



GREENSHEET



No. 18/15

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Student Absence Line: 020 8509 9444

21st January 2016

Week 'B'

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Spring Term 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

Half Term
Monday 15th to Friday 19th February

Thursday 3rd March
Year 9
Parent/Carer Consultation Evening

Thursday 17th March
Year 8 Parent, Carer Consultation Evening

HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

I have always been so impressed by the enthusiasm of our girls for reading-I have just sent out sixty postcards to our most prolific readers in Years 7 and 8. We promote reading at every opportunity in school, and are now in the second year of a programme which will enable you, as well as school staff, to monitor on-line the reading progress of your daughter. I have included a reminder of the benefits of regular reading:

- England is ranked 23rd 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 have 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 have read-essentially exercising your memory muscles.
- The more books you read, the more words you will be exposed too (provided the book is a little more challenging each time) and these words will eventually find a place in your own vocabulary.

So good luck to Year 7 and 8 with your reading programme-we have some millionaire (word) winners already!

This term we launched our new 2016 Diversity Calendar, devised by our student Equal Opportunities Group.

Contd.

Next Wednesday January 27th is Holocaust Memorial Day. I know that WH Auden's poem does reflect, sadly, a perspective which is as valid now as when it was written, so we have reproduced it here:

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.*

*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

Best wishes
Meryl Davies



SEVERE WEATHER/EMERGENCY SCHOOL CLOSURES

In the event of severe weather, the school will remain open whenever possible.

In the event of an emergency school closure the decision on whether the school stays open will be taken by the Headteacher after carrying out a risk assessment.

**Information about any closure will be available
on the school's website:
www.wsfg.waltham.sch.uk**

**by phone:
020 8509 9446
or via a text message**

We aim to send text messages to parents and carers, although there are sometimes delays in getting these messages through promptly, so please check the school's website for up to date information.

Please ensure that the School Office has on record up to date addresses and telephone numbers including a mobile number and the person to contact in the case of a student emergency.

It is essential that the school has at least **one** land line and a mobile number.

Rebranding Survey

Walthamstow School For Girls is consulting with our school community to gather your views on the rebranding project the governors have asked us to commission. We would value your opinions through a short survey and all responses will be automatically entered into our random prize draw for a £25 Love2Shop voucher.

The survey can be accessed by going to the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TDFK7NQ>

or via our website.

www.wsfg.waltham.sch.uk

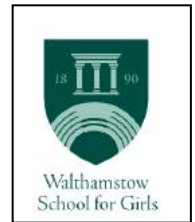
The initial ideas produced by the designer we are working with can be viewed on our website also. If you prefer to complete the survey on paper, please ask your daughter to collect a paper copy of the survey from Student Services.

Please do take part in the survey and encourage your daughters to also complete the student survey which has a prize of a £25 Love2Shop voucher for one lucky student!

The survey will remain open until **Monday 8th of February** and I will announce the winners of the prizes after February half-term.

Many thanks for your valued support,

Mr. Jalil
Business Manager



Samples of WSFG Logo designs
See website for further details

**Year 11 Parents Evening
Thursday 4th February 2016.**

Dear Year 11 Parents and Carers

Your daughter will soon be making appointments with her subject teachers for a discussion on her progress **from 4.30 to 7pm on Thursday 4th February**

We encourage all Year 11 students and their parents / carers to attend this consultation evening to discuss their daughter's progress and strategies to help them achieve their full potential this year.

It is a **crucial event** as your daughters will be starting their GCSE examinations soon.

We look forward to seeing you.

Ms Jean-Baptiste
Student Progress Leader, Year 11.

English Revision Guides

During this event you will be able to purchase three revision guides to cover the three key Literature texts that your daughter has studied for the English Literature GCSE. The revision guides usually cost between £6-7 each.

We are selling all three as a pack for **£10**. This is very valuable learning resource for your daughter to accompany the work she has done in class and for homework.

English Faculty

Student Absence

We would like to remind you that if your daughter is absent from school, including the day following an illness/incident which has led her to be collected from school, you should notify the school office by **9.30am**.

Please note the telephone number for student absence is: **020 8509 9444**

Ms King
Student Attendance Manager

Careers Focused Event

Dear Year 11 Parents and Carers

Professional Interview Day, Tuesday 26th January.

This all-day event will give your daughter the opportunity to have a face to face mock interview. The interviewers' occupations range from teaching, STEM and community support to media and sport.

The students will have formal assemblies to advise them on how to prepare for the interviews and will receive a hand-out they can use to compile a strong CV and application form.

For further information on the event please do not hesitate to contact me on:
020 8509 9491

Ms Ray
Careers Guidance Co-ordinator

W-SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR-W

Polite reminder to parents and carers.

