



# Wallington

## County Grammar School

### Prospectus 2011



# welcome from the headteacher

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I am delighted that you are interested in sending your child to Wallington County Grammar School. We are a small grammar school for boys that welcomes girls into the Sixth Form.

Since the School's opening in 1927, parents have chosen WCGS for their children not only because of our high academic standards and the wealth of extra-curricular activities we offer, but also because they recognise that our 'holistic' approach is most likely to bring the best out of their child. We are a happy community, with an open, friendly and enthusiastic atmosphere, in which a love of learning and hard work are valued.

Wallington is renowned for its warmth and pastoral concern which help to nurture and develop talent. We seek to combine the best elements of our traditional ethos and values with a modern focus on preparing pupils for a world which requires adaptability, teamwork and leadership. We are proud of our outstanding examination results, sustained over a long period of time, but the most eloquent testimony to the success of our school is given by the students themselves, by their confidence, maturity and well-rounded formation. Our aim is to help our students become the best young men and women that they can, in every respect.

I hope these pages will convey something of the atmosphere of WCGS to you; however, there is no substitute for seeing the school at first hand and I cordially invite you to visit us, so that you can see what makes WCGS so special.

**Peter Smart**  
Headteacher



- to enhance and develop eager and enthusiastic young learners through challenging and engaging teaching in a stimulating environment, where achievement in all its forms is celebrated and rewarded.

- to equip students with the knowledge and experience that will enable them to succeed and flourish in all areas of life as they mature into adults.

- to nurture students so that they may become life long learners with a thirst for knowledge and discovery that will remain long after their school years, in a diverse cosmopolitan community where natural flair and raw talent thrives.

School Council 2009



*“Wallington County Grammar School is an effective school, which provides its students with a good education. As one parent wrote, reflecting the views of many, ‘to be able to maintain good results within a caring, nurturing environment is something to be proud of. The school seeks to combine the best elements of its traditional ethos, values and expectations, with a growing emphasis on meeting the needs of all its students in an evolving social and educational climate.’”*

At Wallington County Grammar School, great importance is attached to pastoral care. The school takes great pride in providing pastoral support which nurtures young people so they may achieve their potential both academically and socially.

Form Tutors spend a lot of time establishing good working relationships with their tutees. Form Tutors work closely with Year Leaders to make sure our practice is consistent. The Year Leaders and members of the Senior Leadership Team work to make sure that meeting pupil needs, both collectively and individually, is always at the forefront of our thinking.

We seek the active support of parents in all matters relating to guidance. There are regular meetings to discuss courses and careers. Parents are given the opportunity to discuss their son's or daughter's progress at Parents' Evenings. Informal contact between form tutors and parents is encouraged. The School also runs a series of parent workshops which are intended to give parents advice about different aspects of both academic life and those relating to the wider outcomes of the Every Child Matters Agenda.

Student achievement is recognised in many ways. Our commendation system rewards effort and improvement. Students gain certificates for sustained achievement. Every commendation counts, as pupils can win prizes in the termly raffles. Achievement in sport is recognised through the presentation of Sports Colours, and the '100 Tie' is awarded to students who have represented the School on a hundred occasions. The Hutchins' Tie marks notable attainment in other areas of School life and House Ties, alongside House Pins, are awarded to students who have served their House with distinction. Year 11 and Sixth Form students who have demonstrated appropriate qualities become School Prefects.

All students are expected to follow the School Rules which are designed to be as straightforward as possible. Students wear the School uniform with pride and high standards in this regard are demanded.

Emphasis is placed on respect and responsibility. The School aims to provide an educational experience which produces young adults who are model citizens of our global world.



The County School for Boys, Wallington opened on the 19th September 1927, the 33rd birthday of Mr. W. T. Hutchins, its first Headmaster. There were just 71 pupils when the school opened at its original site in Queen's Road, Wallington. We moved to our present site in 1935. To join the school, boys had to pass the entrance examination, or win a county scholarship. Parents had to pay the not inconsiderable sum of £3 per term.

