



Westcliff High School
for Boys

The Westcliff Diary

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ISSUE 88 / AUTUMN 2019



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FROM THE DESK OF THE HEADMASTER

WELCOME BACK FROM THE HEADMASTER

I am delighted to welcome back all pupils and staff from the summer vacation.

In particular, I would like to welcome back and congratulate all those pupils who participated in the Music Department's tour to New York at the start of the summer holiday. The group members were drawn from across the School (from Year 8 to the Upper Sixth) and these young musicians performed at a range of iconic venues, including the flight deck of USS Intrepid. I understand that their performances were warmly received by the American audiences. I wish to record my thanks to my colleagues Mr Derrick, Ms Dolan and Mrs Mumford who supported this trip, and to Mr McGee who was responsible for its conception and organisation.

As is evident from the pages of this, and previous editions of the Westcliff Diary, the School's extra-curricular programme of activities continues to thrive. Music remains a great strength of the School under the leadership of Mr Derrick, Director of Music. The recent summer Sinfonia Concert was filled to capacity to hear a wonderful programme of music which included an outstanding performance of Weber's *Clarinet Concerto No 2* by Alex Usher. During the last academic year, the levels of participation in drama, and its quantity and quality, continued to rise under the leadership of Mr Jeffreys, Director of Drama. The School's drama season concluded with the student-led House Drama Festival which was a fitting end to a season in which the School's company performed three superb

productions (*Hamlet*, *Guys and Dolls* and *Lord of the Flies*). This year's music and drama seasons also promise outstanding performances and I encourage pupils and parents to book tickets for these events.

The academic year 2018/19 was our most successful season of sport in many years. The skill, commitment and enthusiasm which Mr Morrish, Director of Sport, and his colleagues bring to their positions continues to inspire our pupils to participate and enjoy their sport. As is often the case in life, success breeds success and our pupils have enjoyed tremendous success in their sports. The School's Year 8 pupils had a particularly notable season, being crowned Double County Champions in Rugby (winning the Essex Schools and Essex Schools' Sevens Competitions), Borough Champions in Football and County Champions in Basketball. The Year 7 Rugby team also showed great promise, coming runners up in the County Championship. Not to be outdone by their peers, the Year 9 Rugby team won the U14 Essex Plate. The School's U18 Basketball players were also crowned County Champions. A highlight of the season was the School's Junior Athletics team being crowned English National Champions (with a record-breaking points score) with their Intermediate counterparts coming fourth



in the same competition.

Of course music, drama and sport are only part of the extra-curricular programme available to pupils at the School. Activities such as the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) and the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme continue to flourish. The CCF's passing out parade in June was an outstanding event and both the Army and Navy Sections enjoyed highly successful summer camps prior to the end of last term. Equally, it was a pleasure to attend the Civic Centre during the summer term to congratulate the significant number of our pupils who achieved the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award. My sincere thanks to Mr Bleakley, Mr Tresidder and their colleagues who support these superb activities.

We are fortunate that so many colleagues and senior students at the School are prepared to offer their time to support our large extra-curricular programme. I would like to take this opportunity to remind all pupils at the School to take advantage of the programme and to engage with it. Participation in activities enables personal development and the growth of self-confidence. In my experience, the development of these attributes goes hand in hand with academic progress and success.

I draw to the School community's attention that the Department for Education has updated its Safeguarding guidance for Schools (Keeping Children Safe in Education). As usual, the School will be training its staff at the start of the year in relation to the updated guidance so that we can continue to provide an environment in which our pupils feel happy and safe.

The School has a splendid pastoral system with each division of the School (Lower, Middle and Sixth Form) being supported by its own pastoral office. The recent survey feedback we have received from pupils, parents and staff regarding our pastoral and safeguarding provision was highly positive. As the



School has expanded, and as we wish to continue to enable pupils to realize their full potential, we have decided to further develop the pastoral system by increasing capacity. Mr Farrell, Director of Middle School, and Mr Bleakley, Director of Lower School, have taken on additional responsibilities and both of the Middle School and Lower School pastoral teams have been expanded with Miss Bailey joining the Lower School as the Progress Leader for Year 8 and Mr Baggs joining the Middle School as the Progress Leader for Year 10. There are also plans to expand the Sixth Form pastoral team and we expect these developments to be implemented during this academic year.

The School values careers education and guidance for its pupils and we are fortunate to have a much improved programme thanks to work by our Careers Adviser, Mrs Weller. As part of our programme, the School offers work experience placements to its pupils in Year 11 following their GCSE Examinations. We also offer placements for Sixth Form students during their holidays. We do not encourage students to arrange placements during term time as the inevitable reduction in their School attendance would have a negative impact on their academic progress. Therefore, Sixth Form students seeking work experience placements - for example, those seeking medical work experience - are advised to obtain a placement during the School holidays. I would also encourage students and their parents to attend some or all of the programme of careers seminars involving local and national speakers and covering a board range of sectors. Further information on these events planned for the coming year are included within this edition of the Diary.

The success of the School's work experience programme relies on the

generosity of Old Westcliffians, parents, organizations and friends, offering placements to our students and, if you are in a position to offer a placement, then please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Weller regarding potential opportunities. As was the case during the last academic year, we shall be further developing our programme and taking advantage of support provided by the Careers and Enterprise Councils established by the Government.

For a number of years, the School has been working on increasing our local intake of Year 7 pupils, and we have enjoyed success in this area with the number of local pupils joining us rising year on year. This is due in no small part to the work of our Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children and its highly popular *Go for Grammar!* programme. I am delighted to share with the School community that we have filled all of the places allocated for local children in Year 7. In response to the growing demand locally, we have also increased the proportion of places allocated to local children to 80%.

The School is fortunate to enjoy tremendous support from its local community. I would particularly like to draw to your attention the superb support we continue to receive from the Parents' Association. The quality of so many of our School events is enhanced by the provision of outstanding hospitality from the Parents' Association. In addition to supporting our events, the Parents' Association has raised many thousands of pounds to provide additional resources and support activities within the School. In particular, I would like to thank them for supporting the School's initiative to provide reusable water bottles for our pupils, in our attempt to reduce the amount of plastic waste. Thanks to the support of the Parents' Association, these water bottles will be available to be purchased at a significantly subsidised



rate of £1.00. The water bottles may be purchased by pupils within the Main School and from the Sixth Form Café and further details will be provided to pupils early in this new term. The School is endeavouring to reduce the amount of single use plastic used within its catering provision. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all parents who contribute to the School's Pupil Fund. The generosity of these parents enables the School to continue to offer a broad curricular and extra-curricular experience to our pupils.

I would like to remind parents that we welcome contact with the School, although this must be by letter or telephone call. We do not ordinarily reply to emails as the senders' identity can be difficult to verify. We are most grateful for your support in relation to this matter, and I also encourage you to visit the School's website and Social Media pages on a regular basis to keep in touch with the latest developments at the School.

I wish you all an enjoyable and successful academic year ahead.

PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS 2019

This year, WHSB has enjoyed superb A Level results, with 14% of our entries being graded A* and 45% of all entries



being graded A*/A. Nineteen students gained two or more A* grades and twelve students achieved at least three A* grades, with two students achieving four A* grades. The majority of students have achieved or exceeded their University offers, including eight students who have secured places at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge.

We enjoyed record-breaking GCSE results with 56% of entries graded 8/9 (A*) and 76% of entries graded 9-7 (A*-A). We have many pupils who have performed at an exceptionally high level. 71% of pupils achieved 8 or more A*-A/9-7 grades, and 25% of pupils achieved 12A*-A/9-7 grades.



A remarkable 44% of pupils achieved 8 or more 9-8/A* grades.

We congratulate all our students and give them our best wishes for the future.

SCHOOL NEWS

WHSB CENTENARY 1920-2020

The School's Centenary year commences on 1 January 2019 and the School community is gearing up for a wonderful programme to celebrate our first 100 years. At the time of writing, less than 80 tickets remain for the Official Launch of the Centenary year at the Cliffs Pavilion taking place on Saturday 1 February 2020. We are conscious that parents and family members of pupils performing at the Launch event may wish to attend and we shall be offering these parents first refusal on the remaining tickets. The tickets can be purchased via TicketSource at <https://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/> and I would encourage those who still wish to attend to make your booking as early as possible.



ANNUAL SPEECH DAY

Wednesday 6 November 2019, 7.45pm

The School's Annual Speech Day will take place on Wednesday 6 November in the School Hall. This year we are delighted to welcome Professor Dame Carol Black

Professor Dame Carol Black is currently Chair of the British Library, the Centre for Ageing Better, and Think Ahead, the Government's fast-stream training programme for Mental Health Social Workers. She chairs NHS Improvement's Advisory Board on Employee Health and Wellbeing, and is Adviser to NHSI and PHE on Health and Work. She is also a member of RAND Europe's Council of Advisers, and of the Board of UKActive.

She recently completed her seven-year term as Principal of Newnham College Cambridge, where she was a Deputy Vice-Chancellor. She still sits on the University's Advisory Board for the Centre of Science and Public Policy, and the Strategy Board on Student Mental Health and Wellbeing. She is a Patron of the Women's Leadership Centre in the Judge Business School.

The entertainment for the Official Launch will include drama and music provided by current and past students of the School. The Big Band and friends (The Centenary Band) will be performing a programme of favourites and a fanfare and rousing rendition of 'Jerusalem' should be anticipated! Our drama will make use of the School's historical record including excerpts from 1920s editions of the School magazine. We are delighted to be able to provide our pupils (and former students) with the rare opportunity to perform in a large-scale, professional venue. This promises to be a wonderful occasion to celebrate the founding of a remarkable School and the many people who have been part of its one hundred years of history. The School shall publish a detailed programme of Centenary events later this term.

Running alongside the programme of events for the Centenary year, all subject departments shall be incorporating a centenary element to their usual curriculum. In some instances, this will focus on the School, for example the Lower School History curriculum, whilst in other subjects it will focus on understanding the development of the subject across the last 100 years. Details of these incorporations into the curriculum will be shared with pupils later

Dame Carol has completed three independent reviews for the UK Government: of the health of the working-age population in 2008 as National Director for Health and Work; of sickness absence in Britain in 2011 as co-chair; and of employment outcomes of addiction to drugs or alcohol, or obesity, in 2016. In February 2019 the Home Secretary announced that Dame Carol would lead an independent review on illicit drugs, demand, supply and treatment.

Professor Black is a past-President of the Royal College of Physicians, of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, and of the British Lung Foundation, and past-Chair of the Nuffield Trust for health policy. The Centre she established at the Royal Free Hospital in London is internationally-renowned for research and treatment of connective tissue diseases such as scleroderma. She has recently been a Trustee of the National Portrait Gallery.

Dame Carol originally attended a Grammar School and reflects that her earliest achievement was to defy limited family expectations, those being working in a shoe factory or shop. She believed more was possible. She became Head Girl

in the term and included on the School's website.

As part of our Centenary celebrations, the School has produced a WHSB Centenary tie. The design makes use of the School colours and includes an emblem marking the Centenary. The standard tie will retail for £10, and it will be possible to buy a silk version of the tie for £20. Pupils may wear this tie at School during the Centenary year in place of their uniform tie if they wish to do so. The ties will also be available to Old Westcliffians, who may also wish to purchase the tie as a memento of their School, and to family and friends who may wish to purchase them as gifts for Old Westcliffians. The tie will be available for purchase throughout the Centenary year only, as will Centenary pens and mugs. Full details regarding the sale of these items will be published later this term.

Once again, I would like to thank the Principal Sponsor for our Centenary Year, Paul Robinson Solicitors LLP, for enabling us to develop a superb range of events for the Centenary. We are also grateful to Rickard Luckin Accountants and Cadman, the building firm which completed the fantastic internal refurbishment of the Science Building, for their generous support. We have also received donations

at school and President of the Student Union at Bristol. Dame Carol comments "It matters to me terribly that I try and that I take risks. I would rather say, 'I had a go and it did not work', than look in the mirror and realise I did not put myself in the race".

Speech Day provides the School with an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of pupils throughout the School during the past academic year. **The evening is a compulsory attendance for all pupils in Years 11 to 13.** It is anticipated that we shall have over 900 pupils, staff and guests in attendance.



from private individuals in support of the Centenary year and I would like to thank them for their generous contributions. In particular, I offer my thanks to Old Westcliffians, Mr Ian Frances, Mr Tony Axe and Mr Jon Gershinson who have made very generous donations. All surplus funds raised during the Centenary year will go towards improving our sporting and recreational facilities. We appreciate that we live in challenging economic times, however if members of our community or organisations wish to discuss making a donation towards the Centenary fund then please do not hesitate to contact myself through my Personal Assistant, Mrs Robinson, or Mr Partridge, our Director of Resources and Support Services (partridge@whsb.essex.sch.uk).

STAFFING FOR THE AUTUMN TERM

I would like to take this opportunity to record my thanks those staff members who left us in August for their service to the School.

At the end of last term, we said farewell to Mr Nowotarski and Mr Mumford, both Old Westcliffians, who have provided tremendous service in their roles as temporary Teaching Assistants. Mr Ayling and Ms Sanchez have both been with us for just one academic year to teach Chemistry and Spanish respectively. Each colleague has made valuable contributions and we thank them for their work. Both colleagues have enjoyed their time in teaching and plan to take postgraduate qualifications in teaching. We wish them every success with their studies.

We also said farewell to Mr White who has contributed significantly to the outstanding success enjoyed by the Physical Education Department in the last two years. He now moves forward to a promoted position in his new School.

Dr Smith joined the staff in 2017, having just completed a PhD in Mathematics. He is a highly qualified mathematician and we thank him for his work to promote scholarly interest in the subject. Miss Tyson also joined us just two years ago. She is a highly capable mathematician and chemist who has been able to make a contribution to teaching in both of those subjects. Miss Tyson moves on to new responsibilities at her new School and we thank her for her contribution and wish her well.

Mrs Mason joined us in 2015 and quickly demonstrated a fine knowledge and

understanding of her subject (Economics). We thank her for encouraging students to develop their interest in the subject and for her contribution to some of the very best public examination results enjoyed by WHSB students and we wish her well in her new role. Miss Isaac has also been with the School since 2015. She is a highly capable teacher and has been a significant contributor to the School's extra-curricular life. Miss Isaac now moves forward to take up a promoted position.

Mr Williamson will be particularly well known to pupils in the Sixth Form for leading Psychology, although he has also overseen the pastoral care of younger pupils and taught English in the Middle School. He has given tremendous service to the School since he joined us in September 2011. Mr Williamson has decided to return to academia and we wish him well with his further studies.

Miss Dolan has been an outstanding servant of WHSB since she joined us in January 2011. She has a strong academic background and she used her outstanding subject knowledge to both enthuse and inspire her pupils. As Second in Geography she has overseen the growth in pupil numbers taking the subject at GCSE Level, in particular. Miss Dolan has also given outstanding service as a member of the Sixth Form Pastoral team as the Auxiliary Progress Leader. Miss Dolan has always gone the extra mile in terms of providing support and encouragement for her pupils.

We are pleased to welcome a number of staff to the School. Mr Garstin and Mrs

Hung join the Science Department and we are also delighted to welcome back Mr Wightman to the Science Department. Mr Norman (an Old Westcliffian) joins the Geography Department, Mr Nutman joins the Mathematics Department, Mr Greaves joins the Physical Education Department and Dr Johnson joins the Computer Science Department. We are delighted to welcome Ms McKeown who takes over the leadership of the Modern Languages Department and Miss Wajensberg who will lead the Psychology Department. Both colleagues have substantial experience of teaching in a selective school environment.

ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Monday 16 December 2019, 7.30pm

The School's Carol Service is always one of the highlights of the year and is a long and established part of WHSB tradition. For many in our community, the School's Carol Service marks the beginning of the Christmas period. We warmly invite you to join us for our traditional service of Lessons and Carols which will feature some of the Christmas season's well-known Carols. It will be an opportunity for pupils, parents, staff and friends of the School to join as a community and to sing together in what promises to be a warm and joyful evening. Following the Service, those in attendance are invited to join us for mince pies and coffee. Pupils, parents and friends are invited to reserve seats in advance using TicketSource.

Headmaster

ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Monday 11 November 2019, 8.45am

The Annual Service of Remembrance for the whole School will take place on Monday 11 November at 8.45am. The Service will run until approximately 9.40am and will include hymns, readings, prayers and music to remember the fallen. The Head Boy, Ben Johanson, will lay a wreath in memory of those from the School who gave their lives in both World Wars and in other conflicts. The School's Combined Cadet Force (CCF) will also participate in the arrangements for the Service. Parents are warmly invited to join us for the occasion, and for coffee in the Conference Room after the Service. Seating should be reserved in advance using TicketSource.



SCHOOL NEWS

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

As we start the new academic year, I wish to remind parents and pupils of the importance of the continuity of education. The majority of pupils maintain splendid attendance records and both they, their parents and the School take appreciable pride in their commitment. The School monitors attendance closely and the data shows a strong correlation between absence and lower levels of progress. The pace of lessons is fast and an absence of a day or more can place pupils in difficulty with catching up on missed work as well as endeavouring to keep up in lessons. We understand that there will always be an exceptional case to the general rule, however I wish to advise parents that requests for leave of absence for holidays during term time will not be granted. Given its impact on educational performance, maintaining outstanding

pupil attendance remains a top priority for the School. We are grateful for the continuing support of so many parents regarding the matter of attendance.

SAFEGUARDING

The start of an academic year seems an appropriate time to remind pupils and parents of the importance of safe behaviour, not just at School but also at home and when travelling to and from School. I would also draw attention to my letter to parents dated 10 June 2019 (copies also available from the School Office) which covered a range of important Safeguarding matters. I am sure parents will share the School's concern regarding the number of recent drugs related deaths of young people within our local and wider community. It is important that the pupils understand the serious danger which drugs pose and seek support from parents and the School if they find themselves involved with drugs. Equally,

while the School will always be mindful of individual circumstances, both pupils and parents must understand that those who engage in the misuse of drugs while registered as pupils of the School and, in particular those who do so in School or through their links with School, will probably be deemed to have behaved in a manner incompatible with their future membership of the School.

USE OF THE INTERNET AND MENTAL HEALTH

The School has regularly shared with pupils and parents the message that adolescents are particularly susceptible to Internet addiction. This often manifests itself as excessive time spent playing internet games and/or use of Social Media. In some instances we have found pupils spending up to an average of four to five hours per day online (in excess of a day a week). Unfortunately, this behaviour is becoming normalised and

often pupils and parents are not aware of the excessive use of and reliance on Social Media and 'gaming' until it has become an entrenched habit or addiction. The excessive use and reliance on Social Media is increasingly placing pupils under pressure and, in some instances, has encouraged a minority to engage in unacceptable behaviour such as spreading malicious gossip and/or insulting others. Unsurprisingly, there is also a strong correlation between low academic progress and excessive online activity. I remind parents and pupils that the Internet is rarely required to complete homework.

Appropriately, there has been an increasing focus in recent years on young peoples' mental health. There is robust evidence to suggest that excessive Internet use leads to low mood, anxiety and depression in young people. It is often manifest in insufficient sleep, lack of physical fitness, loss of interest in other activities and declining performance at school. Therefore, it is important that parents continue to discuss, monitor and agree reasonable boundaries for their children's online activity. Parents are strongly advised to prevent their sons or daughters from using or storing internet enabled devices in their bedrooms. We would also advise that the Internet is switched off after 9.00pm to avoid pupils engaging in online activity into the early hours of the morning.

TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Once again, I would like to take the opportunity at the start of this academic year to remind pupils that they must travel to and from School wearing School uniform and those engaged in sport must change back into School uniform before departing the School site. It is also important that pupils maintain the highest standard of behaviour when travelling to and from School. The School works with other local schools and the bus and rail companies to address any misconduct in this area. Our School community will not tolerate the misconduct of a few, tarnishing the reputation of all, and so any misconduct in public will be treated as a serious matter. The School has an excellent reputation thanks to the hard work and good conduct of the majority of its pupils and all members of the School community have a duty to uphold that reputation.

Headmaster

THE YEAR 10 EDUCATION EVENING AND SUCCESSFUL STUDY STRATEGIES AT GCSE

Tuesday 24 September 2019, 7.30pm

Pupils, the School and parents all have a significant role to play in ensuring that progress and attainment is maximised throughout the Middle School years and that this ultimately leads to success at GCSE. Taking the pupil's role first, they will be more motivated with their studies if they have chosen their goals. This may take the form of pursuing Higher Education at University, enrolling on an apprenticeship scheme or gaining admission to the Sixth Form to study at Advanced Level. Whatever their aspirations, this will help them to focus on their work and give them a sense of purpose for doing well. Concentration and paying attention in lessons is, of course, essential to grasp the concepts and thoroughly understand the subject material that is being covered. Self-discipline and personal organisation are necessary attributes to ensure that homework and revision assignments to support the work that is being done in the School are completed by the deadlines set. Taking a pride in the presentation of their material and themselves is important and creates a good impression.

Subject teachers will obviously impart information on the topics that pupils require to cover the various specifications and the Pastoral Team, based in the Middle School Pastoral Office, is on hand to monitor their progress. The Office will provide a variety of support measures and guidance if it is felt that a particular pupil needs them for any reason to help them get back on track and meet their target grades. A most important aspect of preparation for GCSEs is, of course, an organised, constructive, revision programme and we advise them on strategies to maximise the efficiency of their revision time.

