



# GREENSHEET



No. 19/14

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29th January 2015

Week 'B'

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

### Spring Term

2015:

**Ends - Thursday**  
2nd April 2015

### Year 11

**Parents**

**Evening**

Thursday 5th  
February 2015  
4:30pm - 7pm

### Year 9 Parents Information

**Evening**

Tuesday 10th  
February 2015  
6:30pm - 7:15pm

### Half Term:

Monday 16th  
February 2015 to  
Friday 20th  
February 2015

### Training and Development

Friday 13th  
March 2015  
Early closure  
Students  
dismissed  
12:30pm

## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have always been so impressed by the enthusiasm our girls have for reading- you will have seen the information about our Year 7 readers in a recent Greensheet (No 14/14). We promote reading at every opportunity in school, and will shortly be launching a new programme which will enable you as parents and carers to monitor on-line the reading progress of your daughter.

Meanwhile, this week saw the launch of another reading initiative, this time for Year 8 students, which will build in yet more supervised reading time for the girls in the LRC. This is additional to other schemes such as the Year 10 mentor programme in which girls regularly support younger students with their reading. Ms Warren, SPL for Year 8, reminded her year group this week about the following benefits of regular reading:

England is ranked 23<sup>rd</sup> out of 29 countries in terms of pupil's attitudes to reading.

Just one third of children in England reported reading for fun on a daily basis outside school.

A study in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, found that older people who read regularly are two and a half times less likely to develop Alzheimer's disease.

A study by the *National Endowment for the Arts* found that people who regularly read are more likely to be engaged civically and culturally.

Every time you read, you create a new memory of what you

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have read - essentially exercising your memory muscles.

The more books you read, the more words you will be exposed to (provided the book is a little more challenging each time) and these words will eventually find a place in your own vocabulary.

Congratulations to *Bushra Bibi 8H (44)*, *Greta Geci 8G (34)*, *Sneha Uthayakumar 8C (29)*, *Madiah Ali 8G (24)* and *Alice Rainbow 8F (20)* for the highest number of Year 8 book loans from the LRC since September. Good luck to Year 8 with your new reading programme!

Also we celebrate the success of our badminton teams, with representatives from every year group, in the competition this week. The Under 16s came **second** in the borough while the Under 14 team came **first**. The following girls will represent Waltham Forest in the Regional Finals at the Copper Box: *Farah Mohd Azlin 9F*, *Tanwalai Wisutsirikun 9H*, *Hirah Awan 9W*, *Kalila Hamblock 8W* and *Maddy Hilton 7G*.

This term we launched our new Diversity Calendar which is accompanied by themed presentations on our school message boards and Tuesday was Holocaust Memorial Day. WH Auden's poem written in 1939 does reflect, sadly, the lives of some members of our own community even today.

Best Wishes  
Meryl Davies

*Refugee Blues*

*Say this city has ten million souls,  
Some are living in mansions, some are living in holes:  
Yet there's no place for us, my dear, yet there's no place for us.*

*Once we had a country and we thought it fair,  
Look in the atlas and you'll find it there:  
We cannot go there now, my dear, we cannot go there now.*

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*In the village churchyard there grows an old yew,  
Every spring it blossoms anew:  
Old passports can't do that, my dear, old passports can't do that.*

*The consul banged the table and said,  
"If you've got no passport you're officially dead":  
But we are still alive, my dear, but we are still alive.*

*Went to a committee; they offered me a chair;  
Asked me politely to return next year:  
But where shall we go to-day, my dear, but where shall we go to-day?*

*Came to a public meeting; the speaker got up and said;  
"If we let them in, they will steal our daily bread":  
He was talking of you and me, my dear, he was talking of you and me.*

*Thought I heard the thunder rumbling in the sky;  
It was Hitler over Europe, saying, "They must die":  
O we were in his mind, my dear, O we were in his mind.*

*Saw a poodle in a jacket fastened with a pin,  
Saw a door opened and a cat let in:  
But they weren't German Jews, my dear, but they weren't German Jews.*

*Went down the harbour and stood upon the quay,  
Saw the fish swimming as if they were free:  
Only ten feet away, my dear, only ten feet away.*

*Walked through a wood, saw the birds in the trees;  
They had no politicians and sang at their ease:  
They weren't the human race, my dear, they weren't the human race.*

*Dreamed I saw a building with a thousand floors,  
A thousand windows and a thousand doors:  
Not one of them was ours, my dear, not one of them was ours.*

*Stood on a great plain in the falling snow;  
Ten thousand soldiers marched to and fro:  
Looking for you and me, my dear, looking for you and me.*

WH Auden

## THE GREENSHEET IS DIGITAL

To allow Walthamstow School for Girls to continue to improve its environmentally friendly status and to continue to reduce the amount of printed material produced, parents and carers are being sent an e-mail link to the Greensheet on-line.



