



The Development of the Learner Profile



This year we have been introducing our new WHSB Learner Profile, which is a collaborative initiative to help structure our curriculum for enhanced pupil enjoyment and success.



The aim of this project is not so much a new venture, but an organised acknowledgment of what we already do well. It will also help our pupils to tackle head on the challenges which they will face at university, and to prepare them for lifelong learning and the world of work.

The concept of a Learner Profile has been adopted by a number of schools and universities nationally and internationally. At WHSB we have developed a Learner Profile which promotes our core values and focuses on seven specific attributes (or virtues) of learning, namely that pupils strive:

- 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;
- to 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;

- to be *Collaborative & Supportive* - they actively engage, participate and make a positive contribution in group activities. They are tolerant, compassionate and dutiful members of the community;
- to 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;
- to 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;
- to 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.

These seven attributes are beginning to inform our lesson planning, and how we co-ordinate both curricular and extra-curricular aspects of learning, as well as encouraging pupils to recognise their own potential as independent learners. As we continue to offer an ever growing range of learning opportunities, the School seeks to assist pupils in taking responsibility for their own learning, and hence becoming better prepared for the world beyond WHSB.

Mr M Halsall, Head of Religious Education & Curriculum Development Co-ordinator



Westcliff Diary Electronic Returns for Parents

As part of our ongoing development within the area of home-School communications, we have developed to an online reply and ticketing system for Westcliff Diary events. In order to submit a reply, parents are asked to visit the School Website and access the Secure Parents' Area. Details of how to access this area (including user names and associated passwords) have already been provided in a separate letter from the Headmaster.

Within the Secure Parents' Area, you will need to navigate to the Westcliff Diary sub-section and complete the simple online form. The structure of the form replicates the familiar paper-based version and we hope that parents will find it easy to use. Electronic payment is also possible using PayPal and parents are encouraged to use this option. Payment by cheque is also permissible. Cheques must be made payable to Westcliff High School for Boys and should be sent to the School's Finance Office. The cheque must be clearly marked with the Pupil's Name, Form and Westcliff Diary on the reverse. Once all replies have been processed, tickets will be emailed to parents. You are asked to print these out and bring them along to each event as required. Further details about Westcliff Diary events will also be circulated via email. It will remain the case that we will require every pupil to return their reply slip even if parents do not wish to attend any of our published events. This we view as a matter of courtesy. For parents not wishing to use the electronic reply slip, a paper reply slip will be available from the School Office.

In the Summer Term, the School will also publish its first electronic bulletin. The bulletin will link directly with the School Website and it aims to give parents regular information on all the latest news from WHSB. The bulletin will be published six times during the academic year and attempts to bridge the gap between the termly Westcliff Diary and regular new updates on the School Website. You will need to register to receive this bulletin via the Secure Parents' Area.

In other social media-related developments, the Physical Education Department have launched their own account (WHSforBoysPE) which details our sporting achievements, results and fixtures and provides parents regular updates on our rich sporting life. We do hope that parents will appreciate the steps that we have taken to develop our home-School communication and we would welcome any feedback on the developments that have been introduced so far.

Mr W Williams, Assistant Head

FROM THE HEADMASTER'S DESK



Capital Development Projects on Schedule

The Capital Development projects commenced in earnest in late December following the appointment of our contractors, Hutton Construction.

Our regular progress meetings with the contractors indicate that the Sixth Form Building is on schedule and due for completion in March 2015. The new building has necessitated the demolition of the West toilets, however new toilet facilities for the whole School have been incorporated into the new building. As part of the project, the bike stores have been relocated beside the Sports Hall.

The refurbishment of the Science Building is also well under way. This project involves two phases to allow the School to continue to use half of its Science laboratories at any one time.

During the project we have taken the opportunity to review our use of the site during breaks and lunchtimes. The new East Playground facilities have been given over to Year 7 students only and we are encouraged by feedback from the younger students that this facility is appreciated and working well. These Capital Development projects will substantially improve the quality of our facilities.

I would like to thank the pupils, parents and staff for their forbearance in the face of some disruption.

Staff Changes during the Spring Term 2014

There were a small number of changes to staffing during the Spring Terms 2014.

Ms Delahunty, Head of Physics, left the School at short notice and her teaching has been covered by other members of the Physics Department with the support of a supply teacher. Mr Dalby has taken over co-ordination of the Department and Mrs Skinner has returned to undertake weekly revision sessions with Sixth Form classes. The School is also pleased to welcome back Mr Bishop to teach Mathematics, and this has assisted us in reducing Sixth Form class sizes.

The School is delighted to welcome Ms Flynn who joined us in January as the School's Data, Finance and Administration Assistant. The School also gives its thanks to Mrs Sibley, School Receptionist, who left in November 2013.

Ms Aubeeluck (Computing) will be leaving us at the end of the Spring Term to pursue other opportunities. Mr Rahman has taken over teaching all of the public examination classes. Mrs Cavalier went on maternity leave in February and we are pleased to welcome back Ms Bellinghausen to provide German and Spanish teaching. We are also pleased to welcome Mr Jaconelli as a part-time Teaching Assistant, supporting the work of the Physical Education Department.

Mr Gordon will be stepping down as Head of Geography to teach part-time from September 2014 and we congratulate Miss Sparks on her promotion to the Head of Geography position.

We also thank Mrs Harris for her contribution in HR and Careers Guidance, and to Mr Diggle for his service as ICT Technician. They are both moving on to new positions and we wish them both well in their new posts.

The School has also been pleased to appoint a number of Old Westcliffians to the staff for September 2014. Mr Davey and Mr Tresidder will join the Science Department to teach Chemistry and Physics, and Mr Doherty will join the Mathematics Department.

We thank all those staff moving on for their service and offer them our best wishes for the future.

Excellence in Music

We continue to celebrate the vibrant music life within the School, and we are fortunate to have many talented musicians within our student body. The diversity of music delivered by these musicians through the Big Band, Chamber Concerts, the Sinfonia, the Concert Band and the Barbershop Choir, to name but a few, is impressive indeed.

The School seeks opportunities to recognise the students' talents in a number of ways and I am pleased to report on two awards during the last term in particular. Alissa Bass received the School's Concerto Shield for her excellent performance of Mozart's Flute Concerto.

We have also recognised Alex Wood as a talented pianist and potential organist.



Alex is now receiving Organ lessons and he accompanies the singing of hymns in the School assemblies.

These are just two examples of the tremendous contributions made by our superb musicians towards the quality of Music at the School. I would like to thank Mr Camillo and Mr Derrick who, under the leadership of Mr Sinnott, work tirelessly to further improve the standard of Music at WHSB and in supporting such an excellent and varied programme.

Forthcoming Examinations

Staff in the Pastoral Offices and subject departments, the Headmaster and members of the Senior Team continue to meet with students to offer support and guidance to them in their preparation for the forthcoming GCSE and A level examinations. Equally, we were pleased to deliver a broad range of Examination Revision Classes to our GCSE and A level students during the Easter holiday break this year.

The forthcoming examinations are challenging and most important to the students' future achievements, and staff at the School will continue to offer the high levels of support currently available both in the lead up to, and throughout, the examination period. I wish all our GCSE and A level students the very best of luck in their examinations this summer.

Charity Week



The School's Charity Week, which ran from Friday 28 March to Friday 4 April, was another huge success. This year, the annual fundraising event supported two very worthy causes, The British Red Cross and Peaceful Place, a Rochford-based charity which cares for people with



dementia. Classic events such as Westcliff's Got Talent and the eating challenges returned whilst new events such as the teacher pantomime, Cinders and a comedy night hosted by Laughing Pod Comedy Club, Southend proved equally as popular. The highlight of the week was the Launch Night which featured a charity auction and a hog roast dinner. We thank all involved in making Charity Week 2014 such a success. A report on Charity Week is available on the School Website.

*Louis Mayo,
Year 12 Charity Week Chairman*

A Day in Toy Making: Saturday 14 June 2014

Our ever popular Day in Toy Making returns again for the Summer Term providing another opportunity for our young craftsmen to hone their skills. The day will focus on electronic skills and

pupils will be given the opportunity to solder a voice changer kit and then package it in a wooden case. The voice changer is designed to distort voice and is similar to those used to disguise the voice of a witness. It can be used to create different voices that can be used for voice over and voice dubbing for audio or video clips. It is ideal for parties, plays, presentations, voice messages and voice mail. The cost of the day is £35.00 per pupil. Early booking is advised.

