



## End of Term Letter

### Headmaster

**Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of Wallington County Grammar School,**

My heart is beating slightly faster than normal as I write to you today knowing that the annual Staff vs Students cricket match is to take place in front of the majority of the school this afternoon. There can of course be no greater humiliation for a Head than getting out for a duck as gleeful students cheer on every side and, as such, pre match nerves are starting to set in. It is a welcome reminder of what our sportsmen and women go through each week: hungry to win, fearing defeat. It is one of the reasons why we chose courage as one of our four core values (commitment, courage, compassion and creativity). Representing your house, your school, your county or your country takes guts, not just in sport but in any of the myriad of competitions, tournaments and events that our students hurl themselves into. It takes a brave person to stand up and be counted in front of their peers, their teachers and their judges and I would like to applaud all the students who have done so this year and who will be recognised in our final assemblies of the term. Our hope is that our reformed school day will allow for ever more opportunities for students to compete in a huge range of different events be they sporting, academic or games based as well as open up all kinds of other exciting opportunities to engage in subjects not covered on any national curriculum or examination specification.

To close out the introductory year of our four values, I asked Caitlin Rajan and Tom O'Sullivan, our first ever Head Girl and Head Boy, to write to me about a memory from the year when members of the school showed true character, encapsulating what the four Cs mean to the student body. Caitlin wrote the following:

*One of the most courageous things I have seen from a student at our school this year has to be the actions of Ajay Potavadoo in Year 12. After being mugged by a group of youths who stole some valuable possessions from him, Ajay courageously came forward and reported the incident to the police, which thankfully resulted in all five of the young men being arrested. Ajay's brave actions, standing up to his attackers, resulted in our local area becoming a safer place. Following the event, his year group flooded him with love and support, even collecting enough money to replace some of the items Ajay lost - a beautiful display of compassion.*

Whilst being a shocking event in so many ways, it shows us the difficulties that young people face in the world today and how it takes great courage as well as the support and compassion of our friends to navigate them successfully. Tom wrote the following:

*My clearest memory of a display of both creativity and commitment has to be the recent summer concert. With original pieces from Ronak Boman and Kavi Maraj, mesmerizing solos from the likes of Hugh Chapman-Brown and uplifting performances from the Year 7 Choir - the quad was brimming with creativity that night. Where the commitment really shone through, however, was from all the Year 11s and Year 12s that attended rehearsals throughout their exam period, and even performed on the night with some still having exams later that week. Taking such an active role in the co-curricular life of the School, despite the strain of exam season, really demonstrates the immense commitment of the WCCGS community.*

Having also been there that night, I can attest to everything that Tom has written and it makes me very proud when see the fruits of all the hard work of our students and Mrs Spendlove, Mr John and our peripatetic music teachers who devote their lives to the betterment of the School's musicians. Thank you to all who support and deliver Wallington County Grammar School's co-curriculum and I truly hope we can navigate the difficulties of the change to the School day next year together to reach the heights for our students.

As is customary in my end of year letter, we must say goodbye to some much loved colleagues and welcome others to our fantastic team of staff.

I would like to start by giving my heartfelt thanks to **Mr Paul Huitson** who has chaired our Governing Body (now Local Advisory Board) since 2011. He began his service as a School governor in 1991 and chaired various committees including the Curriculum Committee. He is an old boy of (Woodcote, 1969-76) and has always kept up a keen interest in all aspects of school life including cricket which he has coached at the School for a number of years. He is an incredibly active citizen, also volunteering for the Scouts and the Old Walcountians Association. He is stepping back to focus his energies on the Board of Folio Education Trust but hopes to re-join our Local Advisory Board in the future. He will be sorely missed and I thank him for all the support he has given me and two previous Headmasters in his time here. Mr Huitson's replacement will be elected in the Autumn Term.



**Ms Farlow** joined the school in 2005 and has had a long and distinguished career in the School. She joined as a Teacher of Biology and threw herself into the wider life of the school by serving on the PTFA and regularly leading school trips including diving in the Red Sea. Ms Farlow was promoted to Year Leader in 2006 before becoming Subject Leader of Biology in 2010. She transformed the department through her leadership, introducing entirely new programmes of study, assessment practices and approaches to teaching and, as a result, the department ranked as one of the best in the country. Ms Farlow was promoted to Senior Teacher and took on the additional role of Special Educational Needs Coordinator in 2017, supporting students with a range of needs to achieve their personal best. Ms Farlow has left the School for health reasons but has since learned that she will be having a baby. We wish her every happiness with her new family and hope to see her back at WCCGS in the near future.

