



"Neglect Not the Gift that is in Thee"

# Greensheet Plus

## AUTUMN 2015



# Headteacher's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is an extremely packed edition of the Bumper Greensheet. It contains many of the articles that we have not been able to include in our weekly newsletter and highlights some of the exciting events and successes which have involved our students over recent months.

One of our most recent highlights must be the Year 11 Presentation and Prize Giving Evening which celebrated the GCSE success of last year's students. It was a delight to see all the young women return to school in their finery and catch up with their news.

Another highlight this term was the Steel Pans Performance at the Royal Albert Hall earlier this month. Ours was the only Steel Pans ensemble to play at the 2015 Music For Youth Proms, and what a wonderful sound they made!

As you can see from this issue, we do not just focus on academic work at WSFG, there is also a great deal of fun and the making of fond memories.

Season's greetings to you all,

Yours sincerely  
Meryl Davies

The Mayor, Councillor Saima Mahmud, giving out awards at the Presentation Evening



# Inside this issue of the Greensheet Plus

- Academic Challenge Day
- Student Achievement Celebration
- PiXL Student Awards
- Black History Month Trip
- STEM workshop
- Cycle Awards
- 'Girls Can' Coding Event
- Young Lawyers Workshop
- Young Doctors Workshop
- Wheelchair Masters Tennis Ball Crew
- WSFG Synchronised Swimmers
- Stonewall Conference
- Unicorn Theatre Links
- WSFG Multicultural Celebrations
- WSFG International Links
- English News
- Gardening Club
- Philosophy Day
- Steel Pans at the Royal Albert Hall
- Shakespeare Schools Festival
- NASA talk
- L'Oreal Scientist Unconference
- Open House London
- Alumnae News:
  - Former Student Commonwealth Secretary General
  - Former WSFG student is first Youth Delegate to UN Delegation
  - Former Student and Published Author

## Academic Challenge Day at Forest School

Last term, four students from Year 10 had the opportunity to spend the day at Forest School. They participated in a United Nations style conference, working alongside students from across the borough.

Here is a report from one of our students:

*The United Nations is thought to be one of the most influential organisations in the world, involving a total of 193 nations around the globe altogether. With powerful and brilliant minds working to solve the almost impossible problems of humanity, the UN seemed like something I could only admire from afar*



*and aspire to be part of in my dreams, however I now know that is not the case. The United Nations model conference is an opportunity to experience the proceedings and gain a basic understanding of the General Assembly's Rules of Procedure as well as go through discussion and action phases of General Assembly Committee meetings and much more!*

*Discussing the issue of global warming, I was able to understand and even come up with some of my own solutions for this problem. It was a full day at Forest School, with many other schools participating, which means that, with the mixture of pupils from all ranges of background, we*



*were able to see and discuss the topic from many different aspects. However, when we first arrived, countries were allocated to us, so we had the challenge of placing ourselves within the shoes of global leaders. Quite luckily, I was representing the UK so I was already relatively aware of our general ideals and beliefs, while on the other hand, my friend was allocated the Russian Federation and therefore had an extra challenge!*

*My increased understanding in the UN has meant that my confidence has grown to a level that I believe becoming part of the organisation is within my reach. It was a brilliant opportunity which I would recommend for all students as it definitely inspires you to do something and change the world!*

Lilian Ngo IIS

Well done to our four students, Fiona McDonald, Hamnah Shakeel, Lilian Ngo and Mishaal Sadiq, who prepared thoroughly for the day and presented very well in the afternoon.

Ms Robinson



## Year 11 Student Achievement Celebration PiXL Student Awards - Central Hall, Westminster

In September, Ms Famiglietti and Ms Davies were honoured to attend a grand celebration of Year 11 student achievement at Central Hall, Westminster. The event was attended by representatives from hundreds of schools and academies nationwide and the families of the prizewinners, with presentations made by the guest speaker, entrepreneur, chef and musician, Levi Roots.

Two of our former students, Raadiyah Jauny and Fartun Hassan, were nominated for awards after making excellent progress from KS2 through to their GCSEs. Loren Townsend-Elliott was given a special award having achieved success whilst managing enormous challenges.

Congratulations to these young people and their families and carers.



Loren Townsend-Elliott receiving her award from Levi Roots



Loren Townsend-Elliott and Ms Famiglietti (left)

Raadiyah Jauny and Ms Davies (right)



## Black History Month Trip

In October, a group of students from Year 9 were taken to Leyton for a Black History Month Inspiration Day. There were some speakers in the morning, followed by a Dragon's Den style activity in the afternoon.

