieved a respectable 34th position against some tough competition in the Junior Boys race. Adam Gye in Year 12 had a superb run in the Senior Boys, achieving 7th position and we wish him luck for the next round of the competition

Next x-country fixture: Relays at John Fisher on Saturday 27th February.



Dr. S. Whiting

Y7 Orienteering



Twelve Year 7 students competed in an orienteering competition in Beddington Park on Friday 5th February against five other local schools.

Whilst they had excellent local knowledge of the park and were bursting with energy and enthusiasm, channelling that successfully into accurate map reading and orientation in a competitive situation proved quite a challenge for some!

We were 6th overall but congratulations to Will Buckland and George James who posted the fastest time of 11.41 for the course, the winning time being 8.48. Well done to all who took part!

If orienteering is something that interests you, check out the Mole Valley Orienteering Club website for future events: <http://www.mvoc.org>

Dr. S. Whiting

Touchline News



Due to the weather the only Saturday matches were against Wimbledon recently and I'm thrilled to say that the 1st XV and 2nd XV had great victories.

The 1st XV haven't beaten Wimbledon for a number of years and last year they put us out of the Daily Mail competition, so it was a sweet victory.

Unfortunately these were our only successes against strong opponents; Wimbledon benefits massively at the lower end of the school due to their annual intake from Donhead Prep where rugby is taught and groomed from an early age.

Fixtures against John Fisher were cancelled for 30th January but we played on 6th February. The 2nd XV performed magnificently against John Fisher earning a 10-10 draw, but in truth we deserved to win.

Team spirit and cohesion was fabulous as we ripped into them in the first half. Fisher fought their way back into the match in the second half but we were the team who provided most of the attacking rugby and match winning opportunities. We were very unlucky to be denied victory over the course of the match.

Fisher put out their very strongest team possible against our 1st XV and this proved decisive as we struggled to match them in all aspects of play. We battled and tackled valiantly but were unable to win any consistent ball against their awesome pack.

Fisher's lines of running and support play, coupled with dynamic pace, also caused our backline numerous problems and we were simply overwhelmed losing by over 50 points.

Mr. R. Walden

Football Update

Unfortunately the U16's were defeated by Greenshaw in their Cup semi-final 0-3. Although the scoreline looks like a hammering we actually had 4/5 really good chances to score with at least 3 occasions where a Wallington player only had the goalkeeper to beat. However, our finishing was poor and we haven't trained regularly enough for our touch, passing and control to be match perfect.



This ends our involvement in all Cup football competitions but the good news is that Saturday soccer has just begun with matches v Greenshaw for Yrs 7,8,9 + 10. Fixtures will then continue after half term on Saturdays and we will have House football contributing to the Cock House Cup.

Mr. R. Walden

Year 10 Work Experience

Well done to all those boys who have found a Work Experience placement; the range of quality placements is impressive.

I would like to remind Year 10 students and their parents that the deadline for finding a placement is Friday, 12th February. There will be many other schools out on Work Experience at the same time as WCGS, therefore, competition for placements will become more fierce as July approaches.

Mrs Atkins and I have carried out a progress check with each student from which it has become apparent that some boys are only just beginning their enquiries, despite reminders during the Autumn term. It would be greatly appreciated if parents could work with their son to help him find a placement.

As soon as a placement has been offered by the employer the student needs to complete a blue form, which can be found in the Careers Room, and handed to Mrs Atkins or into the school office.

Thank you for your support.

Mr. S. Marlow

National Poetry Competition — Poetry in Print

James Alexander (8CA) won the competition with his entry below.

I will be

I will be a blazingly bright star in the misty mouth of darkness,
a stronghold for those I care for,
A knife to pierce the blackened souls of my enemies,
A face to fear like death's grasping hands, a face to love like a brother.

I will be an endless oceanic mystery, deep with knowledge of millennia,
A mind as vast as a fully opened flower compared to the starting bud,
A living computer, but with no master,
A free soul to live my life as I choose.

I will be the eternal flame of hope,
A willing servant bowing only to the single supreme entity of my Lord,
A name to be as revered as the bloodthirsty shark,
A heart to love, and a heart to be loved.

I will be what I want.
I can be what I want.
And nothing can stop me, not the combined might of nations,
Not any army boosted with the powers of nature.

I can be...

Commendations

Congratulations to all of these students who have excelled themselves and currently have the most commendations within their year groups. Well Done!

Yr 7	-	Aaron Akpojaro 47, Daniel Sherlock 47, Tariq Ali 47, Thanujan Tharukaran 47
Yr 8	-	Daniel Goodair 63, Leopold Rudolph 50, Muhammad Taibjee 49
Yr 9	-	Colm Molloy 57, Ajay Tirumalai Adisesh 51, Ashwin Vellore Suresh 50
Yr 10	-	Khamiel Fletcher-Lord 46, Rawa Burhan 45, Faraz Bukhari 39, Jan Memedovic 39
Yr 11	-	Ajay Rose 28, Nimesh Patel 28, Dominic Powell 27
L6	-	Tom Wainford 43, Gogulan Karunanithy 35, Edward Stedman 32
U6	-	Jonathon Pickett 17, Dominic Newman 13, Ryohei Yamaguchi 13

RAG Week

This charity week will be held by the sixth form 8th-12th March and will be a week of events and activities to raise money for the Make A Wish Foundation.

RAG (Raise and Give) week is all about having fun whilst raising money. Students will be invited to take part in events including Space Hopper Racing, Teachers vs Pupils Touch Rugby and Battle of the Bands.

Look out for posters and announcements for how you can get involved.

Claire Smith - 6WO1