**Mr Greenley** joined the school in 2011 as a Teacher of Classics and has since gone on to lead the classics and history departments, reintroduce Latin and become a Lead Practitioner, overseeing all teacher training and Continuing Professional Development in the School. Due to his work, the School was accredited with a Silver Charter Mark from the CPLD Quality Mark Partnership in December 2018. He has also become a Lead Examiner for Classics for OCR and has co-written the textbook for this course. Perhaps Mr Greenley's proudest achievement was winning the Cock House Cup as House Master of Bridges House in 2018. Mr Greenley is moving out of London to Hertfordshire to become a Teacher of Classics at Hailey Bury School.

**Ms Nunes** also joined the School in 2011 as our founding Teacher of Food Technology and has since gone on to lead this subject, building it up from scratch. She has been a committed form tutor and has mentored a number of Newly Qualified Teachers and trainees as they have come through the School. Ms Nunes is moving closer to home to work as a Teacher of Food Technology at the Charter School.

**Mrs Tanna** joined the school as a part time Teacher of Science in 2014. She has also been a committed mentor to trainee teachers in recent years as well as a committed form tutor. She plans to move to Caterham School as a full time Teacher of Biology.

**Ms Billy-Pedro** joined the School in 2016, also as a Teacher of Science. She has been an active member of the biology department, organising a number of trips including to Kew Gardens and London Zoo. She has also been very influential in redesigning the biology programme of study for years 7 and 8. Ms Billy-Pedro will be moving just up the road to Wallington High School for Girls as a Teacher of Biology.

**Miss Khan** is an Old Girl of the School (Bridges, 2016-2018) and has been our Food Technology Assistant since the start of this academic year. She will be going on to Queen Mary University of London to study Biomedical Engineering.

**Mr Scola** is also an Old Boy of the School (Radcliffe, 2004-2011) and has supported us as a Teacher of Humanities since October. He will be taking up a position as a solicitor with the prestigious Mishcon de Reya law firm in August.

**Mr Barnett** joined us at the start of this academic year on a one-year placement as a Teacher of Mathematics. He has also taken an active role in leading Chess Club. Mr Barnett will be staying in teaching for one more year until he retires.

**Mr John** also joined us at the start of this year as a Teacher of Music covering for Mrs Martin whilst she was on maternity leave. He has played an influential role in preparing students for a number of concerts and recitals including the recent summer concert. He will also be staying in teaching.

We wish all these cherished staff members well and hope that they continue to reach the heights in their future careers.

Mrs French, Ms Musselbrook, Ms Paradis and Mrs Weddell will not be with us for the majority of next year as they are on maternity leave and we wish them every happiness with their growing families. We will, however, be welcoming back Mrs Owen in July 2019 as well as Mrs Jennings in April 2020.

We also have a number of promotions within the school and we wish each member of staff our hearty congratulations:

Miss Coe will become a Senior Teacher and our new Lead Practitioner. She will also retain her position as Subject Leader of English;

Mr McLaughlin will be covering for Mrs Jennings as Year Leader for Y12;

Mrs Turner will be covering for Ms Paradis as Year Leader for Year 7;

Miss James will be covering for Ms Musselbrook as Subject Leader of Art;

Ms Herbal will be our new Cover Manager and will lead our team of Cover Supervisors as well as offer pastoral support in Student Services;



Mr Rhodes-Brandon will be covering for Mr McLaughlin as Assistant Subject Leader of English as well as covering for Ms Weddell as House Master of Radcliffe;

Mr Cameron will be our new Head of Expeditions including Duke of Edinburgh and World Challenge;

Mr Walsh will be our new Scout Leader as well as House Master of Woodcote.

Mrs Owen will be taking on the role of Special Educational Needs Coordinator as part of her remit as Deputy head Teacher.

Mrs Farshori will become Assistant SENCo.