Here are some quotes from two of the participants:

*I really enjoyed the trip. I met some totally amazing women, like Chelsea, Jane and Remy Ray. I heard their back stories and how they overcame difficulties. I am truly thankful to have met them. It was an amazing opportunity.*

Sashya Wijesekara 9C

*I enjoyed the challenge in the afternoon, where we had to create a new drink. My team came up with Tropical Carnival Crush. It was good to meet and work alongside students from Connaught School on this task.*

*I also found the talk by the fashion designer very inspiring, especially as she was not diagnosed with dyslexia until she was at university. She now has her own vintage fashion label.*

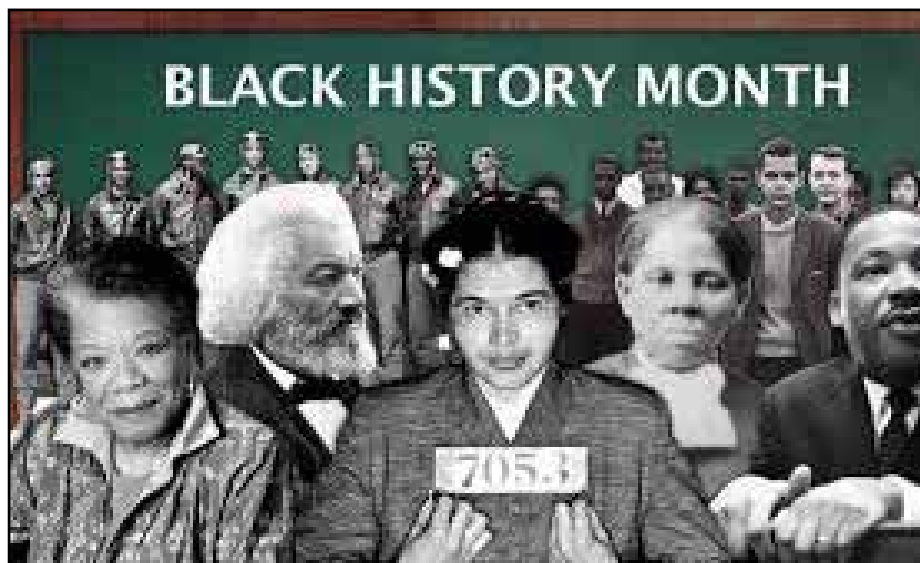
*Another guest gave a moving speech about how she has changed her life since being in prison. She now goes around helping and inspiring others.*

*Overall, I really enjoyed the day.*

Shaniah Aaliyah Howell-Burgin 9C

Thank you to Ms Finamore and Ms Ray who accompanied us on the trip.

Ms Robinson



## STEM Workshop

Sixty Year 8 students participated in a whole day STEM workshop in school. They worked with engineers on a variety of tasks based on HS2. The students had lots of fun problem solving, building with balloons and designing a train station with mechanical features. They rose to the difficult challenge enthusiastically, demonstrated excellent team work skills and did WSFG proud.

Thank you for a brilliant day.

Ms Healy  
STEM Co-ordinator



## WSFG Student Prizewinner - Cycle Planning Awards 2015

The Cycle Planning Awards took place at Walthamstow Assembly Hall earlier this term. A national event, with representation from the Netherlands' Ambassador to the UK and prominent figures such as Andrew Gilligan, journalist and presenter for BBC Radio 4's Today programme and Robert Goodwill, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport, this ceremony marked achievements by planners across the country and concluded a day of cycle-related events in Waltham Forest.

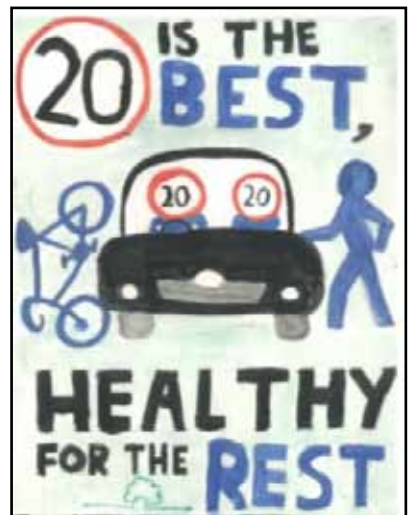


The event was also attended by Malika Arshad (10G), Malika's mother and Ms Davies, who enjoyed an evening's entertainment at a formal dinner before the awards were presented. Malika had won the Design-a-Sign competition run by the London Borough of Waltham Forest and, as first prize-winner, Malika was presented with a bike; in addition, WSFG will receive £3,000 worth of cycle

parking as part of the prize. So, the whole school community has benefitted, thanks to Malika.

*Malika said It was a really exciting evening, I felt so happy to win one of the special awards and people were congratulating me, even on my way home”*

The poster will be displayed in streets around the borough.





## 'Girls Can' Crafting and Coding Event

In September, a weekend workshop, which brought together an exciting mix of coding and crafting, was held at Gnome House in Blackhorse Road. It was aimed at girls to introduce them to coding. The weekend was billed as 'crafting and coding' with the end result being the creation of a conductive cushion.

Year 7 student Chikara Mbakwe 7H attended with her mother. The workshop mixed the latest technology with traditional craft skills, participants got the chance to create a 'conductive cushion', which was displayed at a special exhibition as part of Ada Lovelace Day on 13th October. Working around the theme of "Inspiring Women", participants were able to experiment with light, sound, motion sensors and more, stitching their work altogether with conductive thread to create an interactive cushion cover.

The workshop was open to girls, aged between 7 and 12 years. They were encouraged to attend with their mums, aunts, older sisters or other significant older female in their lives. The aim of the weekend was to share traditional and technology skills between generations, encouraging both women and girls to get more hands on with electronics. Chikara chose to do her school as it inspires girls to try out different things and gives them the confidence to believe that anything is possible. She decided to try and replicate the school logo and moto. She created a circuit and learned to incorporate this into e-textiles using conductive thread (very amazing) and used this to light up the four flowers using a switch. She also used a sewing machine which she really loved.



