



GREENSHEET



No. 24/19

Church Hill, Walthamstow, London, E17 9RZ

Telephone: 020 8509 9446

Email: info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk


Website: www.wsfg.waltham.sch.uk

Student Absence Line: 020 8509 9444



23 March 2020

Week 'B'

SCHOOL CALENDAR	CONTENTS	PAGE	CONTENTS	PAGE
SCHOOL CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE	Headteacher's Message	1-2	Faculty News	9-13
	Parent/Carer Remote Learning Information	3	Governor Election Update	14
	Association of State Girls' Schools'		School Calendar	15
	Student Leadership Conference	4-8	COVID-19 Information	16
Spring Term Ends Friday 3 April	Headteacher's Message			
Thursday 26 March Year 10 Parent Carer Subject Evening 4:30-7pm	Dear Parents and Carers,			
Thursday 2 April Steel Pans Fundraising Concert 7pm	As I write this Greensheet message, my last for the time being, my message to you all is to stay well and look after each other in these truly concerning times. I have just been around the school site and heard the birds sing, felt the warmth of the sun and seen our blossoms in full bloom. The only thing missing in my pictures are our students.			
Easter Holiday Monday 6 April to Friday 17 April	We closed our doors officially for a while on Friday, after a week like no other. We said a premature goodbye to our wonderful Year 11s on Friday with uncertainty for them about their GCSE grades. Fortunately, we have now received guidance from the Examination boards so have already communicated that to them. We said goodbye too to our Year 10s, whilst Years 7-9 were at home from Thursday. All our Key Stage 3 students have been provided with a work pack providing enough home learning for the next month. Those students not in school were sent their packs by post the following day. I would like to thank Ms Kennedy and the staff involved for managing to accomplish this substantial task.			
Summer Term Monday 20 April 2020 to Friday 17 July				

Staff will continue to follow their timetables for Years 10 and 11 and teach their classes remotely via Office 365/Teams, a platform we moved to at the start of the year. It is important that our students, for their own-and your- wellbeing-to try, as far as possible, to maintain the routine of learning whilst not being physically present in school. Their teachers will certainly be doing that to ensure that they are as fully prepared as possible to continue their post-16 educational or employment path. Our Year 11 students should also feel proud of the work they have achieved thus far, and we are all extremely proud of them.

Keyworker parents have been identified by the school, following the government list published overnight on Thursday. School has opened this week for the children of key workers only.

For parents of students staying at home, please note where you will be able to find the following information during the closure of the school:
COVID-19 information and letters that have been issued by the school can be found on the website via the yellow band. On this page you will also find a link to information about remote learning. Links to both of these pages can be found below:

<https://www.wsfg.waltham.sch.uk/news/?pid=7&nid=1&storyid=310>

<https://www.wsfg.waltham.sch.uk/page/?title=Remote+Learning&pid=2310>

As the school will be closed to all but a handful of children, please email any queries to info@wsfg.waltham.sch.uk, as we cannot guarantee that staff will be available to answer telephone calls to the school during this period of closure.

Thank you all for your understanding whilst we managed the changing situation last week. We know this is a stressful and worrying time for our school community.

Stay well and safe,

Meryl Davies

Headteacher



Advice for Parents and Carers on Remote Learning Access

As a result of the closure all Year 7 to 9 students will be given a hard copy pack of materials to work on independently from home. You may also want them to access materials on skills via the student school website access page. Instructions are given below.

Years 10 and 11 will be expected to use Office 365 and follow their timetable so that teachers can provide live instruction and support where possible. This is also accessed via the student school website access page.