Parents can play an important role here as well. Ensuring that there is somewhere your son can work at home which provides an environment conducive to study and that he is not allowing his concentration to be disturbed by the distractions of text messages, MP3 players, computer games and the like are essential. Providing encouragement and showing an interest in his studies, on the other hand, is also a necessity as it aids your son's motivation.

I will be discussing the above matters and other issues relating to your son making

a smooth and constructive transition into the Middle School, at the Year 10 Education Evening. This will take place in the School Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 24 September and I hope that all Year 10 pupils and their parents will be in attendance.

I will be joined by senior colleagues and former Year 11 pupils who will contribute their own expertise and experiences and this will make for a very worthwhile and informative evening.

*Mr A Farrell
Director of Middle School*

POSITIVE STUDY HABITS

For those pupils in Year 11 and 13, revision and public examinations will not be far from your mind throughout this year, and those in Year 10 and 12 begin their two-year public examination courses. It might seem a little daunting at this stage in the Academic Year, but a few simple strategies can certainly help to build a secure foundation ahead of key revision periods and ultimately maximise your chance of success next summer.

First and foremost, it is very important that you remain organised: you need to be able to balance homework and revision. For revision, I suggest the use of a tick list (or exam specification) from the very start of the year. Once you have covered a topic in class, you should revisit it soon after. Once you have done so, you could colour code your list: for example, use red for material with which you are not at all confident, amber where there are gaps in your knowledge but you have a broad understanding of the topic, and green for the areas in which you are most confident. This will help you to work out the areas for immediate attention when it comes to revision for your Trial Examinations. If you do this as you work through the year, it will help you to identify those areas you need to work on, instead of struggling with topics you do not understand in the lead up to both Trial and Public Examinations.

Being disciplined with your time is a key ingredient for success at GCSE and A Level. No-one expects you to work 24 hours a day, but when you do sit down to study, you must do so with full focus. We would always advise you to break your studying into 30 minute chunks to help maintain concentration. Have a clear idea of what you want to achieve and make sure you strive to reach that goal by the end of the session and ensure that you study in an environment conducive to study, free from distractions; leave

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW HEAD BOY AND DEPUTIES

It is always a great pleasure to introduce the new Head Boy and his Deputies to our wider School community. Our Head Boy, Benjamin Johanson, is a major contributor to the School's Drama Company and has had major roles in most of our recent productions. He will also be well known in the School as one of our senior CCF cadets. Benjamin has already made a superb start to his period of office as Head Boy and demonstrated that he is a highly effective and conscientious leader. Benjamin will be supported Daniel Pereira and Daniel Barton. Daniel Pereira is also a stalwart of the School's Drama Company and he gave a dazzling performance in the role of Hamlet last year. He also edits 'The Stylus' and has, throughout his time at the School, contributed greatly to the School's literary life. Daniel Barton will be well known to most of the School following his selection (one of only a handful of students, nationally) for the CCF Canadian Exchange programme. He has a high profile as a senior cadet as well as being a significant contributor to the School's sporting life. This is an exceptional leadership team and we wish Benjamin and his Deputies every success with their responsibilities.



	Benjamin Johanson Head Boy	Daniel Pereira Deputy Head Boy	Daniel Barton Deputy Head Boy
Previous School	Rayleigh Primary School	St Joseph's Primary School (Canvey Island)	South Benfleet Primary School
Subjects at A Level	History, Spanish, Mathematics and Economics	English Literature, Religious Studies, German, and History	Mathematics, Economics, Politics and History
The most positive aspect of being a student at WHSB	The independence and personal responsibility that the School encourages	The wealth of opportunities for participation provided	Support from the School community
What I would most like to achieve in my new position at WHSB	To lead an effective Prefect Body which serves our community well	To promote respect for all members of the community and our environment	To encourage a strong sense of community
My message to our new Year 7 pupils	Be Open to Opportunity	There is so much on offer - immerse yourself fully in School life	Take time to forge positive relationships with others

SCHOOL NEWS

your mobile phone, computer and other gadgets in another room. Working with full concentration will give you a real sense of achievement, meaning that you will be able to enjoy your leisure time without concern.

Incremental revision is absolutely vital, and revision must not be left until the final weeks and days before an examination. Cramming simply will not work with the volume of information you will need to retain for next summer. However, starting early will mean that you can get a head start. It really is a case of repeatedly revisiting material until it can be stored in the long-term memory.

It is important that you find out how you best learn, but you may need to do that through trial. Do you find tables and diagrams helpful? Are question cards useful to you? It is only by repeating revision and finding memorable ways to learn that you will find the most effective way forward. Revision should never be re-reading or copying your notes; you must adopt effective strategies to ensure the best chance of committing the material to long-term memory. In simple terms, if you revise something, revisit it one day later, then one week later, and one month later, you will increase your chance of retaining the material.

Getting into good study and revision habits early and being organised will maximise your chance of success in the Summer 2020. Studying for Public Examinations does create some pressure, but following some of this advice should help you to manage your workload and remain in control.

Please remember that studying will not always go to plan, but drawing on the resilience you have developed during your time at WHSB will help you through a demanding year. All of your teachers are here to help and want you to succeed. If you feel concerned or under pressure and need some additional help, please do see your Progress Leader or staff in the relevant Pastoral Office. We wish you good luck for the year ahead.

*Mr S Neagus
Year 11 Progress Leader*



SIXTH FORM EDUCATION EVENING: THE PUPIL TO STUDENT TRANSITION

Thursday 19 September 2019, 7.30pm

Joining a Sixth Form brings many benefits – a young person gets to choose their favourite subjects to study, and no longer must attend lessons or complete tasks relating to anything else. Their timetable has private study sessions, during which they have a free choice as to how they work. They are looked up to by younger pupils, and are naturally seen in the role of a leader. They begin the process of choosing a University course or profession in readiness for the day when they leave the School.

And yet, while some of the subjects chosen may have the same name as the ones studied at GCSE, there are great differences. The questions on the papers of the modern, linear A Level (with no modules nor AS examinations half way through) require a high level of independent thought. In Mathematics and Physics, there is a greater emphasis on proving rather than using equations, and applying them to more novel situations. In History and Politics, the range of material and background to be learned is much greater. In short, the number of questions which can be answered well by memorizing mark schemes from previous examinations, or by rehearsing specific methods has been reduced. For eager, diligent students, keen to master their subjects, the new examinations are a welcome change. Not only that, but the range of topics, and the depth to which they need to be understood is much greater than at GCSE.

To succeed with these courses, and these examinations, a different approach is necessary. It has been customary for some time at WHSB to refer to those in Years 7 to 11 as 'pupils' while those in the Sixth Form are denoted 'students'. This distinction is particularly apposite with the new courses. A student is an independent learner, who takes control of the direction of their studies. A pupil, even a good one, follows orders – no more and no less. A good pupil can succeed at GCSE. Old Westcliffians who go on to University or professional study as part of their apprenticeships need to be students – able to learn without daily supervision and support 'on tap', and without reminders about upcoming deadlines. Accordingly, a transition must occur during the Sixth Form, and the sooner it is made, the more rewarding and successful the Sixth Form experience will be for the learner.

It is our aim to help and encourage members of Year 12 to make the transition. However, support from home is vital. Accordingly, on Thursday 19 September 2019, the Headmaster, Mr McGee (Year 12 Progress Leader), and I will lead an Education Evening to explain the measures needed for a contented and successful Sixth Form education, and to give advice on study habits, the organization of notes, wider wellbeing issues as well as hints relevant to particular subjects. Current Year 13 students will speak from their experience. I encourage all members of Year 12, together with an adult member of their family to attend this evening to ensure that they begin their Sixth Form journey with the right attitude and approach.

*Dr A Machacek
Assistant Head: Director of Sixth Form*

YEAR 9 'HELPING PARENTS TO HELP THEIR SONS' EVENING

Thursday 26 September 2019, 7.30pm

As Year 9 pupils begin their third academic year at WHSB, we invite Year 9 parents and pupils to attend the Year 9 Helping Parents to Help their Sons evening. Year 9 is an especially important year, as it is the final year of preparation for GCSE, and performance and approach to studies in this year can have a material effect on GCSE choices, setting the foundation for the pupils' future performance. During this evening we will consider some general strategies for success in studies during the vital time for preparation to choose GCSE Options. In addition, representatives of various departments will review subject specific advice. Parents are kindly requested to book tickets via TicketSource. We look forward to seeing you at this event.



YEAR 7 EDUCATION EVENING FOR ALL PARENTS AND PUPILS

Monday 23 September 2019, 7.00pm

Having now begun their journey as WHSB pupils, Year 7 have to get to grips with considerable change, including environment, peer group, study habits, technology and so on. In light of this change, we invite all Year 7 parents to join their sons for this compulsory Education Evening. During the evening, we will consider some general strategies for success and will also provide some clear guidance as to our expectations for our pupils in addition to guidance as to what parents can do to most effectively support them.

*Mr J Bleakley
Director of Lower School*

ENRICHMENT DAY

Friday 20 September 2019

Friday 20 September promises to be an exciting day for all pupils. Year 7 pupils will be heading off to East Mersea for a day of fun, adventure and, most importantly, making new friends as they tackle a variety of team-building activities. Year 8 pupils set off on a pilgrimage to Canterbury with the Religious Studies Department, Year 9 has a day of Computer Science activity to enjoy, whilst Year 10 pupils have a day of Mathematics in Action. Year 11 Historians are heading on a castle tour and the remaining pupils will have a day of immersive English activities. Year 12 will be participating in Health and Wellbeing activities and Year 13 students will be volunteering either with School activities, or organising their own opportunities. We are looking forward to a most enjoyable and productive day.

CHARITY EVENTS AND APPLICATIONS FOR CHARITY COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Each year, charity fundraisers are run by a dedicated committee of Year 12 students. This team selects the charities – one local, one national – and plans a series of events across the School year. The first Charity Day is on Friday 18 October and a detailed schedule will be published in advance, with activities typically including Cake Sales, Teacher Gunging and the Staff Pantomime being run during break, lunch and after School. Thursday 12 December will be the second day of fundraising,

with the ever-popular Christmas Jumper Day taking place (for a donation of £1). These charity events are cash only, with £5 usually sufficing to ensure entry to all daytime activities and a piece of cake. Later in the year, watch out for our family-friendly evening events such as a Quiz Night. Applications for Charity Committee Chairman are open now and letters of application should be addressed to Mrs Mumford and submitted by Friday 13 September.

*Mrs K Mumford
Second Deputy Head*

RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION POLICY (RSE)

The Government has issued revised guidance on Relationships Education, RSE and Health Education. This applies to all schools in England and will come into effect in September 2020.

As a School, we are fortunate that we already teach and thoroughly cover most of what has now become statutory and have done so for many years within our PSHEE curriculum. The new guidance refers to RSE helping to develop pupils' personal attributes, including honesty, integrity, courage, humility, kindness, generosity, trustworthiness and a sense of justice, alongside self-respect and self-worth. These are all attributes that are ingrained in our established 'Learner Profile' here at WHSB.

Lucy Emmerson, Director of the Sex Education Forum, said: "We know that the majority of children, young people and parents want an education that reflects the realities of growing up in modern society and equips them to enjoy safe and respectful relationships. The new guidance from the Department for Education opens the way for this to happen, and for schools to engage fully with parents in this process, so that children get the reliable information and open conversations they want and need."

The RSE policy at WHSB has been updated and we will consult with staff, students and parents at School about this before it is finalised. Details of this consultation process will be communicated later in the year.

The full government draft guidance from the Department of Education can be found online on the gov.uk website.

*Mr R Barber
PSHEE Coordinator*

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

During the Summer Term, the current Year 13 (then Year 12) students were busily working on their Project Proposal forms for their Extended Project Qualification dissertation. They have now been paired with a subject mentor who will give them advice and guidance.

Over the Summer holiday, learners worked on their literature review, the purpose of which is to survey books, scholarly articles, and any other sources relevant to a particular issue, area of research, or theory, and by so doing, provide a description, summary, and critical evaluation of these works in relation to the research problem being investigated. They have also been explaining how their research fits within a larger field of study.

This qualification is aimed at the most-able and conscientious students in the Sixth Form who are aiming at top grades at A Level (mainly As and A*s). They have a number of strict deadlines. If there is an area of study you really enjoy, the EPQ gives you the chance to develop your skills and knowledge and really impress universities. Top universities recognise the EPQ as valuable proof of your capacity for independent learning, as well as your passion for the subject you want to study at a higher level. When they see it on your UCAS application, it shows them that you are serious.

The benefits of completing an EPQ include:

- Enhancing your UCAS application and potentially helping you meet the conditions of a university place offer, as it is worth extra points (half an A Level);
- The opportunity to produce a piece of work that is truly individual and says something about you as a person;
- Demonstrating to universities that you are enthusiastic about the subject you are applying to study;
- Proving to future employers that you are a self-motivated character with useful skills in your chosen field.

If you have any questions about this qualification, then please do ask me.

*Mr R Barber
Head of Breadth Studies*

TRIPS & VISITS

HISTORY DAYS OUT

In the Autumn, the WHSB History Department continues its very successful History Days Out programme. The programme is designed to offer an interesting visit on a Saturday once a term to a place of historical significance. Previous visits have included the Tower of London, Bletchley Park, the National Museum of Computing, and Historic Greenwich. On our next visit, pupils will be embarking across the Thames and venturing into Kent on a visit to Chatham Dockyards. With a range of battleships and submarines to explore, as well as the Victorian Ropery and exhibitions on over 400 years of British History, Chatham Dockyard is steeped in history and will provide an interactive and immersive learning environment for pupils. Founded in the mid-16th century as a result of the Reformation and the rise of tensions between England and Catholic Europe, Chatham Dockyard has contributed to the defence of Britain for over 400 years. Pupils will have the opportunity to consider the vitality of the dockyards not only on the sovereignty of our island nation, but also on its expansion. The day promises to be informative, interesting and above all else, fun! This opportunity, and participation in our History Days Out programme, is open to all pupils throughout the School and any interested pupil should collect a letter from the School Office.

*Mr B Jeffreys
Head of History*

YEAR 10 TRIP TO THE NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY: A RETROSPECTIVE

On Friday 5 July, Miss Price and Mr Sinnott took Year 10 Art pupils to the National Portrait Gallery in London. We viewed the Cindy Sherman exhibition, general collection and the BP Portrait Award. It was a fantastic opportunity for GCSE pupils to see a vast array of portraiture in wide-ranging media, created in different eras and contexts, thus allowing pupils to identify and select works to inspire them for their GCSE studies.

Feedback from the pupils was most positive, and some of their comments are included below.

"Before I went, I did not realise that photography could have the same effect and creativity as a painting, but seeing the Cindy Sherman exhibition completely changed my perspective... The upper



floors of the gallery were a trip through time as you went along from the Tudor Kings and Queens all the way to the present day art. Seeing all of the famous portraits and events was very interesting in terms of both art and history and how the world (and art) has changed so much in just over 500 years." Thomas Gerrie

"The trip to the National Portrait Gallery was great. All of the exhibitions were really interesting and created lots of project ideas and goals. Thanks to Miss Price and Mr Sinnott, the trip was really enjoyable." William Wadson

"The trip was inspiring and it showed me a new perspective and calibre of art which I had never been exposed to before." Andreas Moulton

"A fully engaging, meaningful trip. Many of the pieces of modern art, mostly from the BP Awards, really inspired me to try new things. The Cindy Sherman exhibition was interesting, especially her horror work from the 1980s. Overall it was a wonderful trip." Ethan Ng

*Miss L Price
KS3/KS4 Art Co-ordinator*

YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP TO WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE

Wednesday 2 and Thursday 3 October 2019

In July, Year 10 GCSE Geography pupils took part in a data collection day for a human geography investigation in Stratford, East London. The results enabled them to compare deprivation and quality of life in the regenerated East Village with the Carpenters Estate area. October will see them – as Year 11 pupils – take part in a physical geography fieldtrip visit to Walton-on-the-Naze in North Essex. This time the aim is to evaluate the impacts of coastal management strategies along the town's coastline. This enquiry will give the classes an excellent opportunity to use fieldwork



equipment and to apply the theory from the classroom to the practice in the field. The data will then be used to develop a range of skills, such as graph drawing and analysis, which will be examined in the

Geographical Applications paper in the summer.

*Dr M Shepherd
Head of Geography*

CHINA EXCHANGE 2020

Parents and staff at WHSB will have lived, at least partially, through the 'American Century'. Your children, and the students at WHSB will live through the 'Chinese Century'. Whether or not you agree with this assessment of the changing geopolitical landscape, there can be no doubt that the resurgence of China will present the world with a drastically changing order of affairs and economic disruption.

At WHSB, we ask our students to be globally aware, and in this vein we are pleased to announce that the Confucius Institute/Hanban China Exchange will once again offer 10 students the opportunity to travel to China for two weeks in July/August 2020. Similar in format to the Exchanges of 2017 and 2018, students will spend one week in the capital, Beijing, touring the historical and cultural landmarks of this ancient city. The second week will be spent in a provincial city, sampling aspects of Chinese culture such as martial arts, calligraphy and traditional Chinese dance. Alongside, there will be approximately 20 hours of Mandarin lessons, where students will try to grasp the four tones of the spoken dialect. Students who wish to apply for the Exchange will be invited to an interest meeting in early October, alongside a



Q&A session for parents where you will have the opportunity to discuss the practicalities and arrangements for the trip.

The following article gives a review of the 2018 Exchange to give you a flavour of what can be expected.

*Mr D Hill
Teacher i/c China Exchange*

CHINA EXCHANGE 2018: A RETROSPECTIVE

On an early Sunday morning in mid-July, 12 students from WHSB along with our bleary-eyed teachers, were congregating at the School bus stops. We had been given a once in a lifetime opportunity: we were travelling to China. The trip, organised in partnership with the IOE Confucius Institute, was the second run of a hopefully annual exchange that the School intends to offer to its students from Year 10 and above. The trip was to last two weeks, with one week in Beijing and one in Shenyang respectively.

Our time in the sprawling Chinese capital was an onslaught of historical sites and famed Chinese landmarks built across the last millennia. We had packed for the scorching Chinese Summer, but our first venture out, to the Summer Palace, will be remembered as a wet deluge as the

lake was seemingly turned up-side down on our heads. We were subsequently whisked around sites such as the Forbidden Palace, Tiananmen Square and the Olympic Village. The culmination of our time in Beijing was the Great Wall of China, where the steps were so steep and the air so hot we reached the apex in a daze of fervent perspiration – but the view will stay with us as one of life's finest.

Following our stay in Beijing, we took the bullet train to Shenyang, for a week of educational activities. We attempted to learn basic Mandarin, our first unforgiving exposure to the language, Chinese music and cultural studies. The highlight of the trip was the home visit with a local student. We were invited into the family home and spent the afternoon making traditional Chinese dumplings and tea, mostly by means of gestures and smiles. Despite the language barriers, our welcome was so warm that we leave China with the small bond of friendship.

After two frenetic weeks, and a few upset stomachs, it was time for us to make the 28-hour odyssey back to our Essex homes. The visit to China will be forgotten by no one and easily rests as one of the most fascinating trips we have been offered whilst at WHSB. It gave us the opportunity to experience a truly disparate culture and unique perspective, and one that will increasingly be felt on the world stage. Of course none of this would be possible without the hard work and organisation of our accompanying teachers, Mr Hill and Mr Morrish. We encourage all students to take up this opportunity in the future, and experience China!

*Billy Darlington
Year 13*



TRIPS & VISITS



VISIT TO IWM DUXFORD

Tuesday 1 October 2019

On Tuesday 1 October, Year 9 pupils will visit the Imperial War Museum at Duxford for a day of off-site education on the aircraft that helped shape the world throughout the 20th Century. Pupils will take study packs through this excellent museum to direct and guide them and, based on the feedback from last year's visit, will have a wonderful day of exploration and discovery.

Mr A McGee
Year 12 Progress Leader

WORLD CHALLENGE – NORWAY ADVENTURE TRIP

In Summer 2020, the School plans to run a 12-day trip to Norway. This will be an amazing opportunity to experience white-water rafting on a 1km long section of the Otra river, take part on the picturesque



Norway

Setesdal Valley Trek and paddle on the Otra river journey. There will also be a chance to camp in the Nordic wilderness, walk through ancient rainforests and swim in crystal-clear blue lakes. This trip will be offered to pupils in Years 8 and 9 in the first instance and availability may be limited. Further details will be released in due course.

Mr J Yeo
Teacher of Mathematics

FRENCH EXCHANGE 2018/19: A RETROSPECTIVE

In the run up to the Easter Holidays, five GCSE French students travelled to Rouen in France as part of the French Exchange. From Thursday 28 March to Thursday 4 April, the pupils were required to converse only in French, as they lived and spent time with their French host families.

On the Friday, the pupils experienced

a School day at the Lycée Rey, a private school in the region. Pupils were expected to engage in lessons and take in the similarities and differences between the two systems. It was clear the pupils were curious to observe the day-to-day routines at the Lycée Rey, which raised some interesting discussion points.