# Young Lawyers Workshop

In October, a group of students from Years 7 and 8 participated in a Young Lawyers workshop.



Here is some feedback from the students who participated:

*I liked everything about the workshop, however I particularly enjoyed the role play. I recommend this workshop to anyone who is interested in the law as we learnt so much in one day! I learnt about many different laws and the different techniques used to question a witness.*

Eva Bianchi-Burgos 7C



*I learnt a lot of new things and really enjoyed the day. I learnt how the jury works and about lots of different laws.*

Vicke Mairet 8H



*I especially liked the role play and wearing the wig and gown.*

Muskan Iftexhar 8G

*My favourite part was learning how to question someone in court. I learnt about different types of charges and how long you would go to prison for.*

Maddy Hilton 8G



*I learnt that assault is causing someone to fear violence and that battery is touching someone without their permission.*

Kate Lucas 8G



*I really enjoyed the games as I was learning at the same time. I learnt about so many different laws and was really surprised that there are so many.*

Safa Ahmed 8W

*I learnt a lot about different crimes and their punishments. I really enjoyed getting a taste of what working as a lawyer is like.*

Jasia Macmeikan 7C



Thank you to Tom Davies from the Debate Chamber for an inspiring, enriching and educational day.

Ms Robinson

## Young Doctors Workshop

Also in October, eighteen girls from Year 7 participated in a Young Doctors Workshop, led by Tom Davies.

Here is some feedback from the participants:

*The day was perfect. I loved using the equipment and learning new things. What would be even better is if we could have more workshops like this.*

Nabia Fatima 7S

*I loved everything about the day. It was just spectacular! It was a great experience and has helped me to understand much more about becoming a doctor.*

Amud Ahmed 7S



*I learnt so many new things, long words, how to deal with patients, about vision, hearing, radiology and more.*

Alexandra Yau 7W

*I really enjoyed interacting with other students and using real doctor's equipment, like the tuning fork, eye torch and reflex hammer. Tom was very interactive and very helpful, answering all of our questions.*

Aini Noorally 7W

*It was great to be given booklets full of information. I learnt so many things in one day. We really should have more days like this.*

Ying Hang Zeng 7F

*I enjoyed learning about Socrates, radiology and how to talk to patients correctly. It was also fun testing each other with the equipment. One day I would like to go to a real hospital to see how to do X rays.*



Tunmise Afolabi 7C



*I really enjoyed the day and it helped me to decide that I really do want to be a doctor. I learnt about the brain, bones and much more.*

Zalyka Khan 7C

*I loved everything about the day. My idea for an improvement is to do it all again!*

Faiza Mehmood 7H

*I learnt all about cerebral palsy and about the symptoms for Parkinson's disease. What would have made the day even better is if I had learnt how to use an oscilloscope.*



Naimah Ali 7F

*I really enjoyed all of the practical activities. I learnt that I don't have very good reflexes, but I do have very good hearing!*

Leila Shakibi 7W

Ms Robinson

## Wheelchair Masters Tennis Ball Crew

In September, a selection event to pick a ball crew for the 2015 Wheelchair Masters Tennis competition took place at Walthamstow School for Girls. Coaches who train the ball boys and girls for Wimbledon came in to school to select a team of seven students to be part of the 2015 Wheelchair Tennis World Championships. Students from Kelmscott School also attended the selection event and a team was chosen from each school.

The teams played a vital part in the championships which took place from 2nd–6th December at the Lea Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre in the Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. We had seventeen students attend the selection event and the coaches remarked on how fantastic they all were and that they demonstrated an exceptionally high level of effort, skill and enthusiasm.



The seven Year 9 students selected for the Ball Crew were:

Assa Kanoute, Ismay Bowles, Anna Howles, Jamilia Edwards, Aliyah Ahmed, Lily Deason and Remi Odetoyinbo.

Congratulations to all those who took part in the selection event and particularly to the seven girls who were selected for the team.

Ms Warren  
PE department



## WSFG Synchronised Swimmers

Four talented synchronised swimmers from WSFG travelled to Perth, Australia to compete in the Commonwealth Festival of Synchronised Swimming at the end of August. The students who competed were Alicia Day 11F, Nellie Short 11H, Savannah Gracey 11H and Hanna Khairul Azaham 10S.



They all performed exceptionally well at the competition, beating the South African National team to win gold in one of their categories. Alicia and Savannah also won a gold medal in another category whilst Nellie and Hanna won the bronze medal. This is a fantastic achievement and the girls had a wonderful experience that they will never forget.

The girls competed in the Scottish National Championships in Glasgow in October and also won gold at the London Region Synchronised Swimming Competition. They are also working towards selection for the British National Championships.

They girls were shortlisted for a Waltham Forest Sports Award in the category of 'Junior Team of the Year Under 18'. This is a fantastic achievement as there were a record number of nominations in this category this year. They attended the awards ceremony on 12th November at Walthamstow Assembly Hall, but there was very stiff competition and they did not win this year, in spite of their impressive achievements we wish them the best of luck for the future.