I would also like to welcome the following staff:

**Dr D Beadle (Teacher of RS & Philosophy – Maternity Cover)** gained his Masters in Theology and his PhD at the University of Exeter before completing his PGCE at Goldsmiths University whilst based at the Ark Academy. Dr Beadle's interests include choral singing, poetry and literature.

**Ms Z Boland (Subject Leader of Classics & Latin)** completed her BA in Classics at Trinity College Dublin, followed by an MA in Classics at University College London. She is multi-lingual and her love of languages inspired her to organise a European Day of Languages at her current school St. James Senior Boys School, Stanwell. Ms Boland is a keen reader of fiction and poetry, and includes cookery and crafting amongst her interests.

**Mr D Cole (Subject Leader of Chemistry)** studied Biochemistry with Management at Imperial College London before completing his MA at University College London and PGCE at the University of York. He is actively involved in Duke of Edinburgh at his current school, Kimbolton School, Cambridge, and is a keen canoeist, coaching the school Canoe Club and heading the school rowing team.

**Miss A Hackett (Subject Leader of Drama – Maternity Cover)** joins us from Elmgreen School. Miss Hackett gained her Masters in Drama & Theatre Studies from the University of Kent before completing her PGCE at Goldsmiths University. She previously worked with the Royal Shakespeare Company and has been a part of The National Youth Theatre. Her interests include the theatre and travelling.

**Mrs D Mason-Mullings (Teacher of Food & Nutrition)** studied for her BSc. Food and Nutrition at the London Southbank University before completing her PGCE with the Open University. She joins us from the Southwark Inclusive Learning Service. Her hobbies include cake making /decorating and athletics.

**Mr J Nicholson (Teacher of Computer Science)** studied Computer Science at University College London before embarking on a successful career in IT. He completed his teacher training at the ARK Walworth Academy. Mr Nicholson is a keen cyclist and completed the Lands End to John O'Groats Deloitte Ride Across Britain challenge in 2017 raising money for The MS Society.

**Miss H Oram (Teacher of Art – Maternity Cover)** completed her Bachelor of Fine Arts at the University of Oxford before embarking on her PGCE at University College London. She joins WCGS from Wallington High School for Girls. Miss Oram loves to draw, write and make clothes in her spare time.

**M T Ranwashe** has been appointed **Cover Supervisor & Curriculum Support Officer**. Mr Ranwashe gained an MA in Leadership and Innovation from the University of West London. He has previously worked in cover at St. Marks Academy. He counts health and fitness and fundraising amongst his many interests.

**Miss N Rao (Teacher of English – Maternity Cover)** completed her teacher training at John Fisher School. She obtained her BA from Kingston University followed by an MA from Queen Mary University of London, both in English Literature. Miss Rao enjoys painting, writing, singing and dancing (especially Salsa and Bachata). She also gives up her spare time to volunteer for homeless charities.

**Mr S Smith (Subject Leader of Biology)** re-joins WCGS having previously taught here in the late nineties before gaining promotion at John Fisher School. He studied Applied Science at Kingston University before completing his PGCE at Cambridge University. This was latterly followed by an MA in Education Leadership and Management at Roehampton University. Mr Smith is actively involved in Scouting and Duke of Edinburgh.



**Mr S Smitheringale (Teacher of Biology)** gained his BSc in Medical Microbiology from the University of Newcastle and his PGCE from the University of Durham. Mr Smitheringale is a qualified FA referee and counts running and cycling amongst his many interests.

**Mrs B Soobedar-Golam (Teacher of MFL – Maternity Cover)** joined WCGS in June 2019. After gaining her MA in Media and Communication at the University of Leicester Mrs Soobedar-Golam completed her PGCE with Leeds Beckett University. Her interests include gardening and painting.

**Mrs R Venus (Assistant Subject Leader of Maths)** studied for her BSc in Mathematics and PGCE at the University of Southampton. She joins WCGS following a long tenure at Cheam High School. She enjoys keeping fit and spending time with her family in her spare time.

We would also like to welcome the following new members of our Examinations Invigilation team:

Mrs Louise Cook  
Mrs Linda Ford  
Mrs Carol Jacobs  
Mrs Lilian Payne  
and Mr J Catlin and Mr S Clemo to our bank cover team.

It has been a fantastic year and I very much look forward to seeing our Year 11 and Upper Sixth reach the heights this summer.

