



## National GCSE and Advanced Level Curriculum Reform

Last September marked the national launch of the new GCSE and Advanced Level qualifications. At WHSB, Year 10 pupils commenced the new style GCSE qualifications in both English (with AQA) and Mathematics (with Edexcel). Other subject departments have commenced choosing new GCSE specifications for first teaching from September 2016. We have enjoyed considerable success with our current GCSE specifications and anticipate that these new GCSE specifications will prove more challenging for our pupils. This challenge is welcomed and will require staff and pupils to work hard to ensure high standards are maintained going forward. We shall also have to keep the quality of the Examination Boards' performance under careful review as all of the new specifications, are by definition, untested.

The main thrust of the reform at Advanced Level is to decouple the AS qualification, taken in May and June of Year 12, and the A2 qualification taken at the end of Year 13. Prior to the reforms, the AS qualification formed 50% of the final A Level qualification, with the A2 making up the remaining 50%. This will no longer be the case. The decoupling means that the AS now becomes a stand-alone qualification and makes no contribution towards the final A Level result. The new stand-alone AS will be taken as a one-year course; however, it has been devalued and will now represent the equivalent of just 40% of an A Level although, as I have indicated, it cannot form part of the A Level result. It will no longer be possible to re-sit individual modules of an AS qualification to enhance the final AS score. In short, the Government has taken the decision to return to a traditional two-year A Level course, which will be familiar to all those parents who sat A Level examinations prior to 2002.

At WHSB, it is our intention to dispense with AS qualifications from September 2016. We envisage that our students will choose three or four (perhaps five in exceptional circumstances) full A Level subjects before entering Year 12, and will study these subjects for two years, sitting all of their formal examinations in the Summer of Year 13. The only exceptions will be A Level Mathematics, Geology and Politics, which will not undergo National Reform until September 2017. In these subjects only,

students studying the courses from September 2016 will follow the current route of taking AS examinations in Year 12 and A2 examinations in Year 13.

We believe that the removal of the AS examination will allow a more enriching and educationally fulfilling curriculum. It will enable more flexibility at the beginning of Year 12 to ensure that essential foundations for Sixth Form study are not laid in haste, and to ensure that scholastic skills can be developed in the first year without the pressure of covering a difficult course in two terms to allow for revision before an examination in May. We believe it will return to Year 12 the sense of academic exploration, which has diminished since those pressures arrived, and that these qualities will enhance application to universities and ease the transition into academic study in Higher Education.

The absence of extended revision and study leave in the Summer of Year 12 will also add approximately two months of teaching time to the academic programme, allowing us to ensure that students reach the end of their courses better prepared for their A Level final examinations. Our students will still need assessment to provide them with feedback on their progress towards their A Level goal, and we shall be introducing a rigorous set of internal examinations within both Year 12 and Year 13 to provide the best possible yardsticks for measuring progress towards the A Level qualification. We consider that the opportunity for the School to set such assessment in the form of examinations which are far closer to the final A Level in style and content will be much to the students' advantage, and more effective even than the present system. It is the data from this interim assessment that we shall also use to support student applications to university, much in the way we use the AS data at present.

Our decision not to offer AS qualifications from September 2016 is based on our firm belief that it will lead to an improved foundation for study, the opportunity to cover the curriculum without the distractions of AS examinations, and enhanced attainment at A Level.

### NYWO Success for Alex Wood

After a rigorous auditions process, WHSB student Alex Wood has been selected to become a member of the National Youth Wind Orchestra (Percussion Section). Alex has already made his musical mark locally, regularly performing in ensembles such as the Westcliff Sinfonia, the Southend Youth Orchestra and the Eastwood Chorale. He is now looking forward to showcasing the talent Essex has to offer on the national stage. Despite already performing at a very high level, Alex continues to develop as a musician, and having already achieved Grade 8 Piano, was awarded the Organ scholarship at WHSB, a position of responsibility that requires regular performance. Alex's musical success runs parallel to his academic achievement: he was awarded 4 A\*s, 7 As and 2 Bs in his recent GCSEs. Alex is eagerly anticipating his time in the National Youth Wind Orchestra, and particularly looks forward to the group's forthcoming tour to Switzerland in the Summer.



# FROM THE DESK OF THE HEADMASTER

## GCSE and A Level Trial Examinations

Year 11 pupils have completed their trial examinations and should use the feedback provided by their teachers to inform their study and revision plans. They should understand the scale of the challenge presented by GCSE examinations and the need to reach their full potential next summer to provide a secure platform for Post-16 education, Higher Education and employment. Equally, Year 12 and Year 13 need to make the most of the opportunity provided by the February trial examinations. This provides students with an important rehearsal for the public examinations which follow in the summer. It is important that students derive significant benefit from the process by undertaking a rigorous and planned programme of revision. We understand that the public examinations are demanding and students are welcome to approach the relevant pastoral office if they need additional support.

