



The Westcliff Diary

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ISSUE 99 / SUMMER 2024

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A STANDING OVATION
FOR LES MISÉRABLES:
WHSB'S DRAMA COMPANY
NOMINATED FOR NATIONAL
SCHOOL THEATRE AWARD





FROM THE DESK OF THE HEADMASTER

Capital Development Projects

I am delighted to share with the School community that WHSB has successfully secured funding to replace the roofs to the Main School Building. A bid was submitted to the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) in December 2023 and we received notification of the successful outcome just prior to the end of last term. There is immense competition for such funding and we are delighted that the assessors recognised the strength of our bid. We anticipate the project will cost £1.46 million in total. The Main School building was opened in 1926 and the roofs, particularly the flat roof sections, are badly in need of replacement.

We anticipate that the project will commence in late June or early July, following the completion of the Public and Internal Examinations. We shall be

working closely with the School's advisers and contractors to ensure that we make best use of the summer holiday period to complete much of the work. The works will continue into the autumn term, although as with our previous projects (for example, replacing the entire heating system) we shall require our contractor to minimise any disruption.

Forthcoming Public Examinations and Internal Examinations

This is a highly demanding School term for the public examination classes. I know students and parents are well aware of the significance of GCSE and A Level Examinations in determining the range of future opportunities open to students.

The School continues to provide its Year 11 and Upper Sixth students with support and guidance. As usual, we have run a

broad range of Examination Revision Classes for GCSE and A Level students during the Easter holiday break. This is in addition to the many lunchtime and after school revision sessions run by staff throughout the academic year. Equally, our pastoral teams work hard to support students through monitoring, and by developing resilience and mental fitness.

The Lower Sixth and pupils in Years 7-10 will also take Internal Examinations this term. Lower Sixth students have already received guidance regarding their examinations which take place in May, and details of Internal Examinations for Years 7-10 will be shared later this term.

In order to provide further support for our pupils, Dr Shepherd (Associate Assistant Head and Head of Geography and Geology) has produced a very helpful article offering additional advice on effective learning strategies. I strongly encourage all pupils to read his article carefully and to take on board its advice. I would also like to thank Dr Shepherd for his superb contribution.

It is important that students feel confident in sharing any concerns or difficulties they may be experiencing. Therefore, I also take this opportunity to remind all pupils that they should approach the relevant Pastoral Office, their Form Tutor,



or indeed any member of staff, if they are in need of support. Equally, parents are welcome to contact the relevant Pastoral Office if they would like further advice and guidance in relation to supporting their son or daughter in preparing for the examinations.

I give all our pupils, especially those taking their GCSE and A level qualifications, my best wishes for their examinations this summer.

Extra-Curricular Activities

This latest edition of *The Westcliff Diary* is packed with opportunities for our pupils to engage with a wide range of extra-curricular activities taking place. As I have noted on many occasions, it is vital for pupils to involve themselves in these activities if they are to fully acquire the attributes of our Learner Profile and unlock their potential. Parents will understand that it is important for pupils to grow into independent, confident people with a true sense of their self-worth, and who are ready to make a positive contribution towards their community. Personal development and intellectual development go hand in hand, with the lessons inside the classroom and outside the classroom being complementary.

The board range of activities on offer means that pupils have plenty of choice when it comes to extra-curricular activities. This includes a range of sports, House activities, musical activities, drama, the Combined Cadet Force, the Duke of Edinburgh Award, cultural trips and visits and much more. I have the privilege of attending many of our extra-curricular events and never cease to be amazed at the talent and skill displayed by the pupils, to say nothing of the enjoyment experienced by our audiences. Last

term our sporting and other teams enjoyed splendid success in a variety of competitions, our musical concerts reached new heights, our CCF undertook an enormous range of exciting activities, and the list goes on.

I am aware that many in our community had the privilege of attending our production of *Les Misérables*. This was a truly outstanding production, thanks to the incredibly talented groups of pupil actors and musicians, who were inspired by our Director of Drama (Mr Jeffreys), our Musical Director (Mr Wood), and ably supported by our Producer (Ms Cleave). I am also pleased to share with our readers that this production was attended by representatives of the National School Theatre Awards; following their review, the production has been nominated for a National School Theatre Award 2024, and the Awards will be announced at a ceremony in London in June. We congratulate all involved in the production on their nomination and I look forward to supporting our Company at the awards ceremony.

I am delighted that Professor Read (Old Westcliffian and Professor of Theatre at Kings College, London) was able to join us with his grandnephew (Luca) on opening night and he has produced a wonderful review. We were also joined by Richard Beck, Editor-in-Chief of *Broadway Baby*, who gave the production a five-star review. Extracts from these impressive reviews, and links to the full text, are provided in this edition of *The Westcliff Diary*.

Staff Changes Summer Term 2024

There have been a small number of changes to staffing since the last edition of *The Westcliff Diary*.

We welcome Mr Huntington, an experienced teacher, who joins us at the start of the summer term to teach Mathematics.

Mrs Fernandez-Martinez (MFL) has decided to take a break from the teaching profession and will leave us at half-term. The School has put arrangements in place to cover her teaching following her departure, and we thank Mrs Fernandez-Martinez for her splendid contribution and wish her every success in the future.

Mrs Parkinson, our HR Assistant, officially retired last term. Mrs Parkinson took up this role when she retired from her previous role as Bursar at the School. She has provided superb service in this role and we wish her a thoroughly enjoyable retirement. We are pleased that her successor, Mrs Warren, has been promoted internally to fill this position. We thank Mrs Googe, our Afternoon Receptionist, for her splendid service and wish her well in her new school. We are delighted to welcome Mrs Kent and Miss Baimbridge who join us as our Morning and Afternoon Receptionists respectively.

We are also pleased to welcome Ms Seomore to the position of Technology and Art Assistant, and Mr Missen who joins our Facilities Team as our Afternoon Caretaker.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr Quinn and Mr Daniels on successfully completing their ICT apprenticeships. Mr Quinn has been promoted to the position of ICT technician at the School, and Mr Daniels has taken a promoted position with a local charitable organisation. We thank both colleagues for their splendid service.

Old Westcliffian Association

Father John McCollough, Old Westcliffian (1956-1961)

It is with sadness that I must inform our School community of the passing of Father John McCollough. John was a pupil at the school between the years 1956 and 1961. He developed tremendous affection for the School over many years and, in recent years, served on the Old Westcliffian Committee. He was a generous benefactor and donated significant sums to support the artistic and cultural life of the School. Our thoughts and prayers are with his loved ones.

Leavers 2024

As they approach the end of their time at WHSB, I would strongly encourage all members of the Upper Sixth to join the Old Westcliffian Association. Membership is free and enables former students to



Congratulations to Mr Quinn on his ICT Apprenticeship success; pictured with Mr Kennedy, Director of Technology



Sinfonia Concert, March 2024



Year 10 Basketball Success

parents for their support in ensuring their sons and daughters attend School each day. I would also like to remind the pupils and parents that we do not grant leave of absence for holidays during term time, as removing a pupil from lessons will have a detrimental impact on his/her education. I would be most grateful to all parents for their continuing support in ensuring pupils attend School.

A Special Thanks

As I draw this piece to a close, I would like to thank our superb School Captain Team. Our School Captain Will, and his Vice Captains, Jacob, Mobolu, Max and Maxi have provided superb service to their School community. I have thoroughly enjoyed working alongside them all. They have led by example and are superb role models, making a wide contribution to School life. They have been supported by a highly capable Prefect Body which has also given dedicated service in supporting the many School events which take place during the academic year.

stay in touch with school friends, and with the current School community in the years ahead. The Old Westcliffian Association Dinner will take place on Friday 13 September 2024 in the School Hall and all Old Westcliffians are cordially invited to attend to share good company, tales of the past, and plans for the future.

Attendance

In previous editions of *The Westcliff Diary* I have made reference to the importance of pupils' attendance at School, and the strong correlation between attendance and academic performance. I am delighted to report that the overwhelming majority of pupils continue to maintain superb attendance. I would like to congratulate these pupils on their attendance, and to thank

I would also like to thank the staff and pupils who have contributed so much towards *The Westcliff Diary* and our planned events for the summer term. I give my particular thanks to Mr Jeffreys and Mrs Shankster who continue to provide me with superb support in the production of *The Westcliff Diary*. We are looking forward to a special edition in Autumn 2024 to celebrate the 100th issue of *The Westcliff Diary*! Finally, my thanks to all our pupils, parents, alumni and members of our wider community for your continuing support for the School.

Headmaster

CAPTAIN'S LOG



I am sad to say that this will be my final Captain's Log as School Captain.

As public examinations close in, I am sure that those taking them (including myself) are all starting to cherish our final memories here at the School, but also look forward to following exciting new paths in the near future. I am proud to say that the School began this calendar year in great shape, with the announcement of the School's Ofsted result which was Outstanding. This is something we must all appreciate and be proud of, as this result will be carried with us to our future careers. It will show potential employers the high level of education we have received, as well as our strengths, good character, and sound values as candidates.

Furthermore, it was great to see so many of my friends in the Upper Sixth receive University offers from amazing Universities such as Cambridge, Oxford, Imperial College London, and more. Pupils in both the Upper Sixth and Year 11 have now finished their respective Trial Examination periods, and so we now look towards the upcoming final examinations in the Summer. We must remember to maintain our hard work and commitment. The key to academic success, from what I have found during my time here, is consistency. To those who have performed well in Trial Examinations, be proud but do not become complacent. Keep up the momentum. If you felt like you did not perform as well as you could have done, use this as your motivation. We have a short three months left, to achieve grades that we carry with us for the rest of our lives. You just need to commit now, and you will then reap the reward of knowing that you worked the hardest you possibly could.

On an extra-curricular note, we all enjoyed last half term's production of *Les Misérables*. I myself took a leap of faith, not just to come and watch, but actually to be a part of this musical. This was my debut on stage, and I can confirm that I poured my heart into those six words. It was a wonderful experience, and I encourage all members of the school, especially those who have never come to a school production before, not just to attend future productions, but to secure a role in them.

I am sad to pass on the baton next half-term, but I wish the next School Captain the best of luck. However, I do look forward to becoming a new member of the Old Westcliffian Association. I hope that many other pupils in the Upper Sixth will also join me, so that we can remain connected both as a Year Group and to the School. I would also like to return in the near future to watch the School's public events, to meet with the Cadets, and hopefully to inspire some of our current and future pupils to seek University places, and to consider alternative or equivalent routes into careers.

I wish all those taking their public examinations this year the best of luck, and I hope to see some of you soon and in the future.

Will Midwinter, School Captain



SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDRAISING

In accordance with the School's Learner Profile and, we believe, as amply demonstrated through each edition of *The Westcliff Diary*, pupils attending WHSB participate in an extraordinarily wide range of deeply enriching activities, both curricular and extra-curricular. The School considers these activities as being core to its mission of developing both intellect and character in each of our young people.

Financing such activities, in particular extra-curricular provision, is increasingly challenging for state schools. The School is therefore seeking alternative sources of income to relieve the impact of already stretched budgets.

The following are ways in which our parents, alumni, friends of the School, and local companies may be able to assist. Thank you for any support you are able to offer.

Donating to the Pupil Fund

The School should like to thank all those parents and others who donate to the School's Pupil Fund. As a result of your support, as well as funding equipment for classrooms and laboratories, together with books for the Library, the Pupil Fund has supported activities and pursuits including Engineering, Computing, Sport, Music, Drama, and the School's Combined Cadet Force. Our pupils need your support and, if you would like further information on donating to the Pupil Fund, please use the following link: www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/useful-information-for-all-parents/pupil-fund.

The easiest way to begin making a regular donation is by setting up a standing order via your online banking facility, using the account details below:

Lloyds Bank
Sort code: 30-97-84
Account number: 34480360
Account name: Westcliff High School for Boys

Alternatively, you can download a standing order form using the following link, and this can then be completed and submitted to your bank: www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/finance.

Should you have any questions regarding these arrangements please do not hesitate to contact the School's Bursar, Mrs Darby, at darbyn@whsb.essex.sch.uk. The School is also able to accept donations by cash, cheque, ParentPay, or directly via bank transfer, if possible also accompanied by a Gift Aid form (if applicable). Gift Aid enables the School to benefit by a further 25% of voluntary donations given, so do please remember to complete the Gift Aid Declaration form if you are an eligible UK taxpayer www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/finance.

It is important that parents understand that there is no obligation to make donations, and that all pupils can access our provision equally, regardless of whether or not their family choose to contribute.

Targeted Appeals

We understand that some parents, alumni, or other supporters of the School may wish to donate a sum for a specific activity or project. Therefore, we will be launching targeted appeals through the Autumn 2024 edition of *The Westcliff Diary*, and these will include appeals for the following much needed provision.

- **Athletics Facilities & Equipment:** The School has a fantastic record in regional and national athletics competitions, yet some of our facilities and equipment are in urgent need of replacement;
- **Pottery Equipment:** A potters wheel and refurbishment of the Schools kiln will enable all our pupils, and Art students in particular, to engage in this increasingly popular art form;
- **Playground Facilities:** The School would like to instal shelters and seating around playground areas, improving the break and lunchtime experience for all our young people.

Should you have a specific area of interest towards which you might wish to donate, please do not hesitate to contact Mr S Rothern (Director of Finance and Accounting), or the Headmaster, through his Personal Assistant, Mrs Holley. All enquiries are treated in the strictest confidence, and any donations can be respectfully publicised, or remain anonymous, as the donor may wish.

Corporate Sponsorship

The WHSB community now consists of almost 1,300 pupils, their families, around 140 members of staff, and thousands of Old Westcliffians who read our publications, attend our events, and follow us on social media.

We would like to offer your business or organisation the opportunity to advertise in our termly editions of *The Westcliff Diary* (distributed in both hard copy and digitalised versions), and in programmes printed for the multitude of events taking place throughout the School Year, including Annual Speech Day, Sports Day, and numerous concerts, drama and musical productions.

Annual advertising costs, to feature in each of the three termly issued editions of *The Westcliff Diary* throughout the academic year, are as follows:

Quarter Page Advert - £275
Half Page Advert - £500
Full Page Advert - £800 (three-year commitment £2,000)

In addition, our corporate sponsors will be prominently name-checked in each of our event programmes. For further information, please contact Mr S Rothern (Director of Finance and Accounting), Mrs D Holley (the Headmaster's Personal Assistant), or Mrs J Clarke, (Community Development Assistant), on 01702 47544.

Mr S Rothern, Director of Finance & Accounting



CCF ROYAL NAVY POWERBOATING TRIP

Thursday 18 - Friday 19 April 2024

Westcliff High School for Boys' Royal Navy Section has the opportunity to undertake a Royal Yachting Association (RYA) Powerboating Level 2 Qualification course during its upcoming field trip. The significance of this trip is that it provides the Cadets with hands-on experience and practical skills, as well as each gaining a nationally recognised qualification on completion of this course. The two-day powerboating course will take place at the coastal location of Bradwell.

The anticipation and excitement among the Cadets as they prepare for this unique learning opportunity is growing, with some lessons focusing on both planning and displacement craft having already taken place during CCF Parade Nights. This pre-training will prepare them to use both types of craft effectively.

Cadets will stay overnight in bunked accommodation, where they will be able to relax with friends and gain the experience of being housed with peers – an important part of the Cadet experience which helps build camaraderie and team-spirit.

The CCF's provision of this training to Royal Navy Cadets illustrates the School's ongoing commitment to providing experiential learning opportunities for its Cadets beyond the classroom.

SLt P Sell, OC Royal Navy Section



YEAR 8 HPV IMMUNISATIONS

Monday 22 April 2024

The usual programme of routine vaccinations by the NHS Immunisation Service will, on Monday 22 April, also see their Schools Immunisation Team delivering HPV vaccinations to pupils in our Year 8 cohort. As and when the School receives further details from the provider, these are shared with parents. Please note that the School simply acts as a venue for this important NHS service, so is unable to accept consent for vaccinations or answer any questions regarding the vaccination programme. Should parents have any questions, these should be directed to the Immunisation Service on 0300 790 0597.