If anyone is interested in getting involved in synchronised swimming, the club the girls are all members of Aquavision Swimming Club based at Waltham Forest College Pool.

<http://www.aquavision.org.uk/>

Ms Warren  
PE department



Shortlisted for Waltham Forest Sports Award

Synchronised Swimmers

## Stonewall Conference



Last term, two members of our Student Equal Opportunities group and myself attended the 'Stonewall Education for All' conference.

It was a thought provoking and interesting day. Discussions and debates around British values and LGBT inclusion were had. Our students attended sessions on LGBT role models in sport and LGBT people in the media. 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.

Ms Desbenoit

Here is what they had to say:

*In July I was lucky enough to attend the 'Stonewall Education for All' conference with a Year 10 student named Jeevan, a truly eye opening experience. This year's conference was especially important for LGBT people as it was the first trans-inclusive conference that Stonewall had ever run, and I count it as a privilege that I got to go.*

*I was able to meet many inspiring people and hear their stories, learning a lot about the hardships that the LGBT community goes through during their lives, and helping me to better understand how I could support an LGBT person. The conference also gave me many ideas about how we can promote the same level of equality and acceptance for pupils at our school, and raised some issues that I had never considered.*

*Throughout the day Jeevan and I went to various sessions that had been organised and assigned to us upon arrival. The sessions covered a wide range of subjects including LGBT in the media, Society's views on bisexuality, LGBT and BME, and LGBT in sport. The sessions that I enjoyed the most were those about bisexuality and media, because they taught me valuable things about how people can be affected by words (that to some may be seemingly harmless) and how their sexuality is represented in the media, if at all.*

*I really enjoyed the day and would absolutely recommend it to anyone who believes in equality or who wants to learn more about LGBT issues and what can be done to prevent discrimination. It was a very thought provoking and engaging event, that helped me to develop my existing knowledge of LGBT and become more aware of those around me. It really was a fantastic opportunity that I am grateful I was able to go to.*

Emine Omer IIS.

## My Stonewall Conference Experience

*Going to the Stonewall conference was an amazing experience that was like none other. There were different parts of the trip that made me feel different ways. Overall, I felt most empathetic, and I saw how people of the LGBT community are treated whether that was good or bad. It made me think about what it was like to be them, to be somewhat a part of a minority that are held back from doing exactly what they want just because of some individuals thoughts. The first workshop that I went to was all about LGBT people in sports. Some of the facts and figures of this workshop shocked me; out of 10,000 Olympians in*

the 2012 Olympics only twenty of them were openly gay! As well as that, out of all 4,300 paralympians only two of these were gay. We had a chance to talk to some sport competitors about their experiences with LGBT in their career. They answered a lot of questions about how they overcame stereotypes and how it felt growing up being homosexual and not being able to admit it or not knowing for sure. Their stories were touching and made me realise that just because of the language or actions some people take in school it can hold some people back from being their true self.

The second workshop about LGBT in the media where we listened to Jaymi Hensley (Member of Union J) and Alicia Eyo (Actress from Emmerdale) talk about how it is being LGBT when you have a spotlight on you. Jaymi mentioned that sometimes, because he is gay, it holds him back from doing certain things such as going on tour to countries that have laws against LGBT. He said that he made the choices of not doing certain things or going to certain places as he is very much a campaigner of LGBT rights and even though he is made to look a certain way that will always be a part of him. I learnt during this workshop that so many celebrities may look like everything is ok but just because of their sexuality, they can be held back in so many ways which is heart breaking as everyone in this world wants to succeed and so everyone should be able to.

I then went on to the journey of trans visibility workshop which was one of the most eye opening workshops of all. It was only this year that Stonewall have started to talk about transexuality in their conferences. During the workshop the two people who were speaking told us about the fact that the journey for them did not start when they got hormones or surgery but as soon as they were conceived. They also went on to explain that they did not think the journey of gender identity and sexuality ever finished until the day one dies. Some people who were also students added to the speaker's thoughts by saying that some people's parents do not accept it as they are scared of what others think and they are also losing a child that they must mourn. This really interested me as I had never learnt anything about transsexual people before.

In the last workshop we didn't have much time to focus on the subject of LGBT and BME but many of the other students aged in their teens shared their experiences which were all very surprising. It made me realise how many people around my age are actually LGBT and what kind of things they go through at school.

When hearing some people's stories of their experiences in school such as being called "dirty dike" I thought to myself that our school is not that kind of community but I don't think that our school actually has enough services

to cater for people of the LGBT community. Whilst at the conference many people raised the subject that although everyone knew about LGBT not enough people feel comfortable to come out as they do not have mental support, I think that is something that our school could really improve on.

Overall, I found the day very insightful and a great experience especially at my age as I think us kids are the future and even though some adults are stuck in their own ways we can still give everybody an opportunity to be equal in the future"

Jeevan Kaur 10W



## Unicorn Theatre Explore Partnership

We are very excited to be beginning a three year partnership with the Unicorn Theatre this year involving our current Year 7 students. An in-depth programme for schools in the outer boroughs of London, Explore involves the same cohort of students over the three years of Key Stage 3. It aims to unlock the rich potential for learning that is offered through a trip to the theatre and develop confident and interested theatre goers. By the end of the programme, each participant will have seen at least six plays of different genres and theatrical styles, each accompanied by in-depth workshops delivered in school by professional facilitators from the Unicorn Theatre. In addition, we will be exploring some of the themes and issues of the plays we see in our Drama lessons.