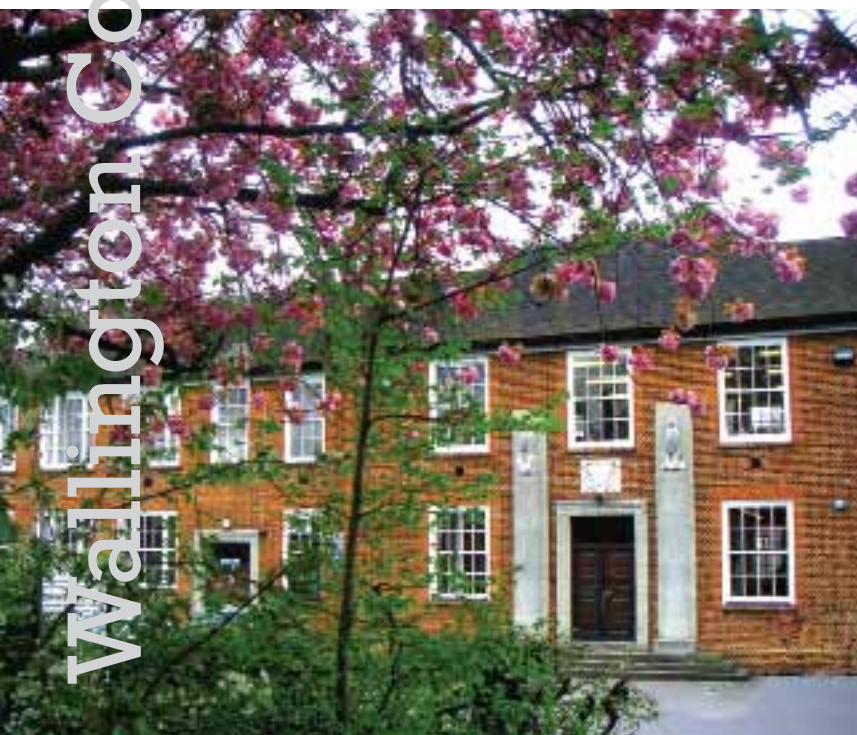
The outbreak of war led to a time of crisis for the School. In February 1944, a bomb exploding outside the senior cloakroom demolished a section of the building, and four months later a flying bomb landed near Bunker's Alley, breaking nearly every window in the School and causing widespread damage. The Headmaster refused to close the School and emergency repairs made it possible for a few rooms to be used. Additional accommodation was provided at Carew Manor, which was to be the home of the Lower School until 1972.

Following the introduction of grammar schools in the 1944 Education Act, the School became known as Wallington County Grammar School for Boys.

In 1959 the New Block was opened, providing extra laboratories, classrooms, canteen and dining room. 1973 saw the completion of the Sixth Form Block. In 1996 the School's new Science Block was opened by Chris Woodhead, an Old Boy of the School and Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools. The second phase was completed in 2000 and it is well equipped with specialist provision for Science. Facilities have been further enhanced since 2004, when the School was awarded Science College status. In 2010 the school completed the building of a new Sports Hall. This welcome addition provides excellent changing facilities, a large indoor sports area and a weights training room. On the horizon is a new building project for the school, to provide the new classroom and facilities for the teaching of Food Technology from September 2011. In 2009 the school was awarded High Performing Specialist School status and gained a second specialism in Applied Learning. In early 2011, the school became a Leading Edge Partnership School and, in June 2011, an Academy.

The Old Boys of Wallington County are "Old Walcountians". The Association was formed in 1933 and retains close links with the School. The "Old Walcountians' Dining Club" meets annually. It was formed following a dinner held in 1967 to commemorate the knighthood conferred on a distinguished Old Boy, Douglas Allen, later elevated to Lord Croham. The Old Walcountians' Association leases the school's 30 acres of sports grounds at Clock House in Woodmansterne, which include a floodlit, all-weather hockey pitch. The Association attracts mainly Old Boys, and more recently, Old Girls, who wish to remain active in a wide range of sports, although social membership is welcomed. Friendships made over the years at school are rekindled at reunions and Old Boys, of whatever age, remember their old School with affection.

The School is blessed by the long service of its Headmasters. Mr. Hutchins, the founding Headmaster, opened the School in 1927 on his 33rd birthday, and served for 32 years. He was succeeded in 1959 by Mr. Hitchin, who served for 17 years before handing over to Mr. Harrison, whose 14 year stint was exceeded by Dr. Haworth, who began his headship in 1990 and served for twenty years. Mr. Smart has been Headteacher at WCGS since 2010.



The Sixth Form at Wallington County Grammar School provides students with the opportunities to meet their academic potential and develop into well-rounded men and women, ready for the next stage of their education or employment.

There are approximately two hundred and eighty students in the Sixth Form, the majority of whom have studied at WCGS since leaving primary school. Every year we welcome a number of students from other schools who join us after their GCSE examinations. From September 1999 girls have been admitted into the Sixth Form, and there are approximately fifty girls currently on roll. The girls in the Sixth Form take a full and active part in the life of the whole school and a good number become Prefects and Senior Prefects every year, including the prestigious position of Vice-Captain of School.

