



"NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE"

# Greensheet Plus

## AUTUMN 2016

**Year 11 Results Day**



**Year 7 First Day**



# Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our Bumper Greensheet will have given you an overview of some of our school activities; this final issue of 2016 is simply to wish you an excellent holiday as well as a brief mention of some of this week's activities and a staffing update.

Recently our former Year 11 students, along with their families, attended our Presentation Evening to celebrate their success in the GCSE examinations in the summer and collect their awards. It was a pleasure to see them all again. Those students had very good reason to be particularly pleased with their achievements. Our 2016 results, when compared to schools nationally against attainment and progress in the best eight subjects, 5+ A\*-C including English and mathematics and the EBacc, place us amongst the top 17 non selective schools in the country. This list includes only one other community comprehensive, a girls' school in West Sussex.

This week our current Year 11 students received their mock examination results in a formal event in the Hewett Hall. They have worked very hard indeed and whilst many were pleased, there were others who were extremely disappointed. The positive side to this is that we still have five months to work on the preparation for these examinations. With effort and perseverance on all sides, I am confident that there will be smiles all round next August. It was also a pleasure to see Year 11 parents and carers at our core subject information evening last week

We had occasion to come together as a staff on Tuesday for our annual Community Party for local senior citizens. It was a wonderful event and was attended by over a hundred local elderly residents. A thoroughly good time was had by all and there was even an appearance by Santa Claus! A huge number of school staff were involved in the event, along with many, many students. Thank you all.

We also rounded off the term with our annual Carol Concert at St Mary's Church. This time the orchestra and choir were joined by the school steel pan ensembles, and included a special appearance by alumnae ensemble players.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff and students of WSFG, I would like to thank you for all your support this year and wish you and your families, near and far, health and happiness for 2017!

Yours Sincerely

Meryl Davies  
Headteacher

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## GCSE Results 2016

On the first day back in September, we celebrated the fantastic GCSE achievements of our Year 11 students. Their results were once again record breaking. The girls achieved the school's highest ever number of the all-important 5+A\*-C grades including English or English Literature and Mathematics which, at 80%, is significantly higher than national figures.

At the same time our EBacc A\*-C figure has risen to 48.3%. The national figure for the EBacc in 2015 was 24%. We are confident that this year's results will continue to compare very favourably with other high performing comprehensives nationally.

Large numbers of our girls achieved the top grades at GCSE level and they have made us and their families very proud. I have included below just a sample of some of our high achievers who have now secured places at excellent sixth form provision:

Student	A*/A grade results	Student	A*/A grade results
Charlotte Gamble	10 A*s	Atinuke Adeniji	8 A*s, 2 As
Phoebe Elliott	7 A*s, 3 As	Isabel Billington	5 A*s, 5 As
Eza Arshad	7 A*s, 2 As RS short course A*	Eliza Jones	6 A*s, 3 As RS short course A*
Khatijah Saddiq	7 A*s, 2 As RS short course A*	Lillian Ngo	6 A*s, 3 As
Fiona McDonald	5 A*s, 3 As	Marwa Bibi	4 A*s, 6 As
Kate Jessener	5 A*s, 4 As RS short course A	Emine Omer	4 A*s, 5 As
Ameera Waseem	3 A*s, 7 As	Rose Schechter	3 A*s, 5 As
Hamnah Shakeel	3 A*s, 5 As	Yasmin Shakibi	1 A*, 8 As RS short course A
Saba Jamil	1 A*, 8As RS short course A	Sara Khan	1 A*, 8 As RS short course A
Dinusha Kulathas	8 As Additional Maths (C)	Sreja Thiruchelvam	1 A*, 7 As

Students at our school have made exceptionally good progress overall with a large number surpassing their predicted grades. We particularly congratulate students such as *Haiqa Liaqat, Wiktoria Grudzinska and Samaiya Bint Nasar* whose hard work ensured excellent progress and outcomes. They have made us all very proud.

Meryl Davies

Results Day 25th August 2016



## Start of term

It was a real pleasure to see all our students return after a much deserved break. Our Year 7s settled in very well and quickly got used to their new routines and responsibilities, as well as our school ethos and expectations.

My start of term assembly focussed on the history of the school, and the girls were given a full explanation of the development of the new logo (and badge on the blazers of the Year 7 students). The blazer has proved so popular that even some Year 11 students have taken to wearing it, although it is still optional for them. It is proving all the more popular, given our Green focus, as it is made from recycled bottles!

We welcomed the following new teaching colleagues this term: *Mr Gunzi*, Deputy Headteacher, *Ms Baldwin*, Head of English Faculty, *Ms Hepworth*, Art Teacher, *Ms Najib* covering a maternity leave in our Languages Faculty (Urdu) and *Ms Begum* and *Ms Hussain* in Science. We are also pleased to see the return of *Ms Prieto*, Head of Faculty, MFL, *Ms Heath*, Art Teacher and *Ms Whitbread* in the Admin. Faculty, who have been on maternity leave.

The new badge or logo is symbolic for a number of reasons. Our 12 year old designer in 1986 was keen to include hidden elements of the school, for example the rose garden (which was removed to make way for the new car park) and the outdoor Greek Theatre (built in 1925) in which Dame Sybil Thorndike took on the role of Medea. We have retained a representation of the Greek Theatre, which the girls see as symbolising power, strength, knowledge and, interestingly, growth, and as a site of our key transition celebrations in the school.



We have added the date on which the school was founded to illustrate the long tradition of quality education associated with this school. The lettering around the badge is in the same font, Albertus, as the font of our motto written in gold in the main Hewett Hall, named after another of the school's previous headteachers. The acanthus leaf reflects our local links with William Morris and the Arts and Crafts movement, as well as the leaf design on the portico main entrance to the school and the pomegranate decorative design in the Hewett Hall. The colour green has been retained as representing both our history as the 'Green' school in both colour and deed, but also the values which underpin our vision for

the school built on our commitment to developing independent citizens, prepared to take risks in their learning and to embrace challenge and change. Finally the colours: gold for excellence, reflecting aspects of the school's decoration as well as the achievement board lettering in the Hewett Hall, with the addition of purple, representing the achievement of women and the battle to secure equality with the vote, or suffrage, and liberation. So our school colours now reflect those of the Suffragette movement, which is a fitting reminder of the power our young students have to influence the world in which they live.

We are grateful to our designer, Lydia Thornley and the school's governors who volunteered their time and expertise for months as they engaged with this process with us: Gillian Barker (Chair of Governors), Jane Harper and Kay Larkin, and also Romi Jalil, the school Business Manager.

Ms Davies



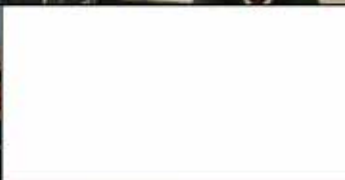
Year 7 Students  
modelling our new blazer



## Year 7 First Day







## Stonewall Conference

Last term we attended the Stonewall Education for All conference.



The conference is Britain's leading event on preventing and tackling homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying among young people. It brings together hundreds of education professionals through a series of panel discussions and interactive workshops, as well as a dedicated youth stream for 150 young people.

Two lucky members of our Student Equal Opportunities Group came and attended sessions on promoting positive mental health and well-being for LGBT young people and being part of a role model panel: not just LGBT.

They found the day and the experience extremely valuable and will take back many ideas to our community to ensure our school is truly inclusive. Here is Lily's wonderful review of the day:

*I attended the Stonewall Conference at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in Westminster. In the shadow of Parliament, people from schools, local councils and places of work gathered to discuss equality in this country for the LGBT+ community.*

*The opening session featured the Chief Executive of Stonewall Ruth Hunt, who has led Stonewall's campaign for transgender equality. She spoke about the challenges facing lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals. Dr Masuma Rahim, clinical psychologist and campaigner to raise awareness of the negative impact austerity and inequality have on mental health, who spoke of the mental health issues that many members of the LGBT community deal with. Yvette Cooper MP, also spoke.*

*Together with Alice Evans, a current Year 10 student, I took part in multiple workshops. The first was Promoting Positive Mental Health and Wellbeing for LGBT Young People. The speakers spoke about intersectionality, and how LGBT people are not defined by being LGBT, but that many people think they are, and the mental health issues that can stem from or be amplified by being a part of this community. 56% of lesbian, gay and bisexual teenagers self-harm; 23% of lesbian, gay and bisexual people and 27% of transgender people attempt suicide. There are very real problems that come with being queer and having a mental health problem, but there are also very real solutions, and the speakers talked about making these solutions known and available to those who*

need it most. The next session was a role model panel entitled Not Just LGBT. Having LGBT role models is very important as a young person, whether one is a part of the community or not. This panel talked about how sexual identity is not the only aspect of their personalities, and how their gender and sexuality fit in with and affect their lives. The three speakers were Ayla Holdom, a former RAF helicopter pilot and now a policewoman who came out and transitioned while serving with the RAF and now advises the RAF on trans issues; Maria Munir, a politics graduate of the University of York widely known as 'the student who came out to Obama' who greeted the room by saying "Eid Mubarak"; and Asif Quraishi, Britain's first out Muslim drag queen as Asifa Lahore, who was famously censored from talking about being Muslim and gay on BBC Free Speech. While Ayla Holdom discussed the systems in place that made it easier for her to transition from male to female in the armed forces, Maria Munir talked about the issues surrounding being a non-binary person when the identity is not recognised under the Equality Act and that being non-binary is a valid identity, and Asif Quraishi talked about the difficulty of coming out to his Muslim family and the challenges of combining his faith and his sexuality. This was an incredibly interesting and eye-opening workshop.

Alice and I separated for the last workshop of the day – while she went to learn about campaigning as a young person, I went to a session called So What About the "B" in LGBT?

The speakers, were Stonewall's own Alex Gwynne and two Stonewall Alumnae, Liam Bale and Leanne Smith. All of the speakers were bisexual, and talked about the difficulties and prejudices specifically facing the bisexual community. Bisexual is an umbrella term, describing someone who is attracted to more than one gender.

As bisexual identity is fluid and thus, by nature, changeable, this includes being queer, pansexual, flexible and simply bi-curious. They spoke of the misconceptions about being bisexual – misconceptions that have always angered me, and so made me pleased to hear about – such as it being about greed, the relationships bisexual people have not counting, and it simply being a stepping stone on the way to coming out as a more "valid" identity, such as being gay or lesbian.

As out and proud bisexual adults, the speakers could offer very useful information: coming out in the workplace, the difficulties in explaining one's identity to heterosexual or homosexual partners, and the need for bisexual role models. Liam Bale wrote an article about bisexual role models, and had to google the subject, because he couldn't think of any – a statement which is frankly abysmal and should not be true. I left the workshop feeling like I had learned a great deal about biphobia, how to navigate life as a bisexual individual, and knowing that my mind should always be open to new identities and to new people.

*The closing session featured a role model panel of four people, including TV presenter Gok Wan, mental health campaigner Jonny Benjamin, author Juno Dawson, and the star of BBC's I Am Leo, Leo Waddell. They talked about the difficulties of mental health problems, from the binge eating Gok Wan was prone to as a young adult, to schizoaffective disorder which Jonny Benjamin was diagnosed with at age twenty, which led to him nearly committing suicide. Leo Waddell and Juno Dawson, as transgender individuals, also talked about the difficulties of transitioning and how their loved ones could help. Juno Dawson realised she was transgender later in life after spending around thirty years as a gay man, while Leo Waddell realised at a very young age that while he was assigned female at birth, his body did not match who he truly was. Seeing these people, who have been through so much due to being LGBT and due to other problems in their lives, gave the whole room hope that while life has been difficult, it can always get better.*

*Overall I had an incredible day, and learned things I would never have found out if I had not attended. I found new role models in every session, and adored every minute of the day (including the lunch). On July 8th, I found at the Stonewall Conference that their motto is true – we can live in a world of acceptance without exception.*

Lilly IIS

Ms Desbenoit  
Diversity Coordinator.



## Soroptimist International Short Story Writing Competition



Joy Brown of the London Central and South West Soroptimist Club visited WSFG to present the winners of the recent short story writing competition with their prizes. The presentation was planned to coincide with International Literacy Day.

The Soroptimists launched the competition to celebrate literacy and to focus on the lives of women and girls in other countries. The students were asked to base their stories on a number of photographs selected by the Society featuring children from different countries around the world including Syria, Nepal and Rwanda.

Entries were received from fifteen students in Year 10 and one in Year 9 and the English Faculty were very impressed at the standard of all the stories and excited to see who the winners would be. The Soroptimists were equally impressed and one of the organisers, Dr Barbara Diamant, said "The standard of English is exemplary, their perception and imagination are both excellent and truly reflect positively on the school."

The judge, Dr Helen Drury, an educationalist and Director of Mathematics for Ark Schools said "It was really difficult to choose, but the three I've gone for stood out for being particularly compelling snapshots of significant moments, with credible characters." The three winners received book tokens; they were:

*Coral Monaghan*: "For effective balance of description and first person reflection, the hope and belief in the human spirit, and the imagery of the dancing stick."

*Assa Kanoute*: (Forgotten Dreams): "A realistic and well-researched portrayal of a horrific situation; flashback at the start draws the reader in."

*Alice Evans*: (Angel of the Night): "Compelling narrative thread, effective combination of optimism and realism."

The three winning stories are available to read on the school website.

Joy Brown told the girls that the Society plans to publicise the students' success in it's magazine Soroptimist News which is issued to members all over the world.

Congratulations to all the students who submitted an entry and particular thanks to Ms Cato who encouraged the girls to submit entries.

Ms Davies

## Year 8 Mental Health Trip Guinness World Record

Twenty five Year 8 students went to Ilford Town Hall to attempt to set a Guinness World Record for the largest mental health lesson. This was hosted by Hussain Manawar, a young local YouTuber who won a global competition to go into space. He is a huge advocate of support for mental health issues and has dedicated his winnings to this cause.

We all had a brilliant time. The mental health lesson itself lasted thirty minutes and was really interesting and informative. To add to the experience Hussain invited lots of guests and some celebrities to support the cause too. See below for some accounts from students.

Ms Philippou  
Assistant Headteacher



*I learned that life isn't what we see on social media, and people think depression is sadness, people think depression is crying, people think depression is dressing in black. But people are wrong. Depression is the constant feeling of being numb. Being numb to emotions, being numb to life. You wake up in the morning just to go to bed again. Days aren't really days; they are just annoying obstacles to be faced. And how do we face them. Through medication, through drinking, through smoking, and through cutting. When you are depressed you grab on to anything that can get you through the day. That's what depression is, not sadness, tears. It's the overwhelming feeling of numbness and the desire for anything that can help you to make it from one day to the next one.*

*Denisa Raducan 8W*

*Myself and some other students who applied to try to break the record of the world's largest mental health lesson, travelled to Ilford Town Hall to participate in this once in a life time opportunity. Ms Desbenoit, Ms Jean-Baptiste and Ms Phillippou kindly assisted us at this special event. Although 321 people appeared at the Ilford Town Hall, sadly we didn't break the record. The day was however turned around to the positive side because many celebrities came and everybody learned many new things about mental health. There were many inspirational speeches which was followed by exciting performance by WSRTN.*

*Naimah 8F*

*I went to Hussain House to take part in the Guinness world record and it was wonderful, I had the best time of my life. The lesson was very educational and enjoyable.*

*Abena 8F.*

*I had lots of fun on the trip. I learnt so much more about mental health. I didn't know half of the things I learnt on this trip. As well as learning so much about mental health, I got to meet so many amazing people like, WSTRN, Jahmene and so many more. This was definitely a trip that I would go on again.*

*Muskaan 8F*

*The thing I enjoyed the most was meeting Lois from WSTRN and Jahmene and the speech WSTRN gave. I had a really fun day, I got to enjoy it with my friends from my year. We had the mental health lesson at Ilford Town Hall. Sadly, four schools backed out so we didn't have 400 people and we did not break the world record. On the bright side, we had a great day and learnt a lot.*

*Loreal 8W.*



## Black History Month Events

October was Black History Month and we celebrated it in our school community in many ways:

Three Year 9 Equal Opportunity students devised a powerpoint for our TV monitors and an assembly on the achievement of black people (Barack Obama, Nelson Mandela, etc.). One Year 11 student has worked with me on PSHE lesson plans to incorporate discussions and debates around the Black Lives Matter movement. Two Year 11s devised a presentation on the love story between black man Seretse and white woman Ruth Williams in a difficult racial context of the 40's in Europe and Botswana. Two Year 10s explained the origins of the celebration of Black History Month in 1926 and its original goal in another presentation.

Here are two poems from Year 11 students written for a competition and recited in a special assembly:

Ms Desbenoit  
Diversity Coordinator

### **We're Failing**

*Do you remember the troublemakers-  
in year 1 & year 2.  
Who kept doing bad things;  
so you were punished too.  
The troublemakers you saw;  
that the teachers overlooked.  
But as soon as you did wrong,  
you're forever in the bad book.*

*Well that's how Muslims feel,  
every single day.  
When we're blamed for everything.  
It's eating me away.*

*Because when I'm learning history;  
thoughts come on my mind:  
about how Jews were treated  
by the Nazi regime.  
I compare it to the present,  
and realise that all I really see:  
is that people are failing,*



to learn from history.  
The holocaust started,  
with giving Jews the blame,  
for every trouble that occurred,  
and then putting them to shame.  
Making their race the minority;  
their confidence tear,  
when they're like everyone else,  
but filled up with more fear.

That was just the beginning ,  
before the death of 6 million Jews.  
I would turn back time and stop it,  
if I could choose.  
Because none of those Jews, deserved to have died,  
because a despotic leader,  
thought he had a right:  
to isolate a certain race,  
and groups he disliked,  
then suffocate them;  
or labour them till they died.

Now since the 9/11 in 2001,  
Muslims have had a bad name.  
Being reminded every day,  
has filled our hearts with shame.

We're asked how we feel,  
to be part of a religion:  
that killed so many innocents.  
But that's not my religion.

So I give my apology:  
on behalf of the flawed,  
who took away innocent lives,  
with the name of my Lord.

To the innocent people,  
in Syria and Palestine,  
for always getting bombed;  
but only remembered time to time.

To the people in Orlando,  
in Brussels and Paris;  
although being cared for,  
still being attacked by terrorists.

*To the innocent Muslims,  
that have been taken off planes,  
for reasons so ignorant,  
foolish and lame.*

*To my parents and other Muslims,  
who are constantly accused,  
by people of the public;  
also racially abused.*

*It's not only about Muslims,  
it's about Mexicans and Blacks.  
They're being completely disregarded;  
wish I could say it's a hoax.*

*'Cause we're living in a world,  
where there is minority races,  
and many empty-headed people,  
who want to take this to places:  
kill Muslims with pig blood,  
build walls between places,  
don't let Muslims in America;  
especially those who cover their faces,  
don't let black lives matter,  
send Syrians back to their 'homes',  
put surveillance in mosques,  
in case of ISIS funded phones.*

*We can't watch this happen,  
stand around and wait.  
So open your eyes now,  
before it's way too late.*

Hafsa Moolla I I W



## **Black Lives Matter**

*A bullet away from a hashtag, that's what we are  
If the world stays this way, we won't get far  
They say racism is dead but yet blacks die every day  
Slaughtered for their melanin yet they were born that way  
Tamir Rice, Alton Sterling just a few I can name  
They say things are changing but it still stays the same*

*Would you like to explain why they had to die?  
To the mothers, wives, and families who struggle to get by  
Knowing their sons and daughters were taken unlawfully  
While society tiptoes around the problem cautiously  
Pretending those police did what they had to do  
Would you be saying the same thing if it was you  
Mike Brown died saying 'Hands up don't shoot'  
Would it be different if he were not wearing a hoodie but a suit?*

*Why must the colour of my skin define me?  
Open your eyes to what you don't want to see  
From the times of slavery to even right now  
Why won't you let us be black and be proud?  
You try to oppress us but we get stronger everyday  
We will fight this in each and every way  
You can't hide from us we're everywhere you look  
From the music that you listen to, to the way you want to look  
Can you believe that the slang you are using  
Comes from the very people that you are abusing  
When will this stop? When will this end?  
When can we throw down our weapons and just be friends*

*I know these words mean nothing to the ones who lost their lives  
And it's probably insignificant to the ones they left behind  
But we will continue fighting through sunshine or rain  
To ensure that those who died did not do so in vain.*

**By Renette Bakemhe-Moulton | 1 | F**

## **Equal Opportunities Trip to see 'The Man of Good Hope'**

Ms Cornford and I took twenty three students to see a play 'A Man of Good Hope' at the Young Vic one evening as part of our Black History Month celebrations. Here are some of their reviews:

*Students from Year 10 Drama and from Equal Opportunities Group went to the Young Vic in Southwark to see 'A Man of Good Hope' The play follows the life of a young Somali man. Upon his mother's death, he travels across Africa, seeing different cultures, looking for family, a home and a good life. The audience sees his passion and intelligence, and through speech and song his story is told. He encounters setbacks and misfortunes, but he never gives up his hope for the future. The play features a cast gifted in acting, singing and dancing, and the rare species – a good child actor. We all greatly enjoyed this play, for the humour, political message, and the passion of this man of good hope.*

*Lily Down 11S*

*'Man of Good Hope' is a play about a young Somalian man who had struggled to build his life ever since he was young. The play had amazing live background music and the actors and actresses played the instruments themselves. They also sang beautifully which was emotionally touching. They had creative methods of presenting many different issues such as FGM, refugees and poverty. This play is the best one yet!*

*Rebecca Dan 11W*

*I thought it was an exceptionally good play and I found it very interesting how they touched on a lot of issues, for example, FGM, poverty and violence because of racism. It was powerful but also didn't get you too down because of the amazing singing. I would definitely recommend you to go see it.*

*Hope Terry O'Neill 11W*

*As part of the Equal Opportunities Group, I had the pleasure of going to see this play based around Black History Month. The fact that it was a musical made it extremely enjoyable and got the message across well. The play covered many issues including Female Genital Mutilation, refugees and discrimination against black people. The story at times was upsetting and shocking which really brought the issues to reality. Overall, I understood well the different messages and I've been able to understand the life and journey of a black refugee.*

*Jeevan Kaur 11W*

*I enjoyed the day very much because of the amazing singing and dancing that the actors and actresses presented to us. It touched on issues such as poverty, refugees and FGM. I found it very interesting to watch because of the creative ways they presented the issues.*

*Gabya Nakrosiute I I W*

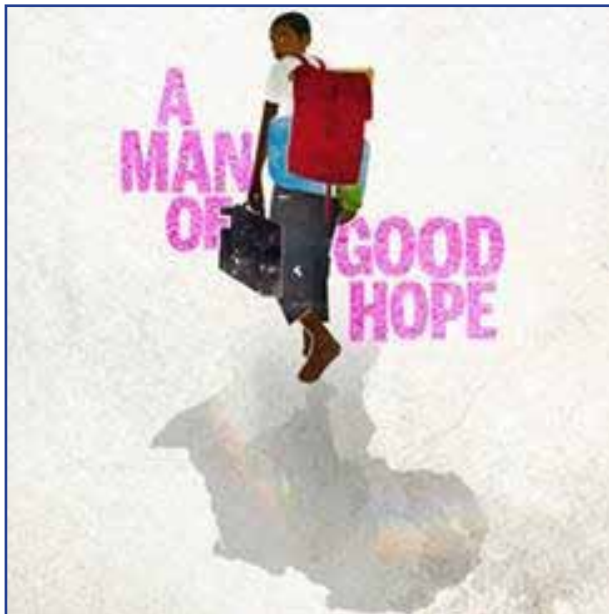
*'Man of Good Hope' gave us an insight of the reality that many refugees have to go through. It was very moving and powerful and showed us things that we hadn't seen or understood before. Following the play, I now understand how important helping refugees is because they are people just like us and they deserve support and help contrary to what the media has said previously.*

*Tosin Ajayi I I W*

*'A Man of Good Hope' was the first theatre play that I watched and it was a very surreal experience. It outlined a lot social and political problems that are weighing upon the lives of black people. It was very moving, emotional and powerful. The music, such as opera and the cultural and traditional instruments used, made it more enjoyable and memorable. I will definitely recommend it to others.*

*Hafsa Moolla I I W*

Ms Desbenoit, Diversity Coordinator,  
Ms Cornford, Head of Drama.



## Inspiring Women in Mathematics Conference

Eight students from Year 10 had the opportunity to attend a fantastic conference at Imperial College. There were a variety of inspirational female speakers, including Rachel Riley from Countdown, a selection of workshops delivered by PhD students and it ended with a hugely entertaining talk by Professor Hannah Fry.

Here is some feedback from the participants:

*The day was really motivational and inspired me to study maths further. Also, the workshops were very informative. For example, I learnt that if a triangle is drawn on a sphere, the angles no longer add up to 180 degrees! It was also interesting to learn that a degree in maths can lead to so many different careers. One speaker has access to all of the Oyster Card touch in/touch out data and analyses travel patterns. She gave us some tips on the best times to travel to avoid the rush.*

Sehr Karim 10H

*My favourite part of the day was the talk by Hannah Fry as she engaged the audience. Over the course of the day I learnt a lot about random numbers. I am now even more interested and inspired by mathematics than I was before.*

Anchichiha Sivayogalingam 10C

*My favourite part of the day was learning how to make mathematical braids and the lecture by Hannah Fry. I learnt that humans and computers are very bad at generating random numbers. I also learnt about bubbles and how they are being used to treat cancer. I found it really fascinating that an application of maths could lead to saving lives. The day was very inspiring as I had no idea that a degree in maths could lead to so many different discoveries. It's great to study maths!*

Hafsa Ahmad 10S

*My favourite part of the day was the talk by Hannah Fry as I could understand it and it was very interactive. During the day I learnt maths by making friendship bracelets and how common multiples affect the design. My perceptions of maths at degree level were changed during the day as I found that there are lots of different areas of study. It's not all confusing.*

Emily Ford 10H

*I really enjoyed Hannah's talk as it was interactive, engaging and interesting. I never really thought about maths in that way before. It was great to see the range of different areas that you can choose to study and find something that you are really interested in. You don't have to pursue an area you don't enjoy.*

Katrin Ahven 10W

You too can be inspired by Professor Hannah Fry. Several YouTube clips can be found here:

<http://www.hannahfry.co.uk/youtube/>

If you wish to have a go at mathematical braiding, look here:

<https://nrich.maths.org/5778>

Also, if you are at all mathematically curious, you may enjoy this new site, developed by students from Imperial College:

<http://chalkdustmagazine.com/>

See me if you would like to read a hard copy as I have a few left.

Ms Robinson



## Jack Petchey's "SPEAK OUT" Challenge!

Year 10 made their Student Progress Leader Ms Warren, tutors and senior staff extremely proud with their impressive public speaking last term. One third of the year group took part and bravely volunteered to speak in front of their peers and judges as part of this year's Jack Petchey "Speak Out" Challenge.

WSFG was a regional winner two years ago so the stakes were high. Chosen topics included free speech, tolerance, faith, sexuality, body image, stereotypes, homelessness, the Syrian war, body shaming, age, fear, LGBT and, touchingly, my grandmother.

Congratulations to the following students who were selected to go through to the next stage:

*Kalila Hambloch 10W, Eve Billington 10W, Sultan Rifat 10S, Millie Small 10F, Alice Evans 10F and Ella Palmer 10G.*

Four students also received 'highly commended' certificates:

*Hannah Rashid 10W, Alex Goodfellow 10S, Bushra Anwar and Scarlett Williams 10F.*

Our two representatives, *Ella Palmer* and *Eve Billington*, delivered their speeches at the Jack Petchey Speakout Final at Willowfield School in front of over two hundred guests. They both did themselves and the school credit. Ella came second overall out of all the seventeen finalists from all the borough's secondary schools. Many congratulations to both of them.

Ella receiving her certificate from the Mayor

Ms Warren





# Jack Petchey's "SPEAK OUT" Challenge!



## In Memory of Dilara Ozbek



In November the Year 10 charity reps held a cake sale to raise funds for the Bone Cancer Research Trust (BCRT) which supported Dilara through her illness. The fundraiser was a huge success and a big thank you goes out to all students, staff, parents and carers who provided cakes for the event.

We raised over £550 which is a fantastic amount but we don't want to stop there and as a school we have set ourselves a target of £1000 to donate to BCRT.

Over the past month we have had a variety of events to raise money for the Bone Cancer Research Trust including a bake sale, Christmas Fair and wear orange day.

I am delighted to say that we have raised £1541.64.

Thank you

Ms Warren  
SPL Year 10



## Danish Links

We were delighted to host a visit from twenty four Danish students and two of their teachers. They were really excited to be here and wanted to experience school life in the UK and chose our school to visit.

Almost thirty of our Year 9 students looked after them for the day, participating in a variety of activities from people bingo to maths lessons and presentations.

They also accompanied them to their usual lessons and to our Friday fish and chips lunch.



Our teachers visited Ms Robinson's Year 8 maths class and talked about Hygge and the math .



There was a great buzz and excitement around school and we had a brilliant day – we learnt a huge amount from our new Danish friends and are very excited about keeping this relationship moving forward.

Ms Philippou



## Year 9 Morgan Stanley Trip

Ms Ray, Mr Salmon and Ms Choudury went with twenty five Year 9 students to Morgan Stanley in Canary Wharf. The visit focused on the role of women in the workplace and how the young women can make the most of their futures. Senior members of the Sales and Audit Departments spoke about their own experiences and how they were inspired to work for Morgan Stanley.



The trip was very illuminating about the efforts City business's are making towards meritocratic leadership. The girls had a chance to network with the twelve business associates, discussing their own future aspirations.

Walthamstow School for Girls is grateful to Morgan Stanley for hosting us and looks forward to utilising the advice offered to our students.

Ms Ray  
Careers Guidance and Workplace  
Engagement Coordinator



## Il Trovatore

Early in December twenty prize-winning students accompanied by Ms Royds, Ms Kennedy and Ms Black were lucky enough to visit the Royal Opera House, where we saw an exciting and thrilling performance of the story *Il Trovatore*.

The story was dramatic and interesting, engaging us for the whole of the matinee. The ending in particular was very spectacular, and we were so glad to have had this opportunity. The building and the atmosphere both felt very grand, and removed us completely from normal daily life.

We finished the day with hot chocolate in Covent Garden.

Here are a few students comments:

*"A great opportunity to relax and enjoy something completely different and new"*  
Hannah

*"It was a wonderful cultural experience"*  
Tayyabah

*"Such a thrilling experience"*  
Bella

*"A new eye opening experience to a different genre of music"*  
Ellen



*Such a world class performance I am so glad I had the amazing opportunity to see the opera*  
Malika

Ms Kennedy

## Shapes and Smoke Rings

Recently, Dr Katie Steckles (From Think-maths.co.uk) visited WSFG and delivered some engaging mathematical talks to students from Henry Maynard Primary School, Chingford Foundation School, Greenleaf Primary School and all of our Year 7 students. She spoke about and illustrated her favourite mathematical shapes, in reverse order – the Sphere, Möbius strip and Torus. Here is some feedback from the girls:

*Katie Steckles came to our school and spoke about her three favourite shapes and how maths can be fun. Katie did a degree in maths, some more research to become a doctor of mathematics and now goes to schools and science festivals to talk about it. She shows children how maths can be amusing and fun which is just about right!*

*Her third favourite shape is the sphere. The reason she likes it is because if you do three 90 degree turns, you get back to where you started. This is really cool as on paper, the angles in a triangle add up to 180 degrees but if the triangle is drawn on a sphere they don't. She showed us a trick with our hands that works because the elbow is at the centre of a sphere. In my opinion she is awesome and I agree that the sphere is cool!*

*Julia Szczytkowska 7H*

*Her second favourite shape is a Möbius strip. It was named after a man called August Möbius . He discovered it by twisting a bit of paper and taping the ends together. If you were to draw a line across the strip you will come back to your starting point having drawn a line all around it. There are all kinds of things you can make using a Möbius strip, like a square and interlocking hearts. Katie Steckles has her own YouTube channel where she does other cool maths experiments.*

*Ornela Laci 7C*

*During the last few moments of the maths talk with Katie Steckles, she was talking about her final, favourite shape, the Torus. The Torus is the official name for a doughnut shape. Why is this her favourite shape?*

*Katie showed us an exciting performance to explain why. To illustrate the Torus she made smoke rings. How? Well, she brought a garden bin-like thing with her which had a black plastic bin bag attached to it. However the bin bag was tied at the back therefore making a handle type thing. Katie also brought along her smoke machine. To make the smoke rings she 'stuffed' the bin bag/garden bin thing with the smoke*



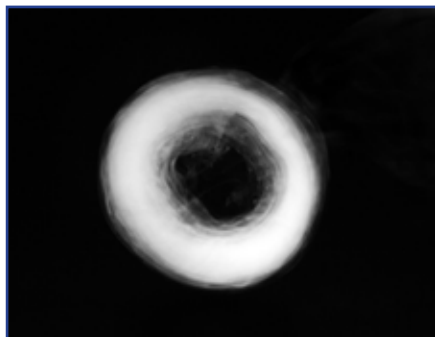
from the smoke machine. After she would fiercely push in the bin bag at the end causing the smoke to come out. Amazingly, the smoke ball would change into a smoke ring! Flabbergasted, we all exclaimed: "HOW ON EARTH DID YOU DO THAT!?" Some of us also said "WOW!"

Katie explained how and why it turned into a ring "The smoke ring is produced due to the difference in pressure on the outside and inside of the ring. That also causes the smoke that makes up the ring to rotate."

After her explanation we begged her for more smoke rings. Thankfully she did so. Sadly the workshop came to an end and we said our goodbyes to Katie, her many shapes and her smoke machine!

Afterwards we were allowed a quick photo shoot with Katie and now I promise you it's ... goodbye!

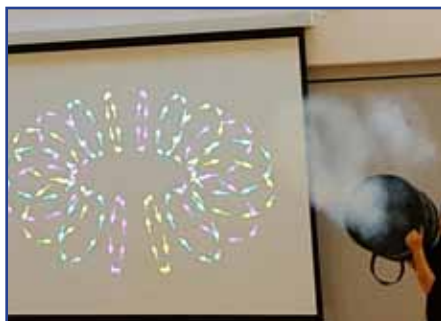
Siwan Jackson 7H



Here is a link to Katie's YouTube channel which is well worth a visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/st3cks>

Ms Robinson



## **Bikeability Success**

Well done to the girls listed below who undertook a two week cycling course after school and were able to successfully complete their Level 1 and Level 2 Bikeability test.

These girls were given an introduction into riding on local roads. They were able to practice and develop the skills necessary for making short journeys on bicycles. Fortunately for these girls they were able to use bikes that belong to the school. This was good because many of them did not have their own bikes or limited access to their siblings' bikes.

It is fantastic that our school is able to loan them bicycles on which they can perfect the skills learned and grow in confidence to be able to take longer journeys in the future.

### **Year 7**

*Shazia Elaheebocus 7W*

*Mehyeem Islam 7W*

*Teera Samali 7F*

*Tatiana Raposo 7H*

### **Year 8**

*Hibah Budruddeen 8W*

*Sandra Rusaite 8F*

Congratulations!

Mrs Dominique





## **Waltham Forest Borough League. Basketball**

The Year 8/9 basketball team had a great start to their season when they beat Walthamstow Academy.

WSFG: 25    Walthamstow Academy: 4

The winning team members are;

*Hannah Coley  
Amie Burgess  
Maria H'Maidi  
Melissa Monsheju  
Folashade Ogungbemi  
Shula Carter  
Mariam Boota  
Olivia Hamm  
Roseline Adusei*



### **Year 10 Basketball Success**

Congratulations also to the Year 10 team on winning against Buxton School.

WSFG: 19            Buxton: 12

It was a very close game, we had a couple of the usual players missing and we had some girls who had never played basketball for the team before so they did exceptionally well. The team was:

*Annalie Cole 10W  
Kezia Antubam 10W  
Eden Howles 10G  
Renaee Steele 10C  
Jubilee Odeyemi 10C  
Flora Jones 10F  
Remi Odetoynbo 10H*

Ms Warren

## **WSFG Student attends the UK's first diversity lecture and wins scholarship aimed at top BAME talent from across the UK**

Headteacher Meryl Davies was delighted that Walthamstow School for Girls was invited to send representatives to the launch of Miranda Brawn's Diversity Leadership Annual Lecture, the first of its kind in the UK. This was set up by renowned business diversity leader, barrister and founder of the Miranda Brawn Diversity Leadership Foundation, Miranda Brawn. The launch was attended by around one hundred 14 to 21 year old Black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) future leaders and hosted by the UK's leading law school, the University of Law on Saturday, 15th October 2016. Some of the best BAME talent from across the UK attended the trailblazing diversity lecture. This is the first time that a diversity lecture has taken place in the UK to include the 14 to 18 year old age group. The diversity lecture raised awareness about the importance of incorporating a broader representation of backgrounds in the workplace, both from a moral and business perspective.

Miranda Brawn set up her foundation, the Miranda Brawn Diversity Leadership Foundation, to provide the next generation of BAME future leaders with opportunities for success via diversity lectures and scholarships which include funding, mentoring and work experience. This year, Miranda has also teamed up with Black Cultural Archives, which aims to preserve and celebrate the heritage of black people in Britain and The Prince's Trust, a youth charity that helps young people aged 13 to 30 get into jobs, education and training founded by Prince Charles.



Award winners including *Savannah Odeyemi* (10S) who won a scholarship worth £250 plus personal mentoring from Miranda Brawn.

Miranda offered more insight on how to close the diversity gap, while educating the next generation about the various forms of diversity issues currently facing the UK workforce for race, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion, faith, age and social mobility, in order for the young leaders to start to think about how they can make a difference taking action now.



Ms Davies commented “We are extremely proud that Savannah has been awarded one of seven new Miranda Brawn Diversity Leadership Scholarships aimed at supporting the UK’s brighter British, Asian and Minority Ethnic future leaders. Other recipients included students from the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge and the Tiffin Girls’ School in Kingston.

We are eagerly awaiting a visit from Miranda Brawn who will be speaking to girls at Walthamstow School for Girls early next year. *Savannah* herself believes that diversity is empowering; and it is this diversity which makes WSFG and Waltham Forest such an inspirational place to work and be educated.”

Ms Davies

## Girls Allowed- #Safe4faith

Ms Dominique and I took seven Year 9 students to a Girls Allowed- #Safe4faith event organised by the Metropolitan Police. It was a fantastic experience for the girls.

The purpose of the event was to bring together young females between the ages of 14 and 25 from multi faith backgrounds, and for them to provide an insight into their concerns, interpretations and perspectives on police interaction.

Here are their reviews:



*I think the trip was really fun and cool to be a part of; they told us about their experiences before they were police officers and how they want to change the world to be a better place. The event aimed to reach out and inspire young women from multi-backgrounds. I loved how they put a lot of effort into this and how they showed videos, what they dealt with and examples of what they do in the police from the 1800 to 2016. They told us a lot about the police which I didn't know. Overall I think it was really nice and fun, I'd love to be part of more things like this because we wouldn't get many opportunities like this.*

Haviisha Jesuthas 9S

*I felt very valued as a woman. I've never been to such a trip where they really challenge you to step outside your comfort zone. The Emmanuel Centre at Westminster event really has helped me gain more confidence and self-esteem, and I was made to feel welcome and unique as an individual. I really appreciate Ms Desbenoit as she had given me the opportunity of a lifetime.*

Baet Rasool 9C

*With a capital A I would describe the trip being Amazing. I really enjoyed the presentations they showed us which gave me good tips for my future. Also they encouraged us to be confident and brave women as we should be proud of who we are. I would like to thank Miss Desbenoit for taking me on this trip. I learned a lot from this.*

Sumbal Arshad 9C

Earlier this term, six other students and I were given an amazing opportunity to attend an event in Westminster, organised by the Metropolitan Police. The event was organised in order to empower young girls and inspire them to achieve higher things in life and it definitely did so. I left the event feeling empowered, confident and very informed about different opportunities that women have in the police force, and that there are no limits to what I can achieve despite my gender and race. There were also many advocates from different charities that reassured me about my safety as a Muslim girl in London. The entertainment and refreshments made the experience even more fun. I thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Firdaous Attioui 9F

The event communicated with girls and young women from different faith groups with the police. They explained the roles of the police and suggested support and how to support people in need. I mainly enjoyed the police cadet's speech and the short clip of knife crime and how dangerous it is to carry a knife even if it is for your own safety. Overall I really enjoyed the event and it has made me realise that the police are more than people who stop crime, they are here to help you too.

Amie Burgess 9S

Ms Desbenoit  
Diversity Coordinator



## Presentation Evening

In December the school glowed with pride as we welcomed the Class of 2016 (last year's Year 11) back to the Hewett Hall for our annual Prize Giving Ceremony.

Former student Arifa Nasim inspired the students with the story of her life as a recent student at WSFG - and now campaigner and co-founder of the charity Educate 2 Eradicate.

Currently studying History, Arabic and Persian at the University of Saint Andrews, Arifa is on the UK Youth for Change Secretariat and has represented her charity E2E at the United Nations when she was one of two official UK youth delegates to the UN. But she also trains school staff on safeguarding and on how to spot the signs of forced marriage, FGM and honour based violence.



Councillor Geoff Walker presenting *Aisha Amanat* for 100% attendance over five years

Danielle Ferguson (chair of the Alumane) presenting *Nouf Abdulqadar* the Janet Hoad Alumnae Prize for Most Improvement from KS2-KS4



The students were not the only award winners as you can see here.



The WSFG Alumnae awarded three of our teaching colleagues a special long service award.

Nigel Straker, Richard Murphy and John Fowler have each served the school - and our students for a minimum of thirty years each!

Danielle Ferguson with Richard Murphy



Nigel Straker (below)



Ms Davies received two portraits of former headmistresses Ms Hewett and Miss Norris which will be displayed in school.

Our thanks go to all our parents, carers, students, former students, governors, guests and staff for making it such a wonderful evening.

Ms Davies



## School Calendar for 2016-17

### Autumn Term 2016

**End: Wednesday 21st December 2016**

### Spring Term 2017

**Start: Wednesday 4th January 2017 End: Friday 31st March**

Monday 30th January 2017

INSET Day School closed to students

Thursday 2nd February

Year 11 Parent/Carers Evening

### Half Term: Monday 13th-Friday 17th February 2017

Thursday 2nd March

Year 9 Parent/Carers Evening

Thursday 16th March

Year 8 Parent/Carers Evening

### Easter Holiday:

**Monday 3rd April 2017-Monday 17th April**

Good Friday Bank Holiday:

Friday 14th April

Easter Monday Bank Holiday:

Monday 17th April

### Summer Term 2017

**Start: Tuesday 18th April**

**End: Wednesday 19th July**

Holidays

May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 1st May

Thursday 11th May

Year 7 Parent/Carers Evening

### Half Term: Monday 29th May-Friday 2nd June

**School Address: Church Hill, Walthamstow, London, E17 9RZ**

Telephone: 020 8509 9446

Fax number: 020 8509 9445

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

WSFG's Fronter MLE: [www.fronter.com/waltham-forest](http://www.fronter.com/waltham-forest)