## Capital Development

I am pleased to report that the School has secured a substantial grant of £1.7million following a successful bid to the Education Funding Agency's Capital Improvement Fund. This will enable the School to carry out the second phase of refurbishment to its Science facilities. The initial work, amounting to £1million, focused on modernising the outside of the School's Science facilities which date back to the 1950s. This latest funding will now allow the School to completely refurbish the interior of the building, installing new laboratories and state-of-the-art equipment, updated technology and services. This two-phase project will have achieved what will amount to a brand new Science Building for less than half the cost of a new-build facility of a similar specification. The School performs well in the Sciences and a significant number of our students go on to further scientific study, including Medicine. Therefore, we are delighted that we can now provide them with improved facilities and superb preparation for study at

university. It is anticipated that the works will commence at the end of the Summer Term in 2016.

## Community and Development Office

The School has enjoyed considerable success in building links with local Primary Schools, business and voluntary sector organizations, through initiatives such as the Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children, Charity Week and our Work Experience programme. We also have a dedicated Parents' Association and a committed Old Westcliffian Association (OWA). The growth of these areas has encouraged us to consider a more centralized approach to the School's interaction with the extended Westcliff Community. In 2020, the School will celebrate its Centenary and it will wish to fully involve its extended community in the preparations.

As the degree of state funding for the School continues to decline, increasingly we shall be required to rely on our own resources and to identify funding streams which can be accessed to support the continuing development of the School. We intend to establish a Community and Development Office to support our existing work with the community and to focus on extending our links with a view to enhancing the many benefits of being part of a strong and supportive community. The Community and Development Office will draw largely on existing resources into a central hub, and provide communication with other organisations. It is envisaged that the Community and Development Office will ultimately be self-sustaining.

## Scholarships Programme

Our Scholarships programme was launched in 2014 and has been established to fund lessons, attendance at masterclasses, and engagement in high level enrichment activities for talented pupils. Our first Scholarships are in Music, but we anticipate making provision in a number of curricular areas including Sports, Art, Literature, Public

Speaking and Drama. The Scholarships are open to all pupils and the award is based on competitive selection involving submissions and auditions. The award of Scholarships will be made at our Annual Speech Day from 2016 and the benefactors will be acknowledged in the programme. We believe that this is a valuable means of nurturing talent and making a positive difference for the next generation of Westcliffians. This is a new initiative, for which we will be accepting donations and those wishing to make a contribution should contact Mr Partridge, Director of Resources and Support Services, at the School.

## Staff Changes for the Spring Term

We begin the Spring Term with a small number of staff changes. Dr Martindill, who has given tremendous service as a Biology and Science teacher left the School at the end of the Autumn Term to take up the position as Head of Science at an international school in Singapore. He goes with our best wishes. Mr Adams left the School at the end of October to take up a position at another school and we wish him well. We also say farewell to Miss Forde who has taught History for one term and welcome Dr Theobald, an experienced teacher, to the History Department. We also welcome Mr Marlow who joins the Geography Department, and Mr James who joins the Biology Department. Ms Fasquel (Teacher of French) and Mrs Koutas (Head of English) began their Maternity leave during the Autumn Term and are being covered by Ms Bula and Mr Doherty respectively. In addition, Mrs Williams, Senior Tutor will oversee the management of the English Department.

Joining the support staff, we are pleased to welcome Ms Mann as our Sixth Form Catering Manager, Ms Mayne as our Morning Receptionist, and Mr Bowen as a Teaching Assistant. During the Autumn Term we also said a fond farewell to our Cover Assistant and CCF Staff Instructor, Mr Braddon. We are delighted to welcome Mr Lyne, a retired Regimental Sergeant Major, as our new CCF Staff Instructor and Mr Garstin as a Cover Assistant and Sports Coach.

*Headmaster*

## Rotary Club of Southend Young Chef Competition 2015



In October of 2015, four students from WHSB took part in the National Young Chef competition, which is run by the Southend Rotary Club. This is an annual competition that allows secondary school students under the age of 17 to show off and impress a panel of esteemed local Rotarians with their culinary skills. This competition is unlike others as it does not judge participants on their cookery techniques and finesse alone, but also on other skills such as time management, hygiene and ability to professionally set a table. This year, the competitors were William Clarke (Year 12), Ross McIntyre (Year 11), Oliver Gamage (Year 11) and Joseph Turnpenny (Year 10). It was a close fought competition with William Clarke emerging as the winner. He will now go on to represent the School in a regional round that takes place at South East Essex College in January. We wish him luck, along with all those taking part in the upcoming Lower School competition.

*Mrs S Robinson  
Teacher of Food Technology*

## Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) Conference: A Review

On Monday 12 October, Year 12 and 13 Economics students attended the Institute of Economic Affairs conference in our Main Hall, accompanied by a number of students from Southend High School for Boys. The students benefitted from hearing three interesting lectures. The first, by Ryan Bourne, was on the topic of the minimum wage and the new living wage recently posited by the Chancellor, George Osborne. The second lecture, given by Dr Steve Davis, analysed globalisation and the impact of China. Finally, Dr Davis also spoke about economic growth in the UK. Students were able to become involved with the lectures through the question and answer sessions and they enjoyed the interaction with the speakers, whilst finding some of the questions and the material rather



challenging. This was an excellent opportunity for Sixth Form Economists to enrich their learning and gain insight into economic principles both within and beyond the sphere of Advanced Level.