*Mr N Senior,
Head of Design & Technology*

UCAS Programme

Continuing to build on a programme established over eight years to support applications to the most prestigious universities, the School will host its annual Oxbridge Conference on Thursday 19 June. Admissions tutors, academics, staff and students from Oxford and Cambridge will visit the School to talk to potential applicants on a range of issues. They will seek to demystify the application process and the notorious interview, as well as providing concrete advice on the extra preparation expected over the Summer of those who would seek to study at these ancient institutions.



This year, we have already conducted a tour of Cambridge University for Year 11 boys and members of Year 12 who are new to the School, and held an Education Evening for Years 10 and 11 to examine Sciences at University. We have also recommended students for the Senior Physics Challenge, hosted by the Cavendish Laboratories, Cambridge and the Cambridge Law Faculty Study Days; supported applications for the Eton College, UNIQ (Oxford) and Sutton Trust Summer Schools

which take place this term; and encouraged participation through London University "Taster" Courses. Additionally, the School secured bookings for thirty-seven Year 12 students at various Masterclasses hosted by Cambridge University. Many students this year have been successful in securing offers for our most prestigious universities and we wish them well in their final examinations.

*Mr R Stevens,
Head of Politics & Higher Education
Coordinator*

Careers in English Enrichment Day: A Review

Upon arrival at the School on Thursday 6 March we were all extremely excited about the English-themed Enrichment Day entitled English for Careers. The day began by listening to three guest speakers who work in a variety of



different industries where the use of English is a key feature of their work. These were in Journalism, Law and Marketing. Interestingly, these jobs were not of a poet or author, or a job which utilises mainly writing skills, but we were excited to see how many doors a qualification in English can open in the world of careers.

The day had clear direction based on the opportunities a good qualification in English can provide. We were able to play games which were both fun and educational, including a Careers Hunt and Career Skills Bingo. We all thoroughly enjoyed this, and the day proved to be much more than writing a book review, as a stereotypical English-themed Enrichment Day might have involved.



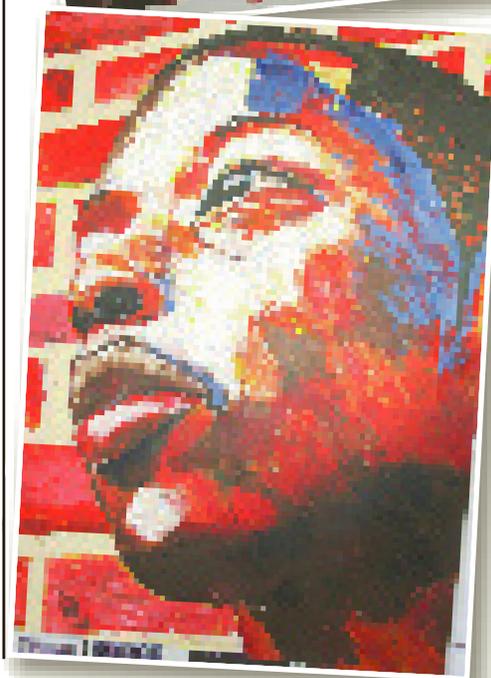
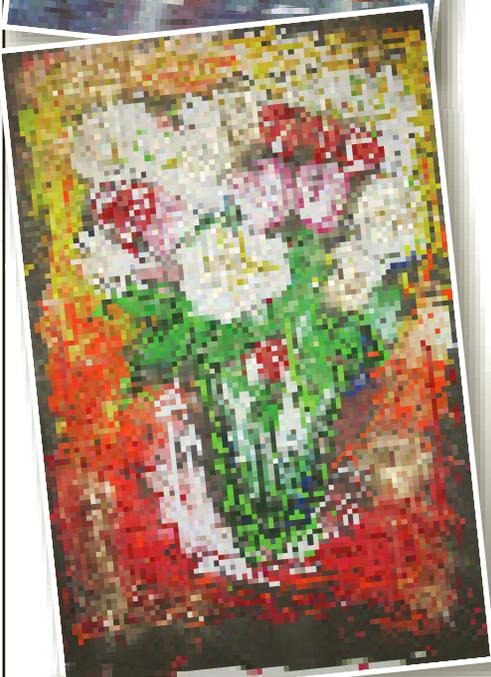
Moreover, we were given the activity of a marketing project, in order to promote our favourite novels to our peers. Working in groups, this activity promoted both teamwork skills as well as marketing and creative skills we would be able to use in our careers later in life. Once this was complete, the groups performed a pitch to their form, much like scenes from the TV show *The Apprentice*. We voted for the book we most wanted to read, and a copy of the book selected by the winner in each Form was purchased for the Key Stage Three library. Overall, the day was a fun and useful experience, giving an insight into careers we can pursue with a strong English qualification.

Adam Tabib, 9N

Art, Craft & Design Evening:

Wednesday 9 July 2014

The popular Art, Design and Craft Evening returns again on Wednesday 9 July 2014. The Art Department will once again showcase the dynamic work being completed by our Fine Art students. The emphasis of the work will be the individual journey that the students take to realise often highly personal outcomes. This year we have explored the concept of identity; this has inspired a myriad of stunning and ambitious solutions, from exquisite portraits, apocalyptic landscapes



of Canvey Island to full scale beach huts with sound and lighting.

Visits to The Tate Modern and St. Pauls and work with the Focal Point Gallery in Southend have helped to enrich the artistic experience of our students. Art at WHSB is in somewhat of a Renaissance period - we have a dedicated group of art students who are pushing the boundaries and have made art a living, breathing entity. Our work takes the best from the 'old' traditions of still life, portrait and landscape and blends it with the new traditions such as installation to create a full sensory experience.

In Design and Technology, work on display will reflect a variety of technical skills and processes using wood, metal and plastics. Techniques such as aluminium casting, brazing, metal inert gas welding, vacuum forming and electronics will also be in evidence. Exhibits from our youngest designers will include imaginative solutions to festive decorations, steady hand games and MP3 amplifiers. Our older designers will provide creative and well engineered solutions to a wide range of problems which demonstrate a high level of craft skills. Come along and see, for example, a range of seating and storage devices, a guitar stand, and a unique wardrobe. Our Young Engineers will present work undertaken with the Engineering Education Trust supported by IPECO Holdings Ltd, and Selex ES, both local engineering companies.

*Mr T Sinnott,
Head of Art and
Mr N Senior,
Head of Design & Technology*

National Flu Survey

flusurvey

Over the Spring Term, three Lower Sixth students (Alex Newman-Andrews, Harvey Turner and Jared White) have involved the School in the National Flu Survey. Flusurvey is a system for measuring influenza trends in the United Kingdom and it is run by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. In contrast to traditional surveillance methods, Flusurvey collects data directly from the general public, rather than via hospitals

or GPs. This is particularly important because many people with flu do not visit a doctor, so do not feature in traditional flu statistics.

Over 150 WHSB pupils took part in the project, completing a profile survey answering general questions about themselves and risk factors relevant to flu (for example, household size, age, and vaccination status). Each week the team of Lower Sixth students recorded those pupils who have been absent, filling in symptoms when the pupil returns to School. The results will be available shortly.

The UK Flusurvey was launched on 16 July 2009, in the middle of the swine flu epidemic, and this is part of a Europe-wide initiative to monitor influenza-like illness (ILI) activity. Other countries running their version of the survey include Netherlands and Belgium, Portugal, Italy, France, Sweden, Spain, Denmark and Ireland.

*Bob Easby,
Science Technician*

Road Safety and Awareness

Traffic is the biggest cause of accidental death of 12 to 16-year-olds, with far too many children up to the age of 16 being killed or seriously injured every week on our roads. Road deaths account for approximately two-thirds of all accidental deaths for the 5-14 age group and figures exist to indicate that from a class of 30 children, two could be killed or injured in a road accident before their 16th birthday.