Over the weekend, pupils stayed with their host families. Some travelled to Paris to see the Capital's famous sites, whereas others visited the beautiful seaside scenery just a one-hour car journey from Rouen. The weekend was regarded as the best opportunity for learning what the pupils regarded as authentic French, picking up idiomatic phrases and language which they do not necessarily come across in the classroom.

During the week, the days were packed with activities. Visits to Caen and Rouen town centres were educational and insightful and a trip to the local Pool and Bowling Centre was thoroughly enjoyed as it allowed pupils to bond further with their exchange partners.

The highlight of the excursion was undoubtedly the patisserie workshop where a master baker explained how to make croissants and pains au chocolat in French. After the demonstration, it was up to our pupils to demonstrate what they had understood and learned. It is fair to say the outcomes were variable. Nevertheless, pupils were then able to enjoy the fruits of their labour at the end of the workshop.

Pupils returned to Westcliff on Sea on Thursday evening exhausted but having thoroughly enjoyed their time in France. I encourage any pupils who are keen to get involved in the French Exchange in the future to speak with your French teachers.

Mr G Rayment
Head of French

GERMAN EXCHANGE 2018/19: A RETROSPECTIVE

As every year, Dr Francis and I enjoyed taking a large group of Year 9 to 13 students to Germany on our annual exchange programme with our partner school in Bonn. It is fantastic to provide students with the opportunity to practise their language skills outside of the classroom and to experience the culture of the language they are learning. What follows are two recollections from pupils who attended the trip.

Mrs M Niedzela
Head of German

For the second year running, I decided to sign up for the German exchange with the Clara Fey Gymnasium in Bad Godesberg, Bonn. Following a long – and very early – coach journey we arrived in Bad Godesberg to be greeted by our partners. The first evening was spent at our partners' houses, getting used to the routines of the host families.

The following day, we headed off to the Borussia Dortmund stadium with our partners for a tour that included pitch side views and a chance to walk along the famous yellow wall. The next day, we headed into Cologne for a staple visit of the German exchange, the Sport Museum. With a tour and a chance to see Dr Francis' boxing skills in action, it certainly proved eventful.

Following an evening of laser tag with my host partner, the next day was spent in the village of Cochem. This is a beautiful German town with a historic castle which we were lucky enough to tour around with a guide.

After our tour of Bonn with my host family the night before, the next day was spent in the German school. This was an excellent chance to experience the life of a German teenager and also make some new friends.

Following that we had the weekend where we were able to visit different areas of Bonn with our host families. I went to see a basketball game which proved to be one of the highlights of the trip.

The last two days were spent visiting Aqualand, a water park about half an hour's train ride from Bonn, and Fantasiasland the undisputed highlight.

To conclude, I would thoroughly recommend the German Exchange to anyone with an interest in German culture as it is not only an immensely insightful cultural experience but also a great chance to develop your German.

Oscar Piggott
Year 11

One of the most fulfilling aspects of the German Exchange for Years 9 through 13 is that there are plenty of culturally-enriching trips throughout the stay. We visited the home ground of the acclaimed Borussia Dortmund football team and were shown in detail the traditions of the stadium. Whilst in Dortmund, we were able to explore the cosmopolitan city. The following day involved visiting Cologne's fascinating Sports Museum, made yet better by the roof football pitch. We also crossed the Rhine on the Hohenzollern Bridge, to get the best view of the amazing cathedral. The Wednesday took us to Cochem, featuring a quaint castle and sleepy little village lined with wine distilleries. The fourth day was spent in our exchange partners' school (Clara-Fey-Gymnasium). My partner



is in the year above me, so I enjoyed a day of Oberstufe lessons, the highlights including tchoukball in PE and double French, where they were studying a Parisian music video. The remaining trips were to Phantasialand and Aqualand.

However, the best aspects of the exchange are outside of the excursions. The whole trip is so advantageous simply because I was completely immersed in the German culture and language. Spending time in a foreign country speaking only German is unsurprisingly beneficial in improving linguistic abilities and, at its core, living 10 days in Bonn were enough to highlight the nuances of German that are simply not as accessible within lessons. The trip allowed us to spend time not only with German citizens, but also with German adolescents and to experience their world perspectives. Time spent with the family was similarly fascinating, wherein I spent the weekend exploring the local area with my partner, such as the Siebengebirge Mountains which boasted stunning views up and down the Rhine. I especially enjoyed discussing our perspectives on current world issues, both nationally in the UK or Germany, and relations between our nations. It was an opportunity not to be missed.

Stanley Upton
Year 12



TRIPS & VISITS

VISIT TO ADC THEATRE, CAMBRIDGE: A RETROSPECTIVE

After a long term of revision, exams and rehearsals, a few of the School's actors enjoyed a vibrant start to their Easter holidays with a visit to the ADC Theatre in Cambridge where we enjoyed seeing TS Eliot's verse play *Murder in the Cathedral*. Written and first performed for the 1935 Canterbury Festival, the play tells the story of the murder of Archbishop Thomas Beckett in December 1170. The main focus of the play is the eponymous character's internal struggle. The Director began the performance with some sacred Christian chanting of the period. The Chorus of the play then speaks of its dark foreboding of the coming violence. On the set are three priests who mourn the absence from England of Beckett, living in self-imposed exile in France. When Beckett does return, there is an atmosphere of apprehension; the female Chorus would rather that Beckett had not returned, as they fear violence will fall upon them. Four Templar knights enter the stage, speaking of the temptations of Christ. Beckett speaks a sermon on Christmas morning. Later, four knights burst onto the scene of the Archbishop's Hall with urgent business from the king.

Students of history will know, the knights are messengers of the king's frustration with Beckett's stubbornness to yield to the power of the king, and have come on their own initiative to kill the intransigent Archbishop. They first accuse Thomas of betrayal, which he denies. Beckett challenges them to accuse him publicly. At first saved by other priests who intervene, Beckett declares that he is ready to die defending the powers of the Church and of God. The Chorus again interposes with its fears of the coming devastation. Finally, the knights do kill Beckett, followed by a dreadful pause finally filled by the Chorus chanting, "Clear the air, clear the sky." The final sections of the play are surprisingly entertaining, as the knights address the audience directly, wishing to explain their actions, though forced by their naturally war-like manners to adopt a rough style of debate.

We thought that the overall quality of the performance was outstanding. The stage had a realistic setting, depicting to the audience the high altar of a real cathedral. The costumes corresponded fittingly to the status and persona of each character. We were impressed by the acting style and talent of each actor. Mr

Sampson particularly noted the Mediaeval chant, beautifully setting the mood with authentic music.

After the performance, we enjoyed walking through the historic streets of Cambridge. Each of us was abuzz with the new acting skills we had seen, thinking how we might put them to use in our own next performances. Overall, we really enjoyed this theatrical experience; we look forward to more frequent theatre trips with the newly-formed Theatre Club.

We would like, as well, to thank both Mr Jeffreys and Mr Sampson for making great trips like this possible.

Rafi Gamma & Gavriel Levy
Year 8

VAN GOGH AND TATE BRITAIN ART TRIP: A RETROSPECTIVE

On Tuesday 11 June, Year 12 Art students visited the largest exhibition of Van Gogh works to be held in the UK for over a decade. The Van Gogh and Britain Exhibition at Tate Britain in London did not disappoint.

The work exhibited enabled the students to see how Van Gogh's style altered through his life from his experiences, emotions and external influences. Clear connections were made between the work of artists and visuals from other cultural sources of the time, and the way in which Van Gogh created his own work. In the last few rooms, this switched to illustrate how Van Gogh had become a source of inspiration for other artists. Here you can see the influence the literature *Hard Times* by Charles Dickens had on Van Gogh during his time in Britain.



Miss L Price
Teacher of Art



The students found this to be a valuable experience as expressed by Dominic Morris of Year 13: "It was interesting to see how other artists had taken inspiration from Van Gogh's work and adapted it according to their own style and interpretations. As an Art student this is something that is heavily encouraged; we are meant to take inspiration from artists and develop this in our own works. By seeing other artists do the same it enlightened us as to the multitude of elements that we could take as inspiration from each painting and sketch, including tone, form, medium, imagery and colour."

The students also enjoyed seeing some famous works, such as *Starry Night*, up-close.

In the afternoon there was time for students to explore the extensive Tate Britain collection and select further sources as a catalyst for the development of their ideas and imagery in their A Level Personal Investigation unit as Dominic Morris explains: "As a group we have all been inspired by this trip which will help to develop our A Level coursework. Personally, I have found inspiration on techniques and artists to further my work."

As their teacher, I look forward to seeing how the students' work grows over the coming weeks from the sources of inspiration discovered during this visit.



Starry Night

YEAR 12 BRISTOL CHEMLABS TRIP: A RETROSPECTIVE

On Sunday 2 June 2019, we set off to Bristol and arrived at the hostel in the early evening. We unpacked our bags and soon walked over to Za Za Bazaar, an all-you-can-eat buffet restaurant, with a wide variety of different cuisines from around the world. Following this, we toured around the city in groups and we were able to get a strong idea of what university life would be like.

The next day, we walked to the Chemistry Department at the University of Bristol. We were given an introduction, as well as a safety briefing, before we had our first practical: the iodine clock reaction. Our aim was to mix two solutions together and to observe a colour change at exactly one minute. This had to be achieved by diluting the solutions to slow the rate of reaction. Despite sounding easy, only one group managed to achieve this within 0.5 seconds and it proved a challenging task. We soon followed on with a second practical in which we had to determine the concentration of an unknown solution of copper sulphate. First, we had to make solutions of different concentrations from a standard solution, before comparing this with the unknown solution. We used a UV-Visible spectrophotometer (a machine costing around £4,000), to measure absorbance, i.e. how much of the UV light is absorbed by the different solutions. A graph is then drawn to find



this concentration.

After lunch, our next task was to extract caffeine from tea. This was an exciting practical, as we were able to put our prior A Level Chemistry knowledge into practice, by being able to use a £40,000 infra-red spectrometry machine, as well as using new equipment which is not used in School, for example a rotary evaporator - a machine that evaporates solvents faster than air so that experiments can be carried out faster. We then attended talks by current Chemistry postgraduates at the University, who provided us with a useful insight into studying Chemistry, as well as the cutting-edge research with which they are involved, including testing for new drugs.

In the evening, the cohort split into two groups to go to Puzzlair, which are a set of escape rooms. Our goal was to find keys and codes by solving clues and riddles, to eventually escape the room in an hour. Although Mr Hill's contribution to the team was questionable, my group had managed to escape the room with a mighty 6 minutes and 41 seconds to spare - better than most other WHSB groups. Having not experienced an escape room before, many others and myself were pleasantly surprised at how enjoyable this was. After this, we were spoilt for choice for food in the City but it was affordable and tasty.

We woke up on the final day and we were all disappointed to be leaving, although we

still had more experiments to complete. Our morning itinerary was to make and analyse benzocaine (a local anaesthetic), as well as determine the percentage of benzocaine in a drug. There were many stages to this practical, and consequently time management and good teamwork were essential to complete it within the allotted time. A selection of postgraduates had assisted us and had tested us with challenging questions about what we were doing and the importance of each stage, helping us to further understand our tasks. We completed most of this experiment in fume cupboards as the vapours produced are harmful.

Our final experiment of the trip was extracting vanillin from vanilla extract. Vanillin (also known as 3-methoxy-4-hydroxy-benzaldehyde) is responsible for the characteristic smell and taste of vanilla and the extraction was the most complex of our practicals. We had to use chloroform, which is a type 2 carcinogen, and we had to sign a waiver of responsibility for the risk involved. The practical involved all the skills we had learnt previously and we had two hours to complete it. Amazingly, this was completed independently by the vast majority of groups, with little assistance, which shows that we had come a long way in our practical skills. Before we left, we were given a talk on Atmospheric Chemistry by Mr Tim Harrison, the School Teacher Fellow who leads the ChemLabS program. This involved blowing up hydrogen balloons as well as using liquid nitrogen in various interesting ways. The talk showed me the depth and complexity of the subject, but also how fascinating Chemistry can be.

Overall, I would highly recommend this trip to any A Level Chemistry student, as not only was the trip enjoyable, but the experience gained during that time further broadened my knowledge of the subject and has given me a first-hand perspective of University life within a city. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Lo for organising such an engaging and insightful trip and Mr Hill and Miss Tyson for their support.

Oliver Coe
Year 13



TRIPS & VISITS

ADVENTURE TO THE ARDÈCHE: A RETROSPECTIVE

During the May half term, 37 pupils, Mr Tresidder, Mr Dowding and Mrs Mumford journeyed to the Ardèche in France as part of the biennial Adventure Trip. After a 16-hour journey from ferry to coach, the group arrived at the camp in sweltering conditions and we were introduced to our leader and living quarters.

While there, we had the opportunity to take part in several activities such as archery and climbing. These activities often involved us getting soaked in water and caked in mud, for example in 'Night Line' we were blindfolded and disoriented until we were in an obstacle course full of tunnels and turns.

Arguably, the highlight of the week was our descent down a river over the course of two days. On the first day, we learnt the basics of canoeing and practised techniques that would help us later. Across the day we navigated six rapids, until finally we took

refuge at a riverside campsite surrounded by mountains. We were even given the chance to hike up one of these and were lucky enough to see a number of stunning viewpoints along the walk. After a long sleep in cramped tents, we awoke the next morning to prepare for a 16km descent consisting of 16 rapids, each of which had their own challenges; unsurprisingly quite a few landed in the water, but it was not the first time as we experienced similar experiences during the raft building.

During the latter stages of the week we had a relaxing sightseeing day where we visited Pont d'Arc, the Orgnac Caves and a picturesque village of Valon.

Overall, the week was amazing and a truly enjoyable experience so, on behalf of the other pupils, I would like to thank the staff for making the trip possible.

Lewis Seal
Year 10



DEBATING

The School's competitive debating calendar starts as ever with the prestigious English-Speaking Union *Schools' Mace Competition*. As in previous years, the School has entered a team of two Sixth Form debaters for this challenging competition, in which WHSB has been Eastern Region Runners-up a number of times across recent years. The Cambridge Union Schools' Debating Competition is also due to start this term and we will be fielding the maximum entry of teams from Year 11 to Year 13 as well as preparing teams for the Oxford Union Senior Schools' Debating Competition after Christmas.

There will be a Debating Workshop to introduce pupils in Year 7 to competitive debating and to develop the skills of those in Year 8 and Year 9 who participated last year. We will be entering teams for the International Competition for Young Debaters as we have every year since 2003.

SCHOOLS' CHALLENGE QUIZ

The School will be entering the Schools' Challenge Quiz for the 17th successive year. The competition uses a University Challenge format and a team drawn from Year 10 and the Sixth Form. We have struggled in the last two years to match the form, and buzzer speed, that took us to the Regional Finals. However, as we now take part in the Junior Competition as well, we are hopeful that our Year 7 to 9 quizzers will strengthen our prospects in the coming years.

BIRDING CLUB

Expectations were high on the third WHSB Bird Trip. After all, it was May and we were off to Minsmere. The day did not disappoint. We started at Westleton Common, barely two miles from Minsmere, and here we saw the nationally-threatened and iconic Turtle Dove. Its purring call is really evocative of summer days but unfortunately it has become an increasingly rare sound in the English landscape. Our bird performed well for us over a 20-minute period. We



OXBRIDGE

In June, the School hosted a highly-successful conference for potential Oxbridge candidates. It was attended by Admission Tutors and School Liaison Officers from Oxford and Cambridge Universities, eight undergraduate Old Westcliffians and 105 students from local Grammar and partner schools. The information and advice so freely given on this occasion should significantly enhance the chances of individuals from WHSB in making successful applications to the country's most prestigious universities this term. The School's programme of internal trial interviews will begin in October with reciprocal arrangements with Westcliff High School for Girls undertaken in November.

SIXTH FORM MASTERCLASSES

We have nominated and supported students applying for residential courses run by the Sutton Trust, Headstart and UNIQ, which have been attended by thirteen Year 12 and Year 13 students during the course of the year. We continue to offer the opportunity for students nominated by Heads of Department to attend subject specialist courses at Villiers Park in areas such as Computing, Languages and Physical Sciences.

then moved on to the outskirts of the Minsmere Reserve to the now legendary area known as Whin Hill. Here we saw another star bird of England, the Stone Curlew. Only between 800 and 1,000 exist in Britain and we saw at least two of them on Whin Hill. From here we took a tour round some of the key hides on Minsmere. The most important birds we saw were Dartford Warblers (another rare British bird), the Stonechat, Little Gull, Avocet, Marsh Harrier, Little Tern, Sand Martins and Sandwich Tern (both brilliantly phoned by Ben Crisp in Year 10). At the end of the day we were weary but elated, having seen no less than six birds on the red rare list for Britain. The Minsmere area is a special place at any time of the year, but especially in May.

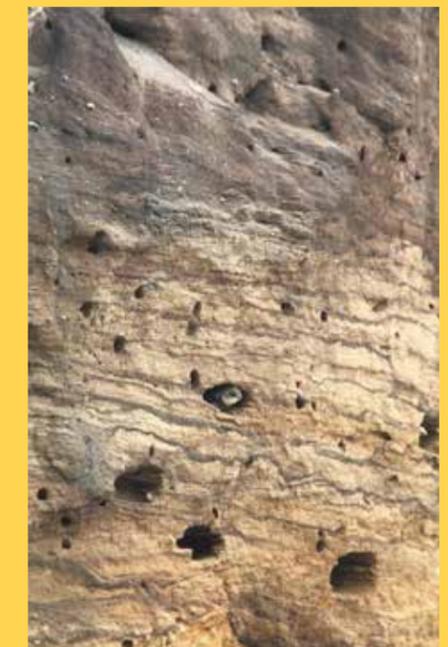
Dr J Theobald
Teacher of History

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

WESTCLIFF MEDICAL SOCIETY

As in previous years, we plan to run a set of practice Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs) in September, as well as a day of more formal panel interviews conducted by a range of hospital consultants, surgeons and GPs to whom we are indebted for their willingness to help our students meet the truly daunting challenge of securing a place at Medical School. We have continued our collaboration with The Medic Portal, a not-for-profit company which specializes in helping students apply to Medical School. They came to School in July to run a preparatory session on the UKCAT and BMAT and will visit again on Friday 20 September 2019 to provide Interview guidance.

Mr R Stevens
Higher Education Co-ordinator



SCIENCE

SCIENTIFIC ROBOTICS CLUB

In modern laboratories, scientists and engineers rarely manually count or time anything. Instead, they create machines to do the work for them. Part of becoming a scientist or an engineer is learning how to create automated measuring instruments for specific applications. This involves understanding what transducers are required, knowing the basic electronics and being able to write the code for the microprocessor. In this club, we will help you to create your own automated measuring instruments.

The Scientific Robotics Club meets on Monday lunchtimes (1.00pm-1.30pm) in SF12 and is open to all Year Groups.

WESTCLIFF ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

There has been a great deal of interest from students in establishing an Astronomy Club and, in response, we are establishing the Westcliff Astronomical Society. Here you can learn about how space impacts planet Earth, Earth's place in the solar system, space exploration, our place in the galaxy, and cosmology. You will discover how to make accurate astronomical measurements from Earth, what exotic and exciting celestial bodies can be observed from your own back garden, and where astrophysics can take you in the future.

The Westcliff Astronomical Society meets on Tuesday lunchtimes (1.00pm-1.30pm) in SF12 and is open to all Year Groups.

THE ANACHRONISM SOCIETY

Newer is not always better! Slide rules put a man on the moon. The first



electronic calculator had no equals key. I once fished a 1980s computer out of a pond where it had lain for months, dried it with a hairdryer and it still worked. The best photographers still use film rather than digital cameras. In this club, we will explore technology that time has tried to forget. We will explore the beauty of simplicity and the genius of necessity-driven invention. We will learn how to use slide rules, which will improve your numeracy. We will learn how to use RPN calculators, which will help you better understand operator precedence in mathematics. We will look at programming languages that time has left behind and experience the joy that comes from their use.

Whilst modern calculators and computers have the potential to make our lives easier, the esoteric knowledge of how to use them to their full capacity is often unknown to students. A little background knowledge about ostensibly obsolete technology can help you appreciate and make better use of modern technology.

The Anachronism Society meets on Wednesday lunchtimes (1.00pm-1.30pm) in SF12 and is open to all Year Groups.

PHYSICS SUPPORT CLINIC

The ever popular Physics Support Clinic will continue to run this year. If you are having difficulties with any aspect of Physics, you are welcome to come along and will receive one-to-one help and support. Bring along some questions you are finding challenging, or a topic from a lesson that you did not understand the first time around, and I will be able to help you. Do not put it off for another week, or leave it until just before your exams to deal with misconceptions. Make a habit of seeking help as soon as it is needed.

The Physics Support Clinic runs on Thursday lunchtimes (1.00pm-1.30pm) in SF12 and is open to all Year Groups.

SOTOTS

SOTOTS (Studies of the One True Science) is a Wednesday afternoon activity for Year 12 and 13 Physicists. Challenge yourself with synoptic questions. Extend your problem-solving skills and prepare to take part in national competitions, such as the British Physics Olympiad. You will be provided with difficult problems to solve in groups and then we will discuss solutions to those problems. In the process, you become a better problem solver and a better physicist.