*Mrs K Mason  
Teacher of Economics*

## WHBSB Uniform Shop

The School provides uniform through its own shop. This arrangement has existed for many years and parents appreciate its convenience. We have found that by selling uniform and certain books, bags and other essential items for School in-house we can offer a convenient location, a personal service and keep

prices at a competitive level. Please note that certain items and sizes of uniform are subject to a price increase effective from January 2016.

An order form and revised price list detailing items and sizes available can be downloaded from the School website under the Uniform Shop sub-heading within the Secure Parents' Area. Students can hand in their orders to the School Office. These will then be prepared for collection as soon as possible. We obviously hope you will be satisfied with the items you order; however if for any reason you are not happy with your purchase, then please contact us within 48 hours of receipt and return the item(s) in their original condition and packaging within 28 days. We will be pleased to exchange or provide you with a full refund, whichever you would prefer, once the items have been returned to us. Please note that the items MUST be returned in their original packaging and condition, unmarked and unworn, for us to offer a full refund.

The Uniform Shop, located in the East Basement, is normally open for purchases to be made by parents and students on Thursday afternoons from 3.45pm to 4.45pm during term time. In addition to cash and cheque payments, debit and credit cards will be accepted at this time. Queries regarding uniform orders should be directed to Mrs Clarke in the Uniform Shop via email [clarkej@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:clarkej@whsb.essex.sch.uk).

*Mrs J Clarke  
Uniform Shop Manager*

## Masterclasses

We have supported a number of Sixth Form students to make bookings on various university-level masterclasses or 'Taster Days' this term. Included amongst these are the excellent Villiers Park residential courses which enable some of our very best students to immerse themselves for four or five days in an academic environment, looking at topics beyond the Advanced Level syllabus, surrounded by young scholars of similar intellect and disposition.

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

## Easter Revision Classes at GCSE and Advanced Level

Following on from successful programmes in the previous two academic years, and in addition to the extensive provision offered by teaching staff within School, it is our intention to run a number of targeted revision sessions during the Easter break for GCSE and Advanced Level students. These sessions, which will be bespoke and designed to support students needing additional support as well as those looking to attain the very highest grades, will be run in a number of subject areas.



Parents will receive written notification of our programme in due course, as we approach the public examination season. It should be noted that these targeted sessions should not be seen as a replacement for a planned, systematic programme of revision on the part of students, but rather as an addition to the work which students are already undertaking in preparation for what are crucial examinations. We have found in the past that our Easter Revision Classes have been well received by students and have gone some way to helping secure the excellent examination outcomes which those former GCSE and Advanced

Level cohorts have achieved. We hope that parents will support the programmes that we are putting in place.

*Mr W Williams*

*Assistant Head: Director of Middle School Studies*

## Science Roadshow

The Science Roadshow has now been running for several years, our objective being to take science experiments into local junior schools as part of our Sixth Form Wednesday Afternoon Activities. So far this academic year, we have visited Westleigh Junior School and Fairways Primary School but we hope to visit many others over the course of the year. Our current group of students is covering Colours in Chemistry, Rockets in Physics and Cheek Cells in Biology. The three disciplines run as a circus of experiments delivered to one group of Year 5 pupils in each school and so far feedback has been very positive.

*Mr D Despres*

*Science Community Coordinator*

## A Day in Toy Making

### Saturday 5 March

Mr Senior's popular Saturday Craft Days for the Lower School continue in March. On this occasion, the focus will be on toy making and pupils will develop their craft skills in the marking out, cutting and finishing of wood. The day is open to Key Stage 3 pupils and participants will have the opportunity to build a scaled replica Model T Ford Car. The essential materials used are pine and mahogany and the length of the finished vehicle will be



240mm. The charge of £35 for each pupil is inclusive of materials which, barring catastrophes, ought to afford a splendid model, finished and polished for pupils to take home. Early booking is advised.

*Mr N Senior*

*Head of Design & Technology*

## Oxbridge

### Saturday 6 February

As part of the School's ongoing commitment to support applications to the nation's most prestigious universities, a 13th annual visit to Cambridge University is planned for this Term. We hope to continue the successful format of combining a tour for Year 11 pupils with a meeting with Professor Carolin Crawford at Emmanuel College on Saturday 6 February. Once again, this visit will be run in conjunction with Westcliff High School for Girls. A complementary trip to Oxford University, for Year 12, is intended for later in the year.



## Careers Lectures

The WHSB Careers Department have had a very busy term with the various events and activities that have been arranged. We would like to thank our speakers who presented during our Engineering Evening Lecture on

Wednesday 14 November. Mark de Manbey (Barclays Investment Bank), Mark Turner (Selex ES - former Royal Submariner) and Stuart Haycock (Icarus Training) delivered dynamic and diverse explanations regarding their routes into their current Engineering careers.

We have had representatives from Connexions Careers Service speak to Years 8 and 9 pupils regarding independent careers advice at School, as well as talks from the Royal Marine Submariner crew who spoke to Years 10 and 12 students about roles within the Navy and, specifically, on submarines.