The possibility of a child being involved in an accident rises significantly when they begin at secondary school and become more independent. The accident rate is highest between 8am and 9am as children travel to school and again from 3pm as children make their way home. This statistic is alarming and most children and teenagers do not realise that they are in such a high-risk group.

Research suggests that young people aged 12-16 can be easily distracted and it is easy to say how distractions such as mobile phones and discussions with friends can increase the level of danger when crossing roads, as they may step off the pavement without thought to the traffic.

Boys are twice as likely to be killed or seriously injured in road accidents as they are more likely to take risks and pay less attention than girls, and teenage boys are 6 times more likely to be killed or seriously injured on bikes than teenage girls. Casualties among children in the UK are significantly higher than in some other European countries and we must do all that we can to protect our young people through greater awareness.

The Headmaster has recently met with Southend Borough Council and the Heads of other schools in the immediate locality to discuss this important matter. The School participates in the Council's road safety scheme and continues to do all it can to raise students' awareness. However we ask all our students to remain mindful of the potential dangers, and request the support of parents in reinforcing these messages.

Headmaster

Higher Education Superfair:

Wednesday 25 June 2014

The School will be attending a Higher Education Super Fair on Wednesday 25 June, hosted by Essex University. This is an exceptional opportunity to see, in one place, representatives from around 100 institutions and to pick up prospectuses and other valuable information. It is also a chance to appreciate the challenge of the competition for places at the top universities, as the event will be attended by many thousands of Sixth Formers from across the region.

The School's annual Higher Education Evening for all Lower Sixth students and parents will be on the following evening, Thursday 26 June. Additionally, there will be timetabled sessions on various aspects relating to University Applications for Year 12 in June and July.

Despite the prevalence of significant tuition fees, Higher Education remains the clear choice for the near universality of our students and, together, we must ensure this choice is well informed.

*Mr R Stevens,
Head of Politics and Higher Education
Coordinator*

Old Westcliffian receives MBE



We offer our congratulations to former Southend Mayor and Old Westcliffian, Councillor David Norman, who was awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours List for services to adult education. Councillor Norman, is honoured for his 20 years' association with Ruskin College, Oxford, having piloted many adult educational initiatives and the central role he played in relocating the College to a new building.

WHSB is extremely proud to celebrate this impressive achievement of a former pupil of the School and we are delighted that we continue to benefit from Councillor Norman's tremendous service as a Governor, and as President of the Old Westcliffian Association.

Headmaster

Little Shop of Horrors: A Review

For two evenings in March, the School production of Little Shop of Horrors took to the stage. On both nights it was received with huge acclaim by the audience who, despite the musical being not the most well-known, were carried away by the performances of the cast. Luke Barratt-Bentley played a wonderful Seymour whose life is turned upside down by the arrival of the man-eating plant Audrey II (voiced by Timi Ariyo, and embodied by both Alex Dawe and Kiran Darmasseelane) and Brooke Littlejohn shone opposite Luke as the ditzzy object of Seymour's affections. The character of Mr Mushnik, Seymour's boss, was brought to life by Richard Wells, in another stunning appearance on the WHSB. The principal cast was completed by Angus Easener, Tami Sotire, Kirsty Hickey and Emmanuella Ibrahim (WHSB).



The principals were supported by a small chorus and an extremely able orchestra under Musical Director, Andrew Cooper. Credit must also go to the backstage and technical crew for making the show look and sound as good as it did. Final mention goes to Henri de Lausun (the Director) who managed to bring the whole spectacle together.

*Mr S Wilkinson,
Assistant Head*

Lower Sixth Geology Field Visit to Arran:

28 June - 4 July 2014

Geological field studies are a compulsory requirement of the A2 Geology course. Between Saturday 28 June and Friday 4 July 2014, Sixth Form geologists will be based at the Lochranza Field Studies Centre on the Isle of Arran. From this base it is possible to study the rocks and structures from the coastline of Newton on the North of the Isle, to Kildonan in the South. During the week, students will collect data in order to test a hypothesis relating to the origin of igneous processes some 65 million years ago. The field course is very much the centrepiece of the Advanced Level course and will allow our geologists to develop a knowledge and understanding of field geology within an outstandingly beautiful location, which boasts incredible scenery within a glaciated mountain setting.

*Mr N Cooper,
Head of Geology*



Biology Field Visit to Orielton:

14 - 19 July 2014

The Biology Field Trip to Orielton Field Studies Centre, Pembroke, Wales this year will be the biggest we have ever run. Two coaches with over 90 students will travel the 300 miles to Pembroke. Many might question travelling so far, however the Biology Department feel that the course offered at Orielton is by far the best available. The reason for this is that the Biology examination specification states that students need to study a habitat, in depth, as part of the Ecology section. Orielton offers sand dunes, sheltered rocky seashore, exposed rocky seashore, woodland and fresh water. This wide variety will give our students knowledge of all these habitats and this will facilitate their studies, not only for Advanced Level but also for the



future. There is also an opportunity to visit a local farm and question the farmer regarding agricultural practices. Days are long, with lectures starting at 9.00am and often finishing at 9.00pm. Consequently, not only is this a memorable experience for our students, but also a good preparation for the study of Biology at University.

*Mr LGP Despres,
Teacher of Biology*



Year 7 Geography Trip to Southend: Thursday 5 June 2014

On Thursday 5 June, Year 7 will be taking part in the annual fieldtrip to Southend where they will be carrying out fieldwork tasks relating to the growth of the town. They will investigate how and why Southend has grown from a small fishing village into the large settlement it is today. Tasks will include drawing fieldsketches, completing land use surveys and carrying out pedestrian counts and surveys of shoppers in the High Street. Pupils will also be able to record their route digitally using GPS systems. They will use the data they have collected on their fieldtrip in their Geography and Mathematics lessons during the rest of the Summer Term.

*Mrs I Smith,
Second in Geography*

Year 8 and 9 Cultural Trip to Paris: 23 – 26 May 2014

Our fifth biannual trip to Paris will take place between 23 and 26 May 2014 and there will be 43 participants from Years 8 and 9. The visit will provide pupils with an opportunity to practise the French that they have been learning and the chance to sample some of the cultural and scientific sights and monuments for which Paris is renowned.

Our itinerary will include visits to the Arc de Triomphe, The Louvre, the Ile de la Cité including Notre Dame and the Cité des Sciences et de l'Industrie. An evening cruise along the Seine to view Paris by night will also be included and, as in previous years, this is sure to be one of the highlights of the trip. Parents are reminded that the Briefing meeting for this trip will be on 8 May 2014 at 7.00pm in the Westcliff Theatre.

Mrs J Williams, Senior Teacher: Staff Tutor



The Tolkien Society: Saturday 28 June 2014

On Saturday 28 June, the WHSB Tolkien Society will be visiting the National Trust Anglo-Saxon burial site at Sutton Hoo, Suffolk. JRR Tolkien taught English Language at Oxford for over 30 years, and his main interest was the Anglo-Saxon poem Beowulf. At Sutton Hoo, we have a unique opportunity to look into the past, into the life of England as it emerged from the Dark Ages. We shall view the exhibition, and be given a guided tour around the burial sites. There will be some preparatory work, and this visit will fill in some gaps in English history, as well as helping pupils to gain an understanding into Tolkien's literary background.

The cost of this trip is £10.00 and it is available to all pupils. Travel is by minibus, and consequently, only fifteen places are available. We expect demand to be high and pupils are advised to see Mr Halsall for an application form.

The Tolkien Society will continue to meet every Friday in Week B, in W2 at 1.00pm.

*Mr M Halsall,
Head of Religious Studies*

Debating Club

This has been a successful year for the School's Debating teams. In the English-Speaking Union's Mace Competition we reached the East of England Finals, in the Cambridge Union we reached the National Finals of the Oxford Union Schools' teams and we similarly made the International Finals of the Oxford Union Schools' Competition, competing against the best 64 teams in the UK, Republic of Ireland and various international schools from Italy, the Netherlands and Canada. The last major competition in the Debating calendar is the International Competition for Young Debaters which is hosted by Oxford University this year. Two teams of Year 8 and Year 9 pupils from WHSB are through to the Finals on Saturday 3 May.

We wish them well.