Currently, there are just over 100 families for which we do not have an e-mail, these students are being given a paper copy to take home. We are looking to reduce this number considerably. If you are not receiving an e-mail alert, please provide the school with an e-mail address to ensure you are being kept up-to-date with the essential information which is being published in this Greensheet.

Please remember Greensheets are always available for you to access through the school website under the Greensheet and Downloads sections.

<http://www.wsfg.waltham.sch.uk/>

### Year 11 Message for all Parents, Carers and Students

**Year 11 Parents Evening  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

As usual, your daughter will have made appointments with her subject teachers for a discussion on her progress from **4.30 to 7pm**.

We encourage all Year 11 students and **their parents/carers or a family member** to attend this **last** consultation evening to discuss their daughter's progress and strategies to help them achieve their full potential in their GCSE exams.

It is a **crucial event** as it is your daughter's final GCSE year.

We look forward to seeing you.

Ms Desbenoit

Student Progress Leader, Year 11.

# Year 9 Students

## Year 9 Options: Message to Parents and Carers

### Key dates for your diary:

- 10<sup>th</sup> February:** Year 9 Information Evening, 6:30-7:15pm  
**5<sup>th</sup> March:** Year 9 Parents' Evening  
**12<sup>th</sup> March:** Year 9 Options Evening  
**20<sup>th</sup> March:** Deadline for option choices

At the **Year 9 Information Evening**, you will be given a brief presentation, followed by a question and answer session, on the national changes to GCSE English and Mathematics, the grading system and the changes to the way GCSEs are used to measure school performance. This is not a compulsory meeting and is not necessary information when choosing subjects to study, but you are all invited and we would like to see you there.

We would expect all Year 9 parents and carers to attend the **Year 9 Parents' Evening**. As always, you will be given the opportunity to speak to individual staff members with regards to your daughter's progress and achievements within particular subject areas and this will help inform your daughter's options choices.

**Year 9 Options Evening** will be a chance to learn more about the options process and have a more detailed discussion with Heads of Faculty about the courses available to your daughter in Year 10. You can see sample work and will receive a booklet with an overview of the GCSE courses available at WSFG.

We will do our utmost to ensure your daughter is allocated her chosen options but there is a possibility that not all students' requests can be accommodated.

Your daughter will be informed of her option subjects during the summer term.

Please be assured that it is our aim to ensure your daughter has a successful start to the next phase of her school pathway.

Ms Careless  
Year 9 Student Progress Leader

## Year 10

### Message for Parents and Carers: LionHeart Challenge

On Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, Year 10s will be off timetable to participate in a nationwide enterprise initiative known as the LionHeart Challenge.

Students will be taking part in a high energy and high impact business challenge developing a product that is cutting edge. Students will be working as a team to come up with a proposal that meets the requirements of the challenge they were set and working with a number of business mentors.

They need to consider their target market, advertising, marketing, finance, leadership and presenting their product to over two hundred people!

The winning team from our school event will go on to compete in the London regional finals.

Good luck to all Year 10s! If you would like to find out more about the LionHeart Challenge please visit the organisation's website: <http://www.flc.uk.com/>

**Ms Bugden**  
**Assistant Headteacher**



**LionHeart**  
**Challenge**



## Professional Interview Day

Last Wednesday, the girls in our Year 11 cohort were transformed into one hundred and eighty professional women as they took part in our mock interview day. As part of our preparation and commitment to life after WSFG, we organise a day of mock interviews for Year 11.

The activity helps prepare our girls for their college interviews and possible future employment. Students are interviewed by a range of professionals. This year these included a BBC News production manager, a senior vet, the CEO of Age UK, lawyers, civil servants, teachers, bankers, business entrepreneurs and many more people from a wide range of professions.



The girls apply for an imaginary job. They were then matched with a professional with experience in that field who interviewed them. Following their interview, they were advised on any areas for development.

For successive years our students have commented on how useful they find the experience, especially in preparing for college interviews. In addition, the interviewers always praise our the girls for their professionalism, maturity and organisation. As one of the visitors commented, *“The students had all made a real effort to dress appropriately and I would have given everyone a job as a result of their interview.”*

I can genuinely say all Year 11s were incredible. I have never seen a year group take the process so seriously, dress so professionally and speak to our interviewers so politely and so confidently. The interviewers were so impressed with the calibre of every student they interviewed.

Ms Janes and I felt incredibly proud of the entire year group!

Well done Year 11.