We have also been very impressed with the responses from Year 11 pupils in relation to their search for work experience placements. It is encouraging to see the prestigious careers our pupils are keen to learn more about through our work experience programme. If any parent has contacts in Medicine, Veterinary, Law or Engineering and would be able to offer a placement to a Year 11 pupil, then please contact Mrs Weller directly at wellern@whsb.essex.sch.uk

Finally, we would like to draw to your attention to the two Careers Evenings we have arranged this term. Owing to popular demand, we will be hosting a Careers in Banking lecture on Wednesday 10 February and a Science & Engineering Careers evening on Wednesday 16 March.

*Mrs N Weller  
Careers & Work-Related Learning  
Co-Ordinator*

## Autumn in the Physics Department: STEM Activities

With an increasing number of pupils and students expressing an interest in studying the STEM subjects, we have a number of exciting extracurricular activities in which all year groups can involve themselves.

Benjamin Bave, Henry Akister, Jacob Gough and Sarthak Das have been working on a project investigating how advances in technology have changed lives over the last 25 years and questioning what may happen in the next 25. The boys presented their work to a team of judges at Olympus in Southend on 11 December 2015 and, at the time of writing, we anticipate that they should be awarded a Silver CREST Award for their efforts.

Four Year 9 pupils attended the Royal Institution Master classes held at PROCAT in Basildon every Saturday morning for ten weeks in October and November. Daniel Pereira, Daniel Atkinson, William Skeldon and Charlie Hands studied such topics as propeller design, electrical engineering, auto safety systems, and the working of a jet engine.

We are also pleased that four Year 12 students attended the launch of the Engineering Education Scheme at Stansted Airport on 13 October and have since been working on a project to build a surveillance drone which will fly unaided to a GPS location, and relay photographs back to a base station. Monty Clark, Catherine Folkson, Jamie Moor and Jack Hanby will spend two days at University College London on 7 and 8 January putting the finishing touches to their design, before submitting the finished product for judging in April.

In November, 27 students attended Chelmsford's Science & Engineering Society's Bi-Annual *Engineering our Future* lecture at Anglia Ruskin University. The topic on this occasion was Security, with talks about security systems at national level, how the Government's COBRA system operates and the systems employed by Royal Mail to prevent fraud and theft.

Ten Year 8 and 9 pupils attended the Teen-Tech event in the Olympic Park on 1 December. TeenTech City 2015, London's most inspiring Science and Technology event is in its fourth year. Hosted at The Copper Box Arena on the Olympic Park, the event brings together over 200 scientists, engineers and technologists to share a day of challenges and experiments with Year 8 and Year 9 pupils from schools across the London area. We were thrilled to secure places for our

pupils who experienced a very carefully timetabled and immersive experience, and gained a real insight into the industries of the future and the skills they need to take advantage of them.

In other news, a group of Year 12 students has set up an Engineering Society in the School which aims to encourage and support all school years in the pursuit of knowledge about careers, university courses and innovation in Engineering. More than 40 students attended the inaugural meeting and arrangements are being made to split the Society into interest groups.

Finally, in January, the Royal Institute will bring their Science Show to WHSB. The whole of Year 7 will see the popular demonstration show in the Main Hall. These shows give pupils a chance to see specially-trained presenters delivering Science Shows inspired by the Christmas Lectures and which are jam-packed with experiments, demonstrations and the odd explosion! We await them with anticipation.

*Mr B Easby  
Physics Technician*

## Computational Thinking Success

After success in the 2014 Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge, students from WHSB repeated this feat early in the Autumn Term. The Challenge is a national competition sponsored by Oxford University and ARM. There are four categories: Junior (Year 7); Intermediate (Years 8 & 9); Senior (Years 10 & 11); and Elite (Years 12 & 13). We are pleased to announce that out of the 56,299 students that took part nationally, four WHSB pupils achieved an outstanding 100% (200/200) meaning that they will appear in the Bebras Hall of Fame for 2015. We would like to congratulate Alexandre Monk (10C), Peter Eriksson (7W), Nivasan Loganathan (7N) and Alfie Risk (7S). Indeed, Alexandre was one of only 19 students to score 100% at Senior level, and Peter, Nivasan and Alfie were three of only 32 students to score 100% at Junior level.

As well as receiving a prize, these four pupils have the honour of representing the School in the next stage of the competition, which is held at Oxford University. Whilst on this occasion WHSB did not have any students achieving 100% at Elite level, many came very close, including Sebastian Mok, who achieved 194/200 (97%), and who may very well make it into the Hall of Fame. Dan Lester Salvador (9S) scored the highest at WHSB in the Intermediate competition with 189/200.

It is worth noting this year's Challenge was designed to be more difficult than previous years because of the increasing number of schools taking part. Most of our students who did not score 100% did exceedingly well; the WHSB averages were considerably higher than their national counterparts as shown in the following table:

| Level        | National Average | WHSB Average | Disparity |
|--------------|------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Junior       | 96               | 128.5        | +32.5     |
| Intermediate | 83               | 117.7        | +34.7     |
| Senior       | 94               | 128          | +34       |
| Elite        | 111              | 131.6        | +20.6     |

All students who took part should feel proud of their achievements. We hope that all Computing students across the School take pride in these results and will continue to perform to this level of excellence.