*Mr R Stevens,
Head of Politics and Higher Education
Coordinator*

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Silver Award: 25-27 April and 2-5 July 2014

All our pupils who completed their Bronze Award received their certificates in an Assembly in November. Twenty one of these pupils then elected to take up the challenge of the Silver Award and three others joined them as direct Silver entrants. These pupils have been completing their Volunteering, Physical and Skill sections over the past six months and at School they have started training for the expeditions which are taking place in the Summer Term.

The Silver practice expedition will commence on Friday April 25 and continue until Sunday 27 April. We will travel to our starting point on the coast, close to Eastbourne where the groups will begin their expedition. They will then be required to navigate their way on a planned route to Bushy Wood Scout Camp near Hailsham where they will camp overnight. The next day the students will complete a circular walk to test their map-reading skills before returning to the camp. On the Sunday they will pack up their equipment and walk to the finish near Horam.

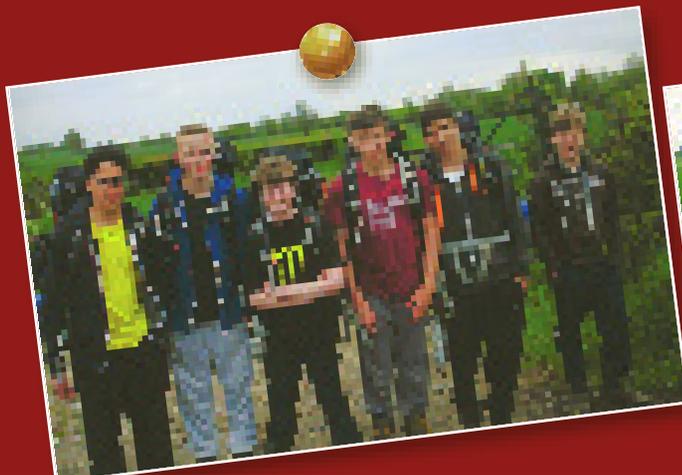
The Silver final assessment will take place from 2 July to 5 July in the White Peaks. We will spend the first day travelling to the area and carrying out an acclimatisation walk near Wetton, camping for the night at the Newhaven Campsite. The next day the students will start near Baslow and camp in different sites around Lathkill Dale. The pupils will be unaccompanied on their journey, and at the sites, however they will be supervised along the way, and visited both in the evening and in the morning. They will then make their way to the next campsite near Hartington before completing their expedition by walking down Dovedale to finish near Thorpe.

We hope the completion of the expedition will be the final section of the Silver Award for the students and that we shall see a presentation of certificates in Assembly in the Autumn Term.

Bronze Award: 17-18 May 2014

In March, the Bronze DofE candidates completed a one day walk around Hockley Woods where they carried out navigation training and utilised a Trangia (the camp cooker they will use on expedition). Further training for their expeditions will take place at School before they embark on the Bronze Practice during the weekend of 17 and 18 May at Danbury. They will start their walk in Hatfield Peverel and navigate their way along a planned route to Essex Outdoors Camp in Danbury. Here they will demonstrate their camp skills before returning to Hatfield Peverel on the next day. The final Bronze Assessment, around Roxwell, will take place in September.

*Mr LGP Despres,
Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator*



CCF ACTIVITIES

Summer Camp: 5 July-12 July 2014

Having now expanded to a Detachment of about 50 cadets, and recruited a new officer, 2nd Lieutenant Dowding, thirty Year 10, 11 and 12 cadets will join Brentwood School CCF at our Annual Camp, which takes place this year at Warcop Training Camp in the Lake District. The camp will be administered by the Army Cadet Training Team of 42 Brigade. The week will provide cadets unparalleled opportunities, both to apply training learned and to experience new activities. A full day of Adventurous Training in the Lake District is planned. This will offer a range of activities including gill scrambling, gorge walking, kayaking, canoeing, rock climbing, abseiling, cliff jumping, cliff traversing and mountain biking. Exercise Warcop Wanderer will constitute a day of section and platoon attacks. There will also be days including a 'Cadet Call of Duty', SAWES (Small Arms Weapons Effect System - similar to laser combat), FIBUA (fighting in built up areas), DCCT (Dismounted Close Combat Training - a combat simulator), ambushes, assault courses, a march and shoot competition, a navigation exercise, a first aid stand (from which cadets will also have the opportunity to achieve a HeartStart qualification) and watermanship exercises, amongst others. This is a substantial programme and which undoubtedly will be memorable and provide exceptionally valuable personal development to the cadets who attend.

Year 9 Field Day: 11 July 2014

Year 9 Cadets, who will not be taken on Summer Camp, will have the opportunity to take part in adventurous training, making use of the local Southend Marine Activities Centre (SMAC). They will spend a day trying a variety of watersports, including sailing, windsurfing and kayaking. RSM Brett will lead the group and this will, undoubtedly, be enjoyable for all involved.

Passing Out Parade and CCF Dinner: Friday 27 June 2014

This year we will host our second Annual Passing Out Parade and CCF Mess Dinner. The evening will begin with a parade to which parents, family and friends are invited. During the Parade, awards will be made to cadets from each Year Group, and the Norman Chew Champion Cadet Trophy will be awarded to the best overall cadet. Following the Parade, cadets, parents, family, friends and other guests are invited to join us for a formal Mess Dinner to celebrate the achievements of the cadets and the remarkable progress of our new CCF Detachment across its 20 months since establishment. A memorable event for all involved is in prospect.

*Lt J Bleakley,
OC WHSB Detachment, Brentwood CCF*

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Science at WHSB

It has been an exceptionally busy Spring Term in the Science Department.



In the Physics Department, Mr Dalby took ten Advanced Level students to CERN in Geneva which is the site of the world's largest particle physics laboratory. CERN's main function is to provide the particle accelerators and other infrastructure needed for high-energy physics research. As a result, numerous experiments have been constructed at CERN following international collaborations. Most of the activities at CERN are currently directed towards operating the new Large Hadron Collider, and the experiments for it. In July 2012, CERN scientists announced the discovery of a new sub-atomic particle that could be the much sought after Higgs boson believed to be essential for formation of the Universe. In addition to seeing the Hadron Collider, our Advanced Level students had the opportunity to experience the other activities at CERN too, including their groundbreaking work in Computer Science.



In the Biology Department, Mr Despres entered students for the first time ever in the Biology Olympiad which is aimed at Advanced Level students with an interest in Biology and who want to extend their talents within the subject. In offering a wider syllabus than that covered at School, it allows students to demonstrate their knowledge and to be suitably rewarded and publicly recognised through the award of medals and certificates. The Olympiad took place on the 22 January and involved students taking a two hour multiple-choice paper online in School. Of the 18 students who were entered, one student (Joel Collins, Year 12) received a Silver Award

and five received a Commendation certificate. As a first attempt, this was an impressive result and the Department looks forward to entering the Olympiad next year.

As part of the School's recent Enrichment Day on Thursday 6 March, Dr Martindill, the Second in Science, arranged for Year 10 pupils to visit the Natural History Museum for a programme of study based on human evolution. Whilst at the museum, pupils had the opportunity to partake in a hands-on workshop which explored the evolutionary relationships between present day Homo sapiens and ancient humans, applying analytical techniques used by Museum scientists. Pupils enjoyed the experience immensely and it was an engaging way of further developing this aspect of their biological education.

The Chemistry Department has received significant investment from the School finances and has been able to purchase two class sets of Quickfit organic chemistry kits. This purchase of high grade equipment, in addition to a number of other acquisitions in the last two years, places the Department in an enviable position when it compares the provision it can offer to its students as part of their education in Chemistry, with provision available in other schools. The kits consist of a set of glassware which allows for the preparation of organic compounds using techniques such as distillation and reflux condensation as required on the Advanced Level course, as well as a more comprehensive preparation kit which will allow students to undertake advanced organic synthesis. This will extend their skills in compound preparation beyond their current qualification and allow them to experience practical techniques more usually found in an undergraduate laboratory. The experience they will gain at WHSB will not only give them a better preparation for practical examinations in School, but also enhance the prospects for those seeking to continue their chemistry education into university.