**Yours faithfully,**

**Jamie Bean**  
**Headmaster**

### **PTFA Update by Katherine Herrick, Chair WCGS PTFA**

Looking back over the last school year it is clear that it has been a vintage one for the WCGS PTFA.

We have all watched with huge excitement as the new DT and Music block has been built and we can all be proud of the part PTFA members have played in raising the £150,000 that helped ensure the build went ahead. This fabulous new building, which bears a plaque on the front acknowledging the PTFA for their contribution, will benefit students at WCGS for many years to come.

### **Familiarisation tests**

The familiarisation tests have once again been an enormous success; dozens of volunteers helped us deliver twenty test sessions over 10 days, helping to raise in the region of £90,000. Just like last year all our places fully sold out and we are very pleased to be able to say that more students than ever on free school meals or pupil premium took up the offer of a free test place. Thank you to all those of you who helped, including our WCGS Duke of Edinburgh volunteers.

### **Our Events**

The highlight of this term has been the new entrant welcome BBQ. Despite the very English weather conditions (ie overcast and drizzle) everyone seemed to have a good time and the boys enjoyed the sports events and treasure hunt organised by the PE department. The Sixth Form helpers were brilliant and deserve special thanks for being organised, hard working, and for successfully infecting the new year 7s with their love of the school.

Other events over the year have included our family quiz night, the loud and energetic year 7 & 8 disco and the ever popular and hilarious Murder Mystery evening featuring the unique acting talents of the WCGS teaching staff. A big thank you to all those of you who came to our events and an even larger thank you to all the volunteers who organised and helped, as well as those who provided cakes, raffle prizes and second hand uniform. Without your generosity throughout the year we would not be able to run our events and raise money for WCGS.

### **Join Us**

All parents and guardians of children at WCGS are automatically members of our PTFA. You are entitled to participate and vote and we are always thrilled to see new faces at our meetings and to hear new ideas. Our meetings are held at the school and usually take place on the first Tuesday of the month. If you can't make it to meetings (and not all of us can) but would still like to contribute to our activities in some capacity please just drop us a line at [info@wcfgspfta.org](mailto:info@wcfgspfta.org)

If you would like more details of upcoming events and meetings or uniform sales you can visit our website

<http://www.wcfgs-sutton.co.uk/Meet-the-PTFA>



### Chemistry Challenge by Riyaan Ali

This year many of our Lower 6<sup>th</sup> students were given the opportunity to compete in the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge, where they sat a 2-hour paper covering multiple topics on the chemistry of the Periodic Table. The questions were designed to stretch and challenge the students by encouraging them to use and apply their knowledge to unfamiliar problems, such as the phosphorylation of glucose.

Additionally, as this year is the Year of the Periodic Table, much of the paper centred around the Periodic Table and its study, which aided students in appreciating the history behind one of the greatest accomplishments in chemistry.

After marking, and some papers being sent off for moderation, we received their results back, with students achieving a range of all three certificates. Three students achieved a gold, placing them close to the top of the entrants in the UK.

We would like to encourage any budding chemists who will be in Lower 6<sup>th</sup> in the coming year to participate as it is a particularly enriching experience and is extremely helpful in the face of university applications which students will be undertaking in the 6<sup>th</sup> Form.

### 'A Monster Calls' by Y9 GCSE Drama - 9<sup>th</sup> May 2019

Last half-term, our budding Y9 GCSE Drama group performed an incredibly moving performance of 'A Monster Calls', a play inspired by the book by Patrick Ness. Here's what the students had to say about their experience:

***The rehearsals were incredibly useful and despite being long and occasionally tough, the sense of achievement when you finish the play is amazing. I am extremely proud of our resilience throughout the play.***

Muaaz Shanji

***The performance was perfect thanks to the tremendous amount of effort from our class and, especially, our drama teacher Mrs Weddell. I couldn't thank her more for her compassion and resilience throughout the rehearsals and the performance. We couldn't have pulled it off without her!*** Tommy Lam

***Without all these rehearsals and learning our lines and cues, we all wouldn't have done better. I'm proud of our wonderful teamwork!*** Sathurrsan Niranjana

***The performance was fantastic! We work as a team throughout the night and was able to put on a great show, after tireless rehearsals afterschool. I am proud about year 9s play of A Monster Calls.***