SOTOTS runs on Wednesday afternoons (periods 5 and 6) in SF12 and is open to Years 12 and 13 only.

YEAR 12 TRIP TO CERN

Easter 2020

Many of you will recall that the Physics Department runs a trip to CERN in Geneva every year for Year 12 Physicists. This trip will run again this year, however it will be postponed until the Easter Holidays in 2020. Letters regarding the trip will be available in September from Mr Dalby.

The trip consists of a two-night stay in Geneva, Switzerland. You will have the opportunity to see the largest and most expensive physics experiment on Earth; the home to the hottest and the coldest places in the universe, where new physics is being discovered. You will see the apparatus that discovered neutral currents and the Z0 boson. You will have a guided tour of key facilities involved in the operation of the Large Hadron Collider and, because it is currently switched off for maintenance and upgrades, you might even have the opportunity to go underground and visit a detector.

Whilst in Geneva, we will also visit the world-famous Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle and the Musée d'Histoire des Sciences. You will have a guided walking tour of the historical side of Geneva, walking around the streets of the old town and seeing key locations of the reformation. You will also visit the international quarter of the canton, where the International Red Cross museum and the United Nations Geneva Headquarters are located.

It is a busy few days, but tremendously enriching and a trip that you will fondly remember for decades to come.

At the time of writing, as I am not yet able to book the tour of CERN I cannot give precise dates or prices at this stage; however, it is likely to cost between £350 and £400, which includes all transportation, accommodation and food. I am aiming to run the trip during the Easter holiday break. Please see me for a letter and further details.



A LEVEL PHYSICS LIVE

Tuesday 3 December 2019

The Physics Department is running a trip to the Science Live event in London on Tuesday 3 December 2019. This is an opportunity to attend lectures given by famous and eminent professors of Physics, such as Professor Jim Al-Khalili, who will be talking about Quantum Biology, and Professor Lord Martin Rees, who will be talking about the deep forces that shape the universe. There is an astonishing programme of five physicists giving lectures, and two sessions with an experienced examiner. I would urge all Sixth Form Physics students to attend this trip. It is open to students in Years 12 and 13 and will cost £45 per ticket. Please see Mr Dalby for a letter and further details.

SIZEWELL B VISIT

For the September Enrichment Day

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

Having had a large subscription for the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme this year, with 30 pupils participating at Silver level and 42 at Bronze level, the summer term has been busy with regards to expeditions. We also saw a large number of pupils from the previous cohort completing their Silver level and receiving their Award at the Southend-on-Sea Borough Council Chambers.

The first expedition of the year was the Silver Practice Expedition which took place in the South Downs. More recently, the pupils went to the Peak District for their assessment and, with little difficulty, all passed. All that remains for the Silver participants is for them to upload their Expedition presentations and complete



this year, we will be visiting the Sizewell B nuclear power station with Year 13 physicists. Unfortunately, we can accept no more students on this trip, but it promises to be a tremendously beneficial trip. Students will have the opportunity to see key facilities at Sizewell B, see how safety is their top priority and will gain an insight into the myriad components that must work together to provide the UK with sufficient electrical power.

Mr K Dalby
Head of Physics

CHEMISTRY AT WORK 2019

Wednesday 23 October 2019

The Royal Society of Chemistry, the Institution of Chemical Engineers and local STEMNET staff organise and host an annual careers event which aims to promote Chemistry-based professions to

14-17 year olds in and around the county of Essex.

At this event, practising chemists, chemical engineers, pharmacists, and others, give talks about their jobs and careers which take the form of lively, interactive presentations, many including practical demonstrations and 'hands-on' activities.

Last year, over 600 students (a record number) from 20 schools attended the event over the two days. WHSB has been attending the event for a number of years and pupils find the event most interesting and informative.

Once again, the Chemistry Department will be hosting this trip for aspiring Chemists in Year 10 and the event will be held at the Tilbury Cruise Terminal.

Miss E Lo
Teacher of Chemistry

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

the remaining three sections, namely Volunteering, Skills and Physical.

The Bronze Practice, around Danbury, involved pupils learning to put up tents and cook on Trangia stoves, with varied levels of success. Their weekend hike around Danbury showed them the requirement for good navigational skills, in order to avoid having to back track during the hike. This was a challenge, and we hope they will have an easier time navigating around Skreens Park, Roxwell, in September. Most Bronze participants also need to complete the remaining three sections by the Christmas break if they wish to move on to the Silver level at that time.

In January, there will be an opportunity

for those who have completed the Bronze Award to move on to the Silver level, and applications for the Bronze level will also open to Year 9 pupils at that time. We look forward to another successful year for the Duke of Edinburgh Award at WHSB.

Mr H Tresidder
Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator



COMMUNICATION IN MATHEMATICS ACROSS ALL KEY STAGES

In the Autumn 2018 edition of *The Westcliff Diary*, I wrote an article entitled "Problem Solving across all Key Stages" in which I discussed the Mathematics GCSE and A Level changes which were designed to reflect a more problem-solving syllabus. Carrying on from this, it is worth talking about far subtler changes in the syllabus. These changes were not reflected in the literature sent by the Mathematics Boards, nor were they advertised in any of the sample materials provided, but in the last few sets of past papers it is clear that examiners are holding students to a much higher level of communication.

Gone are the days of the token * next to a question to indicate the presence of one mark being available for "Quality of Written Communication". The new communication idea is far more insipid and integrated; the majority of questions now contain marks for communication. This was, in hindsight, probably a natural progression when the question style changed over to the "Problem Solving" questions - these questions inherently require a higher level of communication to answer, so it is rather obvious now that this would be reflected in the marking.

The challenge for you all, then, is to take care and pay attention to the way in which you lay out your work. Not just should it be clear with neat handwriting, but you also need to annotate your work with phrases like "so the full price is..." or "The volume of the cuboid is...". This makes it clear to the marker where you are going with your work, and this in turn makes it easier to award marks. I understand that this increase in communication is not just isolated to Mathematics.

The scoring of additional marks, however, is only the secondary benefit from this, in much the same way that a GCSE in Mathematics is a secondary benefit of studying Mathematics. The primary outcome is for you to be able to communicate better, perhaps in Mathematics, but more generally across all subjects and across your whole life. Ultimately, we want you to be an Effective Communicator everywhere (this is one of the Learner Profile attributes, after all), especially in your future employment.

Maybe you will struggle to do this in your examinations; perhaps you are unable to

see the point in doing it in Mathematics. In the words of a recent student of mine, "I got the right answer, so what's the problem?" The problem is that you may miss out on a job or a promotion because you fail to communicate properly. The problem is that you may misrepresent yourself or people may misunderstand your intentions at a critical time because you fail to communicate properly. The way you lay out your problems in Mathematics will not solve this by itself, but subscribing to the notion of being an Effective Communicator in all aspects will, at the very least, boost your life chances and help you throughout education and employment.

STEP CLUB (FOR SIXTH FORM STUDENTS)

We are delighted to see the increasing number of Sixth Form students who regularly attend the STEP Club during lunch times. These students have been working through some STEP questions to stretch their ability in Mathematics.

STEP (Sixth Term Examination Paper) is an examination used by Cambridge colleges as the basis for conditional offers. They are used not only by Cambridge, but also by Warwick and many other University Mathematics departments who recommend their applicants practise on the past papers, even if they do not take the examination.

There are three STEPs, referenced Papers 1, 2 and 3. Papers 1 and 2 are based on the Core A level syllabus, with some minor additions, and Paper 3 is based on a 'typical' Further Mathematics syllabus. The questions on Papers 2 and 3 are intended to be of the same difficulty, and are harder than those on Paper 1. Each paper has 13 questions, including three on mechanics and two on probability/statistics. Candidates are assessed on six questions only.

With regard to admissions to a university's Mathematics, Science or Engineering course, STEP has three purposes. First, it acts as a hurdle: success in STEP is thought to be a good indicator of potential to do well on a difficult course. Second, it acts as a preparation for the course, because the style of mathematics found in STEP questions is similar to that of Undergraduate Mathematics. Thirdly, it tests motivation. It is important to prepare for STEP (by working through old papers, for example), and this can require considerable dedication. Those who are

not willing to make the effort are unlikely to thrive on a difficult Mathematics course.

Mr M Dowding
Head of Mathematics

MR TSANG'S A LEVEL LIBRARY

Since arriving at Westcliff, Mr Tsang has impressed students and teachers alike with his incredible enthusiasm and dedication to Mathematics. Following the implementation and success of the STEP/MAT/AEA Club, we are delighted that Mr Tsang is introducing a Mathematics library and he is compiling a collection of books which can be requested by Sixth Form students. These books will support your independent learning by broadening your understanding of Mathematics at University level, and are written in a style which is entirely accessible to a Sixth Form student. Not only will you be able to enhance your skills and understanding, but you will be able to reference these books in your future work, and draw on their content at a university interview to demonstrate rounded subject knowledge. The new series of books includes: *Pushing the Limits*; *Prime Numbers* (An unpredictable series); *Rhythm, Resonance and Harmony* (The mathematics of music); *When Straight Lines Curve* (Non-Euclidian geometry); *Eternal Challenges* (The great conundrums of mathematics); *Fermat's Enigma* (The quest to prove Fermat's last theorem); *Creating the Perfect Balance* (Symmetry in maths); *Pythagoras' Theorem* (The sacred geometry of triangles) and *Tricking Senses* (The science of perspective).

We offer a recommended reading list at A level, but all students should consider reading at least one 'popular' Mathematics book. Some good examples to begin with are: *Does God Play Dice?*; *The Music of the Primes*; *1089 and All That* and *How to Lie with Statistics*.

Mr M Dowding
Head of Mathematics



JUNIOR MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE AND JUNIOR KANGAROO

The Junior Mathematics Challenge (JMC) is a competition offered to all Year 8 pupils at Westcliff. It is a multiple choice test in which pupils' problem solving skills are tested. We offer a similar challenge to Year 10 pupils (Intermediate Mathematics Challenge) and those in Year 12 (Senior Mathematics Challenge). If you wish to know more, please talk to a Mathematics teacher or visit the UKMT website for additional information and practice papers.

Congratulations to all Year 9 pupils who participated in the last UKMT Junior Mathematics Challenge. In particular, credit must go to the following pupils who were awarded the Gold Certificate for their efforts and who were also invited to participate in the Junior Kangaroo (JKang), the follow-on round from the Junior Mathematics Challenge, which took place at the beginning of June:

Ashwin Sharma (our highest scoring student), Toby Long, Brendan Burgess, Gerald Ayittah, Benedict Heath, Shabaa Alam, Luke Read, Lewis Wydell, and Joseph Kuchipudi.

The following pupils also received a Gold Certificate:

Albert Anderson, Sudipan Sarker, Max Pitkin, Tommy Ballam, Donnell Jacobs, Freddie Macro, Sebastian Lambert, Vidip Sahoo and Ethan Mahal.

Mrs L Hammond
Key Stage 3 Mathematics Co-ordinator

MENTORING

The Mathematics Department continues to run a successful student-to-student tutoring scheme during lunchtime and break time. If you wish to sign up for this scheme, either as someone who can help mentor another student or someone who needs help yourself, please see Mr Yeo. We can accommodate students from Year 7 to Year 13 in both Mathematics and Further Mathematics, so if you are having any problems with your work feel free to ask for help. The sessions with your mentor are designed to run across the year but the scheme is flexible to suit your needs, so if you are having a particularly challenging time this term as there is a great deal of work on Algebra, then we can arrange for a mentor for a short period of time instead.

If you wish to sign up as a mentor, we are accepting applications from students in Years 10 to 13.

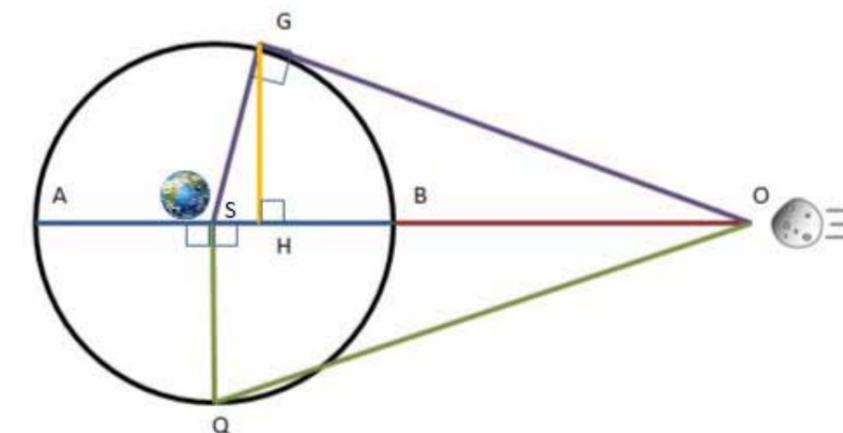
Mr M Dowding
Head of Mathematics

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Adam Whittaker, a Year 13 student with a passion for Mathematics beyond the A Level curriculum, has kindly written a piece of mathematics on Harmonic Mean, Geometric Mean, Arithmetic Mean and Quadratic Mean - commonly known as HM-GM-AM-QM for short - which he shares with you in this issue. Both Adam Whittaker and Zachary Ward are applying to the University of Cambridge to study Mathematics in 2020.

Some people find aspects of Mathematics challenging and can become confused by an equation. However, almost every person will have used one of the most omnipresent mathematics skills at least once in their lifetime, i.e. taking the average of a list of numbers. Something many people do not know is that there are actually multiple ways of taking an average, and they each have different advantages to be exploited in different circumstances. In order to introduce these methods to you, a space-based example will be used.

Let us assume that an asteroid (which scientists have imaginatively named "O") has been detected in the solar system which may present a threat to Earth (Earth is at point "S"). For the purpose of this illustration, let us assume that NASA has 4 satellites positioned at different points in the same circular orbit, named "A", "G", "B" and "Q". The satellites are currently positioned such that A, S, B and O are collinear (on the same line), the line from S to Q is perpendicular to the line from A to O, and satellite G is positioned such that the line OG is a tangent to the orbit of the satellite G.



Satellites A and B have advanced tracking algorithms, and have already calculated their distance to the asteroid as "a" and "b" respectively (ie AO=a and BO=b), but the other three satellites do not have such capabilities. The mathematicians at NASA now need to calculate the distance of the asteroid to each of the satellites by hand in order to accurately extrapolate its motion, and they do so like this.

Arithmetic Mean:

$$OS = \frac{a+b}{2}$$

This is the arithmetic mean, the default mean for most people.

Geometric Mean:

$$AB = b - a \text{ so } AS = SB = SG = SQ = \frac{a-b}{2}$$

This means that

$$GO = \sqrt{\left(\frac{a+b}{2}\right)^2 - \left(\frac{a-b}{2}\right)^2} = \sqrt{ab}$$

(after some algebra) which is the Geometric mean, whose uses range from average relationship in OkCupid to analysing inflation.

Quadratic Mean:

$$OQ = \sqrt{\left(\frac{a+b}{2}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{a-b}{2}\right)^2} = \sqrt{\frac{a^2+b^2}{2}}$$

This is the root-mean-square or the Quadratic Mean, which is used when measuring random velocity or electrical power.

Adam Whittaker
Year 13

SLICES OF PI: MATHEMATICS AT WHSB

ARITHMETIC AND GEOMETRIC MEAN IN STEP

To illustrate the importance of Arithmetic and Geometric means in STEP, the recent 2018 paper contained a question on it. The full question is shown adjacent and Mr Tsang would be happy to discuss the solution with any prospective Mathematics scholars.

Mr E Tsang
Teacher of Mathematics

The real numbers a_1, a_2, a_3, \dots are all positive. For each positive integer n , A_n and G_n are defined by

$$A_n = \frac{a_1 + a_2 + \dots + a_n}{n} \quad \text{and} \quad G_n = (a_1 a_2 \dots a_n)^{1/n}.$$

(i) Show that, for any given positive integer k ,

$$(k+1)(A_{k+1} - G_{k+1}) \geq k(A_k - G_k)$$

if and only if

$$\lambda_k^{k+1} - (k+1)\lambda_k + k \geq 0,$$

where $\lambda_k = \left(\frac{a_{k+1}}{G_k}\right)^{\frac{1}{k+1}}$.

(ii) Let

$$f(x) = x^{k+1} - (k+1)x + k,$$

where $x > 0$ and k is a positive integer. Show that $f(x) \geq 0$ and that $f(x) = 0$ if and only if $x = 1$.

(iii) Deduce that:

(a) $A_n \geq G_n$ for all n ;

(b) if $A_n = G_n$ for some n , then $a_1 = a_2 = \dots = a_n$.

MATHEMATICIAN SPOTLIGHT: GEROLAMO CARDANO (1501-1576)

Cardano was the first mathematician to make systematic use of negative numbers. He published with attribution the solution of "Scipione del Ferro" to the cubic equation and the solution of his student Lodovico Ferrari to the quartic equation in his 1545 book, *Ars Magna*. The solution to one particular case of the cubic equation $x^3 + bx + c = 0$ (in modern notation) had been communicated to him in 1539 by Niccolò Fontana Tartaglia (who later claimed that Cardano had sworn not to reveal it, and engaged Cardano in a decade-long dispute) in the form of a poem, but Scipione del Ferro's solution predated Tartaglia's. In his exposition, he acknowledged the existence of what are now called imaginary numbers, although he did not understand their properties, described for the first time by his Italian contemporary Rafael Bombelli. In *Opus novum de proportionibus* he introduced the binomial coefficients and the binomial theorem.

Cardano was notoriously short of money and kept himself solvent by being an accomplished gambler and chess player. His book about games of chance, *Liber de ludo aleae* ("Book on Games of Chance"), written around 1564, but not published until 1663, contains the first systematic treatment of probability, as well as a section on effective cheating

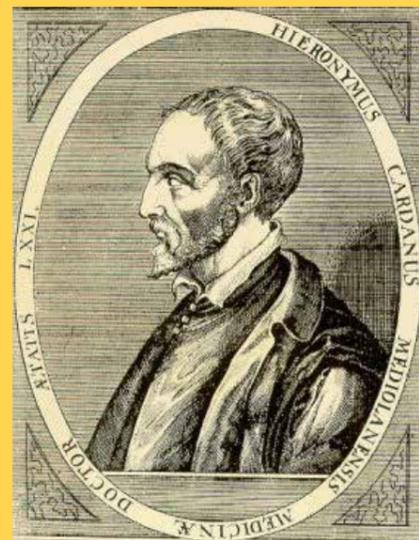
methods. He used the game of throwing dice to understand the basic concepts of probability. He demonstrated the efficacy of defining odds as the ratio of favourable to unfavourable outcomes (which implies that the probability of an event is given by the ratio of favourable outcomes to the total number of possible outcomes). He was also aware of the multiplication rule for independent events but was not certain about what values should be multiplied.

Two of Cardano's children – Giovanni Battista and Aldo Urbano – came to ignoble ends. Giovanni Battista, Cardano's eldest and favourite son, was tried and beheaded in 1560 for poisoning his wife, after he discovered that their three children were not his. Aldo Urbano was a gambler, who stole money from his father, and so Gerolamo disinherited him in 1569.

Cardano moved from Pavia to Bologna, in part because he believed that the decision to execute Giovanni was influenced by Gerolamo's battles with the academic establishment in Pavia, and his colleagues' jealousy at his scientific achievements and also because he was beset with allegations of sexual impropriety with his students. Cardano was arrested by the Inquisition in 1570 for unknown reasons, and forced to spend several months in prison and abjure his professorship. He moved to Rome, received a lifetime annuity from Pope Gregory XIII (after first having been rejected by Pope Pius V) and finished his autobiography. He was accepted in

the Royal College of Physicians and, as well as practising medicine, he continued his philosophical studies until his death in 1576. Cardano is reported to have correctly predicted the exact date of his own death but it has been claimed that he achieved this by committing suicide.