Mr J Bleakley, Senior Master Lower School



YEAR 10 PARENTS CONSULTATION EVENING

Monday 22 April 2024, 4.00pm – 6.00pm

On Monday 22 April 2024, the School will hold its Consultation Evening for Parents of Year 10 Pupils. The event is held online using the *SchoolBooking* system. This system allows teachers to book appointments with parents, and also enables parents to book meetings with teachers, subject to their availability.

Parents are invited to make appointments with Subject Teachers after reflection on the Year 10 Phase 2 reports issued on 12 March 2024. This will be a good opportunity for parents to discuss how their son is progressing with his studies after making his options selections at the end of Year 9.

Full instructions, together with details of the total number of appointments parents will be able to book, will be distributed prior to this event.

Mr M Atkinson, Year 10 Progress Leader



JUNIOR MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE

Thursday 25 April 2024

The Junior Mathematics Challenge returns on Thursday 25 April, aiming to encourage mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in pupils' thinking. The problems presented through the Junior Mathematics Challenge are accessible, and yet designed still to challenge those with more experience.

This Challenge will be completed by all pupils in Year 8, together with a selection of those Year 7 pupils who won the heats in the Spring Term. We look forward with confidence to another abundance of Gold Certificates.

Pupils who score highly in the Challenge will be invited into 'Follow-On Rounds' that include the Junior Kangaroo and the Junior Mathematical Olympiad. Why not try the last two questions of the 2023 paper included here?

24. Beatrix was born in this century. On her birthday this year, her age was equal to the sum of the digits of the year in which she was born. In which of these years will her age on her birthday be twice the sum of the digits of that year?

A 2027

B 2029

C 2031

D 2033

E 2035

25. Granny gave away her entire collection of antique spoons to three people. Her daughter received 8 more than a third of the total; her son received 8 more than a third of what was then left; finally her neighbour received 8 more than a third of what was then left.

What is the sum of the digits of the number of spoons which were in Granny's collection?

A 14

B 12

C 10

D 8

E 6

Miss A James, Director of Mathematics

SUMMER CHAMBER RECITAL

Thursday 25 April 2024, 7.30pm - 9.00pm

The Summer Chamber Recital will feature Westcliff's most talented solo and ensemble musicians performing music from a range of different styles. Expect to see a number of our most gifted pianists performing various well-known works, including piano duet version of the online popular piece of music, Rush E. This will be performed by Francesco Fira and Jason Huang, pupils in Year 8.

Returning performers include Upper Sixth vocalist Jacob Guyler and Lower Sixth cellist Quinn Williams, who will be performing one of the most famous pieces of music written for cello, Elgar's Cello Concerto. The Horn Group, String Ensemble and Brass Ensemble will also make an appearance, playing a mixture of classical and more modern works.

Tickets are available via *TicketSource* at a price of £5 for adults, and are free for pupils.

Mr T Derrick, Director of Music



LOWER SIXTH OXBRIDGE TOURS

Thursday 25 April 2024

Each year we endeavour to take Lower Sixth students to both Oxford University and the University of Cambridge. We look at some colleges, hear from Admissions Tutors, and speak to Old Westcliffians who are currently studying at these Universities.

Our most recent trip involved 43 students in the Lower Sixth visiting the University of Cambridge. We were fortunate to have an extensive Tour and Admissions Talk at Magdalene College, and after lunch we visited Emmanuel College and Trinity College. Magdalene – by Cambridge terms a “small” college - impressed with its quiet, calm environs; everything designed to be conducive to study, from the student accommodation in “The Village” to the New Library which won the 2022 Sterling Prize.

We hope to visit Oxford University this term. Our link college is Hertford, and it never ceases to amaze how quiet the quads can be just yards from a busy road junction in a sizeable city. The college’s own Bridge of Sighs is almost as familiar a sight on television and in film as the Sheldonian Theatre, Bodleian Library, and Radcliffe Camera, all of which are just across the road from the college gatehouse. Again, we plan to meet up with OWs and get a sense of what it is like to live and study amongst the dreaming spires of the English-speaking world’s oldest university.

Mr R Stevens, Higher Education Co-Ordinator



The University of Oxford; the Bodleian Library



The University of Cambridge; Magdalene College

ART EXAMINATIONS

GCSE: Friday 26 and 29 April 2024

The Art Department has continued to work hard on preparing our GCSE Art Examination candidates to undertake this challenging examination experience, building pupils' confidence through careful preparation and training. Those pupils studying Art in Year 11, and therefore preparing for GCSE entry, received their Externally Set Assignment title choices back in January, and are currently busy working towards the design of an outcome. On the 26 and 29 April, the pupils will be given 10 hours to create this piece.

A Level: Thursday 2 - Tuesday 7 May 2024

The A level Art Examination will run for fifteen hours in total, taking place on 2, 3 and 7 May.

The externally set assignment is worth 40% of the GCSE and A Level final grade. All our Art students are busy developing exciting bodies of work and we look forward to seeing the rich and successful outcomes completed by our very talented students. We anticipate a fantastic set of grades this academic year, and wish the students the very best of luck.

Mrs K Allard, Head of Art



CCF ARMY AND RAF OVERNIGHT FIELD EXERCISE, MEREWORTH WOODS

Friday 26 - Saturday 27 April 2024

This April, Army and RAF Cadets in Year 9 will be taking part in their first overnight exercise. Training will focus on how to conduct night-time routines in the military, including building a shelter to sleep under, cooking in the field, and how to build a harbour area to protect from enemy attack. The Cadets will also be taught how to conduct patrols and stalks under the cover of night, with or without a rifle.

This first in a series of overnight field days teaches our Cadets the fundamentals of their training syllabus, in preparation for more advanced training as they work their way through their lessons under the supervision of CCF Staff and Senior NCO Cadets.

The April Field Day is always a popular event and, we regret to say, that spaces are strictly limited. Cadets who were not able to gain a place on the March field day will receive a priority place on this trip. Remaining places will then be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

Captain and OC K Allard, WHSB CCF



WESTCLIFF CENTRE FOR GIFTED CHILDREN: LIVELY LABORATORIES

Saturday 27 April 2024

The third and final *Go for Grammar!* event of this academic year will be the 'Lively Laboratories Day' on Saturday 27 April. Following the highly successful 'All Things Creative Day' in the Spring Term, this Lively Laboratories event will also include English and Mathematics lessons (in keeping with all our *Go for Grammar!* Days), together with four Science-based lessons which will cover Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Earth Science.

The visiting Year 5 pupils will have the opportunity to engage with our Sixth Form Students, who are always on hand to chaperone the younger pupils around the School. The Sixth Form students also join the visiting Year 5 pupils for some of their lessons.

We look forward to continuing our *Go for Grammar!* programme in the next academic year.

Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School



EFFECTIVE REVISION STRATEGIES

Key points:

- ✓ Some revision methods work better than others.
- ✓ If we understand how revision 'works', we can choose better revision methods.
- ✓ Retrieval practice is a research-proven, highly effective learning and revision technique.
- ✓ Retrieval practice works by making topics 'stick' in your memory.

As we approach the examination season for all members of the School, WHSB pupils (and their parents) will be thinking about revision. Revision is a process that takes time, requires effort, and can cause anxiety (again, both to pupils and their parents).

Therefore, it is important that this time, effort and emotional investment pays dividends - it needs to be effective. On one level, this means that the revision undertaken produces good examination outcomes. Everybody enjoys success. However, this 'Destination: Success' mindset is preceded by an underlying principle that is actually the key to effective revision, 'Journey: Learning'. In other words, the better the learning on that journey through effective revision, the better your chance of examination success.

The remainder of this article is in two sections: Theory, and Practice. If you want the revision strategies 'in your hand', you should start with the Practice section. If you want to know why these strategies work, you should start with the Theory section.

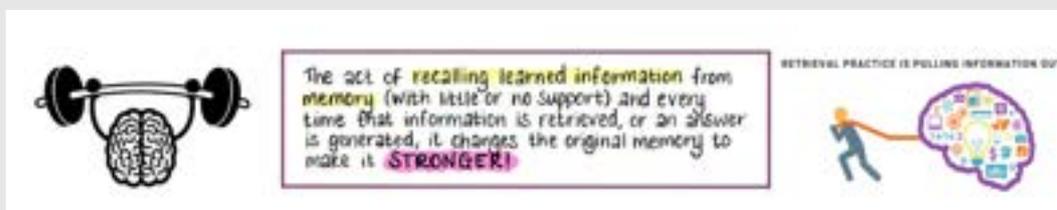
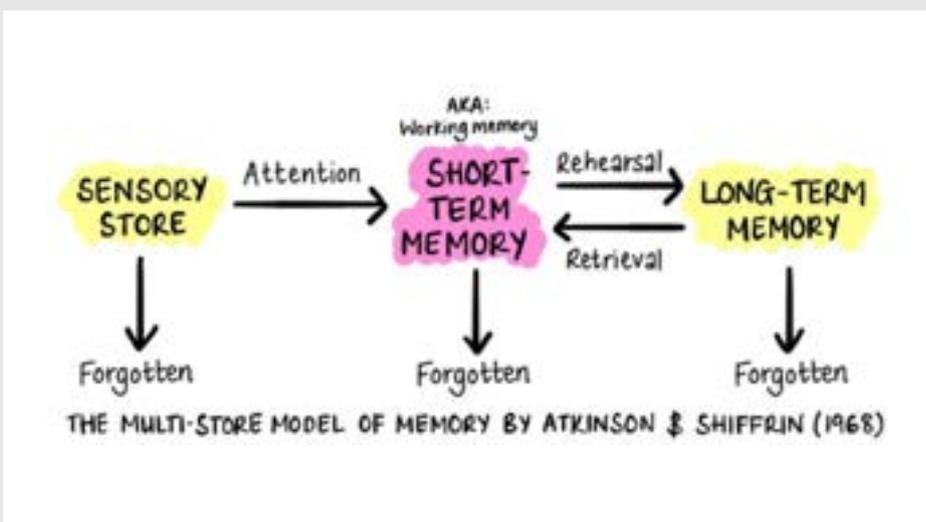
The Theory

This section focuses on what makes effective revision strategies effective. First, let us briefly consider the word 'revision'. It means 'looking at things again'. Here lies the number one mistake pupils make with revision. Looking again at previously completed work, such as reading old notes, is not an effective learning strategy. It can refresh the memory a little, but the brain - which always looks to reduce unnecessary memory clutter - very quickly tells you 'I have seen this before'. In effect, you start to 'learn' the appearance of writing and diagrams on the page, rather than the meaning of the words and images. If reading was an effective learning strategy, then we would all have perfect recall of all the novels, newspapers, and social media posts we have ever read. We do not. Reading alone is not enough to really learn things.

Extensive academic research is very clear: learning involves changing your long-term memory, and just reading is a poor way to do this. **Learning requires two things: Action and Practice.** If we read information, or have it presented to us by a teacher or by watching a video, this is a stimulus to the brain. The brain receives so much stimulus every day that, by necessity, the majority of it is filtered out from our consciousness. **When we learn something, we have actually made an effort to learn it.** We have given the message to the brain that 'I want to remember this information, so please store it properly, and do not filter it away'. The brain will still have a natural inclination to filter away this information unless you keep reminding it to 'store this information, it is important to me'. The best way to reinforce this message is to use the information. **Therefore, effective revision involves repetition and action.** In teacher language, we call

this 'retrieval practice'. Retrieval practice is a very effective technique for learning material, that is, placing this information into our long-term memory and then using it again. By using retrieval practice, pupils will strengthen this learning, much like going to the gym builds muscle: 'use it or lose it'. If it is not difficult to do, then you are not going to build your learning muscle. Retrieval practice works through action and conscious effort to remember things, treating the brain like a muscle, not a sponge.

Teachers at WHSB are trained in the use of retrieval practice. They have been employing the strategies in their classrooms to help pupils learn better and then, hopefully, to use those strategies at home for themselves.



The Practice

Most of your revision time will be spent on your own, focussing on strengthening material in your memory. Here are some useful strategies to try out.

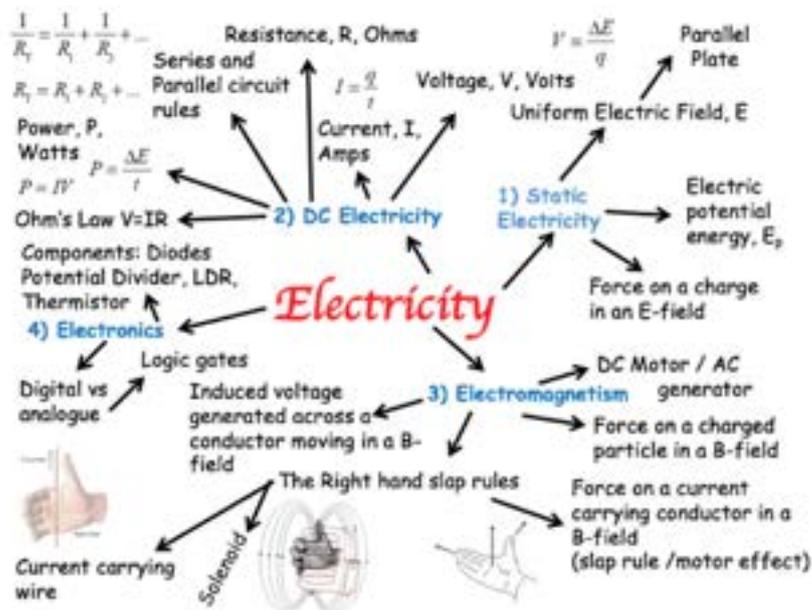
Revising on your own

Multiple choice tests or Quickfire Quizzes

Multiple choice tests can be particularly useful if you are at an earlier stage of revision, as you do not need to know the answer instinctively; you just need to be able to recognise the correct answer from a set of options. BBC Bitesize has a large number of "quickfire quizzes" for all secondary school subjects: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/secondary> and they can help build confidence.

Mind maps

If you are at an early stage of revision, it can be helpful to go through your notes and textbooks to create summary mind maps, a visual summary or overview of a topic. This helps you to review previously covered material, process the information, and provides you with a new set of notes on a complete topic 'all in one place'.



List It!

This involves listing as much information as you can in an allotted amount of time. Possible suggestions for listing:

- ✓ List as many keywords or key facts as you can, that are connected to this topic;
- ✓ List as many causes of X or consequences of Y as you can;
- ✓ List as many connections between A and B as you can.



Summarising

A retrieval process can be something like: We have studied renewable energy. Summarise the main advantages and disadvantages of a wind farm. Then check against your notes.

Brain Dumps

On a sheet of paper write down everything you know about a topic of study within a certain length of time. Once you have completed it, you can return to your books to see what you missed or what needs correction.

Flashcards

These should be questions you write based on your notes on the front of the card with the answers written on the back. These can be a powerful retrieval tool at home, but you need to use them correctly:

- ✓ Once a card has been mastered, keep it in the deck for a while.
- ✓ Actually retrieve. Say the answer aloud. You will not get the same benefits from flashcards unless you actually retrieve the answer before seeing it.
- ✓ Shuffle the deck. Keeping the same order is predictable; shuffling makes it more challenging.

Past papers

By doing past papers you can use retrieval practice with content that is directly relevant to your studies and examinations.