Please do not stop or wait on the road markings outside the school.

This endangers the lives of our students and the local community.

Thank you



W-SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR-W

Music News: Music For All

Instrumental lessons

There are currently opportunities to learn the following instruments:

Cello	£46 per term and Music Service instrument hire fee of £20 per term (£10 per term if receiving Free School Meals)
Saxophone	£46 per term and Music Service instrument hire fee of £20 per term (£10 per term if receiving Free School Meals)
Trumpet or Trombone	Free for one academic year

Interested students should see Mr. Burstow or Mr. Hitchman for an application letter. If parents/carers are unable to afford the cost of lessons, then they should write to Mr. Straker (Deputy Headteacher) explaining their circumstances and the school will determine whether the cost of lessons can be supported for their daughter.

Learning a musical instrument is an excellent way of developing skills in discipline, independent learning, creativity, teamwork and listening. Students learning an instrument also have the opportunity to take grade exams in their instrument.

The higher grades carry UCAS points that can be used for university entry.

Practice tips: top tips for students practicing a musical instrument

Little and often is better than a lot of practice twice a week. This is because our brains process information much better if it is broken up into small chunks. Students should find a time to practice **every day** for 10-15 minutes and write it in their planners. When it comes time to practice students should set a timer and stop as soon as the 10-15 minutes is up.

Music Groups

String Group:	Monday	11.00am-11.30am	W25	All string players
Flute Group:	Monday	11.00am-11.30am	W26	All flute players
Wind Group:	Tuesday	11.00am-11.30am	W33	All wind players

Choir

Choir rehearsals have now stopped for the rest of term. They will resume again in the summer term. Thank you to all students who took part in choir last term and worked so hard to make the Carol Concert a success.

Forthcoming Music Events

Steel Pan Concert Thursday 14th April 2016 7.00pm

Featuring performances from all the Steel Bands currently at WSFG this promises to be an exciting evening full of wonderful music. Tickets will be on sale after half term.

Mr. Burstow

Year 7 & Year 8 Accelerated Readers



Well done to all those students who have taken AR Reading Practice quizzes over the last fortnight.

The quizzes ask questions that measure the student's comprehension of a book. There are 3-20 multiple answer questions in each quiz and the student can take these quizzes during the school day.

Students are encouraged to read each day and complete the quiz as soon as they have finished the book.

Year 7		
Form	Quizzes	Words Read
7W	117	4,882,772
7S	122	4,754,587
7F	266	11,051,521
7G	134	4,254,711
7C	171	7,907,887
7H	321	14,717,092

Year 8		
Form	Quizzes	Words Read
8W	202	9,932,816
8S	203	10,103,414
8F	238	11,837
8G	142	6,327,505
8C	148	6,133,546
8H	124	6,139,631

Ms Kelly & Mrs Guest
LRC

Gardening Club

This term we are offering successful students the chance to obtain an accredited AQA qualification in Horticulture. This is a ten-week training programme for students to design and implement a community orchard as well as the previously established food-growing spaces.



The training is led by a nationally renowned organisation called Organiclea who provide outreach gardeners and run weekly training sessions. In order to obtain the qualification, a minimum of ten hours participation in the allotment will be required. On completion of the training the students will gain a nationally recognised qualification.

The first session took place on 15th January with a group of twenty one students from all year groups.

Mrs Dominique



The screenshot shows the Organiclea website. At the top, there are navigation links: [About](#), [We grow food](#), [We sell food](#), [We help you grow](#), [We work for change](#), [What's On](#), [Find Us](#), and [Grower's Blog](#). The main heading is **organiclea** in a green, lowercase font. Below it is the tagline: "A workers' cooperative growing food on London's edge in the Lea Valley".

The "About" section contains the text: "Organiclea is a community food project based in the Lea Valley in north-east London. We produce and distribute food and plants locally, and inspire and support others to do the same. With a **socialist** cooperative at our core, we bring people together to take action towards a more just and sustainable society." Below this text are three small images: a sunflower, a field of crops, and a close-up of green leaves.

On the right side of the website, there are three promotional banners: "Join our email list" with a "Subscribe" button, "BOX SCHEME" featuring a basket of vegetables, "PLANT Sales" featuring various plants, and "Come and VOLUNTEER" featuring a pair of green boots. At the bottom right, there is a "Upcoming Events" section.

Our School History

Over the years our school has participated in many overseas visits. I found this account in the 1958 edition of Iris, our school magazine.

It describes a concert tour to Berlin, at a time before the Berlin Wall had been constructed.

Ms Kelly
LRC

Berlin Interlude

This year's concert tour of Berlin by the Essex Youth Orchestra was the first of its kind and will long be remembered by the players. There was so much to see and do, apart from rehearsing and giving concerts.