Mr M Dowding
Head of Mathematics

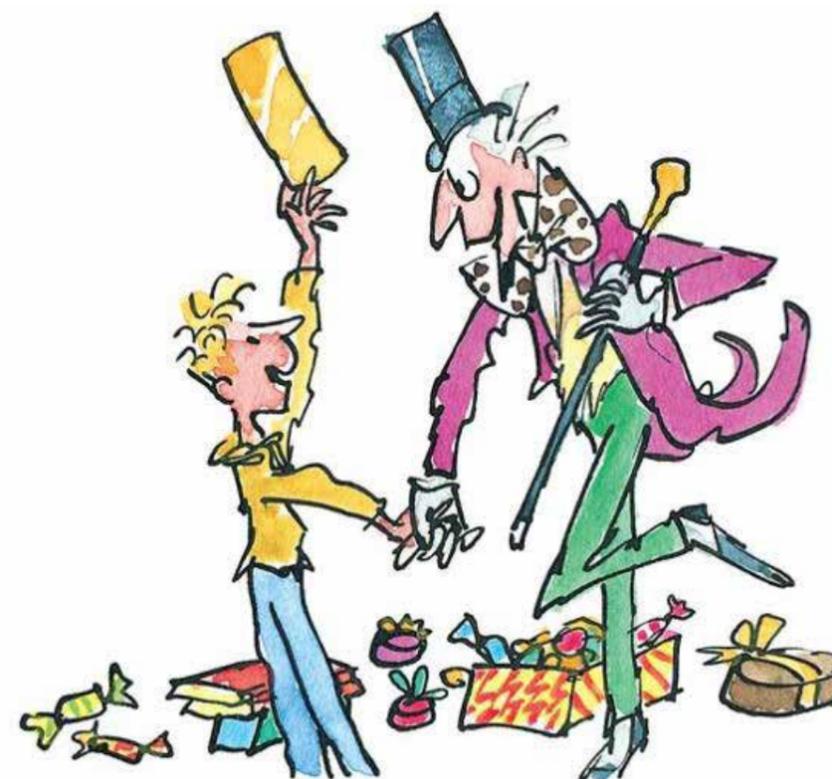


CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

Wednesday 27 to Friday 29 November 2019, 7.30pm

In November, come with our junior actors at the School into the wonderful and wacky world of Roald Dahl with our telling of the story of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, adapted by Richard George into a play. The story is perhaps Dahl's best-known tale and centres around the

poor Charlie Bucket, born into a family of extreme poverty, cabbage soup and bedridden grandparents. However, when Mr Willy Wonka, owner of the fabulous Wonka Chocolate Factory, releases five Golden Tickets into the chocolate eating world, will little Charlie join the plump Augustus, the spoilt Veruca, the gum-chewing Violet and the square eyed Mike Teevee at the factory gates? And is a



lifetime supply of chocolate all that is up for grabs? It will be a festival of cartoon, colour and costume in the Westcliff Theatre this November as pupils from Years 7 to 10 take up Dahl's classic gem of children's literature and present it to you, the lucky recipient of this Golden Ticket. In your wildest dreams, you could not imagine the things that await you!

THEATRE CLUB

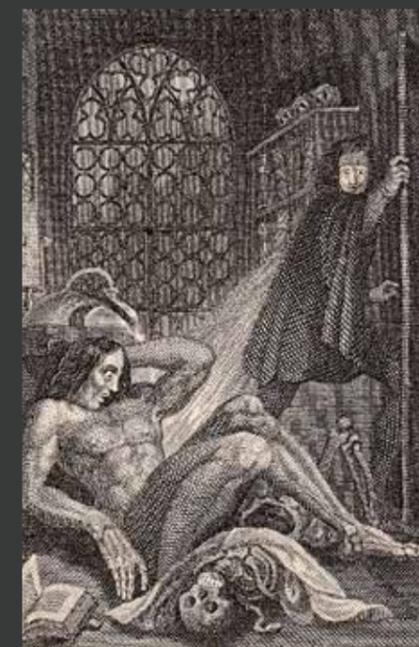
The Westcliff Theatre Club is a new venture that offers students three or four theatre trips over the course of a year to watch a wide range of productions. Membership of this Theatre Club is open to all students throughout the School who are interested in watching and reviewing good theatre. Following last term's trip to watch the immersive *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Bridge Theatre in London, the Club will be setting off again this term to watch one of the many winter spectacles that we are fortunate to have made available to us.

Mr B Jeffreys
Director of Drama

FRANKENSTEIN

Wednesday 9 to Friday 11 October 2019, 7.30pm

This Autumn, WHSB Drama quite literally enters new territory with a performance of the great Gothic horror story, *Frankenstein*, in the School Library. The original story was penned by Mary Shelley at the age of just 19 and has become one of the greatest horror stories of all time. A scientist, Victor Frankenstein, discovers the Promethean secret of creating new life. However, once he is confronted by the reality of what he has created, Victor panics and runs away from his Creature. This sets the Creature on a trail of destruction which is made worse by society's treatment of him. Later confronting Victor, the Creature sets out his demands that a mate be created for him and Victor must decide whether to duplicate the monster he has already produced. His decision will shape the destiny of the Creature and that of his own. In many ways, it was always clear that Mary Shelley could become a great literary figure. Her father was the renowned political philosopher, William Godwin, and her mother the great feminist writer, Mary Wollstonecraft. Mary Shelley herself was the lover of the great Romantic poet, Percy Bysshe Shelley. Surrounded by such talent, what else might one expect but a brilliant literary masterpiece? What is less clear, however, is what Mary Shelley meant by her story. Was it a comment on slavery or on the Industrial Revolution, or was she warning against the scientific and medical experiments of the time? Did she intend a commentary about men and the creation of life, or was the tale a reflection of her own family traumas, the early loss first of her mother and then of a baby son? We hope that you will come along, watch our performance and draw out the story's true meaning for yourself.



COMBINED CADET FORCE

INTEREST MEETING FOR PARENTS AND POTENTIAL NEW CADETS

Thursday 10 October 2019, 7.30pm

The CCF looks forward to welcoming the new intake of Year 9 cadets later this term and we will be holding an interest meeting for parents and cadets on the evening of Thursday 10 October 2019 in the Westcliff Theatre. At this meeting, parents and potential cadets will be able to hear from current cadets and officers about what the CCF has to offer. Shortly thereafter, the CCF will run a series of taster sessions for potential cadets to allow them to decide whether they wish to join and, if so, which section (Royal Navy or Army) would best suit them.

CCF SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY

Once again, the CCF will support the WCGC Leadership and Adventure Activity on Saturday 12 October. This activity session will provide local Year 5 Primary School children the opportunity to try some of the activities offered to the CCF cadets at WHSB to enhance their leadership and problem-solving skills, as well as experiencing some of the wider extra-curricular life offered in a Grammar

School setting.

In addition, the CCF will again support Remembrance Events for the School, local Primary Schools and the Borough of Southend, with services at the schools on Friday 8 November and the parade and service at the Southend Cenotaph on Sunday 10 November.

Maj JJ Bleakley
Contingent Commander

ROYAL NAVY SECTION

Portsmouth Field Weekend (Afloat Training): 3-6 October 2019
Portsmouth Field Day (P2000): 20-21 November 2019
Portsmouth Field Day (Firefighting & DRIU): Monday 13 January 2020

The CCF Royal Navy Section will be offering our cadets a number of field days and weekends in the coming academic year, alongside our programme of camps & courses for our cadets to earn nationally-recognised qualifications. The first field weekend is 3-5 October as we take 10 cadets to Portsmouth for afloat training. The activities on offer will be weather-dependent, but we hope to offer our cadets training on board small motor craft. The second field day has

been rescheduled from June last year and is taking place on 21 November. Cadets will spend the day on a P2000 craft, the Royal Navy's Fast Training Boat and patrol vessel. On 13 January 2020, we will be revisiting the Royal Navy's Firefighting School and Damage Repair Instructional Unit (DRIU) at HMS Excellent along with 15 cadets to undergo simulated flooding and repair of ships. We have a busy term ahead for the Section and we hope our cadets will seize the wonderful opportunities on offer to them.

Lt DJ Hill
OC Royal Navy Section

ARMY SECTION

Mini Camp: 24-27 September 2019

Having been unable to attend the 2019 Summer Camp due to our numbers being so large, our Year 10 cadets will have the opportunity to take part in a 'mini camp' at Cherry Tree Camp in Colchester from 24 to 27 September. During this camp, cadets will have the opportunity to take part in fieldcraft, a Field Training Exercise, Skill at Arms and live firing on ranges. Should they pass each element, this camp will allow many of them to progress through their Army Proficiency Certificate and achieve their first 'star' qualification.

Capt AC Baggs
OC Army Section

A WORD FROM THE RN OFFICERS

Following the appointment of Lt Hill as Commander of the Navy Section by the Headmaster, in a short time, he successfully recruited a strong group of willing teenagers that wanted to explore their potential in a new and challenging way. Having joined shortly afterwards, I came in to an already tightly-run ship by Lt Hill and a group of our pupils that have been a delight to work with from then on.

With another round of recruitment this past September, I found myself asking: why do pupils join the CCF Royal Navy? Discussing this with the Cadets the answer was clear: camaraderie, challenge and inside jokes. This has certainly been my observation of the group. We now have a strong group of Year 10 Cadets that have embodied not only the ethos of the School, but that of Her Majesty's Royal Navy, demonstrating their maturity, ambition and teamwork on our most recent Summer Camp. We also are blessed with a new intake of keen Year 9s who have absolutely thrown themselves into the CCF Royal Navy experience.

However, this summer we had to say goodbye to our Year 13s and it really did feel as if we were losing our leaders. Joe Cameron has been a fundamental element of our success from the CCF Royal Navy Section's inception; his expertise, talent for teaching and dedication has made the section what it is now. Leon Dhadda's boundless energy and gentle wit will also be sorely missed by the Cadets and Officers, sharing his wealth of knowledge and

expertise in a way that was always fun (if not a little too wild). Connor Roberts was perhaps unsure of the potential he had in a senior position, but emerged as one of our finest teachers for the Year 9 Cadets, sharing with them his experiences and the knowledge they needed to become Able Cadets.

It has been our privilege and joy to guide the CCF Royal Navy experience of all our Cadets over the last eighteen months and we sincerely hope that they have had as much fun as we have!

SLt Bailey



THE RSME CADET OPEN DAY: A RETROSPECTIVE

On Wednesday 15 May 2019, 14 Cadets from Years 9 and 10 went to Chatham for the day to see another side of Army. Like the Welbeck Cadet Leadership Challenge, the day was a competition that consisted of different activities and we gained points based on how well we performed. We participated in physically demanding tasks such as the indoor climbing wall and indoor assault course, and mentally challenging dilemmas that involved problem-solving and leadership skills.

The day started early; we met at the school for departure at 6.45am and left on the hour-long journey with Lt Tresidder and RSM Lyne. With our first session being the physical tasks in the gym, we listened to an introduction and left for the training area. The assault course was improvised and consisted of rope swinging, leopard crawling and jumping. We had to complete the course as quickly as possible, as many times as possible, gaining one point for every person round - it was extremely challenging and at the end of the 15 minutes we accrued 50 points, with an impressive 9 rounds from Charlie Gutteridge. After this, we attempted the climbing wall, but rather than climbing up, we scaled across the face of the wall; it was great fun and tested our strength and ability to think quickly. Teamed up with three members from Sussex ACF, we completed the wall 12 times - just shy of the 18 we needed to win.

Once our physical tasks had finished, we passed through the gym into the field where we completed command tasks - these being a blindfolded, timed minefield challenge and a scaled up 'Tower of Hanoi' exercise. The tasks were largely successful and for them we were split into two groups with different cadets taking command each time. Each team performed exceptionally well, one team having the fastest Tower time and the other, one of the fastest blindfolded times.

Next was an early lunch from 11.15am to 12.15pm in which all cadets were issued MOD ration packs to eat - WHSB cadets having particularly bad luck with the meals they received! We took the food we wanted to keep and left the rest, leaving a huge box of uneaten food.

Our second period of the day involved exercises on water at a place we had visited before, specifically a task in which we had a chicken, a fox, and grain. We had ten people in the boat and had to transport the chicken, fox and grain to a drop off point in a certain combination; the chicken was not able to remain alone with the fox because the fox would eat it, and the chicken could not be alone with the grain for the same reason. Zeeshan Hossain



very quickly grasped the idea and led us through the exercise. We made multiple trips, heaving and rowing together, finishing the course in the quickest time of the day. There was another contest later that involved Royal Engineer Plant and Machinery (huge diggers). We had to hook a duck and move it from one cone to another with very delicate movements. It was tough, but fun to do and watch, with special congratulations to Adam Hodges who completed the task in 35 seconds - the quickest time achieved by any cadet that day.

During the rest of the day there were tours in using advanced scopes to gauge distances, structural building and finishing, a bricklaying competition and lessons on explosives, IEDs and how military dogs can find them. It was an excellent trip that showed a different side of the Army. I would thoroughly encourage all of the current Year 9s to think about joining the CCF, and all current Cadets to try these activities. Finally, I would like to thank Lt Tresidder and RSM Lyne for arranging the day.

L/Cpl Matthew Pearman
Year 11



COMBINED CADET FORCE

BALLYKINLER BATTLE CAMP 2019: A RETROSPECTIVE

I would like to begin this article with a huge thanks to all staff involved in leading this excellent trip: Major Bleakley, Captain Baggs and Lieutenant Tresidder. They rotated, incredibly, on 30-hour shifts, ensuring that every sentry, every patrol and every quick response ran smoothly and safely. I would also like to express thanks to former CCF Cadets Hassan Sarfraz and Harry Rusby, and Daniel Barton and Dhilan Patel, our Platoon Commanders for their guidance and help throughout the week. We owe every incredible, sleep-deprived hour to you and trying to include all our experiences into this article will be quite a task!

The trip began on Wednesday 3 April 2019 when we left after a long day at School and took the minibus to Stansted Airport, where we flew to Belfast International Airport. From here, we took a much more comfortable coach to collect the military safety vehicle and then on to our accommodation in Ballykinler Training Camp where we stayed for the first night. The morning started early, with the only shower we were going to have for a long time and a cookhouse breakfast. After this, we took to the ranges for the day where we shot at different distances and with different targets multiple times. It also hailed a great deal while we were packing our kit, soaking it all for the next few days to come - a great example of the weather in Northern Ireland! However, overall it was an excellent experience, with James Houser having the best

grouping of the day, even though he had never fired a rifle before then. At the end of the shooting we all participated in a 'falling plates' competition in which we had to sprint 100 metres and fire at metal plates 200 metres away - it was hard-fought and a tough challenge. This marked the end of the range day and the beginning of the camp, at which point we were placed into our sections. We travelled to Beeston Village - a mock up version of urban Belfast terraces - which would become our home for the next week. After receiving our briefing at roughly 9.00pm we set off to secure our forward-operating base (FOB). We were to protect the people of Beeston Village and keep the peace, eliminating the threat of conflict from dissident republican militants active in the area.

It was pitch black when we moved into the village which gave the enemies firing at us excellent cover; we were taking fire from all fronts and had to rapidly move to the North of the village to meet an agent who would give us the key to the safe-house. After a long period of holding gates shut and waiting anxiously, it was decided that the location was not suitable to be the Forward Operating Base (FOB) for the platoon. Because of this we had to move out again to the building of the Rangers Football Club Supporters Association where we spent hours securing and setting up our FOB, immediately placing sentries and building beds in whatever rooms were available. During this time, Sections 1, 2 and 3 were put on 6-hour rotations of either the quick response force (QRF), sentry or patrol. Once this was complete and the platoon commanders had an idea of what we were doing, we started the



rotations. Each day saw recce patrols go out, gathering intelligence on the enemy and land surrounding us, and we were sent on ambushes late at night and early in the morning, ready to attack passing enemies. This cycle became almost instinctive as we rotated between guarding the doors, to waiting for an attack, to waiting on patrol orders. A particularly important patrol was the one that collected our rations. Section 3 moved from our FOB across the entire compound to collect rations and return them. On this patrol, we came across a group of injured cadets who had been compromised by a rigged ammunition drop. We had to help the section and provide first aid in the middle of our patrol - there was a great deal of (tomato ketchup) blood! After this, we secured the ration packs and headed back to our FOB. The week consisted of many of these kind of patrols; they taught us how to move in the field and how to respond to contact when on particular patrols. On the way back from a patrol, we were



ambushed (although Section Commander Jaisan Chauhan saw the enemies hiding before we got there). We were taught rapid anti-ambush drills by Hassan and faced the enemies, peeling off until we found a break point, at which point we all sprinted to cover. The other rotations did not miss out on anything either; after the first night the sentries were moved out of the FOB to patrol the streets and properly fulfil the details of our brief - protecting the people of Beeston. On sentry, people were contacted, they recorded details on all enemy movement and communicated with the enemy in an attempt to gain intelligence and calm down tensions between fronts. The QRF stayed up throughout the night and day waiting for contact and this occurred multiple times very early in the morning - 1.00am, 3.00am and 4.00am. The section commander led his section to eliminate the enemy, using different methods each time.

Our enemies, provided by Campbell College Belfast, left the compound entirely on Sunday as they had to return to school on Monday, so the situation then was not as intense. Sentries stopped multiple vans gaining intelligence from the driver and confiscating rifles and weapons from the enemy - we had an agent within the ranks of the enemy and so gained intelligence through this means. Eventually, under the agent's instruction,



Section 3 pushed into enemy territory to arrest and retrieve further intelligence. Jake Masterton performed the arrest, wasting no time and capturing the target at the cost of a cadet (me) being taken hostage. The cadets then held one of the militants captive to trade units, but this was compromised when the militant was wearing an IED. In the midst of the chaos, a plan was formulated to infiltrate and eliminate, rescuing the hostage and arresting all enemies. The next day, as the militants became Campbell College cadets again, we thanked them for all their help, and said goodbye. Subsequently, our radicalised captive (me again) recruited a leader in Ben Johannsson, who then recruited a section of enemy (including Lt Tresidder) to form another dissident group formed from WHSB cadets. This took place at the time the FOB was being moved, as the original objective had been achieved and WHSB cadets were to be redeployed into another area. This was near to where the rations were originally collected - Todd's Farm - which was a long trek, but here the cadets could finally take a shower.

The new dissident group, or, RIRA as we called ourselves, did not do this and instead went back to the training camp where we had the nicest showers ever. Sections in the new FOB set up as before for the last few days of the camp and prepared for a platoon attack on the



remaining enemies. RIRA wasted no time in admitting they were the enemy, after much effort to try to get more WHSB cadets to convert to the new way of six full hours of sleep. Once it was decided that no more would join, we spent hours attacking the front gate and shouting at the platoon in Todd's Farm. Section attacks were conducted but were expertly defended by RIRA cadets until the day came when the platoon was ready for deployment - the final movement of the entire week at 6.00am. Here, every cadet was ready to push for the end of the exercise and it was incredible. Rounds were fired left, right and centre with sections covering land across all fronts and this continued until it was confirmed that no enemies were left in the area. After this, we swept the land collecting hundreds of casings and had the first cooked meal for days, which was wonderful.

The next day of the trip included adventure training up Slieve Donard, a mountain in the Mourne Mountain range. However, instead of walking up the mountain, we had to climb it through the icy waters of the Bloody Bridge River, jumping into plunge pools and climbing up waterfalls, and even encountering a sheep carcass in the middle of the rocky flow of water. This was followed by kit return, hours of rifle cleaning and, the following day, shopping in Newcastle, during which many of the cadets bought and sampled a litre or more of the delicious Maud's ice cream.

This is just a short summary of the entire camp and, regrettably, I could not cover all of the incredible experiences in the space available. Battle Camp is unique and a culmination of everything you learn as a cadet and more. Once again, thank you to the staff, former cadets and the cadets in charge that ensured the trip ran without a hitch. If an experience like this does not convince you to join the cadets, or take up these opportunities if you have already joined, I do not know what will!

*L/Cpl Matthew Pearman
Year 11*



COMBINED CADET FORCE

BRITISH ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE 2019: A RETROSPECTIVE

In January, the Year 10 CCF Navy section were privileged to visit the British Royal Naval College (BRNC) in Dartmouth, Devon for three days, all of which were spent living on Hindostan, a Sandown-class Minehunter now a training ship for officer cadets. At around 15:30 hours on 17 January, we loaded up the minibus 'Clive' and began the eight-hour journey to HMS Raleigh to spend the night before heading to Dartmouth. We arrived at HMS Raleigh at around 21:00 hours and eventually set up in Mess Deck Ambush and stayed for the night.

After breakfast at around 07:00 hours we set out for HMS Dartmouth, also known as BRNC. When we arrived, we met Lieutenant Rennie, who kindly gave us a tour of the college. During the tour, we were asked if any of our relatives serve or served in the Navy. We found out that Dominic Cousins was nephew to Captain Iain Cull, a high-ranking officer once affiliated with the college. The most prominent part was the Senior Gunroom, which is a large dining hall lined with exquisite paintings and each table is set like an expensive restaurant. We also visited a pen full of 64 beagles – beagles have been on the site of the BRNC since the 19th century and they were to always be kept alongside the college; it was a great way for the cadets to play around and kill time. Afterwards, a very engaging and entertaining physics lesson took place in the laboratory of the college to demonstrate how boats float, and this is used to reassure Cadets and Officers in Training that ships will float.

After lunch, we loaded up onto Hindostan, which we had all to ourselves. During our downtime, we played hide and seek on the ship. There were many places to hide; some people were very creative. This included a group of cadets going into a small hatch and setting up a fake wall, and Lt Hill getting into an empty diver's suit and jumping at the seekers, sending one screaming back through the door.

The next day we woke up at around 06:30 hours, kicking off the day early. After breakfast, we spent the morning out on the water on powerboats. It was a great experience for those involved, and a great way to spend the morning. The beautiful Dartmouth landscape was the subject of many pictures taken by cadets, and I think this dazzling scenery alone is a good reason to visit. Next came the low ropes obstacle course, in which the challenge was one full round of the course. The record at that time was 12:00 minutes. Our team managed to complete it in 12:08 minutes, which was still an excellent score.

The highlight of our visit was the once-in-a-lifetime 'try dive', in which four cadets at a time donned scuba gear and swam around a pool. This was a life experience like no other. As for the people waiting, they just swam around in the pool, which was almost 8-foot-deep, and we held relay races while wearing full body suits and leaving the zip open.