Essay answers

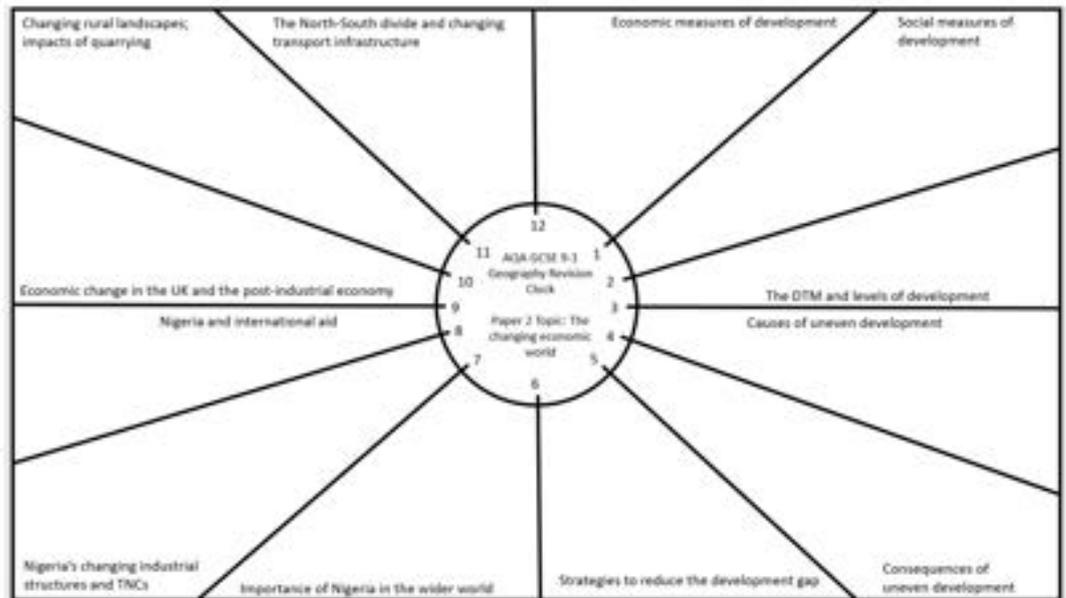
Essay answers may well be included in your past papers, but they are a useful method of retrieval practice independently too. This is because they require you to synthesise multiple pieces of information into fluent prose, and generally include a requirement to perform some additional analysis, all of which will improve retention more than merely recalling isolated facts. Research has shown that the more you do with information, the more likely you are to recall it.

Revision clocks

Take a block of time, usually five minutes, to focus on one aspect or topic on the clock, and then move on to another. It is a good way to recap on previous learning and can be done in stages over a number of revision days (or weeks). You can make your own at the start of a revision topic; go through your books to get appropriate headings and this will also help you to review material in order to choose the most relevant topics.

Revising with friends

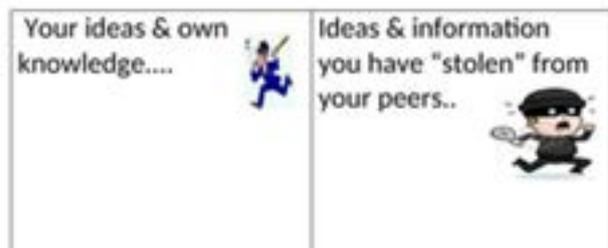
To be effective, most revision will be a solitary experience. However, there are retrieval practice techniques that work well in a pair or small group.



Cops & robbers

Cops and robbers

In the 'cops' column, write as much as you can from memory about a specific topic, similar to a brain dump. After 5 minutes, complete the 'robbers' section. This is where you read your friend's work, swapping and sharing ideas and content. It is not designed as a competition, but instead to focus on recall and working with others.



Paired quiz, flashcards and elaborative-interrogation

Work with a friend to quiz each other in pairs. One of you has the material (this could be your self-made flashcards) and uses this to ask the other person relevant questions. In 'elaborative-interrogation' you explore your understanding by answering How and Why questions. Why does this happen? How does it work? Why does it work? and so on. If you do this in a pair, you will both be practising retrieval as you must know the material to ask appropriate questions as well as answer them.

Good habits for examination preparation

- ✓ Organise your work space and your study material.
- ✓ Keep 'entertainment devices' out of sight when you are studying.
- ✓ Make a revision plan.
- ✓ Give yourself enough time to revise properly and to take breaks for relaxation

Active revision is far more effective than passive. Use retrieval practice strategies.

- ✓ Revising subjects and topics that make you feel anxious earlier on will help reduce anxiety as you are actually dealing with the problem.
- ✓ Make use of past examination papers.
- ✓ Look after yourself: rest, relaxation and making sure you stay fit and well are very important elements of the revision programme.
- ✓ Do not revise into the early hours of the morning. You will perform much better after a good night's sleep.

Dr M Shepherd, Associate Assistant Head

EFFECTIVE REVISION STRATEGIES: A PUPIL VOICE



As examination season creeps around the corner, pressure is undoubtedly on the rise, but with an appropriate game plan, you will be well-equipped to face the pressure effectively and confidently. Instead of viewing revision as a chaotic scramble, approach it as a purposeful and strategic endeavour. Begin by understanding the required knowledge for each subject, pinpoint your weaknesses, and devise effective methods to address them - whether through creating acronyms

or crafting flashcards. Clearly tracking your progress, through a checklist, is essential to achieving profound success - a visual proof of your improvement will fuel your motivation to continue pressing on.

Active revision always beats passive revision. Instead of merely absorbing information, engage with it actively. Whether you prefer to blurt out everything you know onto a mind-map or use Anki to create revision cards for self-testing, make sure you are actively challenging what you already know, before adding to the knowledge bank. It is not just about reading; it is about doing.

Once you have absorbed the required knowledge, the real game-changer is applying this to practice questions. After all, come examination day, you will be facing a line-up of similar questions. There are only so many questions that can be asked, so the more questions you have previously exposed yourself to, the more likely you are to recognise how to work through new questions. Transform your study room into a mock examination hall to recreate the conditions. This not only provides an accurate measure of your progress but also helps you get used to the examination environment. While mistakes in the actual examination may not be ideal, in the private realm of revision, they are excellent opportunities for growth. Welcome mistakes as valuable insights. The more errors you encounter in practice, the richer your learning experience becomes. So, embrace your mistakes in the safe space of private revision, as long as you use them as stepping stones towards mastery.

While revision may initially seem like a tedious chore, stealing precious moments from potential fun with friends, it does not have to be this way. For some, collaborative efforts can make the revision process more enjoyable and productive. Forming a group of like-minded individuals, who can hold each other accountable, may enhance productivity, turning what might feel like a nuisance into an enjoyable, shared journey of success.

Above all, believe in yourself. Your predicted grades are not a limit - with enough revision, practice, and focus, you can achieve whatever you want to achieve and reap the rewards.

George Odina, Lower Sixth



It is all well and good being told and knowing ourselves that we need to revise for our GCSEs, but how we go about it is a lot harder to discern. It is also good knowing that different people need different revision methods due to the way they learn, but figuring out appropriate methods, other than flashcards and past papers, can be challenging. I am going to share with you how I revised for my GCSEs in the hope that it may help. Through these revision methods, I entered my

examination period relatively free of stress and feeling in control of what I knew and how to perform well.

My first step was securing my knowledge of the specification and what was in each paper. I work online so, according to the Examination Board applicable to the subject, it is possible to simply copy and paste the entire specification of each paper. From there, I went through what I knew, and then answered and explained to myself in each case what I had learnt and what I needed to know. Check this with your textbook and classwork afterwards to ensure you did not miss anything. Ensure that these not only check your knowledge but also give you some concise notes. Continue this process in those areas in which you feel less confident, and then move on to what you feel you do not even remember learning. For each step, you should find yourself checking more with your notes. Here, you should make sure you understand everything you write down - do not just copy notes. You may find that, when discovering questions in areas you may struggle to understand, getting a peer to explain it to you will help. As someone not as confident with the Sciences, for example,

when I realised I did not understand the motor effect, I asked my friend to brief me.

Through this method you should consolidate all knowledge of the entire course, and make sure you know what is in each paper. I sometimes found it easier to work by topic - especially in Humanities subjects where I would cover, for example, the entirety of Islamic practices, or Crime and Punishment in the Tudor era, in one go. This helped me to make sure I still had a broad understanding of the topic. It is important to note that, unlike flashcards, this should not just involve short answer questions; explain the material to yourself in depth, but in your own words so you are able to fully understand each topic. Some specification points may be much longer than others, such as a Geography case study, but do not be put off by this. It is easier to learn about the broader picture of Tourism in Lagos, for example, rather than to recall through flashcards a specific year's number of tourists. Obviously, some subjects will have much shorter specification points, but each subject works through doing this - in STEM subjects, you can answer a question to accompany the specification point, whereas in essay subjects you may want to consider an essay at the end of a topic. As you have just confirmed all knowledge of that topic, this should give you an example of how this topic should be explored and, at this stage, you can check with a mark scheme, or explanatory video to check this is a correct example to refer back to. This should form the basis of your long-term memory, meaning you can recall this knowledge, however best you do this. For me, I was focused on testing myself, and giving someone the specification explanations I had written to test myself from. Do not check these before answering, but ensure you correct yourself when wrong. You could do this through Quizlet if missing a person to test you, or you and friends could take it in turns for each topic.

As you continue to repeat this process you should find yourself learning more and more of the subject. If you find a topic you

particularly struggle with then make sure to repeat this sooner than a topic you already know, but make sure you continue to go over everything frequently. Now you have your knowledge secured you must learn examination technique and how to answer examination questions. This simply needs continual practice; sit past papers and correct yourself, refer to examples and note how these differ from your work. For Humanities, I cannot recommend anything more than planning everything - if you find a question online that you think looks difficult, plan it. Include your knowledge in this plan and make sure you keep up with testing yourself on the knowledge itself, along with examination questions. This stage is particularly important to relieving yourself from stress come the summer - I for one found myself taking at least one paper a week for everything by the late stages, and two or three in whatever areas were the focus of my revision at that time. These MUST be in timed conditions.

Nearing examination season, when all of this has been covered, you need to also form your short-term memory for each subject. For this, I had shorter documents to test myself on in case studies, required practicals, terminology I may have

forgotten, names and numbers, etc. Anything you fear you may have forgotten, go over in the time before examinations and be confident in the knowledge you have formed strongly in your long term memory. You should not be stressing on the day of the examination, and revision is sometimes relaxing; so go over your short-term memory data. Remember, for example, how much money your country gained in revenue through tourism, or the day of the Cuban missile crisis, but do not go over topics as a whole, as this may confuse and cause stress.

Come examination season, you need to relax and be confident that your revision has gained you all the knowledge of the subject, and the examination technique needed. Do not revise in a panic, or frantically read over the textbook. If your revision has been successful, all you need to do is prove to the examiners how hard you have worked. Also, remember that if paper 1 does not go brilliantly, then you CAN recover this in other examinations - do not let this throw you off course. You've got this!

Edith Jefferson, Lower Sixth



If you want to be successful in GCSEs, preparation is key alongside efficient and effective revision practises. Whilst the volume of revision required may seem a daunting task at first, when broken down into small steps, achieving amazing grades is something that can be done by all students.

The academic pursuit of top grades in the GCSE examinations is something that can only be obtained through consistent and dedicated revision. Therefore,

without an organised and structured revision plan prior to the commencement of examinations, it will become impossible to manage your time effectively. Revision is a concept that, for many, consists of making a mind map from your class notes and looking at it just before your examination begins, in the hope that your mind will absorb all the crammed information on the page; however, this method is will not bring you the top grades. So in order to maximise the efficacy of revision, it should be broken down into stages to create a more organised structure: Stage One consists of being taught information in class to expose you to new content and ideas, and Stage Two is where this material should be reviewed and revised through the creation of revision materials and then actively recalled by going over these resources. Stage Three is where the information should be applied to examination questions and past papers to develop examination skills and, finally, you should use mark schemes and examiners' reports to assess your performance and see where you can improve for next time. In order to get into a solid routine to allow you to follow this pattern, it would be incredibly useful to make a revision timetable to ensure all of your subjects are covered equally, also allowing you to dedicate certain parts of your day to revision.

By this stage in your GCSE revision, all your materials should already be prepared from previous revision for other key examinations. It is vital to have a large bank of resources to utilise when it comes to preparing for GCSEs, for example consisting of mind maps, flashcards and timelines, to name a few. When approaching examinations, the last thing you want to be doing is wasting key revision slots on creating material for you to revise

from later, when this should have been done months before. The weeks and months before an examination are the times at which you should be reviewing content, not learning it, so that you can dedicate more time towards crafting your examination technique to perform at the highest level possible on the day.

The GCSE examinations assess a wide variety of skills and subjects so your revision methods should consist of a variety of approaches in order to prepare yourself in the best way possible. By this point in time, you should know which methods work for which subjects and thus help you to get the best results. However, if you are still unsure, these are the ways I have found to be the most useful: For all subjects, memorisation of content is paramount, and whether that is achieved through mind maps or flashcards is down to the preference of the individual. However, the application of this information is what may vary depending on the demands of the subject: for Humanities subjects, such as English, History and Religious Studies, I have found planning potential essay questions a great way to cover a wide range of topics that could be assessed, and to create answers I felt confident in writing. For subjects such as Mathematics and Science, answering and marking past paper questions is a great way to develop examination technique and develop a strong comprehension of how to answer each question.

Another issue faced by many when it comes to revising is procrastination, and I often struggled to focus on completing tasks due to this challenge. However, once I was able to overcome this barrier, my revision became significantly more efficient and led to me achieving the best grades possible. To overcome this, it is first key to identify what it is you do when you procrastinate because, if you can eliminate these distractions, you are much more likely to focus. Secondly, by creating a productive work environment, you eliminate the temptation to put things off and instead allow yourself to focus on the task in hand. Finally, if you set yourself goals to work toward, you will be much more motivated to achieve these and, over time, will see a change in your behaviour that allows you to maximise your allotted revision time, and therefore to perform well in your GCSE examinations.

If you approach revision in a logical and disciplined manner, it becomes much easier to manage, allowing you to stride into the examination hall with confidence and faith in your ability.

Freddie Dawson, Lower Sixth

FRENCH, GERMAN AND SPANISH SPEAKING EXAMINATIONS

During April and May 2024, the Modern Foreign Languages Department will be conducting the Speaking Examinations for both GCSE and A Level in all three Language Subjects.

The Speaking Examinations take place prior to the start of the written Public Examinations and form an important part of the final examination mark in each case. For GCSE, the Speaking Examinations contribute 25% of a pupil's final mark and, at A Level, 30% of the final mark.

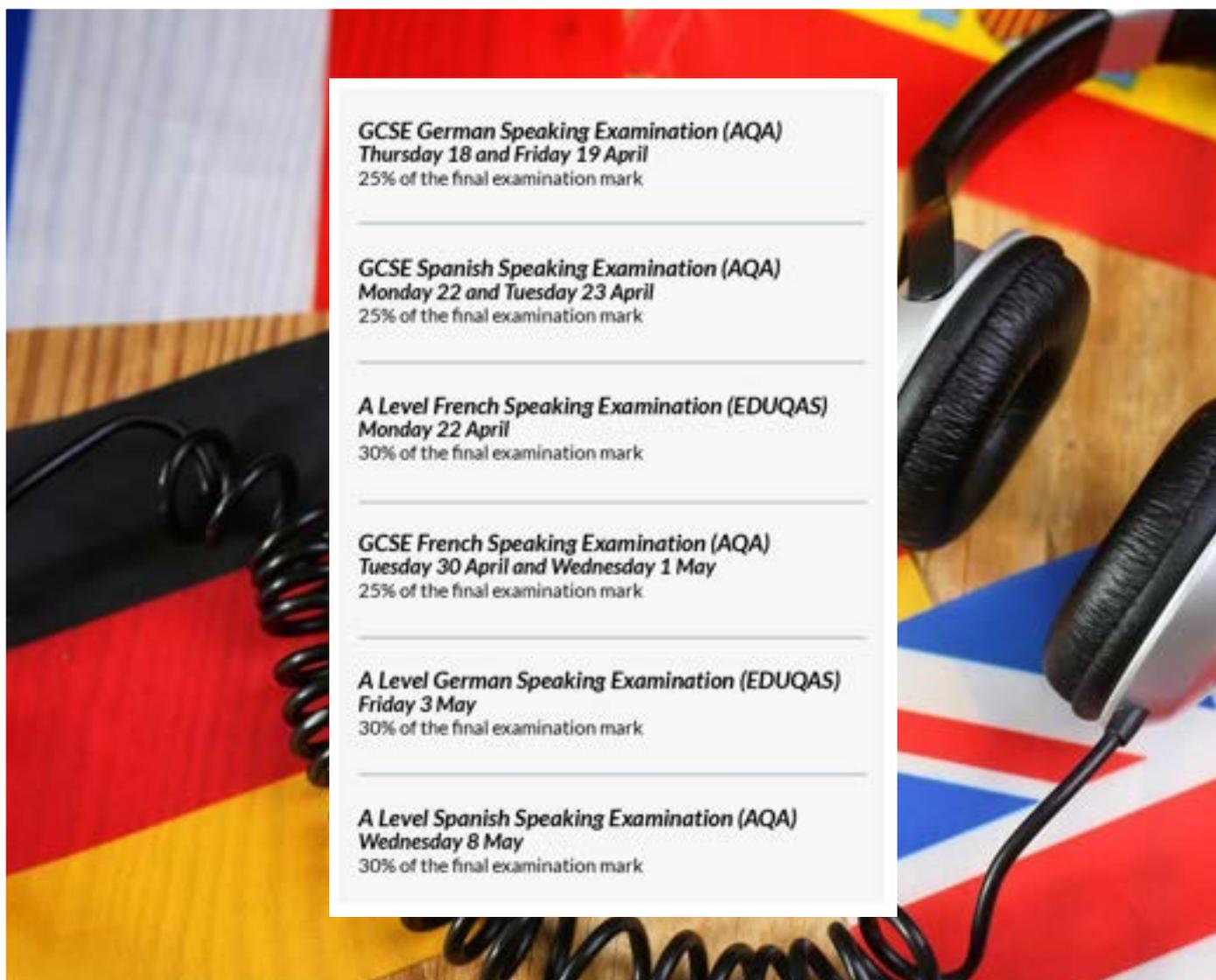
At GCSE all three Language Subjects are examined by AQA and the Speaking Examinations are conducted by the pupil's class teacher for each individual Language. The recordings are sent to the Examination Board and are not marked by the School.