Edem Vondee

***We worked as a team together whether it was learning lines or cues, and after all after the tireless amounts of effort put in by our wonderful cast, it was all worth it after we performed it brilliantly on the night. The outcome was great and personally I was very proud of everyone involved.*** Luis Rodriguez

***It was scary performing the complicate scenes such as the nightmare scene due to us needing to complete a lift and complete the dance scene. But once we went over these many times we were able to perform it very well and make it look really impressive.*** Joseph Farrelly

***It was huge fun to watch it all come together into a two act play and also quite fascinating. I usually watch plays amazed, wondering how they managed to put it all together, and now that I have been part of a play; it is an enlightening experience.*** Zayan Shahid

***The play was very interesting to learn about and perform because of the complications with Conor's mum and the journey Conor went through with the monster.***

Ola Olatunde

***The best part for me was having the opportunity to really devote all of my creative energy into a large project, and really understand my character, Dad. This was brilliant, as I could feel the character growing across the weeks we worked on it. I now feel much better equipped to progress through my GCSE after experiencing rehearsals first hand, and having the experience of standing on stage!*** Oscar Sims

***The anger and authority demonstrated by the character of the Monster was an excellent chance for me to not only develop my skills as an actor, but to work with an amazing group of people. The play as a whole was an interesting and moving production.***

Geoffrey Daniel-Kalio



### **Top Girls review by Ali Haider**

On June 12<sup>th</sup> six A level English Literature students went to see Lyndsey Turner's revival of Caryl Churchill's much-acclaimed classic, *Top Girls*, at the National Theatre. The play, consisting of a four-part exploration of what it might mean to be a successful woman, (rather famously) opens with a surreal dinner-party scene depicting various world-historical and mythical female figures, each of whom relays colourful anecdotes about her life (with Churchill's trademark overlapping dialogue) to an increasingly hysterical reception. At the epicentre of these rapid-fire exchanges is the character of Marlene, whose own anxious prognostications about her life choices are refracted through the stories of her guests, and whom we follow as the only recurring character over the course of the play.



In subsequent scenes, we are treated to visions of masculinised working life for the likes of Marlene and other women working at the 'Top Girls' employment agency. One also witnesses, by way of contrast, a terse and absurd exchange between working-class youths Angie and Kit in their decrepit back yard, of whom the former plans on running away to Marlene, who is also her supposed aunt. Turner's deft use of diminished proxemics and truncated space in the Lyttelton's adjustable proscenium in some of these latter scenes is particularly striking, and helps to accentuate the universality and intersectional quality of the themes under discussion.

Marlene's character later comes to take Angie under her wing and entertain her fantasies, belying certain reservations about her own expedient ascent to financial security. But by far the most dynamic and impressionable scene of the production is the final confrontation, conveyed as a flashback, between Marlene and her sister Joyce (played by the resolute and stoic Lucy Black). A deep and cavernous gulf emerges between the oppositional and yet interpenetrating social circumstances of each character, with Joyce castigating her sister for her narcissism and appropriation of callous, patriarchal qualities as a pathetic substitute for *authentic* feminist emancipation. It is this perspective, characterising a familiarly detestable Thatcherite individualism and insouciance to one's wider community, that comes to be the object of much scrutiny and righteous indignation by Joyce, who champions instead a kind of feminism in which the contrary – an impulse to caregiving and affection towards the disenfranchised and downtrodden – is in the ascendant. (This message, of course, acquires renewed salience in light of continued affronts to the liberties of women today, as exemplified most recently in Alabama's near-total prohibition of abortions.)



The production is not flawless – for one, Churchill's original vision featured a smaller pool of actors who were to assume multiple roles in the play, with the effect of reinforcing the message of intergenerational and cross-cultural universality in the female experience. Turner's introduction of a larger cast does not, in this respect, do it any favours, arguably diluting the resonance of this message. But inspired performances from Liv Hill (as Angie) and Katherine Kingsley (Marlene), in holding out hopes of a better coordinated riposte to the Thatcherite consensus (and, by extension, a more equitable future for women across different socioeconomic strata), readily assuage some of these concerns. And, moreover, speaking as a sucker for modernist theatre with non-linear structures, this production proved itself to be an *especially* compelling and spirited one (and not just in virtue of any brief respite it may be imputed to offer from the usual droll of school).