*Dr D Prendergast,
Head of Science*

Science Roadshow

The Science Roadshow, which is a Wednesday Afternoon Activity for students in the Lower Sixth, has been running for several years and it has visited many local primary schools. It has become extremely popular and this year we changed our method of working

in order to ensure we could visit more schools. Each of the Science disciplines has produced a twenty minute piece of work and this will enable a rotation of Junior aged pupils, providing one Class with a taste of Science within an afternoon. We aim to reach Year 5 classes, however we have also delivered our programme to Year 6 pupils and have carried out a most successful afternoon with 90 Year 2 pupils at Earls Hall School during its Science Week. This year, the schools we have visited include Fairways, Lady of Lourdes, Eastwood Primary, Westleigh, St Mary's Prittlewell and Earls Hall. In all we have worked with over 400 students in these schools.



The purpose of the Roadshow is to present each of the Sciences in an accessible and enjoyable way. The experiments themselves offer a hands-on approach to Science. The team aims to display the most interesting aspects of each discipline. Chemistry showcases a colourful and interactive presentation of metallic salts under fire and offers the pupils the opportunity to become forensic detectives. Physics provides an exploration of electrical current and circuits, whilst the Biology element allows the viewing of our most basic and fundamental components, cells, with each aspect being warmly received by all those who partake in them.



Each of us considers that we have benefitted immensely from this experience. Team working, public speaking and, at times, patience have all been developed and enhanced as a result of our endeavours. We are all grateful for this opportunity

Ben Carter and Sam Shelley, 12B

Centenary of the Great War: The School's Response



2014 marks the centenary of the outbreak of World War 1. Commemorating the Great War presents challenges to both students and teachers of History; not just because it needs to be remembered, but because it needs to be remembered accurately. Over 700,000 British men died in the conflict, and these casualties touched the lives, in at least some distant form or another, of virtually every family in the land. It is easy, which is not to say always inaccurate or inappropriate, to follow the familiar path laid by nearly one hundred years of Remembrance Sundays (or Armistice Day, as it was known before World War Two). It is embodied in the popular imagination (which is often to say the media) as the war of Sassoon and Owen, of Passchendaele, of blundering Generals and of mud. 'I died in Hell,' mused Sassoon. 'They called it Passchendaele.' The human cost of the war was devastating, the sacrifice great, and the bravery, on occasion, remarkable, and all this we have a duty to remember.

As historians, though, we need to go further. A quick flick through the History Channel's numerous documentaries on the subject might make it easy to forget that the majority of the men who went off to fight in the Great War did, in fact, return. Most families did not lose an immediate member. Some 12% of British combatants died in the war; the figure is approximately the same for the Napoleonic Wars, and considerably higher (though estimates vary) for the English Civil Wars. All Britons will have some vestigial knowledge of the horrors of the first day of the Battle of the Somme; how many could recount the details of the Battle of Tewkesbury (1471), when possibly as many as half the 60,000 or so combatants were killed? None of this is to trivialise the sacrifice of the war, but it is to point out that the significance of WW1 lies in much more than simply the length of the casualty list. We have a duty, in the words of Professor Sir Hew Strachan, to elevate our gaze from our preoccupations with the mud of the Western Front. The challenge, as he says, is not the principle of commemoration, but the practice of education. We must do more than simply remember; we must enhance understanding.

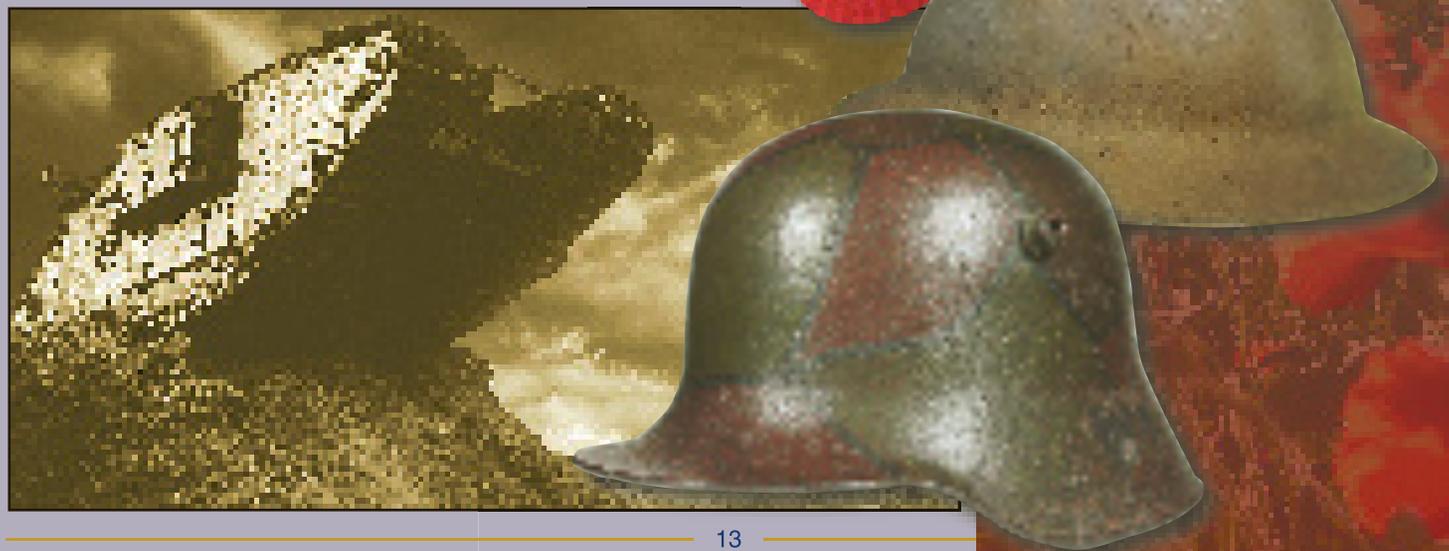


First World War Exhibition Day, Mr Andrew Robertshaw: 4 July 2014

We intend to mark the Centenary with a major undertaking for the School. Using internationally renowned military historian, and long-standing friend of the School, Mr Andrew Robertshaw, we are proposing to hold a First World War Exhibition Day on Friday 4 July. We expect to mount a series of displays and demonstrations on the School Field: a Recruiting Station; First Aid Post; Field Kitchen and Machine-gun Nest. Manned by re-enactors they will provide expert instruction on these key aspects of the war, as well as giving insights into the experience of soldiers who fought on the Western Front.

Join Us . . .

The intention is to open the event to the wider community: local primary schools in the afternoon and the general public in the early evening. For the latter we anticipate providing a barbeque and levying a small entrance charge.

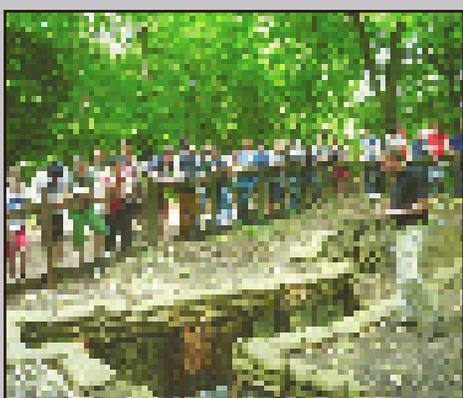


Summer Term Enrichment Day, Mr Steve Roberts: 11 July 2014

On Friday 11 July (the Summer Term Enrichment Day), we are hoping to work with Mr Steve Roberts, an expert in tracing military ancestry and past speaker on Humanities Evenings, in taking some Year 9 pupils to the Public Records Office, Kew to discover what we can about the military records and experiences of some of those commemorated locally on War Memorials.

*Mr R Stevens,
Head of Politics and Higher Education
Coordinator*

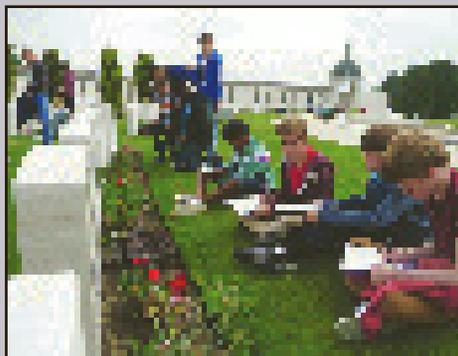
Visit to Battlefields of World War I: 23 to 26 May 2014



During this Centenary year of the start of the Great War, plans are already well advanced for the latest of the History Department's visits to the battlefields of France and Belgium. On this occasion our tour party will consist of 44 Year 9 students and staff for the four day visit which is scheduled for 23 to 26 May.