At A Level, Spanish is examined by AQA and the Speaking Examinations are conducted by the pupil's class teacher, although French and German are examined by EDUQAS which uses a visiting External Examiner to conduct the Speaking Examinations. In this case too, therefore, the recordings are not marked by the School.

The Modern Foreign Language Department would like to thank the Foreign Language Assistants: Lotte (French), Kevin (German) and Natalia (Spanish) for all their work with our pupils over the course of the year.

We would also like to wish all our GCSE and Advanced Level pupils the very best for their speaking examinations, and for their written papers later in the term.

The schedule for the Speaking Examinations is outlined below, but exact timings and rooms will be issued to students in due course.



GCSE German Speaking Examination (AQA) Thursday 18 and Friday 19 April 25% of the final examination mark
GCSE Spanish Speaking Examination (AQA) Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 April 25% of the final examination mark
A Level French Speaking Examination (EDUQAS) Monday 22 April 30% of the final examination mark
GCSE French Speaking Examination (AQA) Tuesday 30 April and Wednesday 1 May 25% of the final examination mark
A Level German Speaking Examination (EDUQAS) Friday 3 May 30% of the final examination mark
A Level Spanish Speaking Examination (AQA) Wednesday 8 May 30% of the final examination mark

Ms McKeown (Head of Modern Foreign Languages and Spanish), Mr Rayment (Head of French) and Ms Niedziela (Head of German)

UKROC REGIONAL FINALS

Thursday 2 May 2024



Two teams of pupils in Years 9 and 10, led by Edward Melville, have been designing and building rockets to participate in this year's UKRoc competition. This is a national competition in which teams of young people compete to create the best rockets they can. These entries must meet various requirements, which change each year. Rocket designs and construction must be completed entirely by the pupils. Edward Melville is an award-winning youth rocket scientist, so the teams are in good hands.

Unfortunately, the teams have been unable to test their rockets due to the Great British Weather. The last opportunity to test the rocket before the Regional Semi-Finals will be during the Easter Holidays, weather permitting. After that, the teams will be competing on Thursday 2 May.

We look forward to showing you the fruits of their work in the next edition of *The Westcliff Diary*, where we also hope to be able to report on success.

Mr K Dalby, Head of Physics



The Charity Committee 2024-25

CHARITY EVENT DAY

Friday 3 May 2024

Building on the success of last term, which saw Mr Moore dominate with his hat-trick in the Teacher 5-a-side Football match, together with old School favourite, the Teacher Sumo Wrestling match, the Charity Committee looks forward to

entertaining the School community once again with a Teacher Dodgeball match. The sporting prowess of the staff will once more be on offer for what promises to be a hugely entertaining lunchtime, alongside the usual Tuck Shop treats.

This year, the School will be supporting HARP and Havens Hospice, two incredibly deserving

charities with whom the School has worked in the past. We encourage pupils to attend for a lunchtime of great fun whilst supporting two very worthy charities, and we look forward to seeing you supporting your favourite teachers!

Nevin Nice, Lower Sixth, Chair of the Charity Committee 2024-25

LOWER SIXTH INTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

Tuesday 7 - Friday 17 May 2024

The Internal Examinations enable Subject Teachers to assess students in a formal examination setting. Students sit papers in the School Hall under strict examination conditions, supervised by independent invigilators. Once these assessments are completed, students' results will form part of the information used to create predicted grades for UCAS Applications.

Teaching staff will provide students with advice on the structure of the examinations and the content, along with revision tips. Students should speak to their Subject

Teachers about academic issues, and remember that the Sixth Form Pastoral Team is available should you have any other concerns or require support. Lower Sixth Examination guidance and examination timetables are issued to students and their parents in the latter half of the Spring Term.

This edition of *The Westcliff Diary* includes an excellent article on Revision Strategies (page 14), which should also support preparation of examinations. We wish the Lower Sixth students the very best of luck with these assessments.

Mrs K Revell, Director of Sixth Form



YEAR 7 AND 8 CAREERS EVENT

Thursday 9 May 2024

On Thursday 9 May, we have invited Southend Connexions Careers Service and Deloitte Management Consultancy to present to pupils in Years 7 and 8.

Southend Connexions provides independent and impartial careers advice to pupils. A representative will be explaining his role to the pupils, additionally setting out how Southend Connexions can assist every pupil to make an informed decision regarding their future. Deloitte Management Consultancy will present on its Apprenticeship Scheme and the day-to-day workings of the Company. Apprenticeships are becoming increasingly popular amongst pupils, and this session will build their understanding both of the potential benefits and the application process.

It is important for our younger pupils to begin thinking about careers as early as possible, and these presentations are an important aspect of our Careers provision within Personal Development Education at WHSB.

Mr M Atkinson, Careers Adviser

LOWER SIXTH WORK EXPERIENCE

Monday 20 - Friday 25 May 2024

This is a wonderful opportunity for students to gain an insight into the world of work, and to better understand how both academic and softer interpersonal skills are vital in the workplace. Students have secured a variety of opportunities, from shadowing those in NHS roles, supporting local legal firms, observing operations within financial institutions, and volunteering in local charities. Members of the Sixth Form Team will be in contact with both the supervisors and students during the placement, and we will also provide reflection activities during Form time thereafter.

Mrs K Revell, Director of Sixth Form

The week of work experience for our Lower Sixth students is an essential aspect of our Careers programme, and aligns with the Government's Careers Strategy. Students have been encouraged to secure their own placements through direct applications to employers, and by making use of existing contacts. Where students may be experiencing difficulties in gaining a suitable placement, the School is assisting with their search, or will make arrangements to enable them to remain in School for that week. Any Lower Sixth students remaining in School during the week will focus on important skills attached to work experience, and will be supported with relevant work from subject departments.

If any *Westcliff Diary* readers, including parents, Old Westcliffians, and friends of the School can offer work experience placements, please contact Mr Atkinson, Careers Adviser, at Atkinsonm@whsb.essex.sch.uk.

Mr M Atkinson, Careers Adviser

CAREERS ACROSS THE CURRICULUM PROJECT

The School has recently embarked on an exciting Careers Across the Curriculum Project with HSBC and our School's Enterprise Adviser, Mr Adam Berry. This project will link the School's Learner Profile with certain Soft Skills which are recognised as essential by employers. These include time management; networking; teamwork; creative thinking; and conflict resolution. This project will underpin the structure of the work experience placement, and enable the Lower Sixth to develop their understanding of the importance of these key skills.

Mr M Atkinson, Careers Adviser



CULTURAL ENRICHMENT PROJECT

This term, all pupils in Year 7 are expected to attend at least one of the musical concerts or trips listed in *The Westcliff Diary*, as an audience member. Thereafter, they will be expected to write a review of their chosen event. This written work will be evaluated as a formal assessment and will contribute towards reports, as well as to pupils' end-of-year grades. More details will be provided in lesson-time, but it is advised that pupils sign up to events as soon as possible to guarantee a ticket. The trip to London to see Elgar's epic *Dream of Gerontius* performed by the Philharmonia Orchestra is highly recommended for these pupils (please see page 23).

Mr T Derrick, Director of Music



ELGAR'S DREAM OF GERONTIUS PERFORMED BY THE PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

Thursday 16 May 2024

The Bach Choir and the Philharmonia Orchestra join forces for Elgar's epic choral masterpiece. Cardinal Newman's poem, *The Dream of Gerontius*, tells the story of the end of an old man's life and his soul's subsequent journey towards God. The poem was a well-known and much-loved work by the time Elgar came to set it to music in 1900. From it he created his greatest choral work – if not the greatest by any English composer.

Writing for two choirs, orchestra, organ and soloists, Elgar composed music that seemed to come from the depths of his own soul. Acclaimed tenor Daniel Norman sings the moving title role, Jennifer Johnston sings the role of the Angel who supports him on his journey, and Roderick Williams sings the role of the Priest.

To open the evening, The Bach Choir has commissioned a new work from Roderick Williams. It acts as a prelude to Elgar's work, considering what it is to wait alongside someone in their final moments. Williams is one of the

country's best-loved singers, chosen by King Charles III to perform at the Coronation. He frequently appears with The Bach Choir as a soloist, making him well placed to get the best out of this 200-strong ensemble.

Tickets cost approximately £30 including travel.

Mr T Derrick, Director of Music



Roderick Williams

YEAR 10 CHEMISTRY DISCOVERY DAY

Thursday 23 May 2024

The Salters' Institute has offered ten spaces for WHSB pupils in Year 10 to experience a Chemistry Discovery Day in May. This is an exciting opportunity for pupils to visit the University of East Anglia and to experience a University-style laboratory.

The day will include a talk from Dr Rianne Lord on the use of metals in medicine, as well as a question-and-answer session with Dr Lord. Pupils will then be synthesising their own aspirin in the laboratory. The day will finish with a Career Panel with George Phillippo, Dr Maria Marin and Dr Chris Richards, during which pupils will have further opportunities to ask questions.

This is a sensational opportunity for the pupils and we look forward to supporting this wonderful experience on the day.

Ms B Negus, Teacher of Chemistry



LOST PROPERTY

Friday 24 May 2024

Named and unnamed clothes, bags and other items which are found around the School, are placed in the Lost Property Area located in the East Basement.

Each term, the Lost Property Area is cleared, and pupils are given an opportunity to reclaim their items. Full details and timings are provided in advance of these occasions.

Any unclaimed items left at the end of each term are recycled locally.

Ms I Gimbutiene, School Shop Manager



SUMMER TERM IN THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

The Westcliff Library is, by its architecture alone, a grand open space in the School. Add to that several thousand books, and a cycle of exciting events throughout the year, and the atmosphere in our Library is stimulating indeed.

During the Summer Term, we shall be marking the following events in the Library:

- Star Wars Day (Saturday 4 May – celebrated the week before)
- Carnegie Book Awards (announced Thursday 20 June)
- Pride Month (June)

Each English class in Years 7, 8 and 9 has a Library lesson once per fortnight which is supervised by either Mrs Oats or Mrs Schofield. This is, first and foremost, an opportunity for pupils to spend time reading silently; however, when appropriate, pupils engage in activities such as spelling tests, quizzes, quickfire book reviews, word of the week, and enjoying new book arrivals.

Year 9 pupils will continue to read *Frankenstein*, which ties in with the theme of Victorian Novels being studied in English lessons. Pupils in Year 8 are given the opportunity to read books of their own choice, either brought in from home or borrowed from the Library, whereas our Year 7 pupils read a different title each term this year, as part of the School's strategy to promote Reading for Literacy. In the Summer Term they will be reading *I am Malala*.

Examples of pupils' recent engagement with library resources include a foreign 'loan-word' quiz designed by a Year 8 pupil, an 'odd knowledge' quiz devised by another pupil, and the inception

BOOK REVIEWS



Essex Railways, William H Smith

This book is about the railways of Essex and the two companies that worked on the Essex lines: the Great Eastern Railway and the London Tilbury and Southend

railway. This book goes into great detail about the lines, buildings, locomotives, rolling stock and railway workers. It contains lots of stunning photographs of the historic buildings and the locomotives that ran on these lines before the grouping of the railways in 1923 when the GER was absorbed into the LNER, and the LT&SR was absorbed into the LMS.

Now for my opinion on this book. From my childhood, I have loved everything about trains and their history. So when I saw this book I knew that I had to borrow it from the Westcliff Library. The cover incorporating a BR standard also attracted me to the book. I loved the photographs in the book, including little information cards, and I was shocked to see the experimental EBI, which was the pioneer before the modern electric locomotives we have today!

Overall, I loved this book, which added to my knowledge on railways; I found it quite interesting, although I know it is not everyone's favourite subject. But I will leave you with this one question - what is your favourite mode of transport?

Aagaran Rajeekaran, Year 9

of a Vintage Books Society, through which pupils can appreciate some of our oldest, irreplaceable books - some of which display interesting old loan dates inside the cover, reaching back to the mid-1970s.

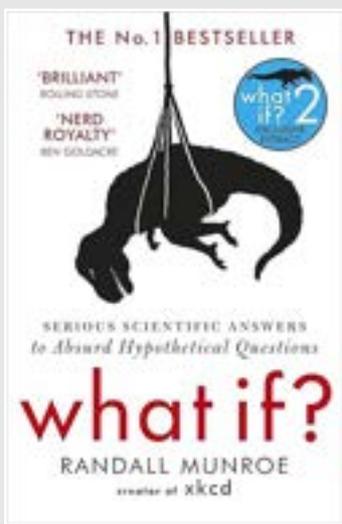
Departmental Reading lists are now available and new resources are arriving in the School Library for the Lower School, Middle School and the Sixth Form, with books ranging from Capitalism to Pastry Making.

For those who keep an eye on current reading habits, our *Demon Slayer* manga is popular as always, as are our new Economics books, the hit self-improvement guide, *Atomic Habits*, as well as the philosophical *Meditations* of Marcus Aurelius.

The School Library is open on Monday to Thursday from 8.00am to 5.30pm, and on Friday from 8.00am to 4.30pm. This allows students to visit the School Library before and after school, as well as during break and lunchtimes. Tuesday lunchtimes are dedicated to the running of clubs which cover a range of interests from crochet, boardgames, puzzling, creative writing, to reading challenges through which the students work towards attaining badges. There is also a Japanese Club, alongside new initiatives such as the Play-Reading Society.

The Library is open to all pupils and staff, and we stock a large selection of both fiction and non-fiction books, with new books being regularly ordered, also taking into consideration requests and suggestions from Library users.

Mrs Schofield (Librarian) and Mrs Oats (Assistant Librarian)



What If?, Randall Munroe

This book takes questions that have been asked by people via a website, and the questions are weird, or worrying. One of my favourite questions is about the 'Period wall of elements', because it shows either death through fire, explosions, radiation dust or gas... and just DO NOT build the seventh row!

Other topics include 'a baseball at the speed of light', 'everyone jump at the same time', and all the questions are interesting to me. They are all unique and fascinating, especially the one on the Lego bridge – what more could you want in life?

This is a book of cartoons and jokes and, according to the author, one question that terrifies the meek:

"Would it be possible to get your teeth to such a cold temperature that they would shatter upon drinking a hot cup of coffee?"

