



Ethos statement: We believe that through individual commitment, self-discipline, integrity and respect for others, we inspire everyone to learn.

Exciting Opportunities at Wimbledon for Southfields Academy Students

We are delighted to share some truly exciting news regarding unique opportunities for our Year 13 and Sixth Form students at the upcoming Wimbledon Championships, which begin on Monday, June 30th 2025.

Last term, we were incredibly fortunate to host representatives from the Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) who visited Southfields Academy to speak with our Year 13 students about a range of job opportunities available during this year's Grand Slam tournament. This was an invaluable session, offering our students a first-hand insight into the diverse roles that contribute to the smooth running of one of the world's most prestigious sporting events. From hospitality and customer service to logistics and operational support, the LTA highlighted the wide array of skills required, many of which our students have cultivated through their studies and extracurricular activities.

We are thrilled to announce that, following on from this insightful presentation, a number of our dedicated Sixth Form students have successfully secured positions and will be working at the tournament when it commences. This is a fantastic achievement and a testament to their hard work, professionalism, and the excellent preparation they received. We are incredibly proud of them for embracing this chance to gain real-world experience in such a high-profile environment, right on our doorstep.

Wimbledon, as many of you know, holds a special place in British sporting history. It is the oldest tennis tournament in the world, first held in 1877. What began as a Gentlemen's Singles competition with just 22 entrants has evolved into a global spectacle, attracting the finest tennis players and millions of spectators worldwide. It is also the only Grand Slam tournament still played on grass.

The opportunity for our students to be a part of this historic event, gaining invaluable work experience and developing key transferable skills, is truly exceptional. We believe these experiences will be hugely beneficial as they embark on their future pathways, whether that be further education or employment.

Publicis Group Visit – Mr Hertz

A few weeks ago a group of five Year 12 students won a competition to design an advertising slogan and the prize was an invitation to the headquarters of Publicis Group, one of the world's largest marketing and advertising companies. The students learned about the different roles and opportunities in the industry and also came away with a lot of knowledge about how adverts are created.

The day was finished off with another challenge to design an advert for TikTok and present it to the managers from Publicis. Our students did an amazing job and were a real credit to the Academy. Once again a couple of our students came up with the winning slogan...."They trust us, so should you".





Thought for the Week

"Life doesn't get easier or more forgiving; we get stronger and more resilient."
- Steve Maraboli



IG trip to Bosa Restaurant

On Thursday 26th June, in celebration of his Jack Petchey Award, Zubeer Amaan took a few IG students and teachers out to lunch at the Bosa Restaurant in Southfields. It was a thoroughly enjoyable affair and was a great opportunity for the IG teachers to get to socialise with these students in a less formal atmosphere.



A new bike for IG

Six bicycles were donated to the IG department by the Going Green cycle project. Each tutor group nominated a student and the lucky recipients were given their bicycles last week.

We hope they enjoy cycling around in this warm weather and take the opportunity to explore London's green spaces.



Coronation Gardens Unveiling Ceremony – Ms Shah

On Thursday 3rd July students from Southfields Academy in Years 10 and 12, who either did work experience for Heritage of London in February this year or will embark on their WEX next week (7-11 July), were invited to attend the unveiling of the newly restored Coronation Gardens Fountain. The fountain is located in the gardens opposite the Academy and was unveiled in a delightful ceremony. The drinking fountain had lost its original statue and this was a wonderful opportunity to commemorate Fanny Wilkinson, a little-known but influential figure. Fanny was the UK's first female professional landscape gardener (1855-1951), who designed the gardens. The bronze statue of Wilkinson was created by artist Gillian Brett, an alumnus of Putney School of Art and Design. The restoration was made possible thanks to the work of Heritage of London, Wandsworth Council and other local organisations.

