



Weekly Newsletter

13th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you had a good and restful New Year.

The sad news of the death of Miss Bateson has affected so many people with both past and present students and staff contributing to the messages of condolence on social media and via the school. So far we have received over 350 contributions to the virtual book of condolences, with words and phrases such as 'caring', 'best teacher', 'amazing' and 'inspirational' being used repeatedly.



Tomorrow we will be collating all these comments to send to Miss Bateson's family, however if you would like to add your comment please do so by 9am: <https://forms.office.com/r/69jvwLSRdz>

We are working with Miss Bateson's family to find a date for a memorial service to be held at the school in the summer, so that as many people can attend as possible. We also propose to create a permanent memorial in the school and in the interim will create a memory board until the memorial can be unveiled. As soon as we can confirm the details we will publish these to the WGS community.

Vaccination Update

The Community and School Aged Immunisation Service (CSAIS) will be coming to WGGGS on Tuesday 8 March to offer the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. The second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine can be administered to all students aged 12 -15 years old no sooner than twelve weeks after their first dose. Students who wish to receive their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine can also be seen at this session. Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 in the twelve weeks prior to the date above cannot be vaccinated. Closer to the time, the immunisation team will send a letter for parents with further details and instructions for recording consent; we will forward this as soon as we receive it.

Parent Workshops

I have attached two posters from Supporting Links, who are offering some very interesting workshops this term.

These include:

Talking Dads

Talk to me, listen to me

Talking ASD & ADHD: Coping with change

Talking ASD & ADHD: Sibling Struggles.

The workshops get booked up very quickly, so if you are interested you will need to act quickly.

COVID Testing

Please keep the school safe by continuing to take LFD tests every **Monday** and **Thursday**.

Report results to:

NHS: [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/report-a-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-test-result).

School: [Report COVID-19 Home Testing Result - Pupils \(office.com\)](https://www.office.com/report-covid-19-home-testing-result-pupils).

If positive to:

COVID@watfordgirls.herts.sch.uk

Congratulations

Well done to Tvisha, Deeksha, Millie and Zahra all in 8F, who have qualified for the Regional Finals of the CyberFirst Girls Competition 2022.

Good luck in the next round in February.

Well done to Year 12

At the end of Autumn Term Mr Landsman wrote:

“

I have just delivered to Montrose, Tremona and Auburn Mere care homes the amazing Christmas hampers put together by Year 12 forms. As you can see from their message, there was instant reaction from the care homes.

The girls put so much effort into this and it is really lovely to see that despite everything that life throws at them, the girls' sense of service and selflessness carries on regardless."



A message from Barracudas

Barracudas is using WGGs for their summer camps in July and August and here is a message from them:

“

“Now is a great time to book as we have our Early Bird rates offering great savings which are available up until the end of January. As well as that, parents can book their children in securing their place for £15 a day or £50 a week. The good news is that parents can then either choose to pay in interest-free monthly instalments up to our balance due date, or, pay nothing more at all until balances are due.”

Book now at <https://www.barracudas.co.uk/>

Keeping WGGs Safe

As part of the PACE and FORUM curriculum, the health and wellbeing strand includes a focus on substance use and misuse. Through this, we aim to ensure that all students, across Key Stages 3, 4 and 5, have a secure understanding of the effects that legal and illegal drugs can have on their physical and mental health and the legal implications of drug use. We are confident that our students have a thorough understanding of the risks presented by drug use and misuse and we take very seriously our duty to keep students safe from such harms while in school.

In recent years, ‘county lines’ activity has seen drugs transported from urban to suburban areas and we cannot ignore the increased risk of drug availability in the Watford area. Organised criminals have become increasingly creative in targeting people to be involved in drug distribution. This has included a focus on girls, who have historically been less likely to be stopped and searched by the Police.

As part of our continuous work to keep students safe in school, we are arranging for a drugs sniffer dog to attend school on one day in the Spring term 2022. The specific date will not be announced in advance. The presence of the sniffer dog and its handler will offer additional reassurance that Watford Grammar School for Girls is a safe, drug free and healthy environment for all students to learn and develop.

The sniffer dog is highly trained, with an expert handler, and will be accompanied by a local PCSO, as well as members of the Senior Leadership Team. The dog will move across the school from class to class and in the shared areas, such as the library and reception. Students will be asked to file past the dog who will indicate any concerns to his handler. The student's parents will then be informed if, upon further investigation, these concerns needed to be explored further.

Periodically we will also be undertaking bag searches to ensure no banned substances are brought into school. These items are listed in our Behaviour Policy as below:

Pupils must not bring or be in possession of inappropriate items including chewing gum, smoking equipment, alcohol, 'legal highs', drugs or other illegal substances, weapons, aerosols, fireworks, skateboards, scooters, stolen items and articles of a pornographic nature on the school site, or on any school related activity. The school may undertake a search for any of these items.

We are confident that these measures will help ensure the ongoing safety and well-being of students at Watford Grammar School for Girls.

If you have any questions about any of these matters, kindly contact Deputy Head, Mrs Wilshaw, on c.wilshaw@watfordgirls.herts.sch.uk.

Best wishes



Sylvia Tai