



# 28 January 2022

## Walthamstow School for Girls Greensheet

### Headteacher's Message



**Dear Parents, Carers and Students,**

I hope you and your families are well. Despite the cold weather, we have had some lovely sunny days and it has been good to see our students enjoying being outside in our lovely grounds. I know that some of our KS3 students are very keen to come inside at breaks and lunchtimes but we feel that it is good for them to benefit from fresh air and the green space. If the temperature goes below

5 degrees, we allow students inside, just as we would if it was raining or snowing. As a parent myself, I am mindful of young people having opportunities to be outside as often as possible.

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### *“One Day”*

‘You didn’t think about yesterday, and tomorrow may not happen, it was only today that you had to cope with and you got through it as best you could.’

### *Iby Knill, survivor of the Holocaust*

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On Thursday, we commemorated Holocaust Memorial Day with videos and discussions during tutor time. We have also displayed information and stories from those who were lost to the Holocaust on the big screens around school.

The theme of this year’s Holocaust Memorial Day is ‘One Day’, encapsulating the attitudes of survivors who needed to take one day at a time in order to survive. This prompts us to think of those in our community who are going through trauma and suffering and to consider ways in which we can reach out to them. It also reminds us that every day is truly precious and that we should grasp and enjoy every opportunity.

The purpose of Holocaust Memorial Day is to remember the six million Jews murdered during the [Holocaust](#), alongside the millions of other people killed under [Nazi Persecution](#) and in genocides that followed in [Cambodia](#), [Rwanda](#), [Bosnia](#) and [Darfur](#). The 27th of January also marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

One of our GREEN values is Empathy. As a school community, we should bear witness to those who have endured genocide and commit to challenging prejudice and the language of hatred in all its forms.

If you want to find out more, visit the HMDT website here: [Holocaust Memorial Day Trust \(hmd.org.uk\)](http://hmd.org.uk)

## **WGA Family Recipe Cook Off**

It was a real pleasure this week to help to judge the WGA Family Recipe Cook Off which took place on Wednesday. Our five finalists *Sana 7F*, *Hajia 8C*, *Amaira 8H*, *Rodo 8G* and *Elizah 7S* cooked and presented their food in just one hour, using family recipes. The results were truly amazing and I was glad I had not eaten any lunch; I was certainly not hungry afterwards!

Well done to *Sana 7F* and *Amaira 8H* who were the winners, both scoring the same marks, and to Ms Rahman who organised the event. It was wonderful to see our girls' amazing culinary skills, as well as to have the opportunity to share and celebrate recipes from different cultures and backgrounds.

## **Year 9 Options / Parents' Evening**

Year 9 Parents' Evening is taking place on Thursday 10th February and the booking system is now live. All parents/carers should have received an email this week with the details and instructions for logging in and booking appointments. Please contact [info@wsfg](mailto:info@wsfg) if you are having difficulties arranging appointments.

It is disappointing that we could not hold our traditional Options Evening on the 27th of January because of COVID restrictions. Instead, we are making a series of informative videos, as well as holding virtual forums with heads of subject, so that you and your daughters have an opportunity to ask questions. Links will be sent to students on TEAMS and more information is available on our website here: <https://www.wsfg.waltham.sch.uk/options>

Students will receive information and login details on the 11th of February which will allow them to make their options choices

## **COVID-19**

Thank you to parents for your support on ensuring your daughter tests regularly and comes to school wearing a mask. Unfortunately, we continue to have a high number of cases and remain in 'amber' measures, under Public Health guidance, as explained in my letter last week.

The national picture is that a record high of one in 25 pupils were absent from school last week with Covid after the number of confirmed cases doubled in just two weeks. It is the highest number since records began last March.

Wishing you all a restful weekend.

Helen Marriott



## Parent & Carer Information



## Parent/Carer Governor Vacancies

Dear Parents and Carers,

### Parent/Carer Governor Vacancies

Walthamstow School for Girls has two vacancies for two parents or carers to serve as school governors and I hope you will consider putting yourself forward. The Governing Body's role is the strategic and financial oversight of the school and ensuring that students receive a high quality education which prepares them for the next stage of their education. This includes planning for future development and improvements, but not the day-to-day management of the school. For more information on school governance, please see the Governing Body section of the school website.

If you would like to stand as a candidate, please complete the reply slip attached and return it to the school no later than 12 noon on Monday 7th February 2022. If there are more than two candidates for the two vacancies, an election will need to be held, but this is a straightforward process. All you need to do is write a short paragraph (no more than one hundred words) saying why you would

like to become a Parent Governor. Your statement will be sent out to all parents and carers along with a voting paper. Should only two parents or carers apply, then they will automatically become Parent Governors. The term of office is four years.

The work of our governors is very important to the school in key areas such as oversight and development of the ethos and curriculum of the school; well-being of pupils; staff employment and use of resources, as well as ensuring that the school maintains its high standards in all areas. You will be expected to attend an evening meeting of the Governing Body once or twice a term and to join one of its committees which also meet once a term. Governors are also encouraged to visit the school during the day by arrangement and help in the oversight of an area of the curriculum, or other important areas such as safeguarding, as a link governor. We are not looking for any particular expertise, but rather a strong commitment to the school and its students, the inquisitiveness to question, and a willingness to give some of your time to governance. However, if you have specialist knowledge or relevant experience, please do mention this in your statement. Induction training is provided for all new governors and governors are expected to attend further training on specific areas of school governance, paid for by the school.

As a school, we are always mindful that the Governing Body should reflect the local community that the school serves, and members of ethnic minority groups are therefore particularly welcomed on the Governing Body and we would encourage you to stand for election as parent governors.

Those parents and carers who applied to the vacancy in September and are still interested in becoming a school governor, are very welcome to submit their statements again.

Please note that for the purpose of safeguarding, school governors are subject to an enhanced DBS check, administered via the school, which requires disclosure of any previous criminal convictions. Anything disclosed will not necessarily bar you from holding office and will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the school.

Yours faithfully,

Helen Marriott

Headteacher



Please return this to the school by 12 noon on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2022. This can be delivered to the school office or emailed to [info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk)

I wish to stand as a candidate for election as Parent Governor at Walthamstow School for Girls.

First name: .....

Family name: .....

Signed: .....

Home address: .....

Remember to include your statement (no more than 100 words) saying why you would like to serve as a school governor and what skills/knowledge you can offer to the Governing Body from your own life/work experience. You do not need to have previous experience as a school governor.

## Year 10 Work Experience

Dear WSfG Community,

We are in the process of organising work experience for our year 10 students this summer for one week (4th to 8th July).

It is such a valuable part of their learning journey, and it gives them the chance to experience the world of work first-hand.

I am asking our community for some support in offering (physical or virtual) placements for our students.

**If you, your family or friends can provide some support in offering one or more placements for our students it would be greatly appreciated!**

Please email or contact the school if you are able to help!

Ms Desbenoit Year 10 SPL / Coordinator for Aspirational Work Experience

## Focus of the Fortnight



**31st January – 11th February 2022**

### **Movement in the School Corridors**

- We need to move around our school “calmly, safely and quietly”
- We need to follow the one way system to stop overcrowding and to keep our community covid safe
- We do not gather socially in corridors as they need to remain clear
- We are all expected to wear face masks (unless exempt) when moving around the school communal areas such as corridors

### **The Sanctions**

- The student breaking these expectations will be spoken with by a member of staff.
- Repeated infringements may be sanctioned with behaviour points

## Faculty News



## Humanities Environment Competition: "Bees don't just make honey"





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*“Bees don’t just make honey”*

*Last term, the Humanities faculty ran the second annual environment competition, focused on the theme “Bees don’t just make honey.”*

*The theme chosen by alumni and sponsor, Dawn Smith, who also took on the role of judging the entries and awarding the final placements.*

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We are delighted to announce that the overall winner is *Martha 9S* for her creative entry.



Second place went to *Maisie 9F* for her artwork, whilst third place went to *Alice 9W* who wrote and performed a song about bees and the environment.

The finalists will receive a gift certificate for £25, £15 and £10 respectively, with our overall winner *Martha* also being awarded the trophy for first place.

Keep an eye out for details of the 2021-22 competition which will be published in the coming months.

Mr Sterlini

Head of Humanities

Specialist Leader of Education



## Science - Is There Extraterrestrial Life Out There?

### Is There Extraterrestrial Life Out There?

I recently read a book by Professor Avi Loeb titled *Extraterrestrial*. Professor Loeb is Harvard University's top astronomer and one of the leading scientists in the world, hence his book captured my imagination.



In 2017, a Hawaiian observatory glimpsed a strange object soaring through our inner solar system towards the sun. It followed an unusual orbit towards the sun, and suddenly changed direction leaving no trail of debris or gas. This is very unusual as asteroids or comets will always leave behind debris of some sort, yet this leaves nothing. It also managed to break the gravitational pull of the sun.

Most astrophysicists ignored this as they were essentially getting on with other research but Professor Loeb thought this quite important. What followed were several calculations and research to examine further what this strange object was, as well as the famous portrait of the cigar shaped object postulated (see below) named Oumumamua.



Professor Loeb goes on to hypothesize that this was an extraterrestrial object possibly from another planet in the universe. He outlines how the universe was all created at the same time, so it is likely, given its size, that there is other life out there no matter how advanced or primitive. There is currently the SETI (search for extraterrestrial intelligence) project in place, but this gets little funding and top Scientists tend to stay away from it as it is not very popular.



Loeb (whilst a fan of science fiction) outlines how it can be unhelpful. People believe if there was extraterrestrial life they would suddenly appear with a big bang, yet in more likelihood they are probably in the same position as us searching the vast universe for possible signs.

I felt the book offered a more realistic approach moving away from the Hollywood Marvel idea on the matter of extraterrestrial life, yet it is backed by a prominent Harvard professor suggesting that if he believes in it, then it is a very real possibility.

If you do have further questions on this, I will direct you towards our resident astrophysicist Mr Betts who I am sure will be happy to discuss this with you.

Mr Kerr

Head of Science

## School Community Competition - Win a Keyring!



SCHOOL PLAY

I have come across this picture in the 1964 edition of *Iris*, our school magazine.

Ann Giles, was a very talented student and there are some of her pictures reproduced in the magazine.

There is something unusual about this picture. Can you see what it is?

To have the chance to win a keyring, you need to tell me:

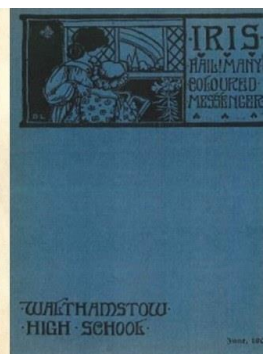
1. The name of the play that *Truffaldino* appeared in.
2. What is the link between the character *Truffaldino* and the clues in the picture.

**Bring your answers along to the LRC by Friday 4th of February for a chance to win.**

Good luck,

Mrs Kelly, LRC

## School History



Our Year 11 students have just completed their mock exams so here is an insight into the feelings of a student from the 1971 edition of *Iris*.



For those who don't know, blotting paper was used for mopping up the ink from leaky fountain pens!

Mrs Kelly, LRC



After just having suffered a week and a half of 'mock' "O" Level examinations, I am beginning to doubt my own sanity. It seems strange that I never realise what I have not learnt until, alas, it is too late and we are marched, military fashion into the examination room. The most terrifying moments are while the teacher in charge laboriously hands out paper, string (which is designed to hold one's answer sheets together but is inevitably trapped under the leg of one's chair), and blotting paper. I usually find that the literary content of the blotting paper is far more interesting than the question sheet, or indeed, my answer. The temptation to look at the examination paper before the word is given is often too much for me, and after trying to read upside down a question which I am unable to answer right way up, I suffer from an acute guilt complex throughout the examination.