As is customary, one whole day will be spent in and around the vicinity of Ypres, which witnessed intensive fighting across the entirety of the War. Amongst our visits we intend to see the preserved trenches at Bayernwald, the vast Tyne Cot Cemetery, and

the recently extended In Flanders Fields Museum. The day will end at the Menin Gate where there is held the nightly ceremony to remember over eighty thousand British and Commonwealth soldiers who died in the Ypres Salient but have no known grave.



It is always a poignant moment, and one not to be missed. A further whole day will be spent in the Somme region of Picardy, where our focus will be very much on the infamous battle which commenced on 1 July 1916. On that day alone the British army suffered 60,000 casualties, and we will consider both why it happened, and whether such losses might have been avoided.

All pupils have studied the conflict this year, and await the visit with anticipation.

*Mr D Maughan,
Teacher of History and Trip Organiser*

Visit to Moscow and St. Petersburg: A Review

During the February half-term holiday the History Department undertook the latest of its biennial visits to Russia. Forty-four students participated in the six day tour, and below two of our party, Joe Willis and Dylan Galligan, offer their own perspectives on the experience.

Moscow

Moscow is the capital city of Russia, and is home to over 11 million residents. At its very heart is the Kremlin, where the highlight was our visit to the Armoury. Precious artefacts and memorabilia from the Tsarist period are kept there, such as the ivory throne of Ivan the Great and the Imperial Crown of Russia. It is a truly breathtaking site; a place of unimaginable wealth and astounding beauty.

Located next to the Kremlin is Red Square, home to the old school Soviet army parades and, of course, the Lenin Mausoleum. The latter is a bleak structure, still subject to the utmost security, and seeing Lenin's body was a very eerie experience indeed. Also located on Red Square is St. Basil's Cathedral, one of the most iconic buildings in Russia with its nine unique onion-domed towers designed each with their own dazzling array of colours. Revisiting Red Square later at night was yet another invaluable experience, as the beauty of the architecture was greatly enhanced by the brilliant lights, a truly incomparable sight.



We also visited the Moscow Metro, or the 'People's Palaces' as they are often referred to. Built in the Stalin era, this vast underground system and its stations are decorated with the most beautiful and diverse interiors. Whilst the trains and ticket barriers themselves are relentless, the experience itself was something unlike anything I had ever seen before, making the London Underground seem rather meagre in comparison.

On our final night in the city, we visited the Moscow State Circus where we saw a variety of acts, including gymnasts, lion tamers, and world class jugglers who had only recently returned from the Sochi Winter Olympics opening ceremony. It was another fantastic evening and an experience very hard to come by anywhere else in the world. Although our time in Moscow was relatively limited, it was an amazing experience. Moscow is a city like no other, and a place to which I would definitely return in the future.

Joe Willis, Year 12

St. Petersburg

Following our overnight train journey from Moscow, we were straight into a day-long tour of St Petersburg's major sights. At the Cruiser 'Aurora' Mr Stevens helpfully explained that it was not a battleship, as some had misunderstood, but a third class defensive

cruiser. The Church on Spilled Blood with its iconic coloured domes was a very popular stop, and many students were happy to buy a traditional Russian hat in order to assure everyone that we were indeed tourists.

My personal highlight was the visit to the Hermitage Museum which contains over three million pieces of art, the largest museum in the world. The sheer number of exhibits, including works by da Vinci, Michelangelo, Rembrandt and Monet, was overwhelming, however the experience was not just about the paintings and statues. As a former palace, the walls and ceilings were all beautifully decorated, giving a more wholesome experience than in other art museums such as the Louvre in Paris.



The evenings were also fulfilling, with the folklore show at the Nikolaevsky Palace featuring traditional Russian dancing. Three 'volunteers', including a very excited Japanese tourist and our own Joe Kania, took to the stage with the dancers, and were dutifully embarrassed. The show was followed by a meal in the adjacent banquet hall. The menu was Russian and this made a change for some who had previously opted for a McDonalds or Burger King outlet to obtain their lunch time fare.

On the final night, with everyone dressed in their best evening wear, we visited the ballet at the Mikhailovsky Theatre in order to see a performance of Don Quixote. The show was impressive and enjoyable, even though beforehand some had been apprehensive of the experience to come. A standing ovation and several shouts of "Bravo!" concluded the evening.

St. Petersburg is a fascinating city, and I feel privileged to have been able to visit and experience so much of what it has to offer in terms of history and culture. It proved to be a memorable trip which I would recommend to everyone.

Dylan Galligan, Year 12

History Lectures & Politics Society Talks



This year Mr Baker has kindly reprised his series of Lectures for Year 12 History students on post-war British Political History. He will conclude the series with a presentation on **Margaret Thatcher** on Wednesday 23 April.



Additionally, on Monday 28 April, Dr Christopher Millington of Swansea University will visit WHSB to talk to our Sixth Form French students on France under Occupation, and our Year 13 History students on French foreign policy before and after the First World War.

*Mr R Stevens,
Head of Politics and Higher Education
Coordinator*



SLICES OF PI: MATHEMATICS AT WHSB



The Maths Department are running a series of exciting competitions and trips, as well as offering the usual support to pupils of all ages and attainment. To see the most up-to-date information on the provision we offer, please see the noticeboards in the Maths block foyer or the Latest News section of the School website.

Results of the Team Challenges

In the Lower School, four of our brightest mathematicians: James Quigley 9C, Jed Waghorn 9N, Thomas Haward 8E and Rahul Arora 8N, have participated in the UKMT Junior Team Challenge. Unfortunately at the time of writing their result was not available, but we will report it in the September issue of the diary.

In the Middle School, Anuj Patel 10N, Oliver Croysdill 10N, Kavin Kugan 10C, and Liam Lau 10S have represented WHSB in the Year 10 Team Competition. At the regional final they managed a very respectable third place, which is very pleasing considering it is the first time WHSB have entered this competition. Congratulations to all of the boys and hopefully we can use the experience from this year to build on next year.

Intermediate Mathematical Challenge Results are in!

This year has been our best ever for IMC results. This Mathematics competition for pupils in Years 10 and 11 has shown the genuine talent of so many in the Middle School. This year we have attained 25 Gold certificates, 28 Silver, and 36 Bronze. Last year was 13, 23, and 31, respectively. In addition, we have a staggering 14 pupils through to follow-on rounds (we had 5 last year). Congratulations to all who took part. We will publish the results of the follow on rounds in the next edition of the Westcliff Diary.

Results of the Cipher Challenge

The Cipher Challenge has finished. This is a national competition that any pupils of any age can enter, so the competition was strong. Two of our teams were in the top 100 until challenge 7 of 8 when unfortunately they dropped in the rankings. Challenge A for each round was graded on accuracy and Challenge B for each included a time limit. Overall we placed two teams on the final leader board. Our highest performing team was Simon Houghton, Charlie Cable and Jasper Alizond, who attained an impressive 1st place for Challenge A overall (joint with other teams), and 77th for Challenge B. Our second best team of Jack Belham, Kiran Darmasseelane, Andrew Cooper, Daniel Bard, Viral Patel, Thomas Simmonett and Luke Barratt-Bentley, placed 340th for Challenge A and 303rd for Challenge B. Both teams are to be congratulated for a strong performance in a national competition.

Pi Day

To celebrate Pi Day (14 March), we ran a variety of events in School as well as an inter-School competition. Our Year 10 pupils, who have just been learning about pastry in Food Technology, made their own pies to be judged against the other local secondary schools by Ruby Tandoh, finalist in the Great British Bake Off. We also had a memorising π competition, puzzles and games, a number hunt where members of staff wore numbers that pupils needed to find and categorise, piems (poems where the number of letters in each word is the same as the digit of π), a Rubik's cube competition, and a bake sale. All money raised went to the NSPCC.