### **Old cricket equipment / kit required**

In July 2020 WCCGS are going on a cricket tour of Sri Lanka. Part of this tour is combining with a sports charity called Charity Pranav. This charity provides sports equipment (particularly cricket) to less fortunate children in Sri Lanka so they can participate in cricket and not be excluded because they cannot afford to play.



If any students have any old cricket equipment or kit that they no longer need could they

**please bring it in and hand it to Mr Legg in the Sports Hall.**

It will then be forwarded through our travel company to Sri Lanka.



### French Penpals visit by Ken Tu

On the 14th of May 2019, our French Penpals from Versailles, near Paris, came to our school. They went into private study for a chat with the 9s in French and in English. Most of the year 9s were extremely excited to meet the French students and could not wait as they constantly teased each other over who had a female Penpal.

In Private Study, the French students sat down neatly, hands on their laps, whilst most of my African friends were brushing their hair to expose their waves 180 and 360. Some of the boys even got a trim earlier that week to land a good first impression.

Later that day, there were French and English students laughing together, trying to figure out what each other wanted to say due to the slight language barrier. Needless to say, the French students' English was far better than any of our French. You could look over and see a range of faces, confused but curious, and smiles and laughter in the air.



The French students were great and we look forward to seeing them in October when we will go and visit their school on an educational trip organised by the MFL department.



### Year 10 Work Experience Debrief

Our Year 10 students returned to school on Monday 15th July, after two weeks spent out of school in a variety of workplaces including,

*Atkins, Banstead Village Veterinary Surgery, Coombe Wood School, Design International, Eason & Co, Guy and St Thomas' NHS Trust, Harris Brown Estate Agents, International Maritime Organisation, Jude Consultancy Limited, Kia Motors UK Limited, LBS Sutton Life Centre, Mollart Engineering Limited, Norbury Library, Public Health England, Regal Eagle, Scaramanga Marketing, Tax Link, Unique Skills Coaching, Wandsworth Medical Centre & Yes Group International* to attend a Work Experience Debrief.

Supported by employees from Subsea 7, the University of Leicester, the CBI and the London Enterprise Adviser network, students were able to both share stories and reflect upon their past two weeks in the workplace. Students considered the skills and qualities they have gained and those they need to develop, were able to discuss what they have learnt about the sector they were working in and they were given a chance to find out about sectors in which they were unable to secure work experience. A presentation delivered by Mr Christian Mba from the University of Leicester, helped students to recognise how what they have done fits into a bigger picture and encouraged them to look ahead and make the most of Year 11.

The excellent feedback we have received from various work experience placements (in addition to comments already written by employers into student Log Books), will be shared with students at the start of next term. A big thank you to Mr Walsh for his huge contribution to gathering feedback from employers.





**'The Sad Club' by Y12 and 13 Drama and Music Enrichment Group – 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2019**

On 2nd May 2019 a talented group of 18 sixth form students went along to the Bush Theatre, West London, to perform their version of the show 'The Sad Club'.

*The day began with a technical rehearsal where we had to adapt the show for a completely new space. After a quick lunch, Elliot - a spoken word artist and poet- led a workshop in which we completed a range of group activities developing our teamwork and creative skills. It gave us a chance to work together, play and experiment, and the freedom we had when creating scenes helped us all to bond in a new way. It was a brilliant way to prepare for our final performance that evening. Our tech team, Jose and Mary-Kate, as well as our National Theatre director (Elvie) wanted us to tweak a few key moments and practise our transitions, but then we were given time to relax and recharge for the evening.*

*At 6pm, the lights went up and, even with a dangerous moment with some spilt jelly on stage (expertly cleared by Riyaad and Luke!) the show was absolutely amazing - truly the best we had ever done it. We found out afterward that the composer for the show (Adam Pleeth) was in the audience- and what a delight to hear how much he enjoyed it! He congratulated us and we really felt that being in the professional theatre had energised us to absolutely nail the performance.*

*We know this is something we will remember for years to come as an incredible journey, with a wonderful celebration to end it. We hope you enjoy the pictures!*

**By Brandon Sew, Dimitrie Bivol, Irtiza Jafri and Piers Whitehead**



**Drama Workshop – led by Elliot Ajai-Ajagbe**



**Safety Briefing First!**



**Mic testing before the show**



**A super proud post-show cast and crew photo!**



### Winners of 2019 NCH London Essay Competition Announced, Congratulations to our two winners

On Tuesday 25th June 2019, New College of the Humanities (NCH) announced the winners of the 2019 NCH London Essay Competition at a special award ceremony in London.

Held in Bedford Square Gardens, the award ceremony was hosted by Professor A C Grayling, Master of the College, alongside the College's academic faculty and students. 150 highly commended high school essay writers and their guests enjoyed being VIPs at our red carpet event and had their pictures taken by our NCH paparazzi.

Prizes were awarded in all the seven major subjects taught at undergraduate level at the College.

Professor Grayling said, **"The College received 3,600 entries into this year's essay competition, and 150 students were shortlisted and invited to this award ceremony. To be in the top 4% of essayists is exceptional. Every individual who has been shortlisted deserves to be very proud of their academic achievement."**

Now in its third year, the NCH London Essay Competition was founded to inspire and encourage students from around the world who are in their penultimate year of secondary education and have a passion for the humanities and social sciences, to pursue their interest in these subjects and to further develop their critical thinking and writing skills.

### Summer Term News from the Art Department

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May Year 8 participated in the first Art Challenge Day for their Year Group. Building on the competitive and creative skills showcased in the 'Play for a Day' performed in Year 7, the Art Department asked House Groups to complete a number of challenges all based on a specific piece of art work. Bridges, Carew, Mandeville, Radcliffe, Ruskin and Woodcote were given pieces by a range of artists from David Hockney to Leonardo da Vinci as the starting point for their challenges. Each house was asked to produce:

- A film trailed based on their designated painting
- An animation based on their designated painting
- Newspaper costumes based on their designated painting
- A large scale pastiche work
- A presentation about the artist and painting, including information about lesser known female artists that worked as contemporaries to their famous male peers.

Pupils demonstrated a great deal of ingenuity and team working skills as they designated tasks and worked together to make sure all of the challenges were completed and documented for presentation during period 5. The overall winners were Carew, but there was strong competition from all houses. We look forward to challenging the current Year 7 in the next academic year!

This year's competition sought submissions of essays in a range of questions including:  
*'What are literary critics for?' English*  
*'Can history teach us lessons?' History*  
*'Was the EU Commission correct to fine Google for abuse of a strong market position in online markets?' Law*  
*'What kinds of inequality, if any, are unjust?' Philosophy*

Chaired by Professor Grayling, former Man Booker Prize Chair of Judges, the judging panel comprised academic members of each subject faculty and high-performing third-year undergraduate students.

- ♦ **Riyaad Ali won second runner up in the English essay category and**
- ♦ **Gabriel Lane won second runner up in the History essay category.**

Both won a prize of £250 each and received a certificate for their achievements.

Details for the 2020 NCH London Essay Competition will be announced this autumn.

### About NCH London

New College of the Humanities (NCH) is a university level college based in central London. NCH offers a unique, liberal arts-inspired curriculum and major/minor combinations in Art History, Creative Writing, Economics, English, History, Law, Philosophy, Politics as well as PPE and PPH. This is supplemented by the NCH Diploma which consists of LAUNCH, a unique Career Development Programme, as well as courses in Applied Ethics, Critical Reasoning and Science Literacy. [www.nchlondon.ac.uk](http://www.nchlondon.ac.uk)



Kevin Goudar resplendent in newspaper as a Knight from

Paolo Uccello's Battle of San Romano.



### Summer News from the Art Department: GCSE and A Level Exhibitions

The Summer term is traditionally a time when we are able to really celebrate the artwork produced by our older students. Coursework and exam components are internally marked and then externally moderated with all of the work submitted forming eye catching exhibitions during the month of June. GCSE students and guests were invited to their exhibition opening on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June with A Level students sharing their pieces with viewers on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June.

We are very proud of the range of ideas and materials on show and students should be congratulated on their efforts.



A Level work by Mezino Whiskey and Jayden Wood being enjoyed by guests.