To me this book is an incredible read, and it is a great recommendation to anyone who enjoys the sciences and artistic comedy.

Harold Jackson, Year 9

RECOMMENDED READING LISTS

Those with keen eyes may have noticed an influx of new books to the Westcliff Library over the past year. These new texts have filled the bookshelves in preparation for an exciting new initiative, because this term sees the launch of Recommended Reading Lists, a set of books for each department specifically chosen by WHSB teachers for Lower School pupils, Middle School pupils, and Sixth Form students. The lists are designed to provide a choice of reading material appealing to any pupil, no matter what their age or preference, with both fiction and non-fiction recommendations available for most subjects.

Are you a Sixth Form student who particularly enjoys studying History? Delve deeper by reading Miranda Kaufman's *Black Tudors*, or explore historical concepts through a fantasy lens with Kazuo Ishiguro's *The Buried Giant*. Perhaps you are studying GCSE Computer Science and are looking to expand your knowledge. In which case, you might want to pick up J. MacCormick's *Nine Algorithms that Changed the Future*, or explore a light-hearted fictional example of computing in Terry Pratchett's *Going Postal*. Lower School linguists wanting some foreign fantasy might want to investigate German author Cornelia Funke's famous *Ink Heart* series, or the graphic novel version of famous Spanish text, *Don Quixote*.



ART
Recommended Reading
Available from the WHSB Library

LOWER SCHOOL
Fiction
The Goldfish by Donna Tart
Non-Fiction
Art Matters by Neil Gaiman
Yayoi Kusama—From Here to Infinity by Sarah Suzuki

MIDDLE SCHOOL
Fiction
Piranesi by Susanna Clarke
The Girl with a Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier
Non-Fiction
Why you can go out dressed like that: Modern Fashion Explained by Marnie Fog

SIXTH FORM
Fiction
An Artist of the Floating World by Kazuo Ishiguro
Non-Fiction
The Design of Everyday Things by Donald A. Norman
Ways of Seeing and Ways of Seeing a Photograph by John Berger

Look for Recommended Reading List posters in all Academic Departments to help you decide what your next read might be, or ask one of the WHSB Librarians, who will be happy to direct you to the right shelf. All texts on the lists are available in the Library, with the exception of Sixth Form books, which will be available in the Autumn Term.

Mr T Derrick, Associate Assistant Head



END OF YEAR EXAMINATIONS YEARS 7 TO 10

Monday 3 – Friday 7 June 2024

Pupils in Years 7 to 10 will be sitting internal End of Year Examinations between Monday 3 and Friday 7 June. Final details and exact timings will be distributed to parents and pupils in due course.

Lower School

This is an important opportunity for pupils first to consolidate, and then to demonstrate, the knowledge and skills that they have learnt throughout the year.

For pupils in Year 7, this will be the first time they have faced such examinations, and therefore support and advice on revision strategies will be provided through Year Assemblies, Form Periods, Enrichment sessions, and normal lessons.

Year 8 pupils will be more familiar with the process, having experienced it for the first time last academic year. Pupils in this cohort will appreciate that this is an opportunity to reflect on last year's results, with the aim of improving on these across all subjects in the new round of examinations. Pupils have the opportunity to reach the expected level of 6b, or better, in a wide variety of subjects, providing for themselves a springboard for success in Year 9. This, in turn, will afford them greater choice when it comes to making their GCSE option choices in March 2025.

Having already made their GCSE option choices, Year 9 pupils are at a critical juncture in their education journey at WHSB. Clearly, pupils will want to perform to the best of their abilities in the core GCSE subjects of English (pupils sit both Language and Literature), Mathematics (and possibly Further Mathematics), Biology, Chemistry and Physics, together with the subjects that they have opted to undertake in Year 10. However, it is vital that pupils perform to the best of their ability in all subjects at the end of Year 9, rather than pick and choose. There are clear reasons for this. Typically, pupils with a high grade profile at one stage of their education are likely to perform well at the next stage. Equally, it is important for pupils to keep their options open should they underperform in one of their preferred GCSE Option Subjects, and therefore need to make a change.

Year 10

The End of Year Examinations approximately mark a half-way point in the GCSE courses for pupils in Year 10. It represents an excellent opportunity for pupils to test themselves on the work covered so far in each of their GCSE subjects, and to assess their progress through the course. Pupils will have received advice about revision and organisation ahead of these examinations through Form Periods and Assemblies. We encourage all members of Year 10 to make effective preparations now for these examinations, as this will improve the process of revision and allow them to access more fully their progress thus far in the Middle School.

Looking to Year 11

The second half of the Summer Term, together with the summer holiday period, is a timely opportunity for pupils in Year 10 to consolidate knowledge, create or modify independent study strategies, and put themselves in the strongest possible position for the start of what is a very busy and surprisingly short Year 11. At the same time, the School encourages members of Year 10 to take adequate time during the forthcoming summer holiday to rest and recuperate, keeping both aspects in balance.

We wish all pupils in Years 7 to 10 the very best of luck in their Internal Examinations this term. We would also remind pupils and their parents that, where needed, further support for pupils is available through Pastoral Offices.

Mr M Manning, Second Deputy Headmaster



LOWER SIXTH INTERNAL EXAMINATION REPORT ISSUED

Friday 7 June 2024

On Friday 7 June, Students in the Lower Sixth will be issued with their examination data following the recent Internal Examinations. This will provide information regarding each student's progress through this important year of study, and guidance on suitable universities to visit, with a view to making future applications. This report will not include UCAS Predicted Grades, which will form part of a more detailed written report, scheduled to be issued on Friday 28 June.

Mrs K Revell, Director of Sixth Form

LOWER SIXTH FIELDWORK IN SOUTHEND

Monday 10 - Tuesday 11 June, and Thursday 20 June 2024

For students in the Lower Sixth, the Summer Term always marks the start of Geography coursework, or more precisely, the Independent Investigation. A requirement of all Advanced Level Geography specifications is that students must complete four days of fieldwork and primary data collection.

To partly fulfil this aspect of the course, Lower Sixth students will undertake a number of practical fieldwork tasks in the Southend area across three separate days in the Summer Term. The Human Geography study will focus upon the representation and perception of place by comparing two wards in the city. The Physical Geography fieldwork will investigate the water and carbon cycles of the local area. The aim is to provide students with the skills to conduct their own fieldwork investigation, and then for them to produce a report of approximately 4000 words on their findings.

Dr M Shepherd, Head of Geography



HISTORY TRIP TO SUTTON HOO AND COLCHESTER CASTLE

Saturday 15 June 2024

In June, the History Department is delighted to offer pupils in our younger Year Groups an opportunity to discover more about the history of East Anglia.

The day will begin with a visit to the informative Anglo-Saxon site of Sutton Hoo, recently portrayed in the brilliant film *The Dig*, starring Carey Mulligan and Ralph Fiennes. Here, we will take a tour of the Anglo-Saxon burial mounds, which contained some of the most remarkable archaeological finds discovered in England. There will then be a chance to learn more about the Anglo-Saxons in the excellent refurbished Visitor Centre.

We will then head to Colchester Castle, which is the largest Norman keep in Europe. Remarkably, it is built on the ruins of the Roman Temple to Claudius. Our tour will take us through these Roman remains, before moving into the Norman history of the Castle and its role in later events, most famously the Civil War Siege of Colchester. Students will then have an opportunity to learn more about the History of East Anglia in the Castle's museum.

The day should offer a fascinating insight into our local history and how the region has developed over the last 2,000 years.

Dr C Platts, Teacher of History

WEST END TRIP: HAMILTON

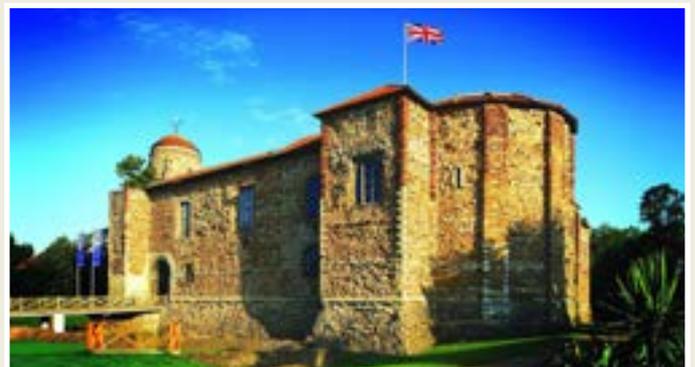
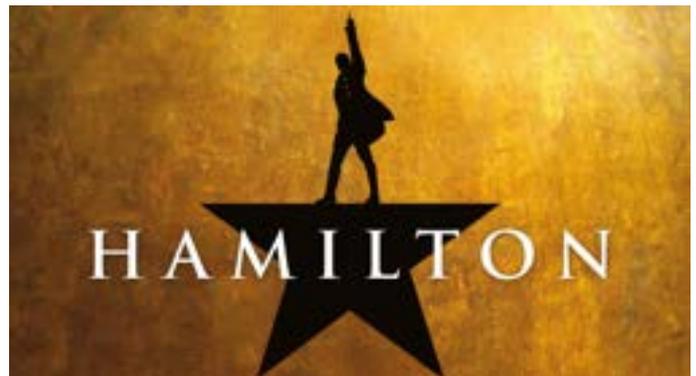
Tuesday 11 June 2024

This term, pupils studying A Level Music have the opportunity to see the rousing, award-winning production of *Hamilton* in the West End. This theatrical biography of the "\$10 founding father" Alexander Hamilton is written by the celebrated composer Lin Manuel Miranda.

The sung-through musical follows Hamilton from his early life as a poor orphan in the Caribbean, to his ascendancy as the right-hand man of George Washington, to his death in an infamous duel with Aaron Burr. This hit music has wowed audiences for almost a decade. It is a must-see for pupils studying A Level Music, relating to their Musical Theatre Area of Study.

Tickets for this evening event cost £38.00, not including travel to and from the London venue.

Mr A Wood, Teacher of Music



YEAR 10 GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE,

Monday 17 - Tuesday 18 June 2024

The Geography Department has been pleased to run this trip for many years to enable pupils studying for their GCSE examinations to collect data from beach measurements. The trip facilitates the generation of suitable data, and helps pupils to practise data collection, presentation and analytical skills, in preparation for their Paper 3 Geographical Applications Examination.

Walton-on-Naze offers an excellent beach section that allows pupils to study managed and unmanaged sections, and therefore to compare and contrast erosion rates, as well as consider the role of soft and hard engineering.

Mr P Marlow, GCSE Geography coordinator



JUNIOR DRAMA PRODUCTION: THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE

Wednesday 19 – Friday 21 June 2024, 7.30pm

It's yo-ho-ho and a bottle of cold tea as Westcliff Drama takes to the high seas, this time with Gilbert and Sullivan's rollicking, frolicking operetta *The Pirates of Penzance*. Pirates is surely the zippiest and most fun of these wonderful 19th century pieces, with Gilbert and Sullivan at their jolly collaborative best in numbers such as Pirate King, Catlike Tread, and A Policeman's Lot. The evening promises to be a whole host of fun.



Arthur Sullivan (Photo: Creative Commons)

WS Gilbert (Photo: Creative Commons)

Composer Arthur Sullivan's collaborations with witty librettist William S. Gilbert have become some of the most celebrated pieces in English musical history. After studying law at King's College, London, William S. Gilbert turned (with the support of his father, a naval surgeon) to writing and performing in amateur productions. He quickly established himself as a brilliant, witty writer. Arthur Sullivan's father was a military bandmaster, who taught his son to play every instrument in the band before he was eight. Sullivan started at the Royal Academy of Music at the age of fourteen, securing prestigious scholarships for his prodigious talents. The pair first came together in 1871 to produce a Christmas extravaganza for West End theatre owner, John Hollingshead. Four years later, the two developed their first complete operatic collaboration, *Trial By Jury*. The pair's collaboration reached its peak in the late 1870s and 1880s, following the encouragement of Richard D'Oyly Carte whose company produced popular Gilbert and Sullivan works at London's Savoy Theatre and elsewhere. The D'Oyly Carte company was dedicated to the Gilbert and Sullivan oeuvre, and continued long after the deaths of the composer and librettist – keeping their performance tradition alive right into the 1970s. By 1896, this partnership had created fourteen wonderful operas.

In *Pirates*, the story is both simple and quintessentially English. Young Frederic leaves his pirate shipmates when reaching the age of 21, and wanders ashore where he meets the Love of his Life, Mabel, together with her meddling medley of sisters. Her father

MEDUCATORS UK WORKSHOP

Friday 21 June 2024



Top University places to study Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science are in extremely high demand nationally. At WHSB, as part of our support for those who wish to commit themselves to this challenging and competitive process, the School has arranged a series of workshops through a highly rated education company called Meducators UK.

Meducators UK is an education company that provides affordable interactive workshops for students who are interested in studying Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary or any other healthcare course at University.

The workshops will involve a series of activities delivered by doctors, dentists, veterinary surgeons, and/or senior medical students. During the workshop, students will rotate around multiple stations, each of which will teach a different skill and provide them with a taster of what life is like in the healthcare profession.

Participating students will receive a Certificate of Attendance following the workshop which can be used as a supporting document for their UCAS personal statements, CVs, portfolios, or job applications in the future. Please note that there is a cost per student for the workshop.

An interest meeting is planned and further details will be provided.

Miss E Lo, Higher Education Adviser (Medicine)



is a Major-General and surely stout protection against potential piratical revenge. But when Frederic is recalled to the pirate band by a startling paradox, he is forced to reveal the military man's weakness, and a terrific fight ensues between hapless policemen drafted in to help and the cut-throat Cornish corsairs, until, in the nick of time, all is saved. This comic opera was first performed on 31 December 1879 in New York City at Fifth Avenue Theatre. It made its London debut three months later on 3 April at the Opera Comique where it ran for 363 performances, and is considered by many to be the very best example of a Gilbert and Sullivan work. Its score parodies several composers, with burlesque versions of Verdi's *Il Trovatore* and sections reminiscent of a Mozart string quartet. The section "Poor Wand'ring One" is thought to burlesque Gounod's waltz-songs, although the music critic of *The Times* called it 'mock-Donizetti'. The show is artfully written and scored, with plenty of comedy within both its music and its lyrics.

Better far to laugh and cry under the brave black flag we fly!
Pirates promises to be an enjoyable evening of music and fun suitable for the whole family, and we hope you will join us in the Westcliff Theatre for this treat of a show.

Performance to Primary Schools

On Wednesday 19 June, Westcliff Drama will look forward to welcoming 120 pupils and their teachers from Chalkwell Hall Junior School to watch our production of *The Pirates of Penzance*

in the Westcliff Theatre.

This will be a rare occasion on which visiting Primary School pupils will expect to see our Westcliff pupils pillaging, marauding and looting, and we shall try not to disappoint them!

Mr B Jeffreys, Director of Drama



OPEN EVENING

Tuesday 25 June 2024

On Tuesday 25 June, the School will close at 12.50pm in order that staff and pupils can prepare for our Open Evening which will be held between 5pm and 9pm.

The Headmaster's presentations will take place at 6.30pm and 7.30pm.

We very much look forward to welcoming prospective pupils and their parents into our School, and would like to thank in advance all members of the School community involved in this very special event.

Miss Gail Fairfax, Third Deputy Headteacher



CCF ARMY SUMMER CAMP 2024

Thursday 27 June - Tuesday 2 July 2024

This year's Summer Camp, being hosted by Beckingham Army training facility, has proven to be extremely popular, with all spaces filled and a waiting list for some in the hopes of additional spaces being offered by the Camp at a later date.

Throughout this week, cadets will be taught a range of skills. They will also enjoy a plethora of exciting opportunities - from live fire on a range, to complete adventurous activities, and to conduct an overnight exercise with advanced field craft lessons, the latter being taught by a team with military experience. The event will be the culmination of the whole year's training, and it is extremely valuable to those who wish to become Senior NCOs in the future.