Events in the Summer Term

We have three main Enrichment events in the Summer Term. Firstly, we have the JMC (Junior Maths Challenge), where our Lower School mathematicians will have the opportunity to demonstrate their own

problem solving skills. Considering that both the SMC and IMC results this year have been exceptional, we have high hopes for them! The JMC will take place on Thursday 1 May and this may be the first time that pupils have seen the type of problems they will need to tackle under examination conditions. The whole of Year 8 will be entered and they will be spending time in Mathematics lessons looking at the style of questions beforehand, so everybody should be fully prepared for the event.

Secondly, we have the visit of Matt Parker on 23 April. This is a much anticipated event as Matt returns to WHSB to talk on the subject of Adventures in the Fourth Dimension. The talk will run for an hour in the afternoon, when Sixth Form students are usually taking part in Enrichment activities. All local secondary schools have been invited to bring their own Advanced Level mathematicians to the event and several have taken advantage of this fabulous opportunity. We will have pupils visiting from Chelmsford as well as those closer to home.

Thirdly, we are again running the Architecture Workshop for our AS students. Historically this has been an enjoyable and educational day, as pupils have been able to work in groups to use their mathematical skills in practice to build a bridge using limited materials. We expect all who take part to have an enjoyable day, and it to be particularly valuable for those wishing to study Engineering in the future. It will take place on 25 June and students will not be attending their usual timetabled lessons for some of the day so that every AS student of Mathematics can take part.

New Maths Angels

We are delighted to be working with the Young Carers Association in Southend, providing online Mathematics mentors (Maths Angels) to young carers in the borough. These Year 10 pupils from WHSB have given up their free time to help somebody with less fortunate home circumstances understand Mathematics. We are very proud of all of the boys: they have been a credit to the School while undertaking their online training and starting the mentoring. We hope to continue to participate in this valuable scheme next year.

New Classroom Assistants

We have six new Classroom Assistants for Mathematics who are working with pupils in Year 10 in very small groups to help them build on the work they have so far undertaken in their GCSE studies. This type of support in very small groups (groups of two or three students) is invaluable at helping individuals with specific difficulties. We are very proud of the way in which students of Mathematics are always willing to help others, and so many students in the Sixth Form give up their time as mentors in the School, help to run the lunchtime support club (in M6 every Thursday, 1:05-1:45), as Maths Angels, or as Classroom Assistants. Some of our Classroom Assistants have become exceptionally good at explaining concepts to younger pupils and we would not be surprised if they pursued teaching as a career in the future! As always, if any in the Sixth would like to mentor a younger pupil online, in School, or assist in a classroom, please contact Mrs Marsh.

*Mrs A Marsh,
Head of Mathematics*

Philharmonia Orchestra at Royal Festival Hall, London: Thursday 12 June 2014

This programme of hugely influential Russian music is conducted by Grammy award winner Paavo Järvi, who is currently in his fourth season as Music Director of the Orchestre de Paris. The audience will be treated to music from two entirely separate eras, starting with the Overture to Glinka's *Ruslan and Lyudmilla* which set the foundation for the next century of music in Russia. This is a fantastic companion piece to the same composer's *Kamarinskaya*, which the Westcliff Sinfonia performed so successfully in the recent Spring concert.

The following two works come from a time when the output Russian artists were heavily censored by Stalin's regime. Rachmaninov, who was living in America at the time, was declared an "enemy of Russia" because of his revolutionary works, one of which being the second piece on the programme. Piano Concerto No.3 will be performed by international Russian pianist Kirill Gerstein.

Finally, Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5 in D Minor was written under Stalinist rule, when the composer was so terrified of being silenced by his government that he kept a packed suitcase by his front door for a quick escape. The piece demonstrated Shostakovich's ability to walk the dangerous tightrope of appeasing both the party censors, who saw the work as validating Communist values through its triumphant marches and fanfare motifs, and the repressed citizens, who found emotional resonance in the symphony's devastating third movement.

This event is open to all, and will be of particular interest to Advanced Level Music students who are studying Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5 for their exams. The School is offering tickets priced at £16 for students and £19 for adults. This price includes a coach journey to and from the London venue.

*Mr T Derrick,
Teacher of Music*

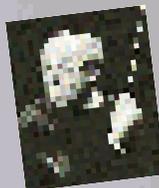


Summer Chamber Recital: Thursday 15 May 2014

WHSB's standard of musical talent continues to impress, and the Chamber concert is a termly testament to the hard work of our cohort of music students. This is an opportunity for all to experience the amazing musical ability on display at this School, and for pupils to perform in a public space.

The Spring Chamber Concert featured a diverse mix of soloists and ensembles, and this term's concert will expand the programme further to include an even more exciting array of performers. Audience members will be treated to a performance from the Westcliff Concert Band of Holst's Suite No. 2 in F and Grainger's emotive arrangement of Irish Tune from County Derry. Solo performers will include violinist George Ablett and pianists Amber Tapsell and Alex Wood. The evening will also feature a performance of Mozart's Kegelstatt Trio, featuring National Youth Orchestra clarinettist John Tothill. Tickets are priced at £4 for adults and £2 for pupils

*Mr T Derrick,
Teacher of Music*



Westcliff Sinfonia Summer Concert: Wednesday 2 July 2014

The Music Department is proud to showcase the Westcliff Sinfonia in what promises to be an exciting concert. The programme will begin with Beethoven's powerful and expressive Egmont Overture. The grand, serious orchestral opening in the dark key of F minor, retells the story of Count Egmont, the leader of the Dutch uprising against the occupying Spanish in Brussels (in the 16th century). This theatrical opening is followed by one of the most famous Italian composers, Verdi and his rousing **Triumphal March** taken from *Aida*.

The second half of the concert features Haydn's Symphony No.39, a truly interesting work argued to be one of Haydn's first symphonies in a minor tonality. Many claim that this symphony may have been the inspiration for Mozart's Symphony No.40; a symphony that we already know and love from the previous term's programme. The concert will finish with Copland's *John Henry*, a programmatic piece that is meant to simulate the sounds of a train and John Henry's hammer. This promises to be a concert that is truly noteworthy.



Tickets are priced at £4 for adults and without charge for pupils.

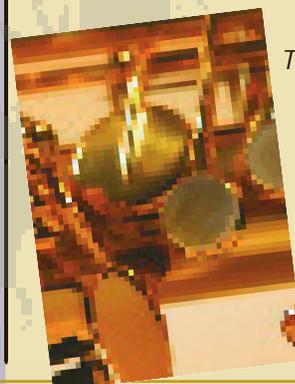
*Mr T Derrick,
Teacher of Music*

The Summer Band and Barbecue: Friday 11 July 2014 7.00pm

Join the WHSB Big Band and other ensembles in ushering in the Summer with lively music and delicious food. The performers of this anticipated annual event will entertain the crowd with a selection of jazz and swing favourites, whilst hot dogs and burgers are flipped on the grill. After a long academic year of working and studying hard, pupils, parents and staff are encouraged to let off some steam by hitting the dance floor and enjoying themselves, in what is sure to be an unforgettable evening's entertainment.

This event is open to all, costing £16 for adults and £13 for pupils, including food. Tickets are £7 for adults and £4 for students excluding food.

*Mr T Derrick,
Teacher of Music*



SPORT AND THE HOUSE SYSTEMS

The School's Sporting Programme

As the winter season draws to a close, we can reflect on what has been a rather disrupted year with the wet and cold weather interfering with both our weekend and mid-week programme. However, despite these frustrations, there have been some excellent achievements by our sportsmen.

In Rugby, the Year 11 team was beaten in the Essex Cup by last year's runners-up whilst the Year 8 team was defeated in the same competition at the semi-final stage by Champion School. The First XV remains in the Essex Cup competition and they have a good chance of making it into the Final, however an excellent performance is needed in the upcoming semi-final against Southend High School for Boys in order to progress. In the Lower School, the Year 7 'A' and 'B' sides have made an excellent start to their School rugby careers and show much potential looking forward to next year.

In Football, the 1st XI has enjoyed some victories against local opposition. However, inconsistent performance has led to a fall in points in the Essex League and this will result in a mid-table finish this year. The 2nd XI has also had some notable victories, however injuries have seen their form dip of late and, again, a mid-table finish appears likely.