After the initial shock of reading the examination paper and finding that the questions are all interested in the topics which I have not learnt, I then look round to discover that most of the other candidates are having the same trouble. As more and more people begin to write, I decide I cannot hand in an empty sheet so in beautiful handwriting I write my name, form, and all the other irrelevant information required by the examiner. I then relapse into my semi-conscious state. After being inspired repeatedly to drop my ruler on the floor, to the annoyance and the eventual exhaustion of the member of staff in charge, I attempt to indicate to the examiner the meagre amount of knowledge with which I have been blessed by decorating my paper with any fact that springs to mind.

J. Whitehead, 5.T.

## Friends of Walthamstow School for Girls



### **Calling All Parents, Carers, Former Students and Staff**

Would you like to get involved in the WSfG Friends Group to meet other parents/carers, former students and staff, support school events, activities and help raise funds for school projects? We are all very keen to begin planning future events!

We hope that parents/carers and other members of the school community (teaching and support staff, governors and school leaders, former students and staff) will get involved as our plans progress to bring projects to life for the benefit of the school and wider community.

We need people who enjoy organising events, publicity (including social media) experts, local business people with useful contacts for sponsorship, and anyone with good ideas to raise money for special school projects.

If you would like to find out more, please register your interest at the address below and put 'Friends of WSfG' in the subject heading:

**If you would like to be involved in planning a Platinum Jubilee event please contact the Friends of Walthamstow School for Girls group: [info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk)**

## Community Events

### Waltham Forest Reclaim The Night



### London Youth Games - Cricket 2022



#### Waltham Forest Girls Cricket Squad Selection Training

In preparation for the LYG Cricket Competition, we will be hosting two squad selection training sessions.

Training takes place at Leyton Sports Ground (Cricket Hub), 485 High Road, E10 6PY

on **Thursday 27th January** and **Thursday 3rd February** both from **5pm to 6pm**

**You must either live or go to school in the Borough of Waltham Forest to compete**

**Must be available to represent the Borough at the London Youth Games Cricket qualifiers and competition on:**

**Qualifiers:**

**(Girls) Saturday 5th or Sunday 6th March at Harrow Leisure Centre, HA3 5BD**

**Competition:**

**Saturday 26th March at Lord's Cricket Academy, Lord's Cricket Ground, NW8 8QN**

**For more information and to confirm your attendance please email**

**[Charles.Adeyemi@walthamforest.gov.uk](mailto:Charles.Adeyemi@walthamforest.gov.uk)**

## Contact Us





Church Hill, Walthamstow, London, E17 9RZ

Telephone: 020 8509 9446

Email: [info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk](mailto:info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk)

Website: [www.wsfg.waltham.sch.uk](http://www.wsfg.waltham.sch.uk)

Student Absence Line: 020 8509 9444



## School Calendar



### Spring Term 2022

- Thursday 10 February: Year 9 Parent and Carers' Evening
- **Half Term: Monday 14 February 2022 to Friday 18 February 2022**
- Thursday 24 February: Year 11 Parent Carers' Evening
- Thursday 17 March: Year 10 Parent Carers' Evening
- Thursday 31 March: Year 7 Parent Carers' Evening
- Spring Holiday: Monday 4 April 2022 to Monday 18 April 2022

### Summer Term 2022

- **Tuesday 19 April 2022 to Tuesday 19 July 2022**
- Thursday 28 April: Year 8 Parent Carers' Evening
- Monday 16 May– Friday 27 May: KS3 Exam Fortnight
- **Half Term: Monday 30 May 2022 to Friday 3 June 2022**
- Monday 06 June—Friday 24 June: Year 10 Exams

**PLEASE NOTE THESE DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**