Computational Thinking is increasingly becoming one of the most sought after skills in both university and job applications, and is a field in which impact is profound. From special effects such as Gollum in *Lord of the Rings* to the Associated Press' "robot journalists", computational thinking is increasingly useful. Fields such as Big Data, Computational Physics, Computational Economics, Computational Finance, Bioinformatics and Automation are poised to change the way we live.

*Joseph Bills, 12I,  
Max Bennetive, 12H  
and Hashan Punchihewa, 12G*

## Religious Studies and Philosophy at WHSB

The Spring Term is a busy one for the Religious Studies Department, with staff and student visits, and members of the Department spreading their wings into the wider community.

## Year 9 Rescheduled Trip to the London Buddhist Centre

**Saturday 20 February**

Due to sickness, we had to postpone our October visit to the London Buddhist Centre in Bethnal Green. The trip has been rescheduled for Saturday 20 February 2016, and the original student list will be given first priority. This is an ideal opportunity for some of our most able students to reflect on Buddhist teaching and life, and to prepare for their GCSE studies.



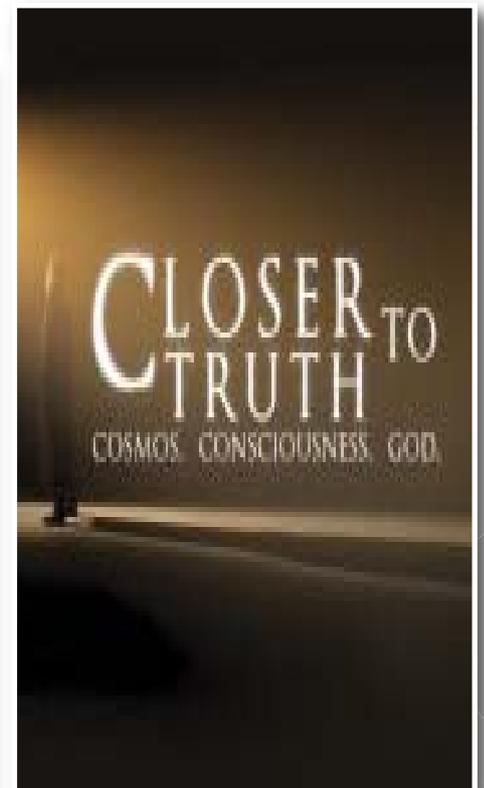
## Year 13 Student Conference: All You Need Is ... Love?

**Friday 12 February**

Miss Braiden will accompany our Year 13 students to Bloomsbury Baptist Church, London, on Friday 12 February 2016. This day conference will allow students to have a university-style experience of learning, revising the ethical teachings of Immanuel Kant and Joseph Fletcher, and applying them to A2 topics linked to sexuality. This is a great opportunity for enrichment in A2 studies, and to learn alongside proven leaders in the subject.

## WHSB Contributes to Teaching at the University of London

Mr Halsall (Reverend Halsall) has been released from WHSB for six days this



term to teach a course in the Philosophy of Cosmology at Allen Hall seminary, part of the University of London and the southern Catholic diocesan formation college for new priests. Part of our work as an Academy Grammar School is to make a wider contribution to education in the community, and Mr Halsall has been invited to teach Philosophy to graduates who, like himself, are on their way to ordained priesthood in the Catholic Church. This course will run from February to April, and will complement his teaching in Science and Religion in both Years 10 and 12 in the spring and summer terms.

*Mr M Halsall, Head of Religious Education*

## Fairtrade Café

In March, the Geography Department will run its annual Fairtrade Café, open to all pupils at lunchtimes in the Humanities Forum. Fairtrade offers farmers in poorer countries an assurance that they will receive a fair and stable price for their goods, allowing them to plan for their future. It also provides a social fund for producers' communities, providing money for water pumps, schools and health centres. As usual, the café will be run by the Geography Prefects and it seeks to raise awareness of Fairtrade. In addition, to celebrate the completion of the new Sixth Form building, Fairtrade products will also be on sale in their building and a satellite café will operate for the Sixth Form in their refectory. Fairtrade fruit, snack bars, chocolate, coffee and the infamous Fairtrade hot chocolate will be on sale with all profits going towards the SOS Ghana who provide orphanage schooling.

*Miss S Sparks, Head of Geography*

## Old Westcliffian Association

The Old Westcliffian Association is in good heart with a new committee member and 38 new members joining since last June, of whom 33 are recent School Leavers. We welcome Andrew Ashman-Jones to our committee. Andrew is a Durham and York Music graduate and is training to be a teacher. He immediately lowers the average age

of the committee quite considerably!