The Summer Camp is open to all Army cadets from Year 10 to the Upper Sixth. If a Cadet has not been successful in achieving a place this year, there will be further opportunities to attend in years to come.

Captain and OC K Allard, WHSB CCF



SIXTH FORM INDUCTION

Thursday 27 June 2024

All pupils who received an offer to study in the WHSB Sixth Form are expected to attend various sessions during our Sixth Form Induction day, organised by way of guidance and support. The sessions are expected to include introductions to A Level subjects, advice on independent Sixth Form study, and a visit to the Sixth Form Café. Students will also receive appropriate Summer Work from Subject Departments in order to help them prepare for a successful and confident start to their new courses. Sixth Form preparatory work will also be made available on the School's website for further reference after the event.

Mrs K Revell, Director of Sixth Form



SUMMER SINFONIA CONCERT

Thursday 27 June 2024, 7.30pm – 9.00pm

The most unwelcome guest at any summer gathering is surely the wasp. Not so in the case of this term's Sinfonia concert: Vaughan Williams' overture to *The Wasps* does begin with the unpleasant buzz heralding the nuisance insect, but soon continues to a more pleasant, even warm aesthetic and melodic context. The music, written in 1909 to accompany an ancient satirical play by Aristophanes, is now so popular that it is most often performed in concerts apart from the play. This piece of twentieth century music will be accompanied by Johann Strauss II's waltz, *Tales from the Vienna Woods*, less famous than his *Beautiful Blue Danube*, but no less effective at evoking a particular time and place; in this case, the dark woodlands of 19th century Austria.

The concert's second half will feature Prokofiev's famous score to the 1934 film *Lieutenant Kijé*. While the most well-known

movement of this suite is the Troika, with modern festive connotations that may seem incompatible with a summer concert, the rest of the suite tells the peculiar story of the titular character of Kijé. The tale is comedic, beginning with terrified officials blaming a made-up Lieutenant for waking up a furious Tsar one night. The film tells the story of this fictional Kijé's life, from his 'birth' to his unlikely political and marital successes, and, finally, his funeral, prompted by the Tsar's desire to meet this non-existent officer. The music was Prokofiev's first experience writing for film, and it was celebrated by critics who described it as 'unfailingly witty and melodious.' A fitting end for this exciting concert.

Tickets are available via *TicketSource* at a price of £5 for adults and are free for pupils.

Mr T Derrick, Director of Music

LOWER SIXTH FULL WRITTEN REPORT

Friday 28 June 2024

All Lower Sixth students will receive a written report from their Subject Teachers and Pastoral Leaders on Friday 28 June.. These reports are an expansion of the Lower Sixth Examination Data report issued earlier in the month. The report includes comments regarding attainment progress, UCAS Predicted Grades, and attitudinal scores in each A-level subject. Additionally, the Director of Sixth Form will add pastoral comments based on subject grades and broader School matters. UCAS Predicted Grades are final and are not subject to change. This ensures that students and their families can begin planning University applications for 2025 entry, which open in May 2024.

Mrs K Revell, Director of Sixth Form

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS IN THE SUMMER TERM



Silver Practice Expedition *Thursday 9 – Saturday 11 May 2024*

Building upon the foundation laid during the Bronze Award, the Silver Award introduces greater challenges and rewards to participants. The practice expedition in the picturesque South Downs, near Hailsham, from Thursday 9 – Saturday 11 May provides participants with the opportunity to refine navigation skills, camping techniques, and teamwork abilities. Pupils will also quickly realise that some other parts of the country do have substantial hills, unlike much of Essex.

The Silver Award signifies personal growth, resilience, and perseverance. It encourages participants to push beyond their comfort zones and discover their true capabilities. Again, I would like to reiterate that the Award is not only about the Expedition, but that the Volunteering, Skills and Physical sections are just as important. These could be new, alternative activities, or show development from those the pupils undertook during the Bronze Award.

Silver Award Expedition *Wednesday 12 – Saturday 15 June 2024*

This term, participants pursuing the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award will also face their ultimate challenge so far: the

Assessment in the stunning Peak District, near Monyash, from Wednesday 12 – Saturday 15 June. Here, amidst breathtaking landscapes, participants will demonstrate proficiency in navigation, resilience, and effective teamwork, and encounter even larger hills.

As noted above, please keep in mind that the Award is not just about the Expedition section, but also comprises sections for Physical, Volunteering and Skills.

Following completion of the Silver Award, or even if pupils have not participated in the Duke of Edinburgh Award at all, pupils who would like to participate in a Gold Award should talk to Mr Tresidder, who will give them details of local Award Centres which offer this opportunity.

Bronze Award Practice Day *Friday 5 July 2024*

The School is excited to announce that the recruitment process for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award was completed in the Spring Term. This programme offers an invaluable opportunity for participants to challenge themselves, acquire new skills, and explore the great outdoors.

The Practice Day on Friday 7 July, split between training at the

School and a practice walk around the local area, will prepare participants for the adventures ahead, focusing on navigation skills, campsite etiquette, and ensuring everyone is adequately equipped for the journey.

The real adventure unfolds during the Assessment Expedition in Danbury (Friday 20 - Saturday 21 September), where participants will put their training to the test. They will navigate through rural landscapes, reach checkpoints, and demonstrate effective teamwork.

Beyond hiking, participants will engage in three other sections: Volunteering, Physical, and Skills, fostering a well-rounded skill set while contributing positively to their community. These elements are just as important to the Award as the Expedition section.

It is important to reiterate that these activities do not have to be completely new to pupils, but rather could be a development of something in which they already take part.

Mr H Tressider, Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator



YEAR 10 SOUTHEND GEOGRAPHY TRIP

Wednesday 3 July 2024

For Human Geography fieldwork, pupils in Year 10 will focus upon the Urban topic. Whilst urban change in the UK has led to many opportunities (such as a broader cultural mix, and greater recreation and entertainment facilities), it has also created challenges. Geographers in Year 10 will collect primary data in the local Westcliff area on challenges such as inequalities in housing, urban deprivation, dereliction, and variations in environmental quality. It will be interesting to discover the extent of variation in urban quality of life in locations just a small distance away from the School.

Mr P Marlow, GCSE Geography coordinator



WARHAMMER TOURNAMENTS

Wednesday 3 - Thursday 4 July 2024

Warhammer continues to be a popular hobby at WHSB, with the Wargaming Club thriving. Warhammer Alliance runs annual National School Tournaments at Warhammer World, Nottingham. Previously WHSB has been very successful at these tournaments; WHSB's most recent success was from James Jennings, Year 9, who achieved third place at the Warhammer Age of Sigmar Tournament in 2023.

Warhammer enthusiasts at the School are now preparing for this year's tournaments, which include the Warhammer 40k Tournament on 3 July 2024 and the Warhammer Age of Sigmar

Tournament on 4 July 2024. At these tournaments, there will be two teams of four students across Years 9 to the Lower Sixth. Teams from WHSB will compete in a series of three games against pupils from other schools to find out which team can secure the most points. In addition, individuals can be awarded extra points for 'best painted army', as well as 'sportsmanship behaviour'. Our School teams have been preparing their armies and practising their strategies, all eager for success, and we wish them well.

Miss E Lo, Head of Wargaming Club



HIGHER EDUCATION EVENING

Wednesday 3 July 2024, 7.30pm – 9.00pm

We look forward to welcoming students and their parents for our Higher Education Evening on 3 July. It is important that all students in the Lower Sixth and their parents attend this event, as it forms the beginning of the formal preparation for future steps in the students' academic career. There will be a series of talks explaining the process, together with critical elements to be considered when making choices for the next stages following the Sixth Form.

The Evening will provide opportunities for parents to draw on the wealth of staff experience, and also to ask any questions that they may have about future opportunities for their son/daughter. In addition, a Higher Education Guide will be issued to all those who attend the event.

Mrs K Revell, Director of Sixth Form



YEAR 10 TAKE MATHS FURTHER EVENT

Thursday 4 July 2024

In July, a group of our most able Mathematicians will visit the University of Essex to experience Mathematics beyond the scope of the GCSE classroom. This will allow them to see that Mathematics has many applications and opportunities, and to consider careers that may directly or indirectly involve Mathematics.

At this event in previous years, pupils have been enjoyed lectures on examination success, and shapes in the 4th dimension. These lectures have then often been followed by pupils building 3 dimensional representations of 4 dimensional hypercubes and truncated cubes. We are confident that this year's event will prove equally challenging, thought-provoking, and enjoyable.

Mrs L Hammond, Teacher of Mathematics



NEW YEAR 7 PARENTS MEETING

Thursday 4 July, 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Parents of pupils in our incoming Year 7 cohort will be welcomed to the School at this meeting on 4 July. The event will offer arriving parents an opportunity to meet with each other and members of the Parent's Association, before being welcomed and introduced to the School by the Headmaster and staff in the Lower School Pastoral Office. This important evening will provide parents with the final information they will need to help support their sons through the transitional phase between Primary and Secondary School.

NEW YEAR 7 PUPIL INDUCTION DAY

Friday 5 July 2024

As we move towards the end of the School Year, we turn our attention to those pupils who will be joining the Westcliff High School for Boys community in September. On this day, we look forward to welcoming the incoming Year 7 pupils to the School to meet staff, pupils, and each other before taking up their place in September 2024. The aim of the day is to familiarise the pupils with the School and its community, and to help them prepare to join us and to make the most of their opportunities here at the School.

Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School



ENRICHMENT DAY

Friday 5 July 2024

Overview

For many of those joining the recent History trip to the Duchy of Normandy, and certainly for me, the highlight of that visit was the opportunity to see a world-famous treasure, the Bayeux Tapestry. Despite its name, however, the Bayeux Tapestry is in fact an embroidery. The talented nuns of Canterbury who put this masterpiece together in the 1070s started with a tabby-woven linen nearly 70 metres long and about half a metre wide. In a process named crewel embroidery, they then took wool of varying colours, and, using couching and laid work techniques, stitched this wool into glorious images depicting the build up to, and events of, the famous 1066 Battle. Words were then added on through the process of outline or stem stitching to explain the story to readers of Latin, although this has infamously caused confusion about the nature of Saxon King Harold's death.



Embroidery is a synonym for enrichment, and a viewing of the Bayeux Tapestry justifies the connection. The simple linen cloth base offered a simple starting point with rich potential. The linen was a blank canvas, but it was the craftswomen's enrichment of the linen through masterly embroidery that transformed it into something very special. We aim to do nothing less in the continuing development of our own young canvases through our next Enrichment Day this Summer Term.

The day promises to be another enjoyable day of enriching activity. We will be pleased to welcome in our incoming Year 7 cohort, who will enjoy a taste of the Outstanding education they will experience at Westcliff. The existing Year 7 cohort will travel to the City of Southend for geographical study, enriched, I hope, with a round of ice creams. Year 8 pupils can look forward to a day of Language Plays, an experience that has proven extremely popular and enjoyable in recent years, as well as very educational. Year 9 pupils will continue to prepare for House Drama, while those in Year 10 will benefit from a day learning further about Careers. Students in the Lower Sixth will start to prepare for their UCAS applications and careers beyond the Sixth Form.

We would like to thank all colleagues who are supporting Enrichment Day by showing flexibility, agility, and often hidden talents. In particular, we are very grateful indeed to colleagues taking a lead with each activity. We hope that all pupils will enjoy a stimulating and enriching day of fruitful activity, and would exhort them to be collaborative, supportive, and open to whatever new opportunities and challenges the day brings.

Mr B Jeffreys, Associate Assistant Head

Year 7 Enrichment Trip to Southend

Summer term Enrichment Day is always an exciting time for Year 7 pupils as they pack their rucksacks and head to Southend for a day of varied fieldwork activities. The programme includes a study of the city's urban geography, assessment of the coastal management strategies in place along the seafront, a tourism questionnaire, and even a trip onto Southend's world-famous pier. It always proves to be a popular and interesting day filled with fun, but pupils need to remember to bring a sun hat and sun cream, because it is often hot on the beach.

Dr M Shepherd, Head of Geography



Year 8 Enrichment Modern Foreign Languages Plays

Year 8 pupils will enjoy a day using their Language and Drama skills to put on short sketches in one of the foreign languages they are studying. The day provides pupils with an opportunity to be Collaborative and Supportive, Effective Communicators, and Open to Opportunities.

Pupils will work in groups of five and will be assigned one of the Languages they are studying, either French, German or Spanish. The pupils will be provided with the dialogues in advance of Enrichment Day, and they may make small changes to the dialogue if they wish. The settings are in the reception of a hotel, and in a restaurant.

In the morning, pupils will rehearse their dialogues, and one group will be chosen from each class to perform in the Westcliff Theatre in the afternoon, watched by the rest of Year 8, and by MFL Teachers. Once all the performances have taken place in the Westcliff Theatre, the winning group and runners up will be chosen, with prizes awarded.

For the last two years, we have been pleased with the enthusiasm of pupils in Year 8, who have thrown themselves into the day with gusto, showing determination to memorise as much of the dialogue as possible within the time constraints. The highlight for many was dressing up, and we are very grateful to Ms Cleave and the Drama Department for giving us access to the costumes in the Westcliff Theatre. Pupils are also encouraged to bring their own costumes and props for the day.

We hope that the Year 8 pupils will enjoy our Languages and Drama Day in July, and we look forward to watching their performances.

Ms J McKeown, Head of Modern Foreign Languages



Year 10 Careers Carousel

The Year 10 Careers Carousel Day is an important aspect of our Careers Across the Curriculum Project at WHSB. This has proven to be a popular and successful day in the past, and we intend to make it something similar this year too.

Over the course of this event, pupils in Year 10 will work with Deloitte Management Consultancy, Essex Police Crime Scene Investigation, and HSBC, amongst other employers, to undertake practical tasks. These tasks are intended to give pupils a meaningful experience of what it is like to work in these sectors. Throughout the day, pupils will be able to appreciate how the School's Learner Profile gives them the transferable Soft Skills outlined above, preparing them for the next stage of their journey.

Mr M Atkinson, Careers Adviser



Lower Sixth 'Beyond WHSB' Enrichment Day

On Friday 5 July, all students in the Lower Sixth will attend talks and seminars aimed at advising them on various options open to students after their Sixth Form studies. These will include University study, Apprenticeships, and employment.

Representatives from the University of Essex and the University of Exeter will run workshops on a range of topics including student finance, writing personal statements, and planning applications. Additionally, students will be given time to explore the UCAS Hub and the Unifrog application in order to start the university shortlisting process, and to explore potential careers and apprenticeship opportunities. By the end of the day, all students in the Lower Sixth should have planned the first draft of their Personal Statement used to support all University applications.

Mrs K Revell, Director of Sixth Form



Year 9 Enrichment Day: House Drama

This Summer Term, pupils in Year 9 will have the opportunity to take a day to prepare for the House Drama competition that takes place later in the month. For the leading lights of the year, this will offer an opportunity to rehearse their onstage performances, mastering character, practising the elegant delivery of lines, and perfecting their use of slapstick.

For those who are more reticent, the day will also offer the opportunity to create artistic theatrical properties, to pick out choice costume, to interview performers and directors, and to use computers to prepare programmes. Once again, there will also be the opportunity to learn signing with the British Sign Language course, and I hope that one or more of this year's participants will feel inspired to sign at least part of a final performance. Above all, I hope that pupils will enjoy this very creative day, and would wish to thank all my colleagues who support the occasion and continue to make it so successful.

Mr B Jeffreys, Director of Drama



LOWER SIXTH GEOLOGY TRIP TO ISLE OF ARRAN

Saturday 6 - Friday 12 July 2024

Thirteen A Level Geologists will visit the Isle of Arran between Saturday 6 and Friday 12 July 2024 in order to undertake their compulsory fieldwork studies. The field group will be based at the Lochranza Field Studies Centre on the north of the Island. From this location Geologists are able to study the nature of the rock, and how this was formed, including fossil content, folding and faulting, and plate tectonic settings.