### SEVEN SISTERS, BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP

**On 11<sup>th</sup> June Year 12 Biology students went to Seven Sisters, where we did some sampling of plants and explored the organisms living at the beach. We all had so much fun whilst working together on our required practical!**

**The weather was lovely with the sun out and a clear blue sky.**

#### Activity 1

Rock pools, where we all got a chance to wonder around and fish out a diverse range of organisms in the pools of water. Most of them like the barnacles, limpets and even a green shore crab. All of these organisms are proof of global warming as their natural habitats are warm waters.



#### Activity 2

We went to the rocky beachy area and looked at the range of xerophyte plants there. We did frame quadrat sampling working out the percentage cover of various different plants. Sea kale, yellow poppy and brambles being the most common.

#### Activity 3

We then did a point transect sampling method where we looked at the extremophiles that survive in salt marshes – halophiles. We did it at 2 locations.

**By Salmana Bashir**



## Tomorrow's Engineers

### Year 9 Energy Quest Workshop

On Monday 8th July, Year 9 students took part in a two-hour Energy Quest workshop where they learnt about the different types of engineering, different routes into the profession and the skills required for engineering.



The session culminated in students working in teams to try and make a (small) car travel a certain distance in the hall and problem-solve (by adjusting the charge and wheels accordingly), if they overshoot the prescribed distance or their car did not go in a straight line! Students were able to take away their student workbook so they can carry on exploring if they wish.

All students can now look out for information booklets and postcards in PS2 and the LRC including 'From Idea to Career: Explore 12 areas of engineering' and 'What is engineering?'

### **D DAY 6 JUNE 1944 and after – Old Walcountian involvement**

David Tibbs was captain of the School in 1937 and played for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV. He qualified as a doctor from Guys Hospital in 1943 and, at the age of 23, signed up as a lieutenant in the Royal Army Medical Corps. He was promoted to the rank of captain and, as a member of the 225 (Parachute) Field Ambulance, he underwent tough jump training. He was assigned to the 5<sup>th</sup> Parachute Regiment of the famous 6<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division. This led to him jumping into Normandy as one of the first liberators to arrive immediately prior to the D-Day landings. The aim of the operation, codenamed 'Deadstick', was to capture intact two essential road bridges, one over the Caen canal (now known as Pegasus Bridge) and the other over the river Orne. He landed in the midst of an intense battle to defend the airborne perimeter. For his untiring and devoted services to the wounded he was awarded the Military Cross. He became a casualty himself when he was shot in the shoulder by enemy sniper fire. Fortunately, he recovered to fight another day.

He later took part in the British effort to support the Americans in successfully repulsing the Ardennes offensive by the Germans (the Battle of the Bulge). Losses and injuries sustained were very high on both sides. Next, he was involved in the massive airborne drop across the Rhine. This too met with success and was carried out in conjunction with the American 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division. A rapid advance to the Baltic followed with the aim of liberating Denmark and preventing the Russians from moving there. David was also to witness the extreme cruelty, pain and indignity inflicted by the Nazis on prisoners in the Belsen concentration camp. This was soon after it was first discovered by the advancing allies in 1945. Thousands had already died from starvation and disease and had to be buried under the supervision of British medical teams, and those still surviving required urgent treatment. This was his first encounter with the holocaust in which millions of innocent people died and he believed that this alone justified our fighting the war.

The 6<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division returned to its bases in Wiltshire at the end of the war in Europe but David's active service was not ended. He was shipped to the Far East to see service in Malaya and Indonesia. He was due to take part in a parachute drop to recover Singapore but this was thankfully cancelled following the Japanese surrender after the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He was diverted to Java where the Javanese had a strong-armed force which was opposed to the Japanese and the Dutch colonialists. Peace was finally restored thanks to the most unlikely combination of a British and Japanese military force operating under British command. Coincidentally, Lieutenant Ian Tibbs, David's elder brother, was also awarded an MC for his part in fighting the Japanese in Burma.

In June 2012 his book 'Parachute Doctor' was launched at the Pegasus Bridge Museum.

More recently David was honoured by the French Government with the award of its most prestigious decoration, La Legion d'honneur.

He died in his beloved John Radcliffe Hospital in August 2017 at the age of 97.

***This is an extract from 'Wallington County Grammar School – The First Fifty Years' written by Brian Nicholls.***

***Copies of the book can be ordered from the author at [bnicholls74@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:bnicholls74@hotmail.co.uk)***