



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

3rd December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Advent season has started. The girls are being invited to participate in the preparations for Christmas, in a range of ways, with the Head Girl Team having created an [Advent calendar](#) that summarises each of the events. I think the most important element of the season is the joy of giving, creating a greater sense of wellbeing than receiving and I have detailed how Year 9 girls can get involved through the Giving Tree below, but you and your daughters could also:

- Donate food and sanitary products in the boxes under each of the year group Christmas trees, with all donations going to the Watford Food Bank.
- Buy and sell raffle tickets from the Parents Association and all proceeds will directly benefit the school.
- Pay for your daughter to not wear uniform on the 18th December to contribute to the year group charity.
- Sponsor your daughter to run the Santa Dash, organised by the PE Department to support Herts Young Homeless.

There will also be a Christmas dinner served by Innovate; a carol concert broadcast in the last week which will be available to parents through YouTube; Christmas trees in all zones; assemblies on the Nativity, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa and I imagine the odd present will be exchanged. Unfortunately, this year the girls can only give cards and presents within their own year groups.

I hope this will counter the onset of the darker days, the worry about exams and the ongoing restrictions caused by the coronavirus.

The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree is an initiative set up by a charity called KidsOut and they help children who have been victims of domestic abuse. The tree is decorated in lots of gift tags, each with a child's name, their age, and the gift that they would like for Christmas to help KidsOut ensure that all the children in their refuges have a present to open on Christmas day. The idea is that you pick a tag and buy the suggested gift for that child and place it under the tree. If you would like to take part, all you need to do is:

- Ask your daughter to pick up a tag from the tree.
- Buy the suggested gift, wrap it, and attach the tag.
- Place it under the tree by **Friday 11th Dec.**



Bad Weather

The change in the weather and forecast of snow over the next few days has prompted me to draw your attention to the Bad Weather procedures on our website: <https://www.watfordgrammarschoolforgirls.org.uk/information/bad-weather/>

Consideration for our neighbours

We have received complaints from residents on Whippendale Road about parents who have been sitting in residents' parking bays, performing three point turns and speeding. If you are collecting your daughter by car, please do act in a way that will keep everyone safe and on good terms with the school.

National Grief Awareness Week

Conversations about death and grief are rarely comfortable but it is important that we do give our girls the chance to talk about their feelings and experiences. As part of National Grief Awareness week, I would like to draw this service to your attention which is available for young people (aged 12-30) living in Three Rivers, Dacorum and South Bucks and can be, depending upon your income, free of charge.

Best wishes,

Sylvia Tai



The poster features the 'WAY in' logo at the top left, with 'COUNSELLING' written vertically to its left and 'INFORMATION' written vertically to its right. The logo itself consists of the word 'WAY' in a large, bold, sans-serif font, with 'in' in a smaller font below it. To the right of the logo is a stylized graphic of a doorway or a path leading upwards. Below the logo, the text reads: 'Has the current Coronavirus had an impact on your levels of stress and anxiety? You are not alone, at Way In we offer counselling for young people and families, with specially trained therapists, all working online. At Way In we are here to listen, and offer a safe space to talk about your worries or concerns.' This is followed by: 'Funding from the Coronavirus Community Support Fund, distributed by The National Lottery Community Fund, has helped us to help young people affected with bereavement during the Covid pandemic.' A large pink star with the word 'FREE' in white capital letters is positioned to the right of this text. Below the star, it says: 'If you are a young person affected by bereavement and are under 30 years, please call or visit our website to access this free counselling service.' At the bottom of the poster, there is a row of colorful silhouettes of people of various ages and heights. Below the silhouettes, the website 'www.way-in.uk' and email 'Email: wayinhertsandbucks@gmail.com' are listed. At the very bottom, there are logos for 'HM Government' and 'THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND'.

www.way-in.uk
Email: wayinhertsandbucks@gmail.com

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