Our Annual Dinner last year was another resounding success with 97 attendees. Nigel Holdcroft was our guest speaker. Nigel is an OW, local solicitor and former leader of Southend Borough Council. This year, the dinner will be on 9 September 2016 and the speaker will be Martin Townsend, who is editor of the Sunday Express. Why not make a point of joining us? I can guarantee you a very pleasant evening.

We continue to work closely with the Parents' Association and last Christmas we, again, offered their Christmas puddings for sale to our members to support their fundraising efforts.

The website is still being developed coupled with the prospect of rounding up lost Old Westcliffian souls from around the globe using social media. This is indeed an exciting prospect.

If you wish to join us, either as a member or committee member, I should be very pleased to hear from you.

*Terry Birdseye, Honorary Secretary*  
[terry.birdseye@gmail.com](mailto:terry.birdseye@gmail.com)

## Debating

The School has a team comprised of Hassan Sarfraz and George Tothill (Year 12) through to the second round of the highly prestigious English-Speaking Union (ESU) Schools' Mace Competition. That round will come early in the New Year. We have also registered teams for the Cambridge Union Schools' Competition and the Oxford Union Schools' Competition, both of which commence in earnest. They vie for the title of the world's biggest schools' competitions and the Oxford tournament in particular usually features teams from overseas. We have a good track record in reaching the National/International Finals Days for both competitions and hopefully this year will be no exception.

Our junior debaters have been entered for the International Competition for Young Debaters. Only Years 7 to 10 are eligible and it is quite a tough introduction to the world of competitive debating. However, the reward for those who get through the qualifying round is to go to debate in the Oxford Union. We hope to arrange a day's Debating Workshop with the ESU

this term to support those new to debating as well as those with a little experience.

*Mr R Stevens*  
*Head of Politics*

## WHSB Parents' Association Winter Ball 2015

Our 2015 Winter Ball was held on Saturday 28 November with over 200 guests attending. The evening began with a sparkling drinks reception and canapés, followed by a three course meal and dancing to a live band. This main fundraising event for the Parents' Association raises thousands of pounds for the School and we were delighted that so many parents, former parents, staff and friends were able to attend. We would like to thank you for supporting us and hope to see you again at our forthcoming events.

## WHSB Parents' Association Annual Race Night 2016

On Saturday 27 February, we will be hosting our 'Annual Race Night' fundraising event for the School. This is an extremely popular family night out so early booking is advised. Doors open at 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start. Tickets are priced at £6 for adults and £3 for children and students. Bring your own drinks and nibbles, or for an extra £4 per ticket, you can enjoy a fish and chip supper (or vegetarian alternative). Tickets can be booked through WHSB's online ticketing service, or by contacting the School if preferred. Please come and join us.

We always welcome new members to our Parents' Association Committee. Please contact us via email [pa@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:pa@whsb.essex.sch.uk) or the School Office.

*Mrs J Clarke, Chair*  
*WHSB Parents' Association*

# THEATRE, DRAMA & LECTURES

## Wilfred Owen's Pocketbook:

**(A Review of the visiting English Theatre Production Company at WHSB on Wednesday 21 October 2015)**



This enriching and well-executed tale by Richard Mason told the story of Wilfred Owen and how his poetry showed his views of war in this 50-minute performance. This was then followed by an interesting question and answer session where any queries on the 1st World War were answered by Mr Mason. I believe his performance allowed many Year 9 pupils to create new views of why poets in the 1st World War wrote what they did, as well as providing us with an in-depth explanation of Owen's life.

I felt that this performance was extremely well-made and helped many Year 9 pupils to focus more on their History and English lessons. Aside from how much it helped in school, it also provided many of us with useful general knowledge. The actor's phenomenal enthusiasm for the topic, as well as his energetic approach to teaching, meant that all the information he told us was easy to remember. He took the part of a General in the army who was debating how he could send a letter home to Owen's mother, but soon digressed into telling his deepest feelings of the war and describing the life of Owen. He cleverly says how he found a notebook of Owen's, and used this to read out the different poems the famous poet wrote. He also told us how he had conflicted with other poets of the time, which allowed him to include the poetry of Jessie Pope, John McCrae, E.A. Mackintosh, Alfred Lord Tennyson and Siegfried Sassoon.

The main production was followed by a question and answer session, which resulted in a number of clever and engaging questions on WWI. Mr Mason's knowledge of the war surprised me as he easily answered all of our questions and even managed to expand and evaluate some of them. This led to it becoming extremely interesting, because of the depth of all his answers. In conclusion, it was a very good performance that resulted in all of Year 9 being more enthusiastic than they previously were in both History and English, and helped us to develop our knowledge in both subjects for use in the classroom.

*Thomas Fewings, 9W*

## History Lectures: Oliver Cromwell and The Russian Revolution

**Wednesday 13 January and Wednesday 16 March**



On Wednesday 13 January, Dr David Smith will be talking to Year 12 students on the controversial figure that is Oliver Cromwell. Even the burial of his head is a controversy! Students will be able to evaluate whether Cromwell can be seen as a Dictator or more of a Lord Protector of England. Dr Smith is a Fellow, College Lecturer and Director of Studies in History at Selwyn College, Cambridge.