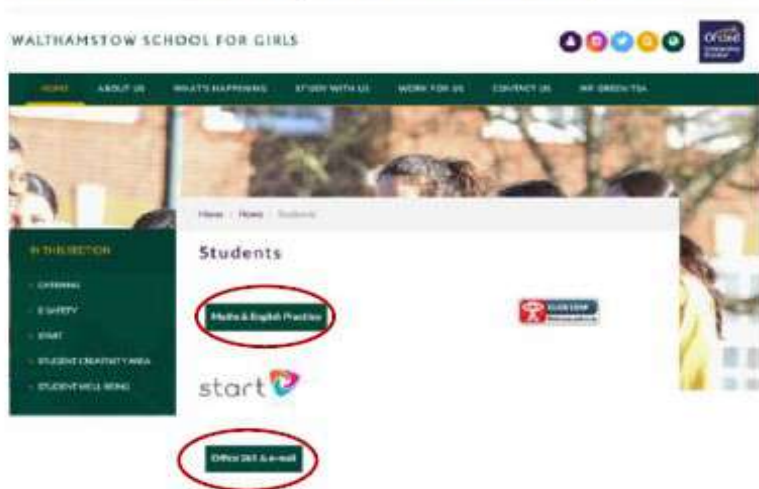
Accessing the School Website Portal

At the top right of the website are a series of circular symbols including a purple symbol. The text "School Community Users" appears when you navigate over it. Left-click brings up a menu bar which includes Students. Select this to get to the Student access page.



This page has a link that allows all students to access their Office 365 and email accounts. All KS4 students must use this.

There is also a link labelled "Maths & English Practice." This takes you to an external site we recommend that students in all years can use to maintain and improve their skills.



Known Issues

- Office 365 is best used through an internet browser on a PC. A mobile version can be downloaded for mobile devices, including phones but will not have some features.
- Mac users who have problems using it through Safari should download Microsoft Edge and use it through that browser.

ASGS Student Leadership Conference

On Monday 9th March, Ms Davies and I accompanied a group of students to Canary Wharf for the Association of State Girls' Schools' Student Leadership Conference, held at the Ernst and Young offices. It was the first time the students had been to Canary Wharf and what an introduction to the city they had! We were taken up 20 floors high and took our seats in the conference room surrounded by glass, giving us spectacular views of the whole city of London.

The conference consisted of talks given by renowned women working in a variety of fields, including law, academia, politics, journalism and radio, as well as student led workshops that were led by sixth-form students from girls' schools around the country. The first speaker was Dr Shola Mos-Shogbamimu, a New York Attorney and Solicitor of England and Wales, who ignited the room with her energy, passion and humour. Dr Shola challenged all of us with the statement that "confidence is an action not an emotion". Students soon understood the importance of demonstrating confidence even if they do not feel confident, after Dr Shola used her own experience and insecurities to illustrate her point.

The second speaker, Ayla Goksel, CEO of Ozyegin Social Investments and Visiting Fellow at the London School of Economics, spoke about the importance of involving men when discussing the issue of feminism/sexism and when celebrating International Women's Day. When designing her own non-profit organisation on the importance of a home learning environment, she realised that without the fathers being on board with the project, the situation could not change for the mothers.

The third speaker, Fiona Millar, former advisor to Tony and Cherie Blair, described how both her and her husband (Alastair Campbell) began on the same graduate scheme which should have led to similar career protectories, but that motherhood meant that her husband's career flourished, while hers stagnated. Fiona gave students practical advice, to look at the policies of prospective employers to ensure they have contracts that are flexible to the needs of women should they make the decision to have a child.

The fourth speaker, Eleanor Mills, Editorial Director of The Sunday Times Magazine, also spoke on the importance of men being involved in discussion around International Women's Day and how feminism is applicable to both men and women. Eleanor shared her thoughts on the increasing exposure young men

have to pornography and the way it shapes their views not only on women, but on relationships. Eleanor also shared her career path and her approach to her editorial work for The Sunday Times, which is inclusive of women from a range of backgrounds and proudly promotes their intellect as opposed to their body on the front cover of her magazine supplements.

The final speaker, Lucinda Montefiore, spoke not about her career as one of the producers of BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour, but of her struggles with managing her mental health. She explained to students that whilst she is from a background of privilege and has had a very successful career, she still has bouts of severe anxiety and depression. Lucinda encouraged students to not be ashamed of mental health issues, but to speak about them and to identify the right strategies to help them deal with the issues and make tasks manageable which previously were not.

All four speakers gripped the room and our students hastily wrote notes as they gave their talks. Whilst the conference was aimed at sixth form students, our Year 11 students were at ease joining in discussions and debates with a range of students. It was a useful day to develop students' critical thinking skills for their next steps at college and university.



Ms Hennelly, PA to the Headteacher

All of our students demonstrated exemplary behaviour and were a credit to the school. Please see their reviews of the day below:

Workshop Review: An Interpretation of Feminism

In the beginning, I was apprehensive, due to the other bright minds in the room, but that was quickly conquered by the warm welcome everybody gave, which led to a constructive and informative conversation proceeding. First, we discussed our interpretation of feminism in small groups, which really opened my eyes about the differing perspectives we all shared due to our social status, ethnicity and experience with other 'feminists'.