Our first show was 'Baddies:The Musical', and two tutor groups at a time went to see it over three consecutive days. The Unicorn Theatre, based at London Bridge, is the country's leading theatre dedicated to work for a young audience and this is a wonderful opportunity for all of us involved. Should you have any questions about the programme, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Ms Cornford  
Head of Drama





## WSFG Multicultural Celebrations

In October, the whole school community came together to celebrate all of our different cultures and backgrounds. We are proud of our diversity and consider ourselves lucky to have students and staff from such a wide variety of backgrounds.



On this day, students were invited to take part in a non-uniform, cultural dress day where they could dress in colours of their flag or in cultural dress of their heritage or of somebody else's. We had some amazing outfits representing a huge range of nationalities such as Polish, British, Pakistani, Jamaican, German and French to name but a few.



The evening saw staff and students prepare a very impressive student show of poetry, drama, dance, singing and speeches. Plus there was a market area with many activities to get involved in, including international food tasting from our hospitality group, a chopstick competition, Oware, flag making and many more. We also

had an impressive exhibition by our ADT faculty showcasing our Year 11 GCSE work, our Year 7 Identity project portraits and information on our trip to our link school, The Ambore Read Foundation School, in Pakistan.



We were pleased to see so many students, parents and carers visit this event and take part in this important celebration and we are grateful for all of the positive feedback we received. A huge thank you to everyone who took part and supported the event. Without such an overwhelming team effort and support from all of those in the community, we couldn't run unique and special events like this.

We look forward to welcoming you to our next celebration too!

Ms Philippou  
Interim Assistant Headteacher



## WSFG International Links

It is an exciting time for our International Links here at WSFG, with a number of initiatives starting to take off. International Learning is now more important than ever and by making more actual links with schools in other countries, learning becomes more meaningful, and enjoyable and students have a richer educational experience.

I want to update you on what has been going on for us here at WSfG International as we grow and become a bigger part of school life.

So far this academic year, we have re-established our students WSFG International group and are currently meeting weekly on Monday lunchtime. Our group is growing and new members are welcome to join (although spaces are limited!). We have also

re-established our staff group and more and more members of teaching and support staff are getting involved.

So, here's where we are currently at:

- International Clock Wall – we are creating an international clock wall in the student entrance to show the time in countries around the world including the time zones of some of our link schools.
- The Ambore Read Foundation School – this is our link school in Pakistan that we raised funds to help rebuild several years ago following the 2012 floods. We'd like to continue to support our link school and are currently deciding on some annual and termly events that will help to raise funds including the Year 7 GREEN project, non-uniform days and other exciting ideas.
- Links with Dominica - Dominica is an island between Martinique and Guadeloupe in the Caribbean. We are currently linked with Roseau Secondary School, a co-educational school in the capital city. I have been liaising and making plans with our link teacher at the school. The student group have created short videos and photos with them and have received some in return (including some letters, photos and a flag). We have also started a Google community for sharing photos and video. The student group are in the process of writing London post cards to send out in the New Year with our local



co-ordinator when she visits Dominica. They are also putting together a package of gifts for our new friends.

- International Learning in lessons – I have carried out an audit of all of the International Learning already taking place in lessons. The result was impressive, with International Learning appearing in almost all subject areas through schemes of learning and activities. Some of these include: code breaker day, Oware, visitors in school, enrichment activities and so on.
- eTwinning – we are looking into eTwinning which is an initiative by the British Council to help schools make links with other schools in Europe. Some teachers are already members and are looking for joint projects with schools in other countries so that we can share this more widely.
- Paddington's travels – Paddington is our WSFG International mascot. Students and staff are invited to borrow Paddington if they are going on a trip or involved in an interesting activity in or out of school. The idea is that the person who borrows Paddington takes a selfie of themselves, at the monument/event with him. This will be shared with staff and our link schools so that they can learn more about us and our country. We have a second Paddington that we will be sending to Dominica in the New Year so that they can share their activities and culture with us in the same way.



Thank you for taking the time to read this update – I hope you'll agree that we are certainly heading in the right direction!

Ms Philippou  
Interim Assistant Headteacher



Paddington at St Albans Christmas market and EMD cinema opening , following our Carol Concert

## English News

### Visit By Author Na'ima B Robert

We were very privileged in the English department to have the published writer, Na'ima B Robert, come to visit and speak to our students about her stories.

A selection of different year groups came to see her discuss her books and heard her read, in character, from her published books such as, *From Somalia with Love*, *Boy vs. Girl*, *Far from Home* and *Black Sheep*. Pupils were intrigued to hear her stories about growing up in South Africa, her experiences in London and how she felt inspired to write because she wanted her children to have stories relevant to them.