Although Berlin suffered a great deal of damage during the war, it is now growing into a beautiful modern city with only a few parts remaining which still look as they did at the end of the war. The capital is not unlike London, especially when the English tourist is reminded once again that "Persil washes whiter" or finds himself wandering through Woolworths in search of inexpensive gifts for home.

Our fond parents, warning us against the dangers of attempting to pass the Iron Curtain, had painted a pathetic picture of their musical offspring languishing in a cold Russian prison. In actual fact, we found that entering the eastern sector from West Berlin was rather like crossing the boundary between Walthamstow and Woodford. Armed with our passports, it was quite easy to pass the green-uniformed Russian soldier; who appeared indifferent to us.

German food, including the sausage which invariably appeared on the table, was nourishing without being very exotic. We shall always remember the hurried trips to places of interest in the city with our German hosts; The Brandenburg Gate, the ultra-modern design of the Air Lift Memorial, the big stores in the Kurfurstendamm. Our German audiences were very friendly and most enthusiastic, although we found their habit of applauding between the movements a little disconcerting at first.

There is much to be said for a journey abroad which involves working to give pleasure as well as to receive it, and we are all looking forward hopefully to our next visit to the continent

Marion Salt, Form II.

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2015/16

Spring Term 2016

End - Thursday 24th March 2016

Tuesday 26th January

Friday 29th January

Year 11 Professional Interview Day

Staff Training Day: School closed to students

Thursday 4th February

Year 11 Parent, Carer Consultation Evening

Half Term - Monday 15th to Friday 19th February

Thursday 3rd March

Year 9 Parent, Carer Consultation Evening

Thursday 17th March

Year 8 Parent, Carer Consultation Evening

Easter Holiday - Friday 25th March to Monday 8th April

WHAT'S ON IN WALTHAMSTOW AND BEYOND

WALTHAMSTOW

**SATURDAY 23RD JANUARY AND EVERY SATURDAY:
CREATIVE YOUTH CLUB FOR 11-14 YEAR OLDS, GNOME HOUSE,
7 BLACKHORSE LANE, E17 6DS, 11.30AM-3.30PM, FREE.**

This new youth club offers music, art, filmmaking, dance, games and more, plus the opportunity to participate in Arts Award projects. Drop in any time! Ring 0208 531 9231 or visit www.wfaen.org.uk

SATURDAY 23RD JANUARY: SHAPING WALTHAM FOREST DROP IN EXHIBITION, THE MALL, SELBORNE WALK, 11AM- 5PM, FREE.

The council has ambitious plans to improve Walthamstow's town centre, and wants to know what residents of all ages think. There'll also be a walking tour of the area starting from Poundland at 2pm. Ring 0207 7291705 or visit:

www.shapingwalthamforest.co.uk to book a place on the tour.

**SATURDAY 23RD JANUARY: WILLIAM MORRIS GALLERY LATE:
SPECIAL EVENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 16-22, WILLIAM
MORRIS GALLERY, FOREST ROAD, E17 4PP, 6.30-10.30PM, FREE.**

The Gallery's Young Curators Group invites anyone of 16-22 to enjoy live music, art and performance- no need to book, just turn up!

See www.wmgallery.org.uk or ring 0208 496 4390 for more information.

**THURSDAY 28TH JANUARY: CONCERT OF BAROQUE MUSIC FOR A
WINTER'S EVENING, ST MARY'S CHURCH, CHURCH END, E17 9RJ,
7.30PM, £13.50, £6.50 CONCESSIONS.**

Charismatic recorder player Pamela Thorby and friends will perform works by Telemann, Handel, Vivaldi and Corelli.

Ring 0208 223 0772 to book, or contact villagemusic@walthamsoft.com .

Tickets also available at the door from 7pm. All welcome.

BEYOND WALTHAMSTOW

**UNTIL FRIDAY 22ND JANUARY: WINTER LIGHTS AT CANARY
WHARF, LOCATIONS AROUND CANARY WHARF, E14, 4-9pm, FREE.**

If you missed last weekend's illuminations in the West End, why not visit these spectacular light sculptures before they disappear?

Nearest tube/DLR: Canary Wharf. See <http://canarywwharf.com> for directions etc.

**UNTIL 31ST JANUARY: TINTIN- HERGE'S MASTERPIECE, SOMERSET
HOUSE, THE STRAND, WC2, 10AM-6PM SATURDAY-WEDNESDAY,
10AM-9PM THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, FREE.**

Enjoy Herge's sketches and watercolours of boy detective Tintin and his dog Snowy, used to illustrate the universally popular Tintin books.

Ring 0207 845 4600 or visit: www.somersethouse.org.uk

Nearest tube: Charing Cross/Covent Garden.

Enjoy your free time!

Mrs Finamore