The Sixth Form at WCGS has a considerable reputation earned through academic attainment, sporting, musical, dramatic and public speaking achievements, and its concern for the local community. The curriculum in the Sixth Form reflects the grammar school ethos and is combined with a progressive, daring and challenging approach from staff. The curriculum keeps pace with the demands of contemporary society, as well as satisfying and developing the interests and talents of all, whilst respecting the traditions and values of the past.

Sixth Form students are self-disciplined in their approach to their studies. They explore their chosen subjects with commitment and enthusiasm, read widely and balance the respective demands of their academic, extra-curricular and social lives. Great use is made of the Managed Learning Environment in Sixth Form teaching and learning, and departments and the Learning Resource Centre provide a wide range of materials to extend student learning beyond the classroom.

All students are expected to become involved in the wider life of the school and community, through the House system, Sixth Form Enrichment Programme, sporting, musical, dramatic and debating opportunities, Science College schemes to name just a few.

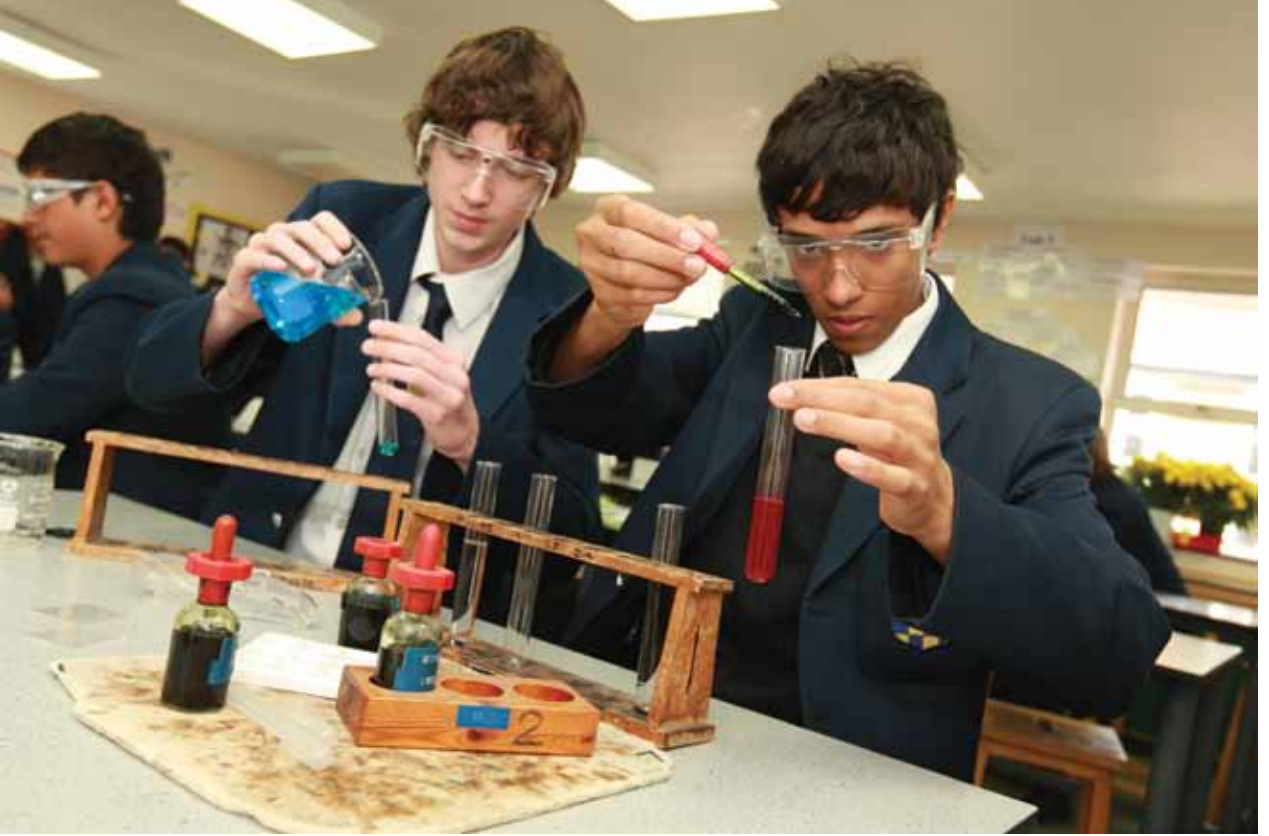
It is from the Sixth Form that Prefects and House officials are chosen and it is to them that the rest of the School turn for assistance and leadership. Members of the Sixth Form recognise that they form part of a community and contribute to the corporate life of the School and wider community. Through this involvement, they develop in themselves and encourage in others the values that characterise their conduct at WCGS and condition their careers when they leave: integrity, courtesy and compassion.