Part of the week will be spent undertaking investigative and problem-solving field exercises. These relate to the origin of the North Atlantic Ocean (approximately 65 million years ago), before which Scotland was joined with Greenland. Part of such work for our Geologists will include building their own geological maps. The Isle of Arran is considered to be a world-class location for geological studies, and the students will develop knowledge and understanding of field geology which will enrich their class studies. Transferable skills such as numeracy, problem-solving, and teamwork are all developed within an area of outstanding natural beauty, characterised by mountainous glaciated terrain.

Mr P Marlow, Head of Geology



SUMMER ART EXHIBITION

Wednesday 10 July 2024, 4.00pm – 7.00pm

Every summer we look forward to our biggest Art event of the year; the Art Summer Exhibition. This is our opportunity to celebrate the amazing work produced by pupils across all Year Groups, with a particular focus on the GCSE and A level cohorts. As we are not permitted to share photographs of examination work, this is the moment we can celebrate pupils' talent and dedication. We warmly invite WHSB pupils, friends and families, as well our teaching colleagues, to come and view the impressive range of skill and the individuality in the work produced.

The exhibition is free to attend and takes place in Rooms E26, E27, E28, the Quad and E31.

Mrs K Allard, Head of Art

SUMMER BAND AND BBQ

Friday 12 July 2024, 7.00pm – 10.00pm

The popular Summer Big Band event features pop, rock, jazz, and funk music from across the decades, performed in the open air by musicians from across the School. Once again, expect to see smaller pupil-led groups supporting bigger ensembles like the Westcliff Choir, the Jazz Band and, of course, the Big Band.

The mix of styles at this event is always eclectic, and this year is no exception. Expect to hear music from artists as diverse as The Who, Stevie Wonder, John Coltrane and Jamiroquai, all while burgers and sausages are flipped on the grill. This concert is the last music event of the year, and it is sure to usher in the summer break with a bang!

Tickets are available via *TicketSource* at a price of £x for adults and £x for children.

Mr T Derrick, Director of Music



PHOENIX CUP ASSEMBLY

Monday 15 July 2024

On Monday 15 July 2024, the Phoenix Cup House Assembly will take place. This is the most important occasion in the House calendar, and is where pupil and staff contributions towards extra-curricular House provision are recognised.

The new Sixth Form House Captains and Vice-Captains for the academic Year 2024-2025 will be introduced to the pupil body in a whole School Assembly. The House Captains will be seated on the stage and the Vice-Captains on the front row in the Main Hall. Each House Captain from Harrier, Kestrel, Merlin and Osprey will make a speech, summarising the achievements of their respective Houses throughout the School Year. They will also share details about themselves and their House Vice-Captains, so that the pupil body learns more about them as role models. This is to help motivate pupils in the audience, as well as encouraging more active participation in future House events.



The Senior Head of House/House Coordinator will also make a speech and announce a range of cups and prizes that will be awarded by the Headmaster to the House Captains. The Assembly will culminate with the reading of the final scores. The Headmaster will then present the House Phoenix Cup to the House with the highest amount of House Points overall. House Points are awarded throughout the year to all pupils at the School for engagement in House activities, Clubs and Societies, as well as for their extra-curricular and co-curricular contributions. These are also awarded for excellent work in lessons and homework.

House Points and Senior Commendations are given by teachers when a pupil demonstrates one or more of the seven aspects of the WHSB Learner Profile, such as being Intellectually Curious, having Personal Integrity, acting in a Collaborative and Supportive way, being Open to Opportunity, being Globally Aware, Communicating Effectively, or demonstrating commitment as a Lifelong Learner.

Mr Barber, House Coordinator and Senior Head of House



CCF PASS OFF PARADE AND DINNER

Wednesday 17 July 2024, 5.00pm (Dinner, 7.00pm)

WHSB CCF will be hosting a return of our annual Pass Off Parade and CCF's Annual Mess Dinner. There will be a formal parade at 4.00pm for all CCF Cadets and any family members or other guests who wish to attend. This will be an opportunity to award promotions and prizes following Summer Camps, and to celebrate the achievements of the Cadets across the year.

The formal parade will be followed by a formal Mess Dinner that evening, starting at 6.00pm for 6.30pm. This is a formal military tradition and is an excellent opportunity for Cadets to take part in a formal event which shows a different side of the Armed Forces. It also provides an opportunity for parents to recognise Cadets' success, and to be a part of the celebration of the CCF's achievements during the year.

Tickets are available via [TicketSource](#) and we invite as many as are interested to attend.

Mr J Bleakley, Senior Master Lower School



LOWER SCHOOL REPORTS

Year 9 Phase Three Report

Monday 8 July 2024

This important report informs parents on how their sons have progressed throughout this academic year, and it plays a key role in helping pupils to understand what is required of them as they prepare to undertake new GCSE courses. Parents will receive a current Attainment Indicator in the form of a grade from each of their son's teachers, using the School's internal grading system. It is expected that pupils will achieve a grade 7b in each subject; Attainment Grades different to this will indicate whether pupils are performing above or below the expected level. The report also contains pupils' Lower School target grade, which will enable parents to see whether their son has met the potential identified by teachers back in Year 7. This helps parents, pupils and teachers to understand a pupil's level of understanding, and identify areas of strength and areas for development as they begin their GCSE studies.

The report also contains Attitudinal Indicators; these are awarded on a scale of 1 (Exceptional) to 4 (Unacceptable). The expected Indicator grade is a 2 (Good). Grades of 3 or 4 require a change in attitude by the pupil, and a Grade of 1 is awarded when a pupil has exceeded the already high expectations of this School. Parents should consider the indicators received against the explanatory table on the back of the report.

Following the issue of the report, Form Tutors will dedicate time to allow pupils to reflect on their grades, and to develop goals for the rest of the year. Form Tutors will also discuss strategies to help pupils to improve their grades where a foundation performance has been recorded.

Parents should discuss the report with their sons, and discuss the goals set by the pupils themselves, which will be recorded in their planner. Should there be any further concerns, parents should contact their son's Form Tutor via the Pastoral Office. There are many mechanisms in place to support pupils, including Pastoral Support, Subject Support, and Mentoring.

Year 7 Phase Three Report

Friday 12 July 2024

On Friday 12 July, pupils in Year 7 will receive their Phase 3 Reports. This is an important report as it provides parents with an update on their son's progress following the full written report issued in March.

It is expected that pupils will achieve a grade 5b in each subject; Attainment Grades different to this will indicate whether pupils are performing above or below the expected level. The report also contains pupils' Lower School Target Grade. The average Target Grade is 7b, to be attained in the Phase 3 report towards the end Year 9. If a pupil has a Target Grade of, for example, 7a, the School would anticipate that a pupil's current attainment would therefore be 5a. If their Target Grade is, for example, 5c, then a current attainment score of 5c means that they are on course to achieve their Lower School Target Grade. This helps pupils, together with their parents and teachers, to understand their current level of understanding, and identify areas of strength, together with areas for development.

Following the issue of the report, Form Tutors will dedicate time for pupils to reflect on their grades, and to develop goals for the rest of the year. Form tutors will also discuss strategies to help

pupils to improve their grades where a foundation performance has been recorded.

Parents should discuss the report with their sons, and discuss the goals set by the pupils, which will be recorded in their planner. Should there be any further concerns, parents should contact their son's Form Tutor via the Pastoral Office. There are many mechanisms in place to support pupils, including Pastoral Support, Subject Support, and Mentoring.

Year 8 Phase Three Report

Friday 12 July 2024

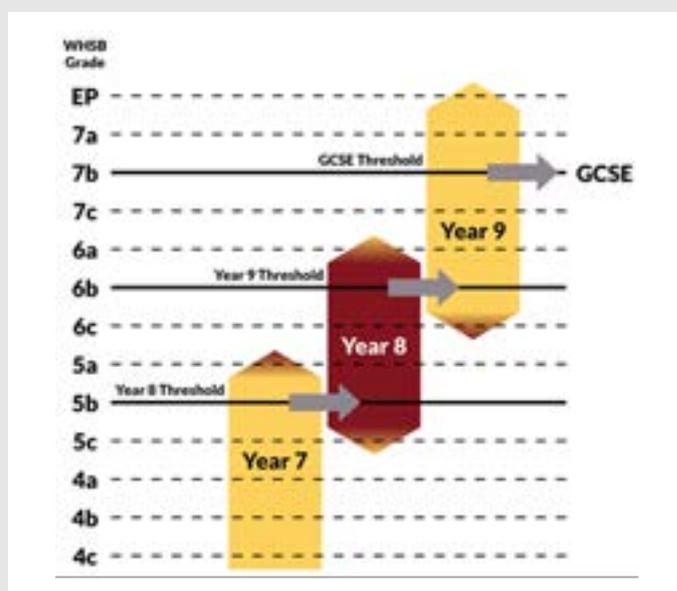
These reports constitute essential feedback on pupil progress, being full written reports and including detailed feedback from all the pupil's teachers. This provides parents with a detailed insight into their son's progress.

Parents will receive an Attainment Grade, in the form of a letter and number from each of their son's teachers, using the School's internal grading system.

It is expected that pupils will achieve a grade 6b in each subject; Attainment Grades different from this will indicate whether pupils are performing above or below the expected level. The report also contains pupils' Lower School Target Grade. As noted above, the average Target Grade is 7b, to be attained in Phase 3 at the end of Year 9. If a pupil has a Target Grade of, for example, 7a, the School would anticipate that a Year 8 pupil's current attainment would therefore be 6a. If their Target Grade is, for example, 7c, then a current attainment score of 6c means that they are on course to achieve their Lower School target grade. As with reports for other Year Groups, this helps pupils, together with their parents and teachers, to appraise their current level of understanding, and identify areas of strength, and areas for development.

The report too contains Attitudinal Indicators; again, these are awarded on a scale of 1 (Exceptional) to 4 (Unacceptable). The expected Indicator grade is a 2 (Good). Grades of 3 or 4 require a change in attitude by the pupil, and a Grade of 1 is awarded when a pupil has exceeded the already high expectations of this School. Parents should consider the Indicators received against the explanatory table on the back of the report.

Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School



THE UNIFORM SHOP

Opening Times during the Summer Holiday Break

During the summer holiday break, the School Shop will be open between Wednesday 28 and Friday 30 August from 10.00am to 3.30pm. This will allow for pupils' fittings and the purchase of School uniform for pupils in Years 8 to the Upper Sixth.

Sixth Form ties will be available for purchase from the School Shop on the days that GCSE and A level Examination results are collected (15 and 22 August).

Details of uniform fitting days for incoming Year 7 pupils can be found on the Year 7 Entrants section of the School website: <https://www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/lower-and-middle-school/year-7-entrants>.

Purchasing School Uniform and Merchandise

Westcliff High School for Boys' uniform is sold exclusively through the School Shop. Parental feedback indicates that parents find this more convenient, and we believe that by selling uniform in-house, we are able to offer a more personal service, together with competitive prices.

The School Shop, located in the East Basement, will normally open during term time on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10.30am to 1.30pm, as well as on specified dates/times at the end of the School's summer break, and prior to the start of the new academic year. During the Shop opening times, items of uniform can be tried on for size, and purchases can be made. Cash, cheque, and debit/credit card payments are accepted.

Full details of dates and opening times are available on the School website. For items of uniform required in a size that is not normally stocked by the Shop, please email uniform@whsb.essex.sch.uk.

Items of School uniform and merchandise can also be purchased online using the link provided in the Uniform section of the School website. For online purchases, parents will be advised by email when their order is ready for collection from the Shop.

Details of the WHSB School Uniform Policy can be accessed via the School website: www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/uniform.

Second-hand Uniform

We are pleased to advise parents that the School Shop has increased its provision of second-hand uniform. Please contact uniform@whsb.essex.sch.uk for further details if this should be of interest.

If you have any clean, unwanted items of uniform which you wish to donate to the School in order to assist other pupils, please bring it to the School's Reception. Thank you for your support.

Westcliff High School For Boys stocks UK's first fully recyclable blazer

Over the past decade the school-wear industry has made significant progress in sustainability, recognising the importance of reducing its environmental impact and promoting ethical practices. From incorporating more sustainable materials such as recycled polyester to implementing takeback schemes and pre-loved initiatives, we are very proud to be a part of this new circularity initiative that offers a genuine solution to tackling textile waste.

PE Kit Requirement

Following consultation in July 2022 with pupils and parents, and further discussion in the School Council, the School's Physical Education kit requirement will be amended from September 2024. From Summer 2024, only the new kit will be available to purchase from the School Shop.

The changes have been carefully managed to limit cost increases, both for parents and for the School, while not sacrificing quality. On 26 February, a letter was sent from the Headmaster to parents of pupils in Years 7 to 10 outlining these changes.

Ms I Gimbutiene, School Shop Manager



SPORTS IN THE SUMMER TERM

As we approach the Summer Term, we look forward to watching the Summer Sports of Athletics, Cricket and Tennis return to the crease at Westcliff High School for Boys. Our Athletics programme begins with the Chelmsford Open on 30 April. In particular, this competition will focus on entries from pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9. We also eagerly await the English Schools National Athletics Track and Field Cup, which starts with its first round in Thurrock on 9 May. We shall also be competing in the Borough Athletics Championship, which acts as our local competition and allows more pupils an opportunity

to participate. Heats for this competition will take place at Garons on 10 June, and the Finals Day will be held on Friday 14 June.

We are all hoping to enjoy some sunshine this term, and none more so than our cricketers, for whom this will mean a cricket season full of matches. We were lucky in this regard last year, and it was wonderful to watch our young players enjoying the challenge of competitive games – let us hope for a repeat this summer. Our players will look forward to competing in both local and county competitions, all of which are underway following the Easter break.

The dates for the cricket and tennis will be added to *Teamup* throughout this term, and we would encourage both players and spectators to check these posts for further details.

The **School Sports Day** will take place on 9 July. This promises to be another excellent day of Athletics, and we look forward to welcoming parents and pupils alike. The School would like to thank the Parents' Association, and colleagues from across the School, for all their help and support on this important School occasion.

For all upcoming sporting fixtures, please click on the main drop down menu on the homepage of the School's website, and scroll down to find the *Teamup* link.

Mr M Fletcher, Director of Sport



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Parents' Association works hard and with pride to support the School, and Summer will be no exception. In the coming term, we look forward to supporting School events at which we can both fundraise and engage with members of our School Community. Look out for us on Sports Day when we will be sponsoring the medals, as well as serving refreshments to pupils. At the end-of-term Summer Big Band and BBQ, we will be running a raffle and bar to raise money for the School. Thank you for your support!

EasyFundraising



Easyfundraising is a shopping directory listing some of the UK's favourite online stores including Amazon, John Lewis, Marks & Spencer and over 2,000 others. Just use the links on the Easyfundraising site whenever you shop online and, at no extra cost to you, the PA will receive a free donation of up to 15% from every purchase you make. It really is that simple, and it is completely FREE to register. You will not pay a penny more for your shopping when you use the Easyfundraising site. In fact, you can even SAVE MONEY as many retailers offer discounts, special offers and even 'e-vouchers' exclusive to Easyfundraising. If you shop online anyway, then why not raise valuable extra funds for us by using this fantastic scheme. All you need to do is visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk and, when you register, select Westcliff High School for Boys as the organisation you wish to support. <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/westcliffhighschoolforboys/>.

The more members of our School Community who choose to support us in this way, the more money we can raise for the School. Our thanks in anticipation.

Amazon Wishlist



From September 2024, in consultation with a number of subject departments and extra-curricular clubs and groups within WHSB, the Parents' Association will be trialling a new means of fundraising for the School with an Amazon Wish List. The Amazon Wish List will consist of low-cost items that have been carefully selected by staff including books, Physical Education equipment, art materials and club resources, enabling parents, carers and other members of our School Community to make voluntary contributions towards school supplies should they wish to do so.

It is anticipated that items will cost from as little as £1.25 and will continue to be added throughout the School year as needed. Purchases can be dropped into the School Reception or delivered directly by Amazon to WHSB, with donations being made public or remaining anonymous, whichever is preferable. Further information, including how items can be purchased, will be communicated in the next edition of *The Westcliff Diary* when the Wish List goes live.