Our final day was, in my opinion, the wildest day. Whilst packing and transporting the luggage back to the minibus, SLt Bailey's hat was accidentally jettisoned. This sent everyone into a frenzy, with the Cadets scrambling down to the opposite pier trying to retrieve it. Unfortunately, we were too late, but it was still a great story to tell afterwards. After breakfast we had an interview



with an Officer Cadet who used to be in the CCF. This was quite an interesting insight into the life of a recruit going into Logistics. Next was chapel; most of us went to the regular chapel, apart from two who went to the Catholic chapel. Our final activity was the bridge simulator, which was a highlight of our trip. Lt Rennie organised us into teams of four and tasked us with docking a frigate in the Isle of Portland. In all simulations there were two things in each simulation: a submarine labelled 'Justus' U-boat' and a battleship/corvette that kept spinning in circles labelled 'The party boat'. When the third team went, all seriousness was lost when Lt Rennie started spawning large cargo ships every two hundred metres and throwing the worst of weather and visibility at them. This was a good way to end the trip before beginning the eight-hour journey back to Westcliff.

Ansh Singh
Year 11



HMS BELLEROPHON: A RETROSPECTIVE

On Friday 14 June the Royal Navy cadets, after a 6.30am march to breakfast, boarded HMS Bellerophon, one of the Royal Navy CCF's latest acquisitions. HMS Bellerophon is a 10-man sailing yacht, and our home for the next two days.



Our journey started by navigating out of Portsmouth harbour, into the Solent, which was not an easy task. We had to negotiate past ferries and other boats, including the HMS Queen Elizabeth II aircraft carrier in its moorings.

Once we had exited the port we learnt the art of sailing and hoisting the sails. All cadets had a chance to take the helm and learn how to tack and gybe. Communicating effectively was a key part of this task so we knew when to winch the jib sail to the other side of the boat.

On arrival in Lymington Marina, the facilities housed the best showers we had ever seen on a cadet trip! Fish and chips in a local park rounded off a great first day and we also enjoyed some free time in a beautiful seaside village.

After a more leisurely start, we set sail back to Portsmouth, sailing amongst racing boats and alongside a large container ship, which seemed like a giant compared to our small vessel. However, we made such incredible speed (7-8 knots) we had time for a brief visit to Seaview village on the Isle of Wight via a fast RIB transfer.

Overall, this trip was a great opportunity for all cadets involved to learn about many important skills needed to crew a yacht over a longer trip.

Matthew Hawkins
Year 11



HMS COLLINGWOOD ASSAULT COURSE: A RETROSPECTIVE

On Thursday the Cadets travelled down to HMS Collingwood, a training base for the royal Navy and the Royal Marines. Some of the Year 10s had visited before, so there was a strong sense of trust and camaraderie between the group during the day.

The day started with a low ropes course which challenged our communication and teamwork skills. There were a range of obstacles to climb, swing and cross so that we could continue the course. We joined Christ's Hospital School for this challenge as they were also there for the morning.

During a well-earned lunch break, WO1 Cox decided to teach the group some rifle drill. We had lots of fun as it was a new experience for all of us and a highly anticipated one too. Then, we were taken to a simulator where we could fire simulated ammunition with real guns. We shot at a screen as it took us through downtown Portsmouth which had been invaded. There were a range of scores at the end ranging from 24 to 0. All in all, the morning was an exciting experience for everyone.

The afternoon started with a quick

run through of the assault course with a variety of physically demanding exercises completed by real training officers, creating a nervous but exciting atmosphere. We had a quick warm up and a light jog to prepare for the first obstacle which was the 'A Frame'. We scrambled up the cargo net and many bravely faced their fear of heights. We then encountered a rope swing, where we had to swing across a pool of water and, at the other side, we grabbed our teammates as they came across; many did not survive this obstacle without getting totally soaked. After crawling through a tunnel, we encountered a concrete wall, around two meters in height. We had to push each other up the wall and then lower ourselves down on the other side. This was completed successfully with

a strong team effort. The penultimate obstacle was a zip wire where the team members had to pull each other across a pool. With everyone pulling the rope to get each other across quickly, it was completed successfully. The final test of our teamwork was a struggle through a water-filled mud slide under a cargo net. The first few cadets went on and held up the net so that the rest could pass by. Once we were all out, a quick dash to the finish brought smiles and cheers among the group.

All in all, HMS Collingwood was a great experience for all of the cadets and I am sure that we will return next summer!

Adam Biggs
Year 11



COMBINED CADET FORCE

RN SUMMER CAMP 2019: A RETROSPECTIVE

As we arrived at Portsmouth, we were all eager to get on board HMS Bristol - the training ship for cadets and adult trainees.

HMS Bristol was formally an anti-aircraft destroyer which served in the Falkland Islands so it was fascinating to walk and sleep in a former combat ship. Therefore, this ensured that it was an especially exciting experience for the Year 9 cadets, as this was their first time away overnight on a naval vessel. This experience showcased to all the cadets what it is like to live and serve on a warship, in terms of organisation and the nature of daily life on a huge ship.

This setting was already grandiose, but the interaction with Naval personnel gave us an insight into the life of a sailor in training. To add to this, the Naval

personnel were helpful in explaining to us some of their experiences which engaged all of the Cadets. The interaction with these sailors added much to the trip and ensured that our accommodation was not merely a place to sleep but an interesting and welcoming place to stay.

*Ben McKay
Year 11*

For the Year 9 Cadets, attending our first ever Summer Camp with the Navy and its members, was an experience to remember. We all gained otherwise unobtainable experiences, such as the Tarzan swinging over water at HMS Collingwood and laser-tag.

Camaraderie was built during our close-quartered free time in the rooms, which turned from a relaxation, snooker and table tennis room to a loud and ball whacking war-zone that led everybody to learn a little bit more about one and other.

When on the boats, split into two sub-sections, we learnt many skills such as navigation and how to use knot-tying in real life situations. We also learnt how to deal with being within 30cm of another person, which was the real struggle. In a word, it was memorable; we met people from another school in Sussex whose benevolence and quick amalgamation into our groups, led to an amenable low ropes experience..

However, we found out that the Royal Navy is not all fun and games or fighting; it is not working on boats or using weapons. It is also tidying beds, having discipline, teamwork, precise marching and the importance of always giving 100% in all that you do. The trip was one that everybody enjoyed and one we cannot wait to share with the future Naval Cadets.

*Ethan King
Year 10*



OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION REUNION DINNER

Friday 6 September 2019, 6.15pm

This year's Reunion Dinner will be on Friday 6 September in the School Hall. Our speaker will be Roger Buxton, well-known local raconteur and formerly a BBC Essex sports presenter. We look forward to welcoming him. Our Dinners are always hugely enjoyable occasions and the highlight of the OWA year.

Tickets are priced at £29.50 and £17.50 for those in full-time education. There will be a cash bar and raffle for OWA funds which are used to support the School.

Places may be booked online on TicketSource or with the application form

available in the latest OWA newsletter.

We are looking forward to the School Centenary next year, and the Gala Dinner at the Cliffs Pavilion on Saturday 1 February 2020 in particular, where we hope to have fantastic support from OWs. David Norman, our President, represents us on the Steering Committee, and the OWA is playing its part in ensuring that the Centenary activities are a success.

Membership is open to past students, and present and past members of staff. Membership is free to those in Year 13 until the end of full-time education and then costs £10 for those up to age 30. The cost is £20 for those over the age of 30. These are one-off, lifetime subscriptions.

We are delighted to have recently welcomed Kirsty Hickey, Billy Warby

and Alastair Graham, all former WHSB pupils, to our Committee, and this has lowered the average age of Committee members quite considerably! If any OW is interested in helping to run the OWA, we would be pleased to hear from you.

Our latest newsletter was published in June. If you think you should have received one or if you wish to have a personal copy then please get in touch. Alternatively, the newsletter is available within the Community section of the School website, along with past copies.

My thanks are extended to my Committee and to the Headmaster for his unfailing support to me, and for his enthusiasm in wishing, like me, to keep our Association alive and successful. His support in this endeavour is invaluable.

*Terry Birdseye
Honorary Secretary
terry.birdseye@gmail.com*

WCGC: GO FOR GRAMMAR! 11+ FAMILIARISATION PROGRAMME 2019/20

The School's *Go for Grammar!* Programme is now well established and continues to provide a series of 11+ familiarisation events throughout the School to encourage local children to consider the possibility of a state Grammar School education. Since its inception almost 5,000 local children have participated. Working closely with local primary schools to offer opportunities for bright children, primarily from disadvantaged backgrounds, the *Go for Grammar!* Programme for Year 5 boys and girls living within the School's local priority catchment area (postcodes SS0 to SS9) provides a taste of what a Grammar School education is like. In addition, parents are provided with practical information about the 11+ examination and how best to help their children prepare to sit the examination. We are delighted that this September WHSB has filled its allocation of places for local children and congratulate all those involved in securing this success.

The *Go for Grammar!* Programme consists of a series of themed 'workshop' events which take place on Saturdays throughout the academic year. Each workshop will include Mathematics and English sessions, run by members of our teaching staff and covering material that is relevant to 11+ examination questions.

Workshop themes for 2019/2020 include:

12 October 2019

Adventure and Leadership, including a series of exciting outdoor leadership and problem-solving tasks run by cadets from our Combined Cadet Force

16 November 2019

Creative Development, including sessions in Art, Music, Technology and Design to learn new creative skills

18 January 2020

Humanities, including activities in Philosophy, Volcanoes and World War II designed to engage and challenge

7 March 2020

Science, looking at the science of living things, chemical reactions and forces or electricity, with sessions in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

2 May 2020

Multi-Sports, including action-packed summer sporting opportunities that are fun for all

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE



SCIENCE ROADSHOWS

Once again, Year 5 pupils in our local primary schools were delighted to experience our infamous Science Roadshows, led by Dr Machacek and his team of enthusiastic Year 12 and Year 13 students. Such was the demand this year that the team very kindly agreed to extend the number of dates available in order to accommodate additional classes of children, eager to experience senior school science experiments in their very own classrooms. Following the success of this support at Chalkwell Hall Junior School, WHSB has been proud to support the Year 6 pupils' project work on Heart Dissection, by lending essential science equipment to their school, enabling all of their pupils to participate.

WHSB ALUMNI NETWORK

Our Alumni network continues to grow and this summer we welcomed those students leaving the School at the end of Year 13 into the WHSB Alumni Community. We wish them every success with their future studies and careers and look forward to keeping in touch with those who have signed up to our Alumni Network Mailing List. If you, or someone you know, would like to join the WHSB Alumni Network and/or join the OWA, please take a few minutes to register your details via the WHSB School website. Select 'Community' from the Main Menu followed by 'Alumni & Old Westcliffian Association'. You can then join the School's free Alumni Network Mailing List by completing the online subscription form and/or sign-up to the Old Westcliffian Association by downloading and submitting an OWA Membership Application Form.

We are delighted that our Alumni network is growing and ask for your continued support in its expansion. We are so pleased when OWs and their families from across the generations get in touch with their news, and to have the opportunity to welcome back OWs to our events during the academic year. Whether you have left the School only recently, or many years ago, we would be delighted to welcome to you our events, the details of which can be found in the Westcliff Diary. Your presence and support makes such a difference to our pupils, who are continually inspired by OWs. In July, the Headmaster was delighted to welcome David Willis back to the School after fifty-two years. David is living in Greece, and has had a successful career as a leader in education and got in touch as he wished to visit the School as part of his 80th birthday celebrations. David revisited parts of the School and shared his memories with members of his family who joined him.

You can follow WHSB on Facebook and Twitter where you can find out about the latest news, developments and events taking place at the School. You can also network and keep in touch with other members of the WHSB Alumni Community on LinkedIn. We welcome your comments and contributions for future editions of the Alumni Network Newsletter which is published termly, with the next scheduled for Autumn 2019. Please contact Mrs Clarke or Mrs Weller in the Community Development Office on 01702 475443 or via email at community@whsb.essex.sch.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

*Mrs J Clarke/Mrs N Weller
Community Development Office*

CAREERS

YEAR 10 CAREERS FOCUSED ENRICHMENT DAY

For the third consecutive year, Year 10 boys were privileged to be given access to a multitude of professionals representing a variety of industry sectors, during their Year Group specific Enrichment Day in July. Following the success, and extremely positive feedback from the previous two years, pupils took part in a 'carousel' event, covering topics including Investment Banking, Law, Apprenticeships, Media, Mock Interviews, and Mindfulness, naming but a few agenda topics on offer. A great number of volunteers from the WHSB community, and also our wider professional community, gave up their time to support the School throughout the day. All in all, there were 38 volunteers and we offer them our sincere thanks. Their superb and generous contributions have extended opportunities for our pupils and offered inspiration to them for the future.

SUMMER 2019 WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME

Following the end of the GCSE examinations, our Year 11 pupils were

ready, willing and able to attend their prior arranged work placements, either locally or, in some cases, in the City. The School was able to secure work experience positions for over 50% of this Year Group, as well as a number of placements for Year 12 pupils. In addition, a number of parents actively sought work experience using their own contacts and networks, enabling pupils to gain invaluable insight into professional work places previously unexplored, and we thank them for their fantastic support. These opportunities are difficult to secure and therefore, if you may be able to offer one of our pupils a position in the summer 2020, for example in a core industry sector such as Banking, Finance, Law, Engineering or Medicine, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact me directly on wellern@whsb.essex.sch.uk if you think you may be able to assist. Work experience supports our pupils in making informed decisions about their future career paths and it also provides them with first-hand knowledge in the relevant discipline and a better understanding of their own skills.

DARREN GRAHAM, CONNEXIONS

Recently, we have said goodbye to Darren Graham from Connexions, who has taken the decision to pursue his career within the field of Apprenticeships. Connexions provides independent careers advice and guidance to pupils and Darren has provided excellent support to WHSB

pupils in Year 11, and occasionally to pupils in other Year Groups, in preparing for professional interviews and thinking about their future careers. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Darren, who has offered valuable, professional and knowledgeable support at WHSB for nearly 15 years. We wish him every success for the future. We look forward to welcoming his successor.

CAREERS IN ENGINEERING EVENING

Wednesday 4 December 2019, 7.00pm

WHSB's highly successful Careers Evenings, open to pupils from WHSB and our other local schools, will run again this year and will commence on Wednesday 4 December 2019 with our Careers in Engineering evening. During the Spring term, we will once again welcome additional guest speakers from a multitude of industry sectors to share their thoughts and experiences on their profession with the pupils. Our pupils gain so much from these events and, if you think you may be able to offer support by sharing details and experiences of your own career pathway with pupils from all Year Groups, please contact me directly on wellern@whsb.essex.sch.uk to discuss these opportunities.

Mrs N Weller

Careers and Work Related Placement Co-ordinator

YOUNG ENTERPRISE

The end of each academic year brings with it the closure of the Young Enterprise Company Programme. We have had two teams participating this year, with boys and girls from Year 12 demonstrating their creativeness and business acumen. They have all gained insight into the world of industry and understand that objectives can only be achieved with an effective team in which members respect each individual's contribution.

Mrs N Weller

Careers and Work Related Placement Co-ordinator



WELCOME TO WESTCLIFF: AN EVENING FOR NEW PARENTS

Monday 23 September 2019, 6.00pm

On Monday 23 September, before the School's Year 7 Education Evening event, the Parents' Association will be hosting its annual "Welcome to Westcliff" evening for all those parents new to the School. Parents' Association members will be serving refreshments in the Screens area, adjacent to the Main School Hall. This is an informal and enjoyable evening where you can meet the Headmaster and members of the WHSB staff. During the course of the evening, you will also have the opportunity to network and socialise with other new parents. In previous years, this Welcome Evening has proved very useful in helping answer practical questions that may have arisen once pupils have actually joined the School. Contact can be made with other parents whose sons and daughters are in the same Form Group and with those who live in the same locality. The evening is free of charge to attend and we look forward to meeting you.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION AGM

Monday 23 September 2019, 7.00pm

The Parents' Association AGM will be held on Monday 23 September at 7.00pm in the School's Lecture Theatre, room W31. A summary of our fundraising efforts over the previous year will be communicated together with a presentation of our accounts and the voting in of Committee post-holders for the new academic year. The meeting is open to all members of our School Community and we look forward to seeing you.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION 100 CLUB: MONTHLY PRIZE DRAW

Established in 1996, our Parents' Association 100 Club has raised thousands of pounds over the years enabling us to provide many items beneficial to the School. With the passing of each School year, the Parents' Association loses members of the 100 Club as their sons and daughters leave WHSB. Therefore, it is vital for new members to become involved. For a monthly contribution of just £5, members of the 100 Club (who must be associated with the School) are entered into a monthly draw to win a cash sum, currently in the region of £150. Lucky winners will be sent a cheque by

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

our PA Treasurer. If you would like to join our 100 Club, a registration form and joining instructions can be downloaded from the School website <https://www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/pa>. If you have any queries or require any further details, please email us at pa@whsb.essex.sch.uk. Thank you for your support.

SHOP ONLINE AND RAISE FUNDS FOR THE SCHOOL

Amazon Smile: When you shop on Amazon Smile, money can be donated to WHSB's Parents' Association at the click of a button. Amazon Smile is a website operated by Amazon that allows customers to enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices and convenient shopping featured as on amazon.co.uk. The difference is that when you shop through smile.amazon.co.uk, WHSB Parents' Association receives 0.5% of the net purchase price. Simply use your regular Amazon account details to log in at smile.amazon.co.uk. On your first visit to smile.amazon.co.uk, you are asked to select a charitable organisation. Choose or search for Westcliff High School for Boys Parents' Association. Once selected, shop as usual and 0.5% of your net purchase price will be donated to the Parents' Association.

EasyFundraising: Easyfundraising is a shopping directory listing some of the UK's favourite online stores including Amazon, John Lewis, Marks & Spencer, Debenhams 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. Our thanks in anticipation!

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION MERCHANDISE

Look out for our WHSB Parents'



Association Jute Bags, priced at £5 each, on sale at events in School hosted or supported by the Parents' Association. These high-quality and ethically produced bags are sourced from The Natural Bag Company, the UK's specialist jute bag printer and supplier. They make excellent gifts for the festive season!

CHRISTMAS WITH THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Looking ahead, the Parents' Association will be supporting the School at their annual seasonal events held this term. Along with our pop-up Prosecco Bar, we will be serving mulled wine, soft drinks and ice cream at the ever-popular Christmas with the Big Band event. In addition, at the end of term, our PA members will be serving complimentary mulled wine and mince pies to those attending the School's Carol Service. We hope to see you there!

WHY NOT JOIN US?

We always welcome and actively encourage WHSB parents, particularly those who are new to the School, to come along to our meetings to get to know us and to find out more about what we do. Meetings are typically held twice during each term. We do not expect a huge time commitment from people and many of our active members help out at just one or two events per year. You can find out more about the Parents' Association, our Committee Members and the items and projects that we have funded on the School website and in the termly-issued *Westcliff Diary* (our meeting times are listed on the back page). Please email us at pa@whsb.essex.sch.uk if you would like any further information or to add your contact email address to our distribution listing for news, information and Parents' Association Meeting Minutes. Alternatively, you can reach us through the School Office.

Mrs J Clarke

Parents' Association Chair

MUSIC AT WHSB

AUTUMN CHAMBER RECITAL

Thursday 3 October 2019, 7.30pm

The year's musical programme begins with a showcase of WHSB's talented soloists and small ensembles. The full age range of the School will be on display, from senior musicians such as violinist, Jasmine Margalit, Middle School pianist, Jonathan Cheung performing Mozart's famous *Turkish March*, to the youngest in the School with the Treble Choir. Regulars such as the String Ensemble and quartets will also perform in what is sure to be a most enjoyable evening of live music.

Tickets are free of charge for pupils and cost £5 for adults.

AUTUMN SINFONIA CONCERT

Thursday 21 November 2019, 7.30pm

The first Sinfonia concert of the academic year gets us off to a rousing start with the famous Gallop from Offenbach's opera *Orpheus in the Underworld*. Despite the sombre subject matter of the opera, this is a work of lively comedy that could even encourage the occupants of Hades to kick the air with the *Can-Can* dance. This will also function as a celebration of the French composer who was born 200 years ago this year.

Oboist, Charlie Gershinson, will be accompanied by the Sinfonia in a performance of Bellini's *Oboe Concerto in E flat*. This is the only surviving concerto in the Italian composer's output and,



despite its short length, it demonstrates the versatility of the oboe. The first half concludes with Tchaikovsky's bombastic and nationalistic *Marche Slave*, written to celebrate Russia's intervention in the Serbo-Turkish war of the 1870s.

The second half deviates from the Romantic style of the first by focussing on the work of Joseph Haydn, often seen as the father of music's Classical period. The Sinfonia will perform his *Symphony 93*, the first of what was later called the *London Symphonies*. Haydn wrote this symphony on his visit to the city and gave its first performance in London in 1792. Like much of his work, this symphony showcases Haydn's peculiar sense of humour. For example, the second movement gradually gets quieter and slower until it is interrupted by a blast from a bassoon.

Tickets are free of charge for pupils and cost £5 for adults.

CENTENARY COMPOSITION COMPETITION

With the School's Centenary Celebrations beginning at the start of 2020, the WHSB Music Department is pleased to announce the Centenary Composition Competition. All members of the student body are invited to create a piece of music to commemorate the School's 100th birthday. The winning compositions will be performed by musicians of the School over the course of the Centenary Year, and will be preserved by the School to be performed at future celebrations.

Details of the competition are as follows:

- Entries can be written for any instrument or ensemble;
- Entries can be of any length, although entrants should be wary of padding a piece through repetition;
- Entries can be in any style or genre;
- Entries must in some way relate to the Centenary, the School and/or its history. The following examples would qualify:
 - A celebratory mood;
 - Programme music about a time in the School's history (such as old boys fighting in the Second World War);
 - A song in which the lyrics relate to the School in some way.

The above rules mean that a five-minute pop song about the School's founding, written for piano and voice, is just as eligible as a short celebratory fanfare for brass.

The composition is open to all current students from Year 7 to Year 13. The deadline for the competition is Friday 22 November. Entries should be emailed to Mr Derrick at derrickt@whsb.essex.sch.uk. Budding composers needing advice should contact Mr Derrick or Mr McGee, who will be happy to help or provide ideas.

MUSICOLOGY SEMINAR: GLOBALISATION

Thursday 17 October 2019, 3.45pm

The world has shrunk over the past two decades, as the internet becomes more and more vital to business and day-to-day life. There is a name for this phenomenon: globalisation, which is the process by which the world is becoming increasingly connected due to trade and cultural exchange.

But this process began a long time ago,

TRIP TO THE ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL TO SEE THE PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

Thursday 24 October 2019, 4.30pm

The Music Department's termly trip to see a concert takes us to the south bank of the Thames in London, an appropriate venue for the first piece on the programme, Britten's *Four Sea Interludes*, made from extracts of his opera *Peter Grimes*. Britten wrote the piece in self-imposed exile from Britain as a conscientious objector at the start of World War II. However, the creation of this dark work caused him to realise "in a flash where I belonged", and he returned

to Suffolk by 1942.

Sol Gabetta is the soloist for Shostakovich's *Cello Concerto No.1*, a fiery number considered to be proof of a cellist's worth. The second half will focus on the exciting *Symphony No.2 'Little Russian'*, by Tchaikovsky. The piece acquired its name by taking a Ukrainian folk tune and repeating it multiple times in the final movement in various rousing ways.

This concert will be of particular interest to pupils in GCSE and A Level Music, as well as those writing their Cultural Enrichment Project this term. The cost is £23.50 per ticket and tickets should be booked via TicketSource.

Soloist: Sol Gabetta



and it has affected the development of Music for centuries. This seminar will investigate the effect of globalisation on Music, looking at case studies such as the Eastern influence on Russian music of the 19th century, and the cultural tangle of Hong Kong's 'one country, two systems' principle. Popular music of today will also be explored, analysing how mainstream artists such as Coldplay have been

affected by blending cultures.

This seminar will be of particular interest to those studying GCSE and A Level Music, as the concept of 'fusion' styles will be explored, however all are welcome.

YEAR 9 CULTURAL ENRICHMENT PROJECT

This term, all Year 9 pupils will attend at least one of the musical concerts or trips listed in the Diary as an audience member and will be expected to write a review of their chosen event. We encourage parents and families to join their sons for the concerts. This written work will be evaluated as a formal assessment and will contribute to reports and 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.

Mr T Derrick
Director of Music

CHRISTMAS WITH THE BIG BAND

Friday 6 December 2019, 7.00pm

Join the WHSB Music Department for a night full of jolly jazz and Christmas crackers, sure to get you into the festive spirit. Zac Barrett will lead the Jazz Band, supporting the Big Band which will later take to the stage with a variety of Jazz, Swing and Blues favourites, in addition to some traditional Christmas melodies. Joining them will be a collection of smaller ensembles playing a collection of contemporary music. As in previous years, guests are invited to bring their own food and drinks to enjoy while sitting at tables in the Main Hall.

Reserve your tickets at a price of £8 for adults and £5 for pupils.



WARGAMING CLUB

WARGAMING CLUB: AN INVITATION TO YEAR 7 PUPILS

Have you ever wanted to take part in combat? A massive life or death battle even? Then Wargaming Club is the club for you.

In Wargaming Club you can play *Warhammer 40k*, *Warhammer Age of Sigmar*, *Zombicide*, *Yu-Gi-Oh Trading Card Game*, *Magic the Gathering* and many more! Everyone is welcome to come along, including those without any experience in Wargaming.

If you want to play Warhammer, you can use the School's army of Space Marines or you can bring your own army to play against others. There are always pupils on hand to give you hints and tips on how to build your ultimate fantasy army.

Thomas Davis
Year 9

I have enjoyed Wargaming club throughout the year. When I first went along, I had a small army of *Warhammer 40k* Orks, barely enough points to play a proper game. Since then I have developed my skills and knowledge, not just in *Warhammer*, but in many other games, such as *Zombicide*.

Thomas Duddridge
Year 9

I have enjoyed the privilege of attending Wargaming Club, where I have played many games against a variety of people. The game I play most of the time is *Warhammer 40k* which is a table-top game based on statistics, strategy and some good luck. I am always delighted to be on hand to teach and support any newcomers, with or without any previous experience.

Whether you decide that you wish to command huge hordes of chitinous raptors or uncivil clans of barbaric Orks, you are always welcome to join us at Wargaming Club.

Alex Crisp
Year 10

Over this past year I have been attending Wargaming Club. The club is a great opportunity to meet new friends and to have fun with my hobby. This is a great club for anybody who likes to play

Wargames and it has a great atmosphere as everyone is so friendly.

Toby Dawson
Year 10

I have attended Wargaming Club for quite a while and it is a great way to have fun playing a game you may not otherwise get to play. I have also had the experience of playing against my peers in games that they enjoy, as well as my weekly *Magic the Gathering* duels. It is not only a great way to try new games, but it is also a nice break from the school classroom environment, whilst still remaining in School. Through Wargaming, I have become particularly keen on *Magic the Gathering*, whereas before joining I did not even know it existed!

Ethan King
Year 10

WARGAMING CLUB FAQS

What is Wargaming Club?

Wargaming Club is an opportunity for you to compete against others in wargames. Wargames are strategy games that deal with military operations in real or fictional settings. These games require you to be adaptive to your opponent's gameplay, but there is also an element of luck.

What is Warhammer?

Warhammer is a tabletop miniature wargame. There is *Warhammer Age of Sigmar* and *Warhammer 40k* which are based in different timelines but have similar play-styles. The aim of the game is to beat your opponent using the army you have created. The armies vary from mankind to alien races. The games could be an all-out 'death match' or a more



tactical game where objectives have to be secured.

Who can attend?

Pupils of all years are welcome to attend. No prior experience is needed. I would recommend you attend one session to see what is on offer and to learn more about wargames.

When does Wargaming Club take place?

Wargaming Club takes place every Friday after School from 3.35pm to 5.00pm in Room M2.

Do I have to bring my own models?

You do not need to buy or bring any models. The club has many models which you can use to try and learn the game to decide whether you want to pursue this activity further, and this is the best way to begin. With experience, many pupils go on to buy and make their own models which they use to play. The biggest advantage to owning your own models is that you can create a backstory for them and design them to suit you.

What games are played at Wargaming Club?

Currently the wargames available are *Warhammer*, *Yu-Gi-Oh*, *Magic the Gathering*, *Dungeons and Dragons* and *Zombicide*. New wargames are more than welcome.

If you have any further questions, please see Miss Lo for more details.

Miss E Lo
Teacher of Chemistry

WARHAMMER 40K: KILL TEAM SCHOOL LEAGUE 2019: A RETROSPECTIVE

After a year of fierce competition, winning the Heats for the second time around, first place at the Semi Finals and, therefore, securing a place in the Final at *Warhammer World* in Nottingham, we were ready to win the National *Warhammer 40k: Kill Team* School League 2019.

The WHSB team consisted, at that time, of Alexander Fall (Year 12), Max Allsopp, Samuel Hughes, Sean Wright (all Year 11) and Charlie Wright (Year 10). We had already beaten both Southend High School for Boys and Deanes Academy School, who had made it to the Final last year. We knew we were facing tough competition, but we were confident all the same.

Our first game was against The King's School, Macclesfield (Stockport) and we set off with a strong start of three wins, a draw and a loss. Next, we faced Chapel-en-le Frith High School (Stockport) and Royal Grammar School (Guildford) and, following a superb round, we defeated them with four wins and a loss. Our final round ended similarly, this time against Beverley Grammar School (Hull) and Cotham School (Bristol), leaving our final score at 11 wins, a draw and three losses. This was our best ever score since competing in the School League, with both Sean and Charlie having secured a 100% win rate, earning us a respectable average point score of 53.

During the break, we had the opportunity to try out new sets of paints that Games Workshop have recently released and to meet Duncan, an idol in the Warhammer community. We cast our favourite game votes, which gives us extra points to the games people enjoyed the most, and the awards were announced. WHSB had narrowly missed out on a podium finish (by just one win!) and therefore finished in fourth place with 65 points.

As a team we are very happy with our progress and placing at School League, spurring on us ready for a podium finish next year.

Alexander Fall
Year 13



THE HOUSE SYSTEM

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Clubs and societies are a great way to help develop your character and the skills that will benefit you in School, at university, in your future career and wider life. Skills such as commitment, leadership, effective communication, and being able to work successfully in a group all come from participating in a club or society.

Many people join clubs as a way of getting to know people and making friends, as joining a club or society can give you a way to connect and find people with common interests, providing a way to meet individuals and make new friends.

This can also help your personal development by giving you the opportunity to meet a diverse population of people and allowing you to expand your thinking and creative skills. Clubs and Societies can also help you to be collaborative and supportive and actively

engage, participate and make a positive contribution in group activities.

We are delighted to offer over 50 clubs and societies during the course of this academic year and a list is shown in the column adjacent.

Many of our clubs and societies have either been suggested by pupils and are partly run by them. Helping to run a society can bring a lot of benefits which include those mentioned above, as well as improving your time management and organisation skills, and increasing your self-confidence.

If you would like to help run a club or society or have any specific ideas, then please do come and speak to me.

Mr R Barber
Senior Head of House and House System
Coordinator



CURRENT CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

- Dungeons and Dragons
- Design and Technology Breakfast club
- Manga Club
- Anime Club
- Heavy Metal Club
- Healthcare Society
- War Gaming Club
- LGBTQ+ Forum
- Bird Club
- Choir
- Table Tennis Club
- Classic Film Society
- Technology Club
- Gospel Choir
- Cinema Club
- Jazz Band
- Public Speaking
- CCF Army
- CCF Navy
- Chess Club
- Sixth Form Science Society
- Engineering Society
- Junior Concert Band
- Yu-Gi-Oh Club
- AI Club
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Action for Happiness
- Treble Choir
- The Social Issues/Action and Debate Society
- Political Issues Society
- Screenwriting Club
- Key Stage 3 Science Club
- PE and Sport
- Junior History Society
- Senior History Society
- Art After-School Club
- Art Lunch Club
- Drama
- Marvel Club
- Pokémon Club
- Motorsport Society
- Lego Club
- Harry Potter Society
- Problem Solving Club
- Astronomy Club
- Creative Writing and Reading Club
- Rubik's Cube Club
- Current Affairs Society
- Law Society
- Robotics Club
- Origami Club
- Countdown Club
- Stitch Club

The dates, times and locations of these activities will be displayed on the House noticeboards and announced in Form time during the daily notices. Please be aware that the dates and times can change at short notice, so please listen carefully and check the details.

HOUSE SYSTEM 2019/20

Last Year was most productive for the House System with many activities taking place across the year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff and students who have helped to make the House System such a success.

I am pleased to announce that, from this Term, Mr Lilley has been appointed as the new Head of Kestrel House. His energy and enthusiasm will certainly help Kestrel move forward.

The Heads of House for this Academic Year are:

Harrier: Mr Yeo
Kestrel: Mr Lilley
Merlin: Mr Sexton
Osprey: Mr Rayment

I would also like to announce the new House Captains and Vice Captains for this Year as shown in the table below.

We will also appoint new House Representatives for Years 7 to 12 this year. If you are interested in applying, please write a letter of application to your Head of House and e-mail it to them by Friday 20 September.

Your letter should include the following information:

- Why you have applied for the position;
- Any experiences you have that may be useful in this new;
- What you think the role involves;
- Why you feel you would be a good House Representative;
- Any ideas you have about future House activities;
- Thoughts you have about increasing participation.

Forthcoming events this Term include: House Drawing, Poetry, Spelling, French, German, Mathematics, Harry Potter, Table Tennis, Rowing, Scrabble, Draughts, Dungeons and Dragons and many more.

If you have any ideas about a new House event or would like to help run an activity, then please do come and find me. We are willing to entertain any sensible and feasible suggestions.

Mr R Barber
Senior Head of House and House System
Coordinator



Head of House	Mr Yeo	Mr Lilley	Mr Sexton	Mr Rayment
House Captain	Oluwatamilore Mustafa	Arunan Sivabalan	Daniel Atkinson	Klain Fernando
Vice-Captain	Abigail Owolabi	Success Aritibi	Matthew Mohan	Andrew Twimasi
Vice-Captain	Harinihan Gowrethasan	Atul Sooraj	Jonathan Age	Raez Ramjan

HOUSE GOLF

As has become quite the tradition, the House Golfers prepared for wet weather as they headed to Garon Park on Friday 7 June. It was great to welcome back our regulars, as well as some new faces. Despite the less than ideal conditions, the Texas Scramble teams brought home some fantastic Stableford scores and



a count back was needed as 26 points saw the Teacher Team of Mr White and Mr Wright draw with Year 7 pupil Theo Brooke-Durrant, who was paired with his grandmother. Theo and his grandmother were thrilled to be awarded the Texas Scramble trophy, as well as picking up maximum points for Harrier. Mr White and Mr Wright played in blue and achieved second place for Osprey. Third and fourth places were tightly contested, but Merlin House were the winners as Mr Sexton and Mr Mumford took third place, and Josh Harrison and Dad were placed fourth, both taking points for the green team.

Numbers were low this year in the Golfer Putter Pairs competition and so friendly rules applied between the duos of Mrs Mumford and an injured Mr Morrish, and James Lee and his Dad. James made some incredible putts and picked up the prize for Osprey House, whilst Mrs Mumford and Mr Morrish demonstrated the importance of participation by playing for Harrier.

Kestrel did not put in a team this year, so does not receive any points; however, the rest of the competition was very tight, with Harrier picking up most points for participation. Merlin Head of House, Mr Sexton, played a fantastic shot onto the third green and claimed the five bonus points for nearest the pin. Not wanting to be outdone, his playing partner, Mr Mumford, made an excellent drive on the eighth hole, winning the Long Drive medal as well as the five extra points, much to the disappointment of Mr White who had driven well all day, but overshot the fairway on the dogleg bend. We wish Mr White well in his new School and perhaps he will return to join us as an alumni player in the competition next year.

Overall, Merlin were placed in first place, Harrier and Osprey tied for second place and Kestrel, by default, came last.

Mrs K Mumford
Second Deputy Head

SPORTING REVIEW

To be involved in School sport at WHSB has been a particular privilege during the past year; outcomes have been impressive. These outcomes are, as always, the product of a process and therefore the various inputs into that process are incredibly important. In Physical Education, the processes are based around behaviours and discipline and these provide the foundations for all that is encouraged and achieved. Pupils will be familiar with the concept of 'The Temple' through which six behaviours act as foundation stones, on which various capabilities are developed, refined and improved in order to improve performance.

Performance draws on a combination of behaviour and ability, and to maximise performance it is important that both components are practised in equal measure. As a result of our pupils' commitment in these areas, our School sport performance in the last academic year was impressive, being a year of unprecedented success across every sport in which the School competed.

Commitment to regular practice leads to more consistent and accomplished performance, and our pupils' efforts through practice have significantly improved their technical proficiency in sport. However, as any sportsman knows it is the playing from which one derives enjoyment. In the last academic year, WHSB teams played 415 fixtures, which is an average of over 10 fixtures per week. We are proud that our pupils have been *Open to Opportunity* and have put their



School first to achieve success. It has been most pleasing to see the development of various teams throughout the year, not just physically and technically, but also behaviourally.

It is difficult to highlight any one particular success in WHSB Sport from the last year, as there were so many, and to shortlist one from each Year Group would still remain a challenge. In Year 7, after four Runners Up positions in most prestigious competitions across a spectrum of sports, I believe the highlight was winning the Lee Valley Outdoor Cup where over 60 school teams competed. In Year 8, after a year of unprecedented success across football, rugby, basketball and athletics, perhaps the greatest achievement for Year 8 was becoming National Champions in the ESAA Track & Field Cup competition, with a record-breaking 611 points. Year 9 finished third in the country in the National Basketball Competition, which is also a notable achievement, as was their Rugby 7s performance and a narrow basketball defeat.

In the Middle School, our Year 10 Athletics Team gave an outstanding performance, finishing fourth in the country in the ESAA Track & Field Cup and equalling the WHSB record score in the Intermediate Boys' competition. Year 11 pupils generally find it tough to balance extra-curricular pursuits with academic commitments during this important year of School, and both the Football Team and the Basketball Team were impressive in their commitment, with the Year 11 performance in one of their national basketball matches against a traditionally very strong basketball school was the highlight. I look forward to these former Year 11 sportsman returning to represent WHSB in their chosen sport as Sixth Form students.

In the Sixth Form, the highlight of the year was winning the U18 Essex Cup for the first time in the history of the School. The match against King John School was superb, and full of pupils' pride for their School; it was a fantastic evening and one which I know the team are keen to replicate in this year's competition.

Values and ethos have power to shape our identity, and internalising these as they are promoted through the School and its sport will shape your character and experiences far beyond your time at WHSB. Year on year, we witness greater determination from our pupils to perform in tough fixtures and competition and the result of that determination has been increased success, and it has been a privilege to see these developments during the three years that I have been



fortunate enough to be involved with sport at WHSB.

The pupils involved in Sport at WHSB are creating and shaping a sporting culture of which they can be most proud and, each year, this encourages other pupils to take part. We have witnessed the impact of the pupils' commitment through increased participation at practices across the academic year. These practices and clubs are becoming a magnet for the sporting talent within our School community and the pupils' pride in their sport is flourishing and strengthening.

The sporting success we have experienced in our School community this year is undoubtedly down to the pupils' commitment and ability, however without the hard work of the Physical Education team, the members of which provide the pupils with a multitude of different practice and competition opportunities, we would not be celebrating success at this level. Mr White, Mr Sexton, Mr Atkinson, and Mr Marrant have all provided pupils with opportunities to personally improve and to represent WHSB. I would like to offer my thanks to them for the provision of their time and expertise to support WHSB sport. I would also like to thank Mrs Burden for dealing with the logistics that accompany so many fixtures; the booking of referees and transport enables pupils to participate in so many competitions. The support of the Headmaster, Mr Williams and Mrs Mumford in promoting School sport in so many ways, be it supporting from the touchline or providing necessary arrangements for sport to take place during the School day, is greatly



appreciated by the Physical Education Department.

After such an incredible year of deserved sporting success, it is vital that WHSB pupils maintain the momentum created. We are now entering the Winter season of sports; Rugby, Basketball, Cross Country and Football, all of which saw huge leaps in participation and success last academic year. We now look forward to further progress and greater success in the year ahead.

ATHLETICS SEASON 2019

The Athletics season was an excellent display of commitment, work ethic, progress and enjoyment from all Year Groups at WHSB. The Year 7 Athletics Team finished in second place at the Regional Indoor event at Lee Valley. Disappointed by this, when they returned to the Lee Valley Outdoor Cup, in which over 60 teams were competing, they executed their events with great accuracy and energy and achieved first place in this prestigious event. Traditionally, this event is one in which other schools can see the strength of the Year 7 athletes ahead of the ESAA Track & Field Cup in the following year. Our Year 7 pupils have definitely showcased their talent and attitude in this important competition!

In the Borough Athletic Championship in Year 7, WHSB won seven of the 12 events and was also placed well with our second athlete in a majority of the events. Unfortunately, WHSB came second by a mere six points! Al Ameen Saalam became a triple gold medal competitor with his 200m gold medal (being a championship best performance), complimenting his shot put and relay gold medals. The character, attitude and work

ethic of this Year Group is impressive and they have also followed the example of our excellent and committed Year 8 team.

During the Athletics season, our Year 8 team had unprecedented success at a national level and there is an article detailing their success in the ESAA Track & Field Cup within this edition of *The Westcliff Diary*. Their performance as a Year Group at the Borough Athletics Championship was, unsurprisingly, impressive as they closed the gap on first place to 20 points, more than halving the deficit from Year 7. There were impressive performances by several members of the team, with Noah Louis achieving a championship best performance of 14.76m in the shot put, beating the previous record by over a metre. Not to be outdone, the Year 8 Athletics Captain, Brendan Burgess, gained a championship best performance by over three metres with a throw of 36.30m in the Discus on his way to achieving the gold medal.