On Wednesday 16 March, Dr Christopher Read, will be sharing some of his undergraduate material on the complexities of the Russian Revolution with our Year 12 History students. Dr

Reed is a Professor in 20th Century European History at the University of Warwick who specialises in the intellectual History of Russia between 1900 and 1925 and the social history of the Russian Revolution.

*Miss M Slater, Teacher of History*

## Photonics Lecture: Mr Ray Davies

**Thursday 11 February**



The Physics Department are excited to welcome Mr Ray Davies to the School on 11 February 2016. Mr Davies is a Physicist who, for the last 21 years, has provided Laboratory opportunities for students to devise their own imaginatively conceived original applications of Low Power Lasers. In 1994, he was invited to set up a Laser Photonics Design Laboratory at the University of Salford, which is where Mr Dalby first met him in 2001. In 2006, he established the Photonics Academy at OpTIC, within the OpTIC Technium in St Asaph, North Wales, prior to moving that enterprise to Bangor University, in 2011, to form the Photonics Academy of Wales at Bangor (PAWB).

Photonics has been identified as the enabling technology of the 21st Century, with Photonics being the Science of the Harnessing of Light. During the day, Mr Davies will be working with a small group of students on a practical project involving the use of Low Power Lasers. In the afternoon, he will be presenting a lecture to Sixth Form Students and in the evening he will be presenting a different lecture to anyone who is interested – parents or pupils.

In the evening, Mr Davies will lead a lecture entitled One Can Achieve Anything

# THEATRE, DRAMA & LECTURES

- with a Laser - especially within Education. One of the main components of any approach to education should be to encourage students to ask questions, and then to seek to provide an environment of opportunities for those same students to think about, and possibly set out to discover, some of the solutions for themselves. The lecture will seek to emphasise how students can be introduced to making their own observations and investigations into how Low Power Laser Source inputs can be introduced to a series of optical interfaces in such a way as to produce highly impressive interactions, which can lead to extremely useful innovative outcomes. This TRIAD approach to light of integrating any optical INPUT, INTERFACE, INTERACTION, when combined with an encouragement to utilise IMAGINATION, INGENUITY, and INSIGHT, will lead to student achievements of new, original, and useful laser-based inventions. Practical examples will be demonstrated of recently designed original laser-based outcomes, such as Fibre Optic and Light activated Musical Instruments, Laser-activated Robotics, the Transmission of Audio Signals along a laser beam, and many more. The potential application of Low Power Lasers proffers huge opportunities within any approach to the education of 21st Century students.

The Physics Department will be releasing more information about the workshop during the day and the afternoon lecture nearer the time. Given the engaging nature of Mr Davies' talks and the novelty of the topic, I would encourage anyone who wishes to attend to acquire a ticket as soon as possible.

*Mr K Dalby  
Head of Physics*

## Greek Play: Euripides' Alcestis

In February, we plan to take a party to see King's College, London's annual Greek play, which this year is Euripides' Alcestis, first performed at Athens for the City Dionysia in 438BC. Long before the start of the play, King Admetus is granted by the Fates the privilege of living past the allotted time of his death. The Fates were

persuaded to allow this by the god Apollo (who got them drunk). Apollo wished to repay Admetus for his generous hospitality when the god had been exiled from Olympus by Zeus (for killing the Cyclopes, who had made the thunderbolt Zeus had used to strike down Apollo's son Asclepius - god of medicine - because he had brought Hippolytus back from the dead). The gift, however, came with a price: Admetus must find someone to take his place when Death comes to claim him. Euripides' play starts at the time appointed for Admetus' death and he still has not found a willing substitute. His father, Pheres, is unwilling to step in as he enjoys life so much, so, Admetus' devoted wife Alcestis agrees to be taken in his place because she cannot bear the thought of leaving her children fatherless or for herself to be bereft of her lover. At the start of the play, Alcestis is close to death, Admetus is torn between grief for his wife and anger towards his father Pheres, and a stranger arrives...

We have been to previous productions and Mr Halsall has taken trips to Oxford for similar occasions, but though the staging may be modern it remains a rare opportunity to see a play performed in ancient Greek (with English surtitles!) and, hopefully, it may appeal beyond those studying Classical Civilization at GCSE.

*Mr R Stevens  
Head of Politics*

## Geography Lecture at the Royal Geographical Society (RGS) Wednesday 20 January

The Royal Geographical Society works to address contemporary challenges faced by society and the environment and has

been promoting geographical knowledge since 1830. Miss Sparks and Miss Dolan will be taking a group of Sixth Form students to a lecture entitled London's Gentrification Game given by Professor Chris Hamnett of King's College London. The talk will consider the history of development in London and whether this has had the effect of 'squeezing out' the poor.

*Miss F Dolan  
Teacher of Geography*

## Geography: A Review of Recent Lectures

On 22 September 2015, many of our Sixth Form Geography students made their way to the Royal Geographical Society in London where a talk was hosted entitled Why Social Inequality Persists. This was about different countries and the gap between the richest and the poorest in them. If you are a fan of bubbles, there was an abundance of bubble diagrams making many comparisons. For me, the most interesting statistic was that while, as a country, we perform brilliantly at Mathematics internationally when young, in the long run we are more likely to forget while other countries maintain a slightly lower level of ability so overall have the better knowledge. This talk was one of my favourites and made me pause for thought.