The event was filmed by the BBC, whose program was scheduled to appear on the local news at 6.30pm on 3rd July. Two of our Year 12 students, Nana Maghradze Khvedelidze and Nathan Betts Garcia, completed a work placement at Heritage of London and worked on this project in February, and were both invited to give speeches. They spoke eloquently and with great confidence about their experience and pleasure at being involved in the restoration of such a precious local monument. They were utterly brilliant and the Academy is very proud of them. They also mixed with local dignitaries, including our MP Fleur Anderson and the Mayor of Wandsworth Cllr Jeremy Ambache. The students were also interviewed by Wandsworth Council's PR and this can be found on their social media. <https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/news/news-july-2025/first-professional-female-landscape-designer-honoured-in-new-southfields-statue>

All students should visit the park, when they have the opportunity to, and admire the beautiful statue of Fanny who fought for recognition of her work and paved the way for women in landscaping. They can also fill up their bottles at the fresh drinking fountain as a bonus!

The local spirit was truly alive as we also saw Daniela Marignono from our local Café IL Caffetino, who provided the refreshments and will be hosting one of our Year 10 students for their WEX next week.





Coronation
Gardens in 1903
and Fanny
Wilkinson who
designed it.



Dates for Your Diary

- Thursday 10th July 2025 – Year 12 Level 3 Parents' Evening
- Friday 11th July 2025 – Year 12 Careers Day
- Monday 14th July 2025 – Key Stage 3 Sports Day
- Monday 14th July 2025 – Year 10 Work Experience Debrief
- Tuesday 15th July 2025 – Year 9 Enterprise Day
- Thursday 17th July 2025 – Year 9 Graduation Ceremony

Creative Writing - English Department

For this week's entry, Year 8 have been writing persuasive letters in English lessons. Well done to Lorik Miftari (8RCD) for writing a very convincing letter to Ms Valin about allowing phones in school!

Dear Ms Valin,

After putting much thought into it, in my opinion, I believe that phones should not be contraband. They should be allowed in schools, albeit with restrictions. I'm sure that in your eyes, you may believe that phones are detrimental to the learning environment that is the school, but in reality, this may not be true.

Did you know students use phones to learn? Phones can be used as helpful tools for learning, being smaller, compact computers students can get out and use within seconds. They can substitute calculators, they are a source of entertainment that is versatile, and they are far easier to use in class, compared to computers.

They are also useful in break times, instead of having no entertainment during extreme weather, and bringing students together without physical confrontation, like in football for example.

However, phones should not be free to use, with no restrictions. They must be used in designated areas - like certain classrooms - or they can only be used indoors. This is for reasons like: theft, dropping and damaging the phone, losing the phone, people attempting to break the phone, and phones may overheat in the direct sun, causing burns.

Phones are not the root cause of depression - nor cyberbullying - surprisingly. It's... boredom, from not having anything to do, making breaks feel like extra lessons, making breaks seem like one of the last things any student would want! We don't want that, do we?

Phones aren't the problem, the problem is right under our noses (it's boredom).

Phones are also used to monitor medical conditions, like: medications, diabetes, how much water they need to drink to stay healthy, allergies, and many more.

However, of course, misuse of this privilege should result in sanctions for the students abusing this privilege. It could mean phones being confiscated, parents being informed, or being banned from the phone areas.

If you still are uncertain, you could do a trial week (and check the results) and do a no phone week (and compare the results). Or you could make a phone pass application form - with the requirement that their phone hasn't been confiscated over 3 times (over 3 months).

So please, consider my plea: my plea to show these devices do more good than harm.

Thank you for your time and consideration, and I hope to hear from you soon.

Yours sincerely,
Lorik.

Wimbledon Presentation – Mr Munro

Last Wednesday, our Year 8 students enjoyed a fantastic presentation on the Wimbledon Championships, delivered by engaging staff from the All England Lawn Tennis Club. Pupils learned fascinating facts, from the rich history of the tournament and prize money to the surprising number of strawberries sold and even how many blades of grass are on a court!

The presenters were brilliant with our pupils, expertly answering even the most obscure questions.

Everyone present, students and staff alike, truly enjoyed the experience and we hope to collaborate with the All England Club again soon.