The Year 9 team closed the gap to first place by 10 points, helped by Isaiah Akinlabi's jump of 13.05m, achieving a championship record which had been held by a very talented athlete for several years. It was a day during which WHSB seemed to just miss out by small margins, but their performances were impressive and hopefully this will spur them on to train even harder next year. Several Year 9 athletes were also selected for the Intermediate Boys' Athletics Team a year early, which bodes well for next year's campaign. Denzel Achi, Isaiah Akinlabi, Timi Ibinola, Alex Thompson and Dan Hunt all had exceptional Athletics seasons. I am looking forward to seeing them progress across all of their sports in Year 10, culminating with their athletics next summer.

Year 10 athletes achieved some strong individual performances, but in the Borough Championships they missed out due to a lack of depth and breadth. The old adage 'you make your own luck' may be an expression of which some of the Year 10 athletes take stock as they now progress into Year 11. As a team, they did not maximise their potential due to a slightly inconsistent approach to training. This is not indicative of the whole team, but hopefully this will act as a reminder that Athletics is a team sport and it is the strength of the whole team that determines the success. Joshua Ogunfolaju and Damope Akinyemi have enjoyed exceptional seasons outside of School athletics performing exceptionally well both for WHSB and their respective clubs.

At the Borough Championship, WHSB closed the gap further on first place gaining 87 more points than in the previous year. Both discipline and capability have improved and this is evident in the pupils' achievements.

SCHOOL SPORT

ESSA NATIONAL TRACK & FIELD CUP FINAL: A RETROSPECTIVE

The performances of the Junior Boys and Intermediate Boys in the ESSA Track & Field Cup were nothing short of incredible. This culminated with a brilliant performance by both teams on Saturday 6 July at Chelmsford Sport and Athletics Centre. There follows some articles detailing some of the highlights of the day from the Junior Boys Team and the Intermediate Boys Team; this summary is my opportunity to thank the Physical Education staff who have worked relentlessly in our pursuit of success in this area.

Mr White and Mr Sexton demonstrated excellent leadership and a consistent and professional approach towards what proved to be tough team selections. Mr Atkinson and Mr Marrant contributed many, many hours ensuring that technique was honed in the correct way through technical expertise which enabled pupils to perform as they did across the season. I would also like to thank Mrs Burden, without whom the administrative elements would not have been undertaken with such efficiency and as a consequence would have taken my focus away from the performance of the

pupils.

Without the support of the Headmaster, Mrs Mumford and Mr Williams I cannot honestly say what we would have been able to achieve; at every step of the way they have done everything that they could have done to ensure the success of the team. The WHSB Learner Profile encourages pupils to be collaborative and supportive; my colleagues across the School have most certainly been collaborative and supportive in our pursuit of achieving such success this year, and particularly in Athletics during the Summer Term.

Finally, my biggest thank you goes to the athletes that represented the School in such a superb way. You are role models to the rest of our School community; you showed that when you work hard, show commitment, have a desire to achieve the best for yourselves and others you can achieve the highest possible accolade. This should act as inspiration to the rest of the School community, because every pupil in this incredible community is capable of achieving great things.

Saturday 6 July was the proudest moment so far, as a Teacher of Physical Education. The support and determination of the two excellent teachers leading WHSB permeated through both teams, creating a squad of athletes determined to maximise their potential on a National Final stage for their School. Pupils focused on their individual performances and then, in the

words of the great American Football Coach Bill Walsh, "the score takes care of itself".

The Junior Boys scoring a record-breaking 611 points was something over which the School is incredibly proud. This eclipsed the previous record of 586, set last year, by 25 points. All members of the team performed to a high standard and achieved exactly what they deserved – the title of National Champions.

The Intermediate Boys' team performance was also excellent, equalling the WHSB record score in the competition with 570 points. All pupils contributed to the impressive score showing that when they work as a team they can achieve great things. They were unlucky to miss out on achieving a podium place by just one point, so we hopeful this will encourage them in their practice and development for next year.

I will never forget this special day and am proud to be part of the WHSB Physical Education Department and to be involved in teaching our incredibly talented pupils.

*Mr T Morrish
Director of Sport*



ESSA NATIONAL ATHLETICS FINAL – JUNIOR BOYS

On Saturday 6 July 2019 the WHSB Junior Boys team travelled to Chelmsford Sport and Athletics Centre in order to compete in the English Schools' Athletic Association national Track & Field Cup final. The team had high hopes of winning the competition, and made clear their expectations prior to the event. This was based on the exceptional results they have had in other sports, which has bred supreme confidence amongst Year 8 pupils.

This year all three rounds were due to take place in Chelmsford, therefore, the boys became very familiar with the venue. In the first round we took part with the intention of laying down a marker for the rest of the competition, and the boys truly delivered. With some truly outstanding performances, notably Donnell Amoako's 11.1 second Hurdles and Noah Louis' 13.72m Shot Put, WHSB posted the highest-ever first round total of 570 points. This meant that, as before the competition, all eyes were firmly placed on us and we were the School to catch. The pupils really thrived under this pressure and their commitment to training showed the desire they had to achieve something that had not been done before in the School's 100-year history.

In the lead up to the regional final there were a number of decisions to be made in relation to team selection; this highlights

the depth of talent within the group and is vital for pushing pupils to reach new levels.

The regional round saw quite difficult conditions and this affected scoring across the board; this also presented a new challenge to our team in competing in those circumstances. Once again they rose to the challenge and posted the highest score nationally in the regional round. Year 7 pupil Al-Ameen Salaam ran an impressive 200m in 25.1 seconds, Benedict Moruzzi threw the Hammer 36.97m, and Brendan Burgess threw the discus 39.04m for a School record. The performances under pressure were the most pleasing aspect, highlighted by Obed Theo-Chinwo completing his long jump on the final attempt to gain valuable points for the team.

There is a short turnaround period from the regional round to the national final, which meant that it was an intense period for both pupils and staff. Once again, the team reflected the ethos and were both collaborative and supportive in striving for the shared goal of national success. Tough decisions had to be made in relation to selection as we had to maximise our points, with a number of schools close behind us.

The final played out in near-perfect conditions at Chelmsford and the pupils were incredibly focussed on the task. There was always going to be an apprehensive start to the day, with Hurdles first up on track, however, our hurdlers have been a real strength of this team over the course of the year.

Nicolas Ostaszewski ran an excellent race, and was followed by Donnell Amoako. Donnell achieved the fastest time in the country this year for his age group, however, during the day he demonstrated his strength of character as, having hit 3 hurdles very hard, he managed to complete the race in a time of 12.1 seconds. This set the tone for the rest of the team. The track programme concluded with a number of other strong performances, and a number of personal best performances.

The afternoon session of field events has been a real strength of this team and it proved to be the same again. There were multiple performances that could be mentioned at this point, however, some truly outstanding performances cannot go without comment. Onyedikachi Godwin jumped a School record of 5.78m, and heard the crowd cheering him in for each jump. Donnell Amoako also set a School record with a triple jump of 12.14m, and Simbo Femi, who had been brought into the team for the final as a Year 7, broke Brendan Burgess' previous Year 7 record with a discus throw of 30.90m.

This team broke all records and became the first team to break the magical 600-point barrier, setting the record score for any team in the history of this national competition. They should be truly proud of their achievements this year; they gave been a credit to the School. We look forward to their achievements as an intermediate boys' team in the future!

*Mr J White
Second in Physical Education*



SCHOOL SPORT

2019 ATHLETICS SEASON – JUNIOR BOYS: A RETROSPECTIVE

This year, the Athletics season for Years 7 and 8 has been incredible. The athletes who participated in various competitions, be it Borough Athletics competition, the Indoor Athletics competition or the ESAA National Track and Field Cup Championships, all trained exceptionally hard and represented WHSB at the highest level and in the best manner possible. They are a credit to the School.

At the Borough Athletics competition, an excellent attitude and great team effort was demonstrated by all the participants and, because of this, there were encouraging results. Both the Year 7 and Year 8 teams placed second to Southend High School for Boys, but the difference in the athletic ability between both schools was noticeably smaller than in the previous year. One event, which showed WHSB's spirit and talent on the day, was the Shot Put, with Noah Louis throwing an impressive 14.62m for which he was awarded a gold medal. We all believe that next year the first place position will be ours!

The County Championships was also a good day for athletics at WHSB. All the athletes who participated performed to the highest standard. Among the top performers was Al-Ameen Salaam who ran 24.08 seconds in the 200m; this result still stands as the fastest 200m in England this year in the under 13 age category. Joe Baverstock won the Year 7 discus

competition, and Donnell Amoako ran in the under 15 age category and came in third place; a notable achievement.

Without a doubt, the highlight of this year's Athletics season was the ESAA National Track and Field Championships. In the first round of the competition, the Junior Boys team, consisting mainly of Year 8 pupils and two Year 7 pupils, broke the record for the highest number of points scored by a Junior Boys team in the history of the first round of the competition with a very large score of 570 points. Whilst celebrating our achievement, we were aware that the second placed Robert Clack School was a bit too close for comfort with a final score of 562 points.

In the Regional Athletics Final, the boys continued to show excellent character and composure on a day with less than favourable weather conditions. We scored 569 points, once again leading the country in points and, yet again, with Robert Clack School coming close with a score of 560.

On Saturday 6 July, the ESAA National Track and Field Cup Finals took place at the Chelmsford Sports and Athletics Centre, the same place where the previous two rounds had taken place. The boys came well-rested and prepared to perform to the best of their ability. The track events took place during the first half of the day. There were some nerves, and plenty of excitement and anticipation and, most importantly, focus on the tasks at hand. The events went smoothly with well-executed 800m races by Jordan Omotayo and Daniel Eze and a fantastic 300m run by Kelechi Ogulado, among other notable performances.

At the halfway point, the results were

announced; we were doing well but now needed to hit and surpass all or most of our targets to gain the result we hoped for. The afternoon field event session began at 1.00pm and during which there were a number extraordinary results. Several School records were broken. Max Pitkin and Benedict Moruzzi both threw personal bests in the hammer, with distances of 38.50m and 41.24m respectively (a School record) and Ife'Simbo Femi-Olusanya threw a Year 7 School Record in the discus with 30.90m. Onyedikachi Godwin jumped an incredible 5.78m in the Long Jump (a School Record) and Donnell Amoako jumped a distance of 12.14m in the Triple Jump (an ESAA Final Record).

After all of these amazing performances, the WHSB Junior Boys' Team achieved an impressive total of 611 points, breaking the 600 point barrier, beating second placed Robert Clack School by 22 points and winning the ESAA National Track and Field Championships with the highest points total in the history of the competition. This was also the first time WHSB had ever won this competition. This was a well-deserved result and a fitting end to an impressive season. Well done team!

None of this would have been achieved without the help of the Physical Education Department and the support of the Headmaster and Deputy Heads throughout the season and on Saturdays. I hope that next year all our athletes will be inspired to put in the same hard work and dedication to enable WHSB pupils to continue to showcase their talents.

*Brendan Burgess
Junior Boys' Athletics Captain*



ESAA NATIONAL ATHLETICS FINAL – INTERMEDIATE BOYS

On Saturday 6 July 2019 the Intermediate Boys' team travelled to Chelmsford Sport and Athletics Centre to compete in the English Schools' Athletics Association National Final. The group of boys taking the journey to Chelmsford were seeking podium places following the first two rounds in which WHSB had secured reasonably high scores.

In the first round of the competition there were some excellent achievements. Notable performances included Denzel Achi with a distance of 6.24m in the Long Jump and 11.01s in the 100m, and Leslie Anaglavi achieving a time of 37.4s in the 300m. With an overall score of 545 points in the first round, WHSB were positioned third nationally. The pupils performed with tremendous confidence which demonstrated the standard they were seeking to uphold throughout the competition.

The regional round brought more success from the WHSB Intermediate Boys' team, in the face of some tough conditions on the day. Again, the team began the competition in the field; Josh Ogunfolaju jumped a distance of 13.44m in the Triple Jump and Tishe Ashade threw a distance of 45.97m in the Hammer. We witnessed

some fantastic performances from the boys, some of whom were beginning to understand the importance of training, where they did not perform to the level expected. In the Regional round, WHSB scored a total of 541 points which meant that the School had qualified in fourth place for the National Final. Qualifying had been our goal from the beginning so we were delighted when we heard this news.

There were various decisions that needed to be made in preparation for the National Final, in order to fine tune the Intermediate Boys' team. Some pupils were keen to secure places in the team, whereas others were not able to attend as they had prior commitments. As there is little time between the regional round and the national final the boys had to focus their efforts in relation to a good training regime. The team's goal was set on securing a place on the podium and this meant a total commitment to training hard in the two weeks ahead of the final.

The day began well, with all athletes meeting on time and with the focus required to perform to the best of their ability. Once the bus had dropped us off at the event, the students got themselves prepared for what was going to be a thrilling contest. Once again, we were first in the field and there were some valiant performances. Damope Akinyemi demonstrated his skills and ability as a long jumper with his first

jump of 6.34m, after which he noted that he had jumped off from the wrong foot! He then followed his first huge jump with an impressive 6.52m, this time taking off from the correct foot. Alex Thompson was also performing well in the field as he threw his Javelin a distance of 41.47m, which was the first time he had thrown over 40m in a competition. Halfway through the competition, WHSB was in first place, however, due to the nature of the competition, there was the possibility that our School had more field competitors than other schools, so we cautious and not overly confident going into the track session. In the track events, Damope Akinyemi went from strength to strength as he ran an incredible 11.6s in the Hurdles and Toby Linsell showed his character in the 800m as he achieved an excellent time of 2m4s as the front-runner in a slow-paced race.

The day came to a bittersweet end as the Intermediate Boys' team scored an impressive 570 points, which showcased the progress they had made from each round. However, on this occasion they finished in fourth place, one point behind a podium position. Missing out on third place by only one point was tough, but the Physical Education Department, and the wider School, are so proud of their success and the commitment they showed during training in order to reach this stage. Their hard work provides a solid foundation on which to prepare for next year's competition.



SCHOOL SPORT

CRICKET

The WHSB cricket season has seen mixed success throughout the School. The incoming Year 7 team have shown some real promise, narrowly losing in the first round of the Essex Cup to New Hall School. They have now progressed to the Semi Final of the Plate Competition, which has shown the standard of development from the boys over the season. They are currently in the Borough Cup Final and have a good chance of finishing in first place.

The Year 8 cricket team has gone from strength to strength and they are, once again, in a strong position in the Borough, making the Borough Cup Final and finishing in second place in the League. The U13 Essex Cup resumed this year, after much speculation, and WHSB once again achieved a place in the Semi Final, playing some superb cricket in various games in the Competition. Notably, Ashwin Sharma performed well in almost every game.

Year 9 cricketers were in a tough position going into the first round of the Essex Cup as they were to play Forest School who are a renowned cricketing school in the County. The WHSB team lost in the first round of the competition, however they have now progressed into the Semi Final of the Plate Competition, showing resilience in the face of a tough situation.

Unfortunately, the Year 10 cricket team has been on the losing end of some really hard-fought games and they demonstrated their strength of character when it came to the Borough Cup Semi Final against Southend High School for Boys. They had previously lost to their local counterparts this season, but they played a fantastic game to progress into the final of the Borough Cup. At the time of writing, the season has yet to finish for the WHSB cricketers and we are hoping for some more success by the end of the academic year.

Mr J Sexton
Teacher of Physical Education



NEW SCHOOL WEBSITE

During the Summer Term the School introduced a new website. The School seeks to periodically update its website and as part of the new design pupils' and parents' feedback given during the 2018 Pastoral Survey was considered; we are grateful for the very helpful feedback given as part of this process. Available at <https://www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/>, the updated site has a simplified page structure and navigation, and is fully accessible on mobile and tablet devices. The calendar has also been updated.

We would encourage you to bookmark the website and check it regularly, alongside our Facebook and Twitter feeds, to keep up-to-date with School news.

Mr D Partridge
Director of Resources & Support Services



LEARNER PROFILE



The WHSB Learner Profile outlines the attributes that every student should strive towards.

The WHSB student strives to:

- be intellectually curious - They pursue their academic interests beyond the confines of the curriculum, and are reflective, capable of self-criticism and open to improvement;
- have personal integrity - They are honest, reliable and have a strong sense of fairness, justice and respect for others and themselves. They take responsibility for their appearance and actions, and the consequences that accompany them;
- be collaborative and supportive - They actively engage, participate and make a positive contribution in group activities. They are tolerant, compassionate and dutiful members of the community;
- be open to opportunity - They are well-balanced and open-minded. They are capable of taking a considered risk and optimistic when faced with a challenge;
- be globally aware - They are well informed regarding global events and are internationally minded. They possess intercultural awareness and the skill to communicate in more than one language;
- be an effective communicator - They are literate and numerate, capable of speaking and presenting with fluency, confidence and the ability to persuade others. They use ICT with maturity and effectiveness;
- be a lifelong learner - They aspire to set themselves ambitious and realistic goals. They are resilient in the face of difficulty and possess the flexibility to adapt to changing circumstances.



CALENDAR FOR AUTUMN TERM 2019

Tue 3 Sep	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
Wed 4 Sep	AUTUMN TERM BEGINS, 8.45am
Fri 6 Sep	OWA Annual Reunion Dinner, 6.15pm
Thu 12 Sep	Theatre Trip to Blood Brothers, 7.30pm
Wed 18 Sep	Alternatives to Medicine Day
Thu 19 Sep	Sixth Form Education Evening, 7.30pm
Fri 20 Sep	Enrichment Day
20 - 21 Sep	DoE Bronze Assessment
Sat 21 Sep	11+ Entrance Examinations
23 - 27 Sep	Year 13 Formative Assessments
24 - 27 Sep	Year 10 CCF Mini-Camp
Mon 23 Sep	Year 7 Welcome Evening, 6.00pm, followed by PA AGM, 7.00pm
	Year 7 Education Evening, 7.00pm
	German Exchange Parents' Briefing, 7.00pm
Tue 24 Sep	Sixth Form Mentor Training Session, 4.00pm
	Year 10 Education Evening, 7.30pm
Thu 26 Sep	Year 9 Helping Parents Help Their Sons, 7.30pm
	Year 11 Formative Assessments
1 - 5 Oct	Year 9 visit to Imperial War Museum, Duxford
Tue 1 Oct	
2 - 3 Oct	Year 11 Geography Field Trip to Walton-on-the-Naze
Wed 2 Oct	Sixth Form visit to Queen's Gallery
3 - 6 Oct	CCF Royal Navy visit to Portsmouth
Thu 3 Oct	Autumn Chamber Recital, 7.30pm
Fri 4 Oct	Years 12 Phase 1 Reports issued
9 - 11 Oct	Performance of Frankenstein, 7.30pm
Thu 10 Oct	CCF Interest Meeting for Year 9 parents, 7.30pm
Fri 11 Oct	Years 13 Phase 1 Reports issued
Sat 12 Oct	WCGC: Adventure and Leadership Day, 8.30am
Tue 15 Oct	Parents' Association Meeting, 7.30pm
Thu 17 Oct	Musicology Seminar, 3.45pm
Fri 18 Oct	Charity Activities Day
	Years 7 and 11 Phase 1 Reports issued
Wed 23 Oct	Year 10 Chemistry at Work Day
Thu 24 Oct	Year 9 Phase 1 Reports issued
	Visit to the Royal Festival Hall, 4.30pm

27 - 30 Oct	Year 9 Rugby Tour to France
28 Oct - 1 Nov	AUTUMN HALF TERM
Mon 4 Nov	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
Wed 6 Nov	SPEECH DAY, 7.45pm; School closes at 12.50pm
8 - 15 Nov	German Exchange visit to WHSB
Fri 8 Nov	Year 8 Prince Charming PSHEE Production
Mon 11 Nov	Annual Remembrance Service, 8.45am
14 - 21 Nov	French Exchange visit to WHSB
Thu 14 Nov	Sixth Form Open Evening, 6.30pm
Fri 15 Nov	Year 8 Phase 1 Reports issued
Sat 16 Nov	WCGC: Creative Day, 8.30am
Mon 18 Nov	Year 7 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm
Tue 19 Nov	Ski Trip Parents' Briefing, 7.30pm
20 - 21 Nov	CCF Royal Navy P2000 Field Day
Thu 21 Nov	Autumn Sinfonia Concert, 7.30pm
Fri 22 Nov	Year 10 Phase 1 Reports issued
	A Level Biology Live Visit
25 - 29 Nov	Year 11 Trial Examinations
27 - 29 Nov	Performance of Charlie & The Chocolate Factory, 7.30pm
Mon 2 Dec	Year 13 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm
Tue 3 Dec	A Level Physics Live Visit
Wed 4 Dec	Careers in Engineering Evening, 7.00pm
Fri 6 Dec	Year 13 Phase 2 Reports issued
	Christmas with the Big Band, 7.30pm
Thu 12 Dec	Charity Activities Day
Mon 16 Dec	Geology Conference
	Leavers' Exam Certificate Collection, 3.45pm
	Carol Service, 7.30pm
Wed 18 Dec	Year 11 Trial Examinations Report issued
Thu 19 Dec	AUTUMN TERM ENDS, 2.45pm
Mon 6 Jan	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
Tue 7 Jan	SPRING TERM BEGINS, 8.45am

Tickets for all Westcliff Diary events can be purchased via TicketSource at <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/>



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