On 6 October 2015, members of the Sixth Form went to Westcliff High School for Girls to attend a lecture given by the Chief Examiner of A Level AQA Geography, Bob Digby, on the topic of Development in Ghana. He gave an interesting presentation which included a variety of fascinating statistics. The highlight for many was when he spoke about chocolate, as Ghana is one of the world's largest exporters of cocoa beans and many in the audience were big chocolate fans. Overall, there was much to be learnt, but the future of Ghana is unclear. It was a worthwhile talk which gave me much to think about now when I enter my Geography lessons.

*Luke Trower  
12G*

## Geography Visit to Barcelona

**23-26 February**

In the week immediately after February half term, the Year 13 Geography students will be going to Catalonia in Spain for their annual field visit. This is an essential pre-requisite to their Advanced Level summer examinations.

Based in the nearby seaside resort of Sitges, they will undertake a day's urban work in Barcelona itself to see urban change and conflict at close quarters. Additionally, the students will refine their practical skills by engaging in a source to mouth river study and sand dune surveys.



This field visit has always proved a most rewarding experience for all concerned and it has helped the students achieve well in the second examined paper, allowed them to practise and consolidate a range of fieldwork techniques and gather data for analysis and evaluation.

We hope for our customary good weather and look forward to a splendid trip.

*Miss S Sparks, Head of Geography*

## Annual Ski Trip Youth Hotel Alpin Centre, Hochfugen, Austria

**12-20 February**

This year, we have chosen Hochfugen, Austria as our resort, with TEAM4 as our travel provider. The resort is part of the



Ziller Valley which offers 500k of prepared pistes and access to the glacier at Hintertux. The Youth Hotel is situated with direct access to slopes and our group will be able to ski down to ski school every day. We will travel by coach from the School and the coach will be available for



use during the week if we wish to visit other areas of the valley. Evening events will include a quiz, pizza night, bowling and swimming in the local pool complex in Fugen. We look forward to another enjoyable trip.

*Mr D Despres, Ski Trip Coordinator*

## Geology Visit to Dorset

**Saturday 27 February to  
Friday 4 March**



Studying Geology outside of the classroom is an essential requirement of the GCSE course in order to understand the field relationships of, for example, minerals, rocks and fossils. Obvious locations for such a visit include rock

exposures produced by coastal processes, river erosion or quarrying by man.



From Saturday 27 February to Friday 4 March 2016, Year 10 Geologists will be undertaking such visits to iconic locations such as Lulworth Cove, Durdle Door, Kimmeridge Bay and the Isle of Portland, Dorset. From a base in Swanage, Dorset, pupils will be able to carry out a wide range of studies including mineral, rock and fossil studies, structural geology in relation to plate tectonics and man's impact on the environment following mining and quarrying. Pupils will also collect geological data for their field investigation. The Dorset coastline has World Heritage status because of its rich geological history, especially in relation to dinosaur fossils and it promises to be an enjoyable as well as instructive visit to a location of outstanding importance and beauty.

*Mr N Cooper, Head of Geology*

## Visit to CERN, Switzerland: A Review

During the half term break, Mr Dalby and Miss Isaac took 20 Year 12 students to Geneva in Switzerland to see the Large Hadron Collider at CERN. This was the third consecutive year the School has visited CERN, and the first time so many students were given the chance to attend.

Students were treated to a personal tour of the city of Geneva by Mr Dalby, who did not get lost this year. The students visited major historical landmarks, such as the Alabama Room and the Reformation Wall. This year, the walking tour of Geneva was earlier in the day; consequently, the park chess players were out in force and Edward McCallum

# VISITS TRIPS AND VISITS TRIPS



played the game of his life to defend our School's honour.

At CERN, students got a peek of how the new museums will look. Although some of the exhibits were still being worked on, those that were ready were engaging and interactive. The tour took students to the ATLAS detector control room and to CERN's first accelerator, a 600 MeV synchrocyclotron, which was used from 1957 for 33 years to solve riddles such as the half-life of the muon.

In the afternoon, students were treated to an impromptu visit to the Ceramics and Glass Museum before their personal tour

of the UN Headquarters. Artwork from all over the world and from every nation imaginable adorned the walls and ceilings of the Palais des Nations.

Overall, the trip was an enormous success. We were fortunate to avoid any problems and all of the students reported that they had a splendid time. Mr Dalby is investigating the possibility of running a second trip in the Summer Term, although this is only a possibility at this time.

*Mr K Dalby, Head of Physics*

## Berlin Trip

**14-18 February**

Over February half term, a party of Year 11 pupils and Sixth Form students will visit Berlin - one of Europe's most important cities in terms of both history and culture. We visit the German Historical Museum; its galleries relating to the Weimar and Nazi periods are of

particular interest to students, but the museum offers a comprehensive overview of Germany from the prehistoric to modern period. In keeping with our focus on modern German history we visