

No. 31/18

24 May 2019 Week 'B' Church Hill, Walthamstow, London, E17 9R2 Telephone: 020 8509 9446 Email: info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk Website: www.wsfg.waltham.sch.uk Student Absence Line: 020 8509 9444



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SCHOOL CALENDAR Summer Term 2019 ends Friday 19th July 2019

Monday 13th May—Tuesday 18th June GCSE Examinations Year 11

Half Term: Monday 27th May 2019 to Friday 31st May 2019

Monday 3rd June—Friday 28th June Year 10 mock examinations

#### Monday 1st July 2019

Early school closure at 2.30 for Staff Training **CONTENTS** Headteacher's Message Parent/Carer Information Student Information Religious Observance Information

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Dear Parents and Carers

Before discussing this week's news, I would like to report on the Ofsted visit mentioned in last week's Greensheet. On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May, we were visited by a team of Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) from Ofsted. WSFG has been chosen as one of a small number of schools participating in an Ofsted research project. Their study is looking into the ways school teach and foster respect amongst students in relation to sexuality and gender identity issues. The HMI team spoke to representatives from the entire school community, including the Senior Leadership Team, a Parent Governor, Middle Leaders, Teachers and students, and so I am confident that an in-depth and varied view of the school was presented and analysed. The letter sent by the inspectors following the visit has been included in this edition of the Greensheet for your perusal. See page 3.

In other news, relating to the school's work within the borough, as the host school of the DfE's Teacher Subject Specialism Training (TSST), we were again joined by teachers from a range of schools on Thursday and Friday for Physics and Maths sessions respectively. Both sessions demonstrated how fun and exciting the subjects can be for teachers and students, and the participants have come away from each session with a renewed enthusiasm to either improve the way they teach, or equip them with the skills to teach the subject. Our second group of visitors from Saudi Arabia joined the Physics session on Thursday, which was an enjoyable end to our second group's placement at WSFG. Our visitors have been with us for two days a week for the past six weeks and will now leave to begin their placement at another school. We wish our guests all the best for their next placement and their stay in London.



More theatre trips have taken place this week with Year 9 students seeing the opera 'Dido' at the Unicorn Theatre on Tuesday, which is a performance in collaboration with the English National Opera. A number of students also went to see 'Small Island' at the National Theatre on Thursday, which is an adaptation of the novel of the same name. The play follows the stories of people travelling from Jamaica to Britain and responds to current issues that the Windrush generation have faced.

Finally, I would like to congratulate two students who have had some fantastic achievements. Firstly, our Year 7 student, *Clementine* (7H) has gained a place at the National Development Plan Finals for trampolining where she will represent London at the Birmingham Arena in June. Year 10 student, *Chikara* (10H), has also had some wonderful news as she has been selected by the Royal Drawing School to represent the school at Buckingham Palace and will draw in front of the many guests. Good luck and congratulations to both students!

I hope that staff, parents, carers and students have an enjoyable half-term. A reminder for GCSE students that the school will be open for independent revision Tuesday to Friday from 9.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. in rooms F12/14. We will return on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> June for the last half-term before the summer break and for students a reminder that it will be 'Week A' on our return.

Yours sincerely, Meryl Davies Headteacher



Clive House 70 Petty France London SW1H 9EX T 0300 123 1231

www.aov.uk/ofsted

15 May 2019

Ms Meryl Davies Headteacher Walthamstow School for Girls Church Hill Walthamstow London E17 9RZ

Sent by email to m.davies@wsfo.waltham.sch.uk

Dear Meryl

#### Ofsted research programme - Equalities

Thank you for your hospitality and cooperation, and that of your school governors, staff and pupils during our visit on 14 May 2019 to look at your school's work on fostering respect across sexualities and genders.

The visit provided valuable information which will contribute to our research. The final published report is likely to list the names of the contributing provisions, but individual institutions will not be identified in the main text without their consent.

Yours sincerely

Dr Ivana Vidakovic Senior Research Lead

### Eid-al-Fitr Celebrations June 2019

Dear Parents / Carers,

The school requests that Parents / Carers inform Ms. King, the School Attendance Manager **in advance** of the day that your daughter will be absent for her religious observance.

Please put this information in writing. If you have not informed the school in advance as requested, you will receive an absence enquiry text as is school procedure.

According to the DFE and Borough guidelines, students are allowed three days' religious observance in an academic year. If your daughter's religious observance days exceed three in one academic year, the extra days will be marked as an unauthorised absence.

Eid-al-Fitr Mubarak

School Calendar Dates 2018-2019		
Summer Term 2019		
Tuesday 23rd April 2019 to Friday 19th July 2019		
<i>,</i> ,		
Monday 13th May—18th June	GCSE Examinations Year 11	
, ,		
Half Term: Monday 27th May 2019 to Friday 31st May 2019		
Monday 3rd June— 28th June	Year 10 mock examinations	
Monday 1st July	Early school closure at 2.30pm for Staff Training	

# 5 **Faculty News**



#### Academic Challenge Day for KS3

Earlier this month, Dan Pugh-Bevan visited us from the University of Oxford. He ran sessions for Years 7, 8 and 9, using big questions from the OXPLORE site: https://oxplore.org/

#### The Home of Big Questions

'Oxplore is an innovative digital outreach portal from the University of Oxford. As the 'Home of Big Questions' it aims to engage those from 11 to 18 years with debates and ideas that go beyond what is covered in the classroom. Big questions tackle complex ideas across a wide range of subjects and draw on the latest research undertaken at Oxford. Oxplore aims to realise aspirations, promote broader thinking and stimulate intellectual curiosity.'

Questions on the site include:

Can war ever be a good thing? Is a robot a person? Are real-life friends better than online ones? Do we all see colour in the same way? Would you want to live forever?

Here is some feedback from one of the students who attended:

The session with Dan was very interesting and engaging. I think that it cleared up a lot of misconceptions and misunderstandings about universities. I feel that he helped me to become more confident. We debated a lot and had an Oxford style discussion. I found the session was fun as well as being educational.

Nida 7W

Have a look at the site. Is there a big question that you would like to discuss? If so, get in touch with OXPLORE:

https://oxplore.org/create-question

Ms Robinson **Challenge Coordinator** 









Celebrating Diversity Drama trip: Emilia Reviews

Earlier this week, Ms Cornford, Mr Ramlagan and I took twenty two students to see *Emilia* at the Vaudeville Theatre. It was an amazing play telling the extraordinary tale of Emilia Bassano, a British poet living 400 years ago and whose fight for education and equality is the stuff of legends.



Emilia Bassano is often credited as being England's first feminist writer. Fittingly, the production features an all-female creative team. Here are some of our students' reviews:

"Emilia was not just a great opportunity but it was truly inspirational. There was such a strong and powerful message to all girls about fighting for their rights. It was also really funny and I strongly recommend it!"

Edith 8W

"Emilia was phenomenal. It made me feel empowered to be a woman and I am sure many felt the same. A most amazing show, so funny and inspiring. My most favourite scene was when the boys walked onto the stage, it reminded me so much of primary school!"

Alina 8W

"I enjoyed Emilia as it was empowering for women's rights. It combined comedy and reality. Due to the unfair lives women lived in that era, she wanted to stand up for the women of her time and spread a powerful message that men and women should be equal. It was a hard journey but she played a big role in many women's lives!"

Keshia 10C

"Watching Emilia was such a freeing experience seeing many of my own personal experiences being shown at such a public level. The commanding voices of the actresses and the beautiful atmosphere created by the musicians and singers complemented each other perfectly creating the perfect canvas for the brilliant story of feminism to be portrayed!"

Sophia 8W

"We had the absolute pleasure to see Emilia, it was truly amazing and surely lived up to the hype! The all-female cast and diversity of people really worked together beautifully to give off a truly inspirational message that all women should be equal. I'm really glad I had the opportunity to see this brilliant play and I urge you to see it!"

Julia 8W

All students were a credit to our school. Ms Desbenoit Diversity Co-ordinator.

### Ways of Seeing Art Workshop.

Last week one of the curators from the Government Art Collection came into school to run a cross year workshop in connection with the Jane and Louise Wilson artwork we currently have on loan until the end of term. It was great to see students working collaboratively across year groups to develop their visual literacy skills.



Crystal in 10H said 'We worked with people who were

not in our year group, which at first, was awkward but it taught us the fundamentals of working with others. We did a range of activities that linked to identity and considered how certain environments could make us feel. It helped my appreciation of photography'

Ms Wills Head of Art





#### **Lost Property**

Reminder to Parents/Carers.

Please make sure all clothing, including P.E. kits, are clearly labelled. Blazers should be named with labels or in indelible pen.

Students are reminded that you can collect lost property at **3.30pm** every day. Parents and carers may also collect lost property on **any day after school**.

All lost property will be **removed** from the box on the last day of term.







Ms Jolliffe Student Services



A.G.M. and Reunion Event Saturday 29th June 2019 11.00 a.m. to 2.00 p.m.

We are delighted to invite you to our Annual General Meeting and reunion on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2019 from 11.00 a.m. – 2.00 p.m. The Greek Theatre Players will be performing Richard II in our very own unique Greek Theatre after the AGM so why not combine them both and enjoy an afternoon of Shakespeare?

We will provide tea or coffee on your arrival and after the A.G.M. provide a complimentary lunch (but donations are most welcome) in the grounds outside the old Vicarage. This will give you a chance to relax and chat to friends old and new as well as look at photograph albums from the archives. Should the weather be against us, we shall hold the event inside.

After lunch why not support the Greek Theatre Players who have been performing Open Air Shakespeare since 1958. Purchase your tickets on the door. For more information see page for 13, or go to;

www.greektheatreplayers.co.uk

Doors to the Greek Theatre will open from 2.40 p.m. in readiness for their performance at 3.00 p.m. (Tickets on door £9 or £7 concessions).

This is an opportunity to sit and be entertained in our much loved Greek Theatre. No other access will be available to the Greek Theatre unless members wish to see the performance.

We regret that we will be unable to offer tours on this occasion as the school as many other groups use the school on a Saturday, however, we will be open on Saturday 21st September 2019 for Open House when tours and photographic displays will be available.

If you wish to join us please let us know if you have any special dietary requirements

We look forward to seeing you.

Please R.S.V.P. to Lesley Winter: Tel: 020 8509 9410 Or email: <u>lwinter@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk</u>

We look forward to welcoming you to the alumnae community – and in the meantime, please stay connected and keep us to update with what you are up to.

Kind regards,

Danielle Ferguson WSFG Alumnae Chair

### **Our School History**

Joan M. Crowe (Morgan), provides us with a glimpse of the future of food and shopping in the 1954 *Iris* magazine. She writes about her summer spent in Ontario, Canada.

## Ms Kelly, LRC Manager.

Food habits are rather strange, they have gone to enormous lengths in order to get pure food with rather disastrous results. The bread is so pure that they've practically only starch left, so they have to put vitamins back in it! Milk is homogenized, which means it comes out looking like chalky water, tomatoes come in boxes of four or five, spinach already washed (?) in paper bags and so on. The bread is sweet, too, and rather like a sponge and the crust is almost non-existent.

The groceteria near where I work is most magnificent, about as big as Bakers Arms' Woolworths. I got the shock of my life the first time I patronised it. I put out my hand to open the door and it jumped away from me; they have a photo-electric cell and beam which you cross and the door opens automatically- just like the one in the South Kensington Children's Science Museum. I've never see one elsewhere. They even have meat ready packaged and priced in that one. On the way out there are barriers; you unload your basket and the girl rings up all the items on an electric adding machine and puts them in an enormous paper bag; they are even selling special metal baskets on wheels called "bundle buggies" to take them home in. Every item is wrapped and I usually have a wastepaper bin full when I unload at home.

Woolworths at Bakers Arms' Walthamstow junction now Iceland





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# Songs of love and loss

including Britten Flower Songs, Purcell Dido's Lament, Brahms Liebeslieder Waltzes, and new choral arrangement of Schumann Dichterliebe

Saturday 22 June 2019 7.30pm

Walthamstow School for Girls, Church Hill, E17 9RZ

London Forest Choir

Jonathan Rathbone conductor

Janet Coxwell soprano

Leo Nicholson piano Inga Davis-Rutter piano Tickets £14 on the door or £12 in advance; students and benefit recipients £7 on the door/£6 in advance; children £3.Available from www.londonforestchoir.org or by calling 07845 156494.



www.londonforestchoir.org

Registered charity no. 272799

Let us sit upon the ground And tell sad stories of the death of Kings

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# The Open Air Theatre Woodbury Rd E17 9BN

Wed 26 June to Sat 29 June @7:30pm plus Sat 29 June @ 3:00pm

Tickets on the Gate – on the Day Gate Opens 40mins early with Live Music Bring Cushions & Picnic Indoor Venue if Weather Bad



Admission £9 Concessions £7 Students £3

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# NATIONAL HEALTHCARE WEEKEND

## YEARS 10 - 12 AND PARENTS, JOIN US AT MEDIC MENTOR'S 2 DAY CONFERENCE FOR ASPIRING MEDICS, DENTISTS AND VETS.

#### Day 1: Making it Into Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary

An introduction into your future career. Network with current students and professionals, whilst gaining an in-depth understanding of CV building, work experience and choosing the right university for you.

#### Day 2: Medical Masterclass

A full day of lectures covering the medical application process including personal statements, interview skills, UCAT, BMAT and medical ethics led by our team of doctors and medical scholars.

Stirling	15th - 16th June
London	6th - 7th July
Cardiff	13th - 14th July
Birmingham	20th - 21st July

Registration:\* Day 1 starts from £25 Day 2 £150

\*Students from low income backgrounds can apply to attend for free Teachers attend free Proceeds from events are reinvested to support the next generation of healthcare professionals.

Register now at medicmentor.co.uk

or call 01524 389772

Medic Mentor