Students are well supported by pastoral staff. They are provided with career and work experience guidance, and the school makes wide use of external agencies. We also make use of the professional expertise of many parents, for guidance, mock interviews and lectures.

Whatever their chosen areas of study and their future careers, students who enter the Sixth Form emerge as educated young men and women, ready to play a happy, rewarding and worthwhile part in society. They are aware not only of what their education may enable them to derive from it, but of their responsibility towards it. All students are provided with the means to meet their academic and personal potential and they leave the School having enjoyed a challenging but rewarding time in their post-16 education.



# Wallington County Grammar School



Within the context of a well-rounded education, we aim to ensure that all of our students are stimulated intellectually by a varied and exciting curriculum tailored to the needs of our able intake.

While we follow the National Curriculum and prepare students for public GCSE and A Level examinations, we endeavour to go beyond these requirements where possible, by providing an enriched curriculum that will stand our students in good stead when they move on to university.

In Year 7, students are taught English, Mathematics, French, Classical Studies, Geography, History, Religious Studies (RS), Music, Drama, Art & Design, Design & Technology (DT), Food Technology and the three separate sciences. In Year 8, the study of Spanish is introduced. During these two years, students study the first three years of the National Curriculum.

Our two-year Key Stage 3 programme allows us to start an enhanced three-year GCSE course in Year 9. We find this arrangement benefits our students considerably, giving them the opportunity to study subjects in greater depth, to go beyond the narrow confines of the curriculum and to acquire skills that will prepare them better for advanced study. In the core curriculum, all students take English Language and English Literature, Mathematics, a Modern Foreign Language, Physical Education and RS. The majority will also take three separate sciences. Students also choose three optional subjects from the following: Art, Business Studies, Classical Civilization, DT, Drama, Economics, Geography, History, a second Modern Foreign Language, Music and PE. In addition, work experience takes place during Year 10.

We encourage students to develop good study skills and the ability to learn independently.

Homework is set daily according to a timetable published at the beginning of the year. We welcome the cooperation of parents in ensuring that homework is completed promptly, and to a high standard.

We place great importance on the development of spiritual and moral values. Religious Studies is taught in line with the syllabus of the local Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education. All boys in Years 7 up to 11 are expected to attend RS lessons, unless their parents have made written application for them to be withdrawn. School assemblies are held regularly and usually deal with matters of a spiritual or moral nature, as well as celebrating the achievements of our students. Occasionally, outside speakers are invited to address students.

Our wide-ranging Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship programme aims to ensure that all students receive information and advice regarding, for example, careers, the dangers of drug abuse and sex education. While factual accounts of human reproduction are given in Science lessons, this is augmented by the PSHE programme which seeks to put sex education in the context of family life and values. Parents may withdraw their son from any aspect of sex education by contacting his Head of Year.

Our aim is to provide a curriculum with breadth and balance that not only introduces students to what Matthew Arnold described as "the best that has been thought and said in the world", but also equips them with the skills and flexibility they will need to succeed in our fast-changing world.



We believe that enrichment outside the classroom is as crucial to hard work within it. Whatever the interest or ability, the School offers a richness of opportunity that will appeal to all – be it a sport, activity or club – and matches the value we place on our pupils' involvement in the wider life of the School and community.

On entering the School, pupils are assigned to a House which functions as a hub for their social, pastoral and extracurricular life: opportunities abound to represent their House in activities such as sporting events, drama, music and science quizzes. A healthy spirit of competition and respect is fostered as Houses compete for the Cock House Cup, awarded to the best performing House across all events.

Sport is central to School life: a competitive fixture list against leading schools in the South East is successfully maintained for Rugby, Hockey, Cricket, Football, Cross Country and Athletics. The prominence of Girls' sport has increased and girls have recently represented the School at Senior level in Cross Country, Athletics and Netball. The School makes use of coaches to provide more varied sporting opportunities, such as Lacrosse, while our state of the art Sports Hall has broadened our provision further.