The Parents' Association would like to thank all those who continue to support our operations in these and all other ways.

Mrs J Clarke, Chair of The Parents' Association



Music from Les Misérables performed in Whole School Assembly, March 2024

OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

My article in the Spring edition of *The Westcliff Diary* was written prior to the news of the outcome of the School's OFSTED inspection being publicised. The Outstanding grade is a huge credit to all at the School including the Headmaster, Governing Board, staff, pupils and parents. I know that all Old Westcliffians will wish to join your Steering Group in offering our congratulations.

I am pleased to advise that the OWA annual dinner will be held at School on Friday 13 September 2024. Further details will be announced in due course, but please make a note in your diaries.

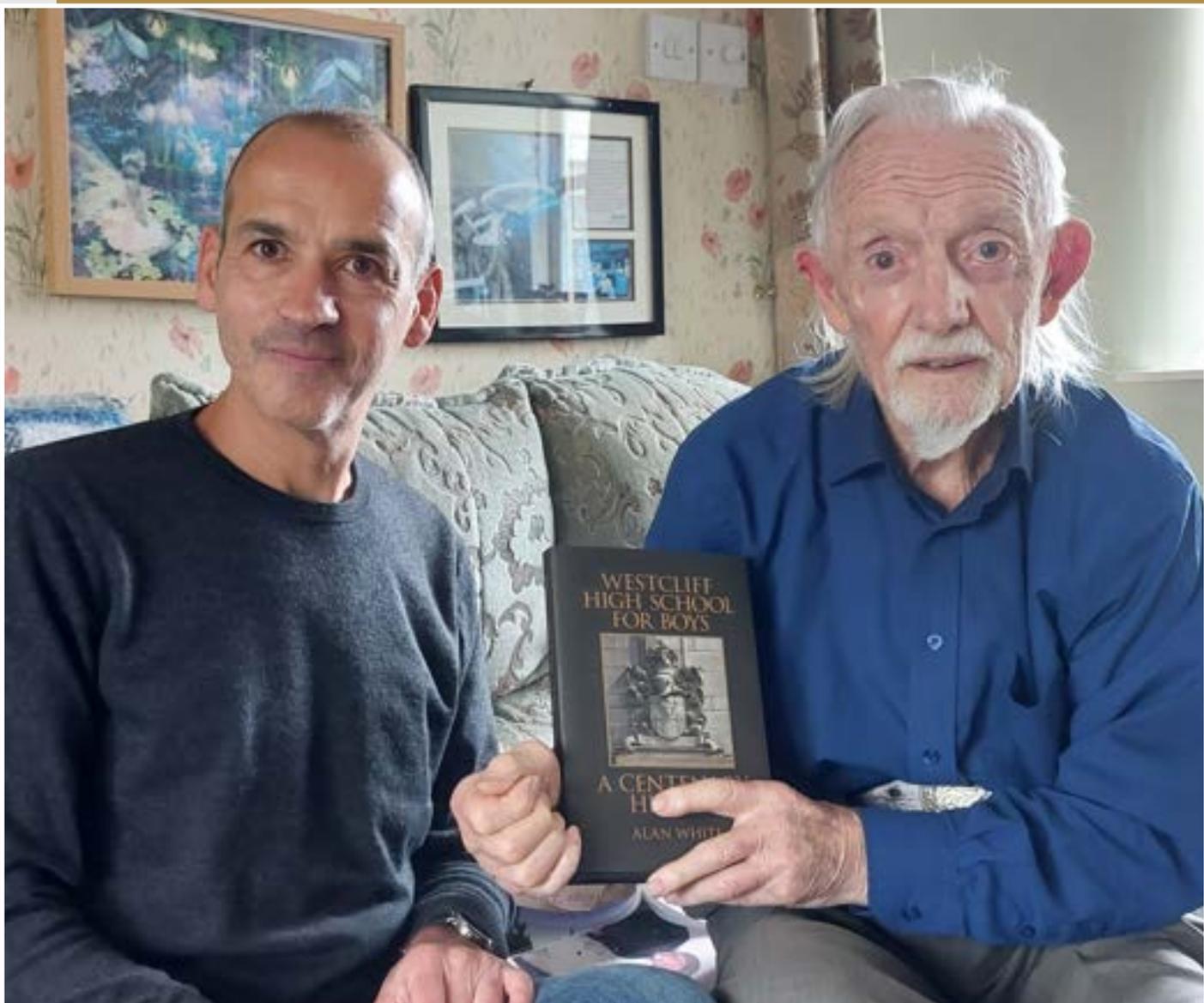
One of the clear themes from our recent survey of Old Westcliffians is a wish to give something back to the School. Many Old Westcliffians already give in many ways, such as through financial assistance, or giving their time to speak at careers events. Another way to assist the School is by, for example, finding in the attic the long disused violin or trumpet and donating that to the Music Department to benefit disadvantaged pupils, or the no longer used cricket

bat which could find a home in the Physical Education Department.

Plans for the OWA Centenary in 2026 are ongoing and Old Westcliffians will be kept informed.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting Robin 'Cody' Sanderson and his wife Veronica in the beautiful rural setting of their home in North Devon. Robin is one of the older Old Westcliffians, having joined the School aged 11 in 1942, initially being sent to Belper in Derbyshire, where the School had been evacuated in June 1940, sharing the Herbert Strutt School. Robin recalls, the Headmaster Eric Ayres (from 1942-47) and his successor Henry Cloke, of whom many Old Westcliffians speak highly, and anecdotes abound. Robin would be keen to hear from any alumni who were at School at around the same time. Please contact me on the email address below and I will be pleased to put you in touch.

Mr J Gershinson, Secretary to the Old Westcliffian Association
secretary@oldwestcliffianassociation.org





WHSB's Outstanding OFSTED Rating is published in January 2024



Chinese Lunar New Year celebrated in the School Library



FSgt Rory, Lower Sixth, appointed Lord Lieutenant's Cadet for 2024-2025



International Women's Day Assembly



History and Mathematics Trip, Bletchley Park



History Trip to Normandy

Life in the Sixth Form



Lower Sixth Design and Technology Team, Industrial Cadets Gold Award workshop at Canterbury Christ Church University



Celebrating success in Mathematical Challenge





Pi Day BakeOff



Royal Navy Cadets at the Imperial War Museum London



Ryley, Upper Sixth, selected for England Rugby London & South East U18 Squad



Skating in Italy





Spring Sinfonia Concert



Teacher Sumo Wrestling for Charity



French Language Trip



Warhammer Age of Sigmar Mini Tournament, Nottingham



Women in Science Assembly



Year 8 Team wins Southend Borough Basketball Final



Year 9 Options





Year 7 Silly Ties for Charity



Year 9 Basketball Team wins Southend Borough Basketball U14 Final



Congratulations to our Year 9 Rugby Team



Presentation to our Year 10 Basketball Winners during Assembly



Year 10 Maths Feast

PHOTOGRAPHY DAY





PHOTOGRAPHY DAY





SPANISH TRIP 2024



The Alcazaba





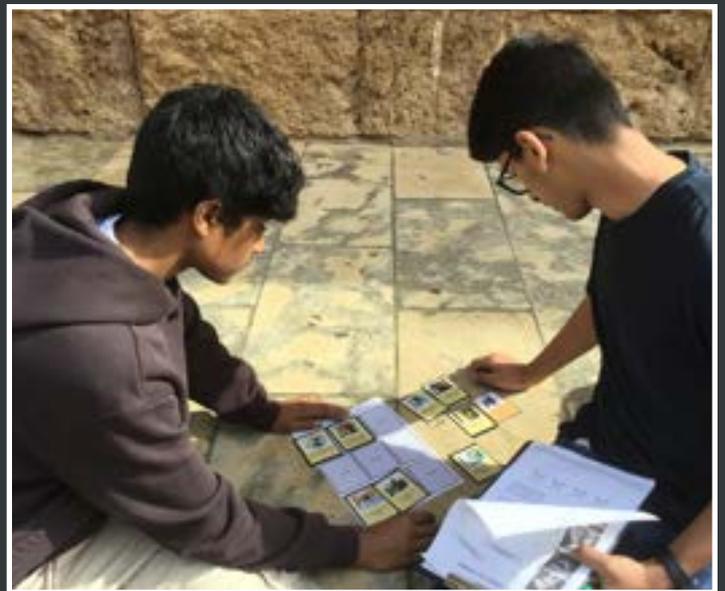
Almeria City Hall



Granada Albaicin



Relaxing at Mini Hollywood



Treasure hunt in Cordoba



Almeria seafront at sunset

LES MISÉRABLES

Five Star Review and National School Theatre Award Nomination

“This production is more than worthy of anything students at a musical theatre school might produce. Shivers ran not just down my spine but through my body for almost the whole of Act One along with tear-jerking moments that followed through into Act Two.”

5 Star Review, Broadway Baby

Full Review:

www.broadwaybaby.com/shows/les-miserables-schooledition/807654

“From the outset, it was evident that this production of Les Misérables was driven by a strong sense of collaborative energy, bolstered by an excellent supporting ensemble. Emotion and moments of poignancy permeated the performance, drawing the audience into the heart of 19th-century France and the struggles of its diverse cast of characters.

“Les Misérables proved to be an ambitious and challenging show executed brilliantly by a dedicated team of individuals. From the captivating performances to the meticulous attention to detail in blocking and costume, every aspect of the production contributed to a memorable theatrical experience. As the curtain fell, it was clear that this rendition of Les Misérables had left an indelible mark on its audience, serving as a testament to the enduring power of Hugo’s timeless tale.

“Musically, the production soared to exceptional heights, with performances of outstanding standard.”

National School Theatre Awards

Full Review:

www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/key-information/news/les-misrables-review

“Any naming of names, as we always note, leaves out others of equal note. When Fantine sings there is just such a still-centre of song to the room; when Young Cosette looks out there was that ‘mountain’ that Robert Walser always said a child brought to the stage with their demanding presence; and when you realise this is the twentieth school production appearance from Jacob Guylar (as Jean Valjean), you wonder how they have turned up to your own small talk that afternoon for the Sixth Form, sat in the front row and committed themselves to the ideas and others in the room. What a performance this was, a limpid voice covering the full range of this impossible rôle, the strength of a wrestler able to convince you the cart they lift from the stricken body is indeed deadly, and a lingering bow at the end which turns towards the exit from the stage as though to bid farewell to a place that he has made his own over his time at this remarkable school.

“It was my first return to this school hall since I left the stage as Azdak, the drunken judge, at the end of our production of The Caucasian Chalk Circle in 1974. In his stage direction Bertolt Brecht had asked whoever played this part (with as many words as Jean Valjean but mercifully fewer songs) “to disappear from the stage without notice”. Being an extrovert, trying to save my place at the school after a run of poor examination results, I had found this almost impossible to achieve. I paused at the side of the stage, on the last night, knowing that I would not be back, on this stage, nor indeed at this school. I really hadn’t meant to leave it half a century to return, but absence (and the hospitality of the Headmaster and the Community Development Assistant Jemima Clarke) have made my heart grow fonder. For the school yes, and Les Misérables of course, that thanks to this fine production, I have learnt to love again. Merci! Bravo!”

Professor Alan Read (Old Westcliffian), writer and Professor of Theatre, King’s College London

Full Review:

www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/key-information/news/les-misrables-review



REHEARSING AND BUILDING THE SET











AFTER THE SHOW





CALENDAR FOR SUMMER TERM 2024

Monday 15 April	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY	Wednesday 19 June	Junior Drama Production Performance to Primary Schools Careers Visit to Southend Hospital
Tuesday 16 April	SUMMER TERM BEGINS	19 - 21 June	Junior Drama Production, Westcliff Theatre, 7.30pm
Wednesday 17 April	Physical Education Moderator visit	Friday 21 June	Year 9 - Lower Sixth Meducators Workshop
Thursday 18 April	Royal Navy Field Trip to Bradwell departs GCSE German speaking examinations begin	Tuesday 25 June	OPEN EVENING 5.30pm - 9.30pm School finishes at 12.50pm
Monday 22 April	GCSE Spanish speaking examinations begin Visiting GCE French Examiner in School Year 8 HPV Immunisations Year 10 Parents Evening, 4.00pm - 6.00pm	Thursday 27 June	CCF Army Summer Camp, Beckingham departs UKRoc National Finals (follow-on from Regional Finals) Sixth Form Induction Day Summer Sinfonia Concert, 7.30pm - 9.00pm
Thursday 25 April	Lower Sixth Oxford Tour Junior Mathematics Challenge Summer Chamber Recital, 7.30pm - 9.00pm	Friday 28 June	Lower Sixth Phase 3 Report Issued (Full Written)
Friday 26 April	GCSE Art Examinations begin CCF Year 9 Army and RAF Field Trip to Mereworth Woods departs	Tuesday 2 July	Immunisation Catch-up Session
Saturday 27 April	WCGC Go for Grammar! Lively Laboratories Day	Wednesday 3 July	Year 10 Geography Southend Fieldwork Warhammer Tournament, Nottingham Higher Education Evening, 7.30pm - 9.00pm
Tuesday 30 April	GCSE French speaking examinations begin	Thursday 4 July	Year 10 Take Maths Further Event, University of Essex Warhammer Tournament, Nottingham New Year 7 Parents Meeting, 7.30pm - 9.00pm
Thursday 2 May	UKRoc Regional Finals GCE Art Examinations begin	Friday 5 July	Enrichment Day New Year 7 Induction Day DofE Bronze Practice Expedition
Friday 3 May	Charity Events Day GCE German Examiner in School	Saturday 6 July	Lower Sixth Geology Trip to Isle of Arran departs
Monday 6 May	BANK HOLIDAY	Monday 8 July	Year 10 Phase 3 Report Issued (Full Written) Year 9 Phase 3 Report Issued (Data Only)
Tuesday 7 May	Lower Sixth Internal Examinations begin	Tuesday 9 July	Lower Sixth Maths Problem Solving Conference Sports Day
Wednesday 8 May	GCE Spanish Speaking Examinations	Wednesday 10 July	Art and Design Exhibition, 4.00pm - 7.00pm
Thursday 9 May	DofE Silver Practice Expedition departs Years 7 and 8 Careers Event	Thursday 11 July	House Drama Evening, 7.30pm - 9.00pm
Thursday 16 May	Music trip to London Philharmonia	Friday 12 July	Year 7 Phase 3 Report Issued (Data Only) Year 8 Phase 3 Report Issued (Full Written) Big Band and BBQ, 7.00pm - 10.00pm
Monday 20 May	Lower Sixth Work Experience Placement Week begins	Monday 15 July	Phoenix Cup Assembly
Thursday 23 May	Year 10 Chemistry Discovery Day CCF RAF Field Day	Tuesday 16 July	Royal Navy Day Trip to Portsmouth Colours Assembly
Friday 24 May	Lost Property Reclaim	Wednesday 17 July	CCF Pass Off Parade, 5.00pm / Dinner, 7.00pm
27 - 31 May	SUMMER HALF TERM	Thursday 18 July	Lost Property Reclaim
Monday 3 June	Years 7-10 Internal Examinations begin	Friday 19 July	SUMMER TERM ENDS
Friday 7 June	Lower Sixth Internal Examination Report Issued	Thursday 15 August	A Level Results Day
Saturday 8 June	CCF to Support ESSA Athletics	Thursday 22 August	GCSE Results Day
Monday 10 June	Lower Sixth Geography Southend Fieldwork begins	Tuesday 3 September	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
Tuesday 11 June	Sixth Form Music Trip to Hamilton, London	Wednesday 4 September	AUTUMN TERM BEGINS
Wednesday 12 June	DofE Silver Assessment Expedition departs		
Saturday 15 June	History Days Out to Colchester and Sutton Hoo		
Monday 17 June	Year 10 Geography Trip to Walton-on-the Naze departs		

Tickets for all Westcliff Diary events can be purchased via TicketSource at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/westcliff-on-sea/westcliff-high-school-for-boys/>



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