We then had a brief presentation about the different waves of feminism through the ages, allowing us to understand the past before we look towards the future.

Finally, the conversation was opened up to the whole room, and a healthy and hilarious exchange of ideas ensued. We also talked about the past oppression of women, and how women unfairly judge each other still today, something I have never truly pondered. This workshop set an inclusive and comfortable tone for the rest of the conference, and it completely exceeded my expectations. For me, it's clear to say I walked out of the workshop as a changed person.



Crystal 11H

Conference Speakers Review

The conference was held at the Ernst and Young offices in Canary Wharf, where we were allowed access to the 20th floor. The conference was from 10am to 4pm and included five speakers and a variety of student workshops. The first speaker was such an inspirational lady named Dr Shola. She brightened up the whole auditorium with her inspiring words and her amazing message of being confident and persevering no matter what happens. As a woman, she talked about her struggle while working as a mother and gave an insight into what real life jobs will be like.

The second speaker was Ayla who was from a Turkish background and she talked about the struggles that everyone, but particularly young women, face while trying to get a good education alongside a stable work life. Her talk was equally as inspiring as Shola's, and she brought light to the girls who don't/can't get an education because of their gender, and sometimes because of their background. Another speaker was Eleanor Miller who spoke on the taboo topic of the effect of the increased exposure to pornography has on young boys. Interestingly, she also spoke on the effect it has on girls and the way real relationships form. Using her experience from working as a journalist and having her own child, she chose a

topic that we usually wouldn't talk about. Her talk was very informative and gave us an insight to real life issues.

Overall, this trip was very inspiring and suited the theme of International Women's Day very well. The speakers gave us very good advice and helped develop our knowledge.

Maryam 11W



Workshop Review: How to Plant Your Success

I had one of the greatest experiences being able to go on this trip and I had the chance to meet many inspirational women. Throughout the day, I attended four talks and two workshops, my favourite being 'How to Plant Your Success'. This workshop allowed me to structure my own path to success through many stages illustrated as a plant. For example, the soil represented the community you work in and being able to work well, efficiently and be determined. Furthermore, through this workshop I was able to build my self-esteem and confidence as I contributed many times during the workshops and felt very comfortable during the day. Overall, this day has empowered and encouraged me to believe in myself and work extremely hard for the future. I would like to thank everyone who gave me the opportunity to attend this event, as it was the best trip I have been on and it has made a great impact on me.

Amina 11S

Workshop Review: Being a Queen 101

On Monday 9th March, I had the honour to go to a prestigious conference at the Ernst and Young office in Canary Wharf, celebrating International Women's Day. Throughout the conference, there were talks by a number of speakers who

focused on highlighting the importance of inner beauty, confidence and self-esteem.

We also highlighted prominent issues within our society regarding women, like the gender pay gap and educating fathers in other countries about the importance of parent-children relationships. Furthermore, we attended two different workshops at the conference, one of the workshops I attended was called “Being a Queen 101”, which was held by sixth formers and focused on discussing the common insecurities and concerns that young teenage girls have, alongside discussing what makes a true queen such as being intelligent and wise. I left the conference at the end of the day feeling extremely confident about myself and found that my self-esteem had been restored. Overall, I feel very thankful that I had such an amazing opportunity and hope that some of those speakers could come to school.

Imaan 11S



Faculty News

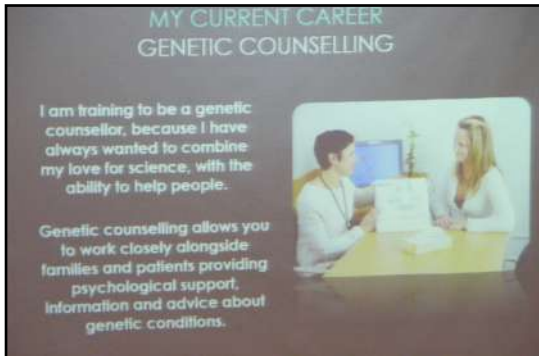
International Women's Day Celebrations and Science Week

As a follow on to International Women's Day celebrations and Science week, we were delighted to have Leanne Barrett, a former student of WSFG, return to the school to share with our Year 9 students her journey so far, since leaving us.