Every year, our students take advantage of a variety of trips the School runs that are linked to cultural and academic areas of interest. Recent highlights include visits to the WW1 battlefields and Normandy, visiting the dynamic and vibrant city of Barcelona, experiencing volcanic activity in Iceland, cultural tours of China and New York, diving in Egypt and Red Sea cruises. Departments also run trips in support of their subjects, including Geography field trips, Biology fieldwork, Government and Politics trips to London and the Art department's visits to galleries.

Music flourishes at School, and provision is made for all abilities and styles, through groups including the Orchestra, Wind Band and Chamber Choir. Pupils perform at termly concerts, Carol Services and against other pupils in the annual Battle of the Bands. The Music department has toured Belgium and performed at prestigious venues such as the O2 Arena and the Royal Albert Hall.

There is a wealth of dramatic talent in the School and there are opportunities to participate in the grandest of productions to the most intimate of studio pieces. The biennial House Festival of Drama allows pupils to showcase their acting, production and playwriting talents. Debating and public speaking have strong foundations, with pupils regularly entering and winning regional and national competitions. Those with different interests will find themselves well catered for: the number of societies run in the school is plentiful and includes everything from Chess to Christian Union to Poetry Writing and Film Club.

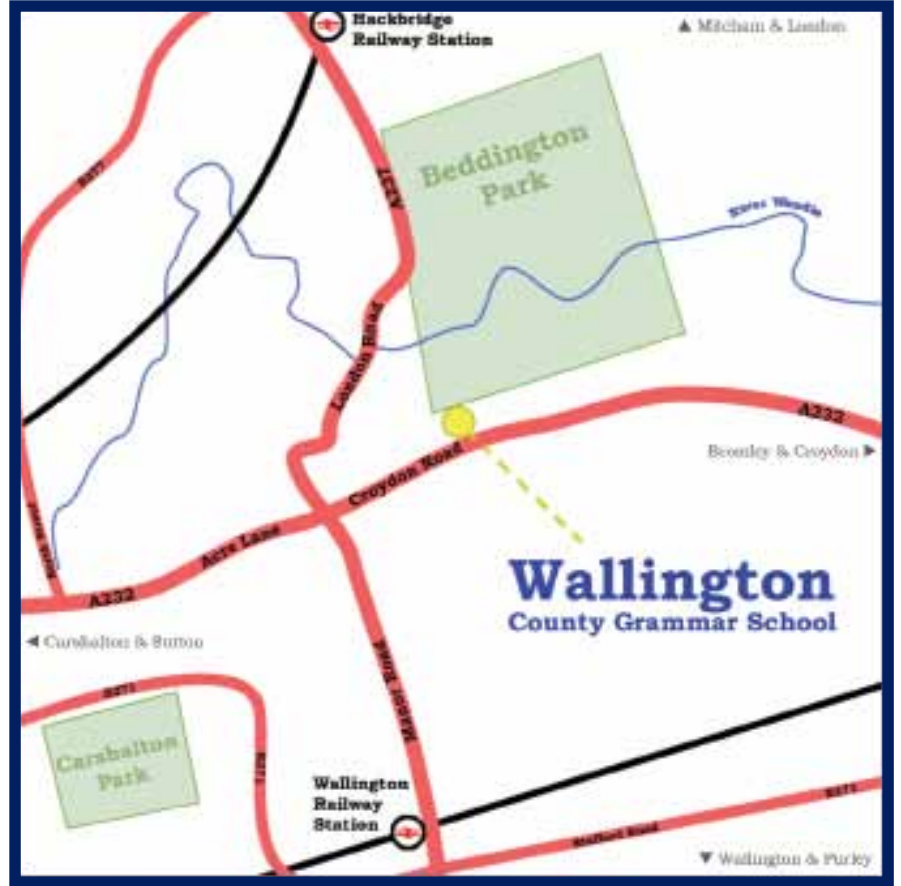
Of central importance to the school's ethos is an active contribution to the local and wider community. Our Science College status enables Sixth Form students to volunteer in local primary and SEN schools, as well as in local youth services. Many Sixth Form students support younger pupils through departmental mentoring schemes, assisting the Games department with coaching, and helping in the Learning Resource Centre. Supporting good causes – local, national or international – occurs all year round through the School Appeal, House Charity Weeks and the wholly student-run RAG (Raising and Giving) Week.





# Wallington

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### Getting here

#### On foot

The school is within walking distance from Wallington, Carshalton, The Wrythe, Hackbridge and Beddington.

#### By bus

Easily accessible by the 407, 410, 463, 612 (school bus) and X26 bus routes.

#### By train

Both Hackbridge and Wallington Stations (mainline) are within 15 minutes walking distance.