Ms Bugden



## Year 10 Poetry by Heart

A large and wide range of Year 10s showed an interest in our poetry reciting competition this year, but few managed to commit themselves sufficiently – and find the courage - to memorise and present two poems from the Poetry by Heart anthology. Well done to everyone who participated, showed an interest, explored the website and got lost in a poem or two. It was great to see so many girls discover a poem they could identify with, that struck a chord or took their fancy. And to any Year 10s out there who have not succumbed to this pleasure yet, come on!

This is the second year that WSFG has taken part in the national poetry reciting competition for 14 to 18 year olds. Once our school has selected our winners, they are pitted against Sixth formers (some of whom may have previously been star students here, as was the case last year) in the East London round held in Romford. Competition is fierce but friendly as many competitors are older than our Year 10s, but there is a great warm, supportive atmosphere.

Last week we selected *Isabel Billington* as our winner, with *Chloe Shepherd* as the runner-up. For the Romford round, which is next week on the 4<sup>th</sup> February, both girls have also chosen a third poem to present from the WWI anthology. Please do congratulate the girls and wish them luck if you see them around.

Anyone who can make it to Romford Library for 6:30 pm would be very welcome – and I would still like to encourage Year 10s and Year 11s to explore the Poetry by Heart website, not only for its innate great pleasure but also with your looming unseen poetry exam question in mind!

Ms Sullivan  
Teacher of English



## Ski Trip 2015 Parents Meeting

The date for this year's meeting for students coming on the ski trip this Easter will be on

**THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2015 at 6.00 p.m.**

This meeting is for students and their parents, so please put the date in your diary. The meeting will take place in Norris Hall.

You will soon receive a letter about this meeting, along with an information sheet that you and your daughter should complete and bring with you to the meeting.

See you there  
Mr Fowler  
Ski Trip Organiser



## Film Making Project

On Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January, twenty Year 9s wrote a script for a short film based around the theme of community. This week, these students have put their ideas into action and directed, acted and shot their film!

This is a joint media project with other central Waltham Forest schools in Waltham Forest. In March, the films of all the schools will be screened and a number of prizes awarded at the event.



The company Straightcurve were very impressed with the creativity, passion and interest that WSGF students demonstrated throughout the two day process.

Well done to the following students, and good luck in Waltham Forest's version of the Oscars!

*Mia Jeffries, Malaika Mushtaq, Hanna Khairul Azaham, Lucy Carter, Lily Down, Katie Krupnitskaya, Navin Yousouf, Joy Akintan, Noemi Munt, Maheen Ali, Maiya Ward, Ola Chimczak, Hannah Ross, Patricia Williams-Torres, Sandra Swiergolik, Ummi Hoque, Aarifah Amidu, Desy Koparanska*

Ms Bugden  
Assistant Headteacher

## **Eat or Heat Cook Off**

Competition was hotting up amongst the Year 9 students as they took part last week in a cook off to find this year's best Eat or Heat recipe.



Working in pairs, girls have been challenged to design and cook a recipe that:

- Uses only food bank ingredients plus herbs, spices and oil from the school store cupboard
- Is a savoury main meal
- Can be cooked in 30 minutes
- Will feed four people
- Is tasty, nutritious and well-presented

The competition was introduced last year by Ms Scott and Ms Wilkinson to promote the local food bank charity Eat or Heat, with the grand final last year being judged by British Bake Off runner up Kimberley Wilson.

Ms Wilkinson & Ms Scott  
Eat or Heat

## **Loading money on One Cards for Olive Dining**

Please remind your daughter that she must press the reset button before and after loading money onto her One Card. There has been an increase in number of students not doing this, resulting in money not being credited to them, but to someone else.

Olive dining can not take responsibility for money not being loaded correctly.

May we take this opportunity to remind you that cheques can be submitted, payable to "Olive Dining ltd" with your Daughter's name and form clearly written on the back. There is also an online payment method available via sQuid.

Thank you



# Use of student mobile phones at Walthamstow School For Girls

Mobile phones are **NOT** allowed to be carried by students during the school day at WSFG.

- If students choose to bring a mobile phone to school, it **MUST** be handed into the school office for safekeeping at 8.15am and collected at 3.30pm.
- They will be required to show their ID card for collection of the phone at 3.30pm.
- At 3.30pm mobile phones can be used outside the inner school gates and not within the school grounds.

## **Sanctions.**

If a student is found to either have possession of or to be using a mobile phone in school:

- The mobile phone will be confiscated until the next school holiday.
- If the student does not hand over the mobile phone straight away or argues with the member of staff, a further sanction will be applied.
- Mobile phones will **NOT** be returned to students. Parents/ Carers will receive a letter approximately two weeks before the next school holiday, inviting them into school to collect the confiscated phone.

**Important Note:** If mobile phones are brought into school by students and are not handed into the office, this is done so at the girls' own risk.

**The school takes no responsibility for loss or damage of mobile phones if they are not handed into the school office.**