### The Royal Mail Letter Writing Competition

Students have recently participated in the Royal Mail competition which asked them to write a letter to employers of their dream job. The competition sought to re-engage pupils with the art of letter writing and to understand the importance and history of the letter. We learnt about how Henry VIII sent letters to Anne Boleyn whilst he was still married to Catherine of Aragon! Pupils drafted and wrote letters to apply for a variety of diverse roles such as being a stuntwoman, a paediatric doctor and an artist. Prize-winners will win figures from £40 up to £1000 for themselves and our school and will be judged by Blue Peter presenter, Helen Skelton. Fingers crossed for the results!

### Short Story Competition

Year's 7 and 8 were invited to take part in the short story writing competition as part of the National Short Story week on November 16th – 22nd . Students had to write a short story of 900-1000 words based on the title, 'The Lie'. We were overwhelmed with all the fantastic entries and we have entered them for the National Short Story Week competition for a chance to win the prize. The national winner will have their story published in a paperback and ebook during National Short Story Week next year. All royalties will go to Teenage Cancer Trust. The finalist judge is author Joe Craig, author of Jimmy Coates.

## Young Journalists

Fifteen students from Year 10 are taking part in the Young Journalist Scheme whereby they have to write one article a month, working to deadlines alongside real reporters. Their articles are published online. There will be prizes at the end of the academic year for the most promising reporters.

## Year 11 Writing Workshop

On 16th December twenty two students attended a writing workshop and trip aimed at helping to improve their writing skills in preparation for their English Language exam next summer 2016. The day started off with a one hour intensive workshop at school. From there we headed to central London for some people watching and observational writing. We then returned to school and sat a one hour mock writing exam using the skills they learnt and notes they made.

## Year 7 'A Christmas Carol' Competition

Year 7 students were invited to take part in a competition that encouraged and tested their imaginative and artistic skills. They were asked to create an extra character for 'A Christmas Carol' that either tries to inspire Scrooge to change his ways or to encourage him to continue with his humbug attitude. Ten pupils were chosen as prize-winners, and accompanied by Ms Dowling and myself went to 'A Christmas Carol' on the 16th December.

Ms Wilkins

**Calling all Year 7's**  
Are you looking forward to  
Christmas this year?  
Or are you a bit of a Scrooge?



Either way, would you like to come see 'A Christmas Carol'?

If the answer is yes, then this competition is for you!

We want you to create an additional character for 'A Christmas Carol' that either tries to persuade Scrooge to change or to encourage him in his humbug ways.

We want you to complete a scene between the character of Scrooge and your invented character.

The rules - this character must stick to Dickensian tradition so:

1. It must be from the Victorian era
2. Your character must have a name that reflects its personality e.g. 'Tiny Tim'
3. We want you to draw a picture of your character and attach the invented scene.

Any questions see Miss Wilkins in G13 - The English Office

**Closing date: Friday 4th December**  
to Miss Wilkins

## Gardening News

### Maintenance November 2015

*Our school allotment is now on track for another growing season thanks to Osborne Building services.*



*On 27th November as part of Gardening Club with the help of the Osborne builders we refurbished the allotment. We had a great time.*



*We developed our DIY skills and used drills, saws and hammers to bring the growing bed back to good working order.*



*It was an amazing experience. We now wait for the drier weather to paint the beds.*

*We also had some scrumptious apple cake made by Ms Guest.*

Zahrah Vahidy  
8G





The Maintenance Team

## Urban Apple Scrumping



In our gardening club one of our Year 9 students used an apple picker for the first time to collect apples from our school grounds.

*I made sure the apples were scrummy and good looking to eat. On the day of picking the apples we made fresh apple juice which tasted AMAZING!!!*

Ms Dominique

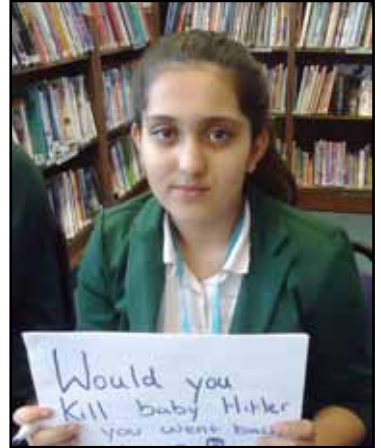
## Philosophy Day for Years 8 and 9

In November, twenty four students from Years 8 and 9 spent the day participating in a Philosophy Day, delivered by Jason Buckley, 'The Philosophy Man'. Here is a selection of comments from the girls:

*It was very interesting to debate different points and to have to think on the spot. I was impressed with how deeply I was able to think about problems when I put my mind to it.*  
Maddy Hilton 8G

*I loved the debating where we had to represent both sides of an argument. I also liked the opportunity to express my own opinion as it gave me a sense of relief and satisfaction. Overall, the day was amazing! I would love to do something like this again in the future.*  
Umaymah Khan 9W

*The day was great fun. There were lots of different activities which were all enjoyable and I learnt a lot. I usually shout but I learnt how to contain myself and how to give reasons for my thoughts.*  
Tenzin Robsang 8C



*I found Mr Philosophy very good and he made the day very interesting and enjoyable. I learnt about thinking and seeing things from different perspectives. Also, I learnt how thinking outside the box can lead to crazy results.*  
Asma Salim 9S