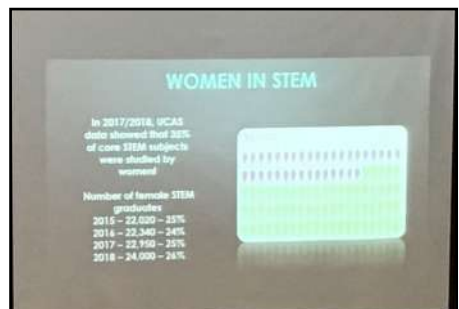
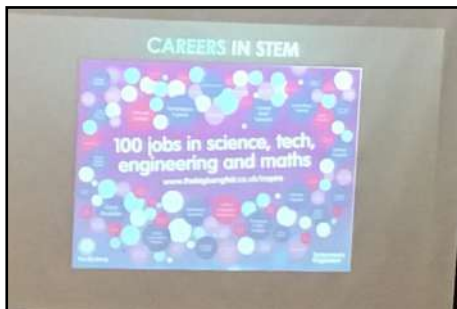
Leanne is a fantastic role model for our students, having studied Biology, Chemistry and Psychology at A' Level before gaining a 2:1 at Oxford Brookes University. She is currently finishing her Masters and is set to become a Genetic Counsellor. Leanne explained this role, linking it to the GCSE Science

curriculum and gave students a real insight into a whole host of STEM related careers whilst advising that set-backs along the way should be seen as 'new doors opening'.



The Qs and A session rounded off the talk with many Year 9 students asking interesting follow-up questions.

Mr Kerr and Ms Brunas



Pi Day 2020

Despite Pi Day being on a Saturday this year, it was still celebrated by the Maths Faculty, in the week leading up to March 14th.

Year 7 developed their memory techniques, using colour coding of the digits, chanting and singing to help memorise Pi. Classes had Pi recitation competitions, students made human Pi formations and some made Pi shaped biscuits.

Here is a selection of Pi themed photos from our activities.



The Winner of 7M1 was *Faith*, who memorised pi to 107 dp



The class standing in Pi formation is 11M1



The biscuits and stitching were both done by Eliza.



The colourful grid is Pi, colour coded to 100dp, made out of origami paper



Ms Robinson
Challenge Coordinator

MUSIC FOR YOUTH

ABOUT ▾ MEDIA ▾ EVENTS ▾ OUR 50TH BIRTHDAY THE FUTURE IS NOW

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♥ Donate!

Music for Youth

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Music for Youth are continually monitoring the situation regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19)

[More Information](#)

Event Calendar

MARCH

STEM -Year 8 Institute of Engineering and Technology Challenge Day

WSFG welcomed students from Highams Park School and Holy Family Catholic School to participate in a busy and challenging STEM day. The students had to come up with innovative solutions and prototypes for transporting aid to disaster zones. I was very proud of all the students for their enthusiasm and work ethic throughout the day.

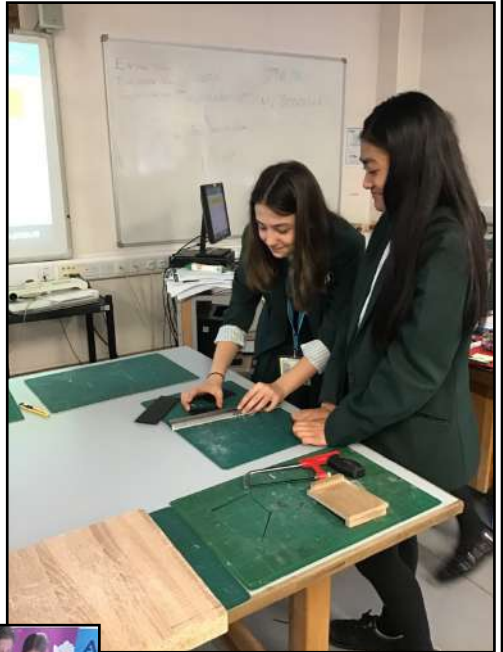
This is what the students had to say about the experience.

This problem solving day was informative and fun! I got to learn all about Engineering and valuable skills I can use later in life. We used resilience and creativity plus we got to work with new people and make new friends. I would love to do something like this again.

Evie 8F

Throughout the course of the day I learnt valuable skills including resilience, teamwork and communication. I discovered that there are many different types of careers within engineering. It was a fun and informative day.

Stefania 8S



This was a great opportunity to work on problem solving skills and teamwork. The staff were very supportive and made sure we all contributed and felt included. I am glad we have these workshops.

Matylda 8S

The activity today was a great experience for us to build on our teamwork skills and learn about the role of an engineer. I discovered that being an engineer is so much more than making things as there are lots of branches of engineering.

Mya 8H



This was a fun and exciting opportunity and I learnt a lot about engineering. I learnt the importance of STEM and how engineering can be applied to everything. I really enjoyed this amazing day and I hope to do something like this again.

Carys 8W

Ms Healy
STEM coordinator



Parent Governor Election Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

Due to the current circumstances, we have decided to postpone the Parent Governor Election to the Summer Term, after the April holidays.

Those who have applied and have had their statements issued in the last edition of the Greensheet will remain nominees in the upcoming election. Nominees have been contacted separately to advise them of this decision.

As we have previously used a method of individuals with parental responsibility coming to the school to vote, we will now be exploring using an electronic voting format for the postponed election.

We will inform parents/carers of the new election details via the Greensheet. Thank you for your understanding and supporting the school on this matter.

Ms Hennelly
PA to Meryl Davies, Headteacher



**ON ENTERING
AND
LEAVING THE
SCHOOL PREMISES**

School Calendar Dates 2019-2020

**SCHOOL CLOSED
UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE**

Spring Term

Monday 6 January to Friday 3 April

Thursday 26 March

Year 10 Parent Carer Subject Evening 4:30–7pm

Thursday 2 April

Steel Pans Concert 7pm

**The above events have been postponed until the Summer Term
dates to be confirmed**

Easter Holiday Monday 6 April to Friday 17 April

Summer Term

Monday 20 April 2020 to Friday 17 July

All dates are subject to change

Thursday 23rd April

Intercultural Evening

Thursday 7 May

Year 7 Parent Carer Subject Evening 4:30–7pm

Friday 8 May

Exceptional Bank Holiday

Monday 11th May—

Wednesday 24th June

Year 11 GCSE Examinations

Monday 11 - Friday 22 May

KS3 Examination Years 7, 8 and 9

Wednesday 13 May

Early Closure (except those students with exams)

Staff INSET

Half Term: Tuesday 26 May to Friday 29 May

Monday 1 - Friday 26 June

Year 10 End of Year Examinations

Wednesday 10 June

Early Closure (except those students with exams)

Staff INSET



Public Health
England

Advice on the coronavirus for places of education

How serious is the coronavirus?

- it can cause flu-like symptoms, including fever, cough & difficulty breathing
- the infection is not serious for most people, including children
- there is currently no vaccine
- most people get better with enough rest, water to drink and medicine for pain

How likely are you to catch the virus?

- you can only catch it if you have been close to a person who has the virus
- the chance of being in contact with the virus is currently low in the UK
- if you have travelled to areas where many people are infected, your chance of catching the virus is higher, i.e. China and any affected areas

How can you stop coronaviruses spreading?

If you need to cough or sneeze



Catch it with a tissue



Bin it



Kill it

by washing your hands with soap & water or hand sanitiser



After breaks & sport activities



Before cooking & eating



On arrival at any childcare or educational setting



After using the toilet



Before leaving home



Try not to touch your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands



Do not share items that come into contact with your mouth such as cups & bottles



If unwell do not share items such as bedding, dishes, pencils & towels



Stop germs spreading with our e-Bug resources on hand and respiratory hygiene lesson plans for KS1, 2 and 3: campaignresources.phe.gov.uk/schools

What should you do if you feel unwell?

Keep away from others and stay at home to stop the infection spreading. Avoid public transport if you think you have symptoms of coronavirus. If you become unwell at a place of education, tell a member of staff and let them know if you have travelled to any other countries in the last 14 days.

If your staff member or parent thinks you have symptoms of coronavirus, they should call **NHS 111** for advice. Follow the UK Government advice for childcare or educational settings [gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19). Parents can visit [NHS.UK](https://www.nhs.uk) to find out more information. Teachers and support staff should follow the UK Government advice.

Staff, students and pupils who have returned from Wuhan and Hubei Province in China should self isolate, and NOT attend education or work for 14 days. See [NHS.UK](https://www.nhs.uk) for advice on coronavirus.

If there is an emergency, call 999 immediately