The Year 11 side is in both local cup semi-finals, as is the Year 8 team, and both teams have forthcoming, crucial games to decide the fate of their seasons. The Year 7 and Year 10 teams remain in the Southend Cup, whilst the Year 9 team has had a disappointing season by their standards and they will want to bounce back, stronger, next year.

In Basketball, we have enjoyed one of our most successful seasons to date with our Year 11, 10 and 7 teams reaching the Southend Cup finals. Unfortunately, our Year 7 team suffered a heavy defeat to Southend High School for Boys in their Final.

However, the Year 10 and 11 teams only narrowly lost with the Year 11 side being defeated by just one point to St Thomas Moore in an outstanding game. The Year 8 and 9 teams also enjoyed positive league campaigns but fell just short of the top two qualifying positions.



In Rowing, the School entered a Junior and Intermediate team in the Essex Indoor Rowing Championships for the first time ever. The team performed exceptionally well and were deservedly crowned Essex Indoor Rowing Champions. Individually, James Wood won the Year 11 event and Adam Piggott the Year 10 event, whilst the Junior and Intermediate teams won their respective relay events. In Hockey, the Under 16 side has progressed through their pool and County Semi Finals to reach the Final. We wish them good luck and hope they are able to bring home the trophy.

We look forward to the return of both Cricket and Athletics in the Summer. In Athletics, the School will, once again, enter the National Track & Field Cup competition as we endeavour to build on previous successes and attempt to reach the National Finals with both the Year 8 and 10 teams. In Cricket, we will play in the Essex Cup competition in all age groups, as well as competing against local opposition in both league and cup formats.

Mr D Phillips, Head of Physical Education

Year	Rugby					Football			
	P	W	D	L	PD	P	W	D	L
7	12	10	1	1	+273	13	6	2	5
8	13	10	-	3	+265	8	4	1	3
9	6	1	-	5	-178	7	1	1	5
10	11	3	-	8	-145	7	3	0	4
11	9	6	-	3	+59	6	3	0	3
1st XI	10	5	-	5	+132	14	7	2	5
2nd XI	61	35	25	1	-	10	5	0	5
Total	61	35	1	25	-	65	29	6	30

Mr D Phillips, Head of Physical Education

SPORT AND THE HOUSE SYSTEM

Year 10 Rugby Tour to Worcester: A Review

This year's Rugby tour saw the Year 10 team visit Worcester. We were met by news of localised flooding and the view from our hotel rooms was one of an underwater County Cricket ground. However we were still able to watch an enthralling Premiership match between Worcester Warriors and the Leicester Tigers, in which Worcester narrowly lost. Unfortunately the weather caused our Saturday fixture to be cancelled, however it gave us the chance to try out the Worcester Warriors' indoor training facility which the team permitted us to use.

We enjoyed a team social in the evening at the local bowling alley, which provided some fierce competition amongst the team members. Fortunately, our fixture on Sunday was able to go ahead and the entire squad enjoyed a tour match with Evesham RFC, which the side narrowly lost. Overall, this was a highly successful tour that allowed the squad to bond and it was a fantastic experience for all staff and pupils involved.

*Mr D Shoesmith,
Master in charge Rugby*

WHSB Golf Team

WHSB is once again fielding a golf team in the Summer Term. There will be several matches on Saturday mornings at Belfairs Golf Course in Leigh-on-Sea. Initially, competitions will be stroke play, and then the season will end with a match play tournament. The Golf Team will be open to all members of the School, however players will need to be experienced golfers.

If you wish to participate, your handicap should be twenty or below and, typically, you must be able to complete a round of golf in under four hours. Further information is available from Dr McKerrow.

*Dr J McKerrow,
Year 8 Progress Leader*

The House System: A Review and Looking Forward

This year the House System has undergone a number of changes. New events have been added to the Calendar and all have been a great success. During the Spring Term Enrichment Day, the Year 8 pupils took part in a team building and problem solving event which involved them making bridges and egg containers within their houses. This year's Drama competition is to become a vertical event in which any pupil from his respective House can participate rather being limited to Year 8 pupils as in previous years.

We also welcome back the House Music event which will see each House produce a rendition of a song from a famous musical production. This is certainly an event not to be missed.

*Mr D Shoesmith,
Coordinator of House Activities*

Year 7 Sports Hall Athletics School Games County Winners

The Year 7 and 8 teams represented the Southend Borough in the School Games Sports Hall Athletics County Championships on Thursday 20 March at Garons Park. The Year 8 team performed very well and finished in a respectable 4th place out of the eight Essex Partnerships. However, the Year 7 team performed at an even higher level with many notable performances across the event. Tamalore Mustafa won the two lap race whilst Arunan Sivabalan won the four lap race. In the field events, Olusina was victorious in the the standing long jump.

Seth Mokoulu also took the honours in the standing triple jump. Teniola Awolesi, Lewis Kelsey, Success Ariyibi also contributed to the team's success and WHSB were eventually placed in joint 1st place with Maltings Academy. This means the team will progress to a Regional Final where they will represent the County against the best from East Anglia.



This all bodes well for the Athletics seasons ahead!

*Mr D Phillips,
Head of Physical Education*

CALENDAR FOR THE SUMMER TERM 2014

SUMMER TERM 2014

Tuesday 22 April **Staff Development Day.**
 Wednesday 23 April **Summer Term begins, 8.45am.**
 Thursday 24 April Jack Petchey Speakout Challenge in Main Hall.
 25-27 April DoE Silver Practice Weekend at Bushy Wood, Sussex.
 Monday 28 April Dr Chris Millington Year 13 Historians and French Students Lecture.
 Thursday 1 May School Production: *Dad's Army* in the Main Hall, 7.30pm.
 Friday 2 May School Production: *Dad's Army* in the Main Hall, 7.30pm.
 Monday 5 May **Bank Holiday.**
 Friday 9 May Public Examinations start.
 Thursday 15 May Chamber Recital, 7.30pm.
 Saturday 17 May A Day in Toy Making, 9.00am-4.00pm.
 17 & 18 May DofE Practice Expedition Weekend.
 23-26 May Year 9 Battlefields Tour. Years 8 and 9 Trip to Paris.
 26-30 May **Half Term.**
 2-6 June Years 7 to 10 End-of-Year Examinations.
 Thursday 5 June Year 7 Trip to Southend.
 Thursday 12 June Visit to the Royal Festival Hall, depart 5.00pm.
 Saturday 14 June A Day in Toy Making, 9.00am-4.00pm.
 Wednesday 18 June Oxbridge Conference.
 Friday 20 June Year 13 Leavers' Dinner at The Arlington Rooms, 7.30pm.
 Tuesday 24 June **School finishes at 12.50pm.** Open Evening for Year 5 Pupils, 6.00pm-8.45pm.
 Wednesday 25 June Year 12 Higher Education Superfair in Chelmsford, 9.00am-3.30pm. Open Evening for Year 5 Pupils 6.00pm-8.45pm.

SUMMER TERM 2014

Thursday 26 June Year 12 Higher Education Evening, 7.30pm.
 Friday 27 June CCF Passing Out Parade and Mess Dinner.
 Saturday 28 June Tolkien Society Trip to Sutton Hoo.
 28 June-4 July Year 12 Geologists visit the Isle of Arran.
 30 June-2 July inc. Wednesday 2 July Sixth Form Induction Course. Sinfonia Summer Concert, 7.30pm.
 2-5 July DofE Silver Assessment to White Peaks.
 Thursday 3 July New Year 7 Parents' Evening, 7.00pm.
 Friday 4 July New Year 7 Pupils' Induction Day, 9.00am-3.20pm. Centenary of the Great War Event, 9.00am-7.00pm. CCF Annual Summer Camp. Sports Day. Art, Craft & Design Evening. Enrichment Day. Summer Band & Barbecue, 7.30pm. CCF Field Day. Year 12 Biologists visit - Orierton Field Centre, Wales. House Drama Competition, 7.30pm. Issue of Reports for Years 7-10.
 5-12 July **Summer Term ends, 2.45pm**
 Tuesday 8 July **Staff Development Day.**
 Wednesday 9 July **Autumn Term begins.**
 Friday 11 July
 14-20 July
 Thursday 17 July
 Friday 18 July
 Tuesday 22 July
 Wednesday 3 Sep
 Thursday 4 Sep