*The thing I enjoyed the most was being able to hear the opinions of others and debating different issues. I learnt that some people have fixed ideas and that you can't just change them, but we can change ourselves.*  
Olivia Konicz 8W

*The Philosophy Day was extremely enjoyable. I learnt that I should stick with my gut feeling and support my beliefs, even if the majority don't agree with me. I also learnt how to convince people to believe in my views. Overall it was a very enjoyable day.*  
Irsa Haider 9W



*I enjoyed the fact that we went into so much depth about many of the statements. Also, I learnt how to present my argument better against my opponents.*

Rutvi Patel 8W

*I learnt that not all questions can be answered and that's OK. Sometimes, doubting something can make more sense than just accepting an answer. The more questioning and thinking you do (even though your head may hurt after a while!) the further you delve into what you yourself truly believe. I think there should be lots more workshops like this.*

Ronja Blight 9W



Free resources are available on Jason's website:

<http://www.thephilosophyman.com/>

Also, Jason recommended a book that has been ordered for the LRC.

The day was a huge success and the girls learnt a lot in a fun and interactive day.

Several girls have said that they would like to participate in more days like this.

We are looking into this!

Ms Robinson



## Steel Pans at the Royal Albert Hall London

Music for Youth School's Prom featured Walthamstow School for Girls Steel Band (2011-2015) last month.

*I have never heard steel pans played like that. Absolutely fantastic*

*Incredible attention to detail*

*We were all open-mouthed at the beauty of the sound*

*You have got a great band. When they started to dance as they played, they were really rocking!*

Just a few of the many compliments from the audience at the Royal Albert Hall on 24th November.



Although this band left the school in July 2015, they came back to rehearse on Thursday evenings for ninety minutes from their various 6th form colleges, dedication indeed. Five of the present Year 10s also joined them.

From 40,000 school musicians at the start of the National Festival, only the very best get to play at the School's Prom Concert. We were the only Steel Band asked to perform. The girls' families and many school staff came to see the performance.

Thank you for all the support

Mr Murphy



## Shakespeare Schools Festival

Many congratulations to the cast of 'As You Like It' for a wonderful performance on 19th October. The performance was a culmination of all of the hard work the cast had put into months of rehearsals. The girls told the story with great clarity and feeling, and handled the language of Shakespeare with aplomb. It was a very entertaining evening, with primary school performances of 'Henry V' and a 'Macbeth' which they performed with astonishing maturity and rigour. There was also 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' performed by a Spanish secondary school who had travelled to the UK for the festival which gave a new twist and flair to Shakespeare's time-honoured material.

The theatre was crammed with parents keen to see their children's talent shine, so crammed in fact that some audience members struggled to even find a seat! One parent commented afterward that his daughter *enjoyed the whole experience and, for all the participants, [he] was impressed by the skills and confidence shown.*



The students involved were:

Eve Billington	Savannah Odeyemi
Ronja Blight	Zoya Parvez
Tenzin Lobsang	Rumaanah Rameez
Annie Brown	Hannah Rashid
Trixie Eberhard	Lily Rees
Alice Evans	Beth Scully
Iris Fishlock	Millie Small
Lulu Fletcher	Salome Smith
Beyonce Gyasi-Twum	Ismay Bowles
Assa Kanoute	

and Kezia Antubam contributing significantly to the rehearsal process.

Well done, girls!

Ms Wallace

## NASA talk at City of London School

Myself and ten students were lucky enough to visit the City of London School to attend a lecture with Dr Roger Crouch, a NASA payload astronaut. The lecture was heavily subscribed with sixteen schools being turned away.

Dr Crouch gave a very inspiring presentation on his journey into becoming an astronaut. It was a lifelong ambition of his which he never gave up on, having unsuccessfully applied to be a pilot in the US Air force as well as the navy, which is the most common route to becoming an astronaut. With this having not worked out, Dr Crouch continued to pursue his interest in Physics, becoming a very successful researcher.

At the age of 53, Dr Crouch was able to fulfil his dream of becoming a NASA payload specialist, responsible for giving guidance on experiments that are conducted in space. Dr Crouch gave a very illuminating account of his NASA training and his feelings before take-off. What was most apparent throughout the lecture was Dr Crouch's enthusiasm and passion for Science.

At the end of the presentation, Dr Crouch awarded ten medals that had been taken into Space. These are made of a very unusual alloy which is extremely light yet exceptionally strong. Out of the hundreds of students present our very own Shareen Suleman was picked to receive one. She has since brought it into school for us all to see.



Dr Crouch was able to fulfil his dream having been into space twice, with his key message being work hard and never give up on your dreams.

Mr Kerr

## L'Oreal Young Scientist Unconference

Some female STEM Ambassadors came into school on 23rd November to talk to the Year 9 students about their personal academic/career paths in relation to physics.

It was a lovely opportunity for the girls to find out more about the relevance and application of Science, particularly Physics, in a variety of settings especially the less 'traditional' related Science professions such as visual effects and architecture.



Ms Oshodi

## Open House London

In September, our school participated in the Open House event. This is a London wide architectural event where buildings are open to the public. It was seen by the school as an opportunity for us to show the beauty of our school to the wider community.

Volunteers from the staff, alumnae and governing body conducted tours of the external areas of our buildings, pointing out interesting features and providing historical information. The tours ended up in Hewett Hall, with a display of old photographs which were provided by the Alumnae.

Over forty visitors came to look at our school, some of whom travelled from outside London and they were all delighted to see our wonderful buildings. The volunteers also learnt a lot about the architectural features of the school which is sometimes overlooked when you are a regular visitor.

For example, our main entrance door: *Is flagged by iconic columns and, on the rounded pediment above the fanlight, there is a plaque with the Essex County Council coat of arms. The red terracotta plaque beneath the roof is embellished with pomegranates, which the Egyptians regarded as a symbol of prosperity and ambition.*



The day was such a success that we hope to participate in this event next year, so that even more people can appreciate our fine buildings.

Ms O Kelly  
LRC Manager

For further information about Open House events you can look at these links  
Facebook ([www.facebook.com/openhouselondon](http://www.facebook.com/openhouselondon)) and  
Twitter (@openhouselondon) with the hashtag #openhouselondon

## Alumnae News

### Baroness Patricia Scotland, Sixth Commonwealth Secretary-General

Baroness Scotland, who was the Attorney General under Gordon Brown, has become the first British citizen to be elected secretary-general of the Commonwealth in its 66-year history. She will be the sixth Commonwealth Secretary-General and the first woman to take up this post.

She was also the first black woman to be made a Queen's Council in 1991. Her election was announced at the leaders' summit of fifty-three Commonwealth nations in Malta on 26th November 2015.

Baroness Scotland will take over next year, having defeated the perceived frontrunner, Sir Ronald Sanders, who was previously Antigua and Barbuda's High Commissioner to the UK.

The Baroness was born in Dominica in 1955, then moved with her family to Britain. She obtained her LLB in 1976, was called to the Bar in 1977 and was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1991. She received a life peerage and was created Baroness Scotland of Asthal in 1997. Baroness Scotland has held the position of Attorney General (2007 to 2010), Minister of State (Home Office) (Crime Reduction) (2007 to 2007), Minister of State (Home Office) (Criminal Justice and Offender Management) (2003 to 2007), and Parliamentary Secretary (Lord Chancellor's Department) (2001 to 2003) in government.

The release quoted the Baroness as saying: "I am incredibly proud to be the first woman to be Commonwealth Secretary-General. I want to put the women's agenda firmly on the table and work with leaders, governments, local governments and other partners. I invite every Commonwealth citizen to join in making these aspirations a reality."

Baroness Scotland visited WSFG in July 2013 to speak at an event to raise awareness about forced marriage arranged by our then Year 11 student, Arifa Nasim.



## **Former WSFG student is first Youth Delegate to UN Delegation**

Earlier this term we received the very exciting news that former student, Arifa Nasim, who left WSFG just two years ago, has made history as one of two first ever Youth Delegates on the UK's official delegation at the United Nations General Assembly.

International Development Secretary, Justine Greening announced the appointment at the Youth Summit held at the Department for International Development. The summit aimed "to give young people all over the world the chance to have their voices heard".



The UN conference took place in New York at the end of September. Arifa and another delegate, Ronagh Craddock from Newcastle, were

selected for their knowledge of international issues, "their experience in youth-led development and ability to communicate confidently with diverse audiences."

World leaders gathered in New York to adopt the Global Goals which aim to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030. The UK Youth Delegates participated in dialogue and debate with Heads of State and other Youth Delegates from around the world.

Arifa is currently Consort to the Mayor of Waltham Forest, Cllr Saima Mahmud and is taking a gap year before going to University.

## **Former Student and Published Author**

Former WSFG student, Kiera O'Brien (on roll from 1998-2003), has had her first novel published.

"Millie vs. the Machines", a novel for children aged 13 and upwards, is a mystery set in a boarding school in the future, a world where advanced robots are commonplace.

Kiera's mother contacted the school to invite Kiera's former teachers to a book launch at Blackwell's Bookshop in Holborn. The book, released in August, is published by Quercus. A follow up novel is planned.



Our congratulations go to Kiera on becoming a published author.

We wish her every success with this venture and her future writing.

**SCHOOL CALENDAR  
FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2015/2016**

**Spring Term 2016**

**Start - Monday 4th January 2016**

**End - Friday 24th March 2016**

Friday 29th January

Staff Training Day School closed  
to students

Thursday 4th February

Year 11 Parent, Carer Consultation  
Evening

Thursday 3rd March

Year 9 Parent, Carer Consultation  
Evening

Thursday 17th March

Year 8 Parent, Carer Consultation  
Evening

**Holidays**

Half Term - Monday 15th to Friday 19th February 2016

**Easter Holiday**

Friday 25th April 2016 to Friday 8th April 2016

**Summer Term 2016**

**Start - Monday 11th April 2016**

**End - Friday 15th July 2016\*\***

**\*\*Please note this change to the published date in the student planner**

**Holidays**

Spring Bank Holiday - Monday 2nd May 2016

Half Term - Monday 30th to Friday 27th May 2016

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Student Absence Line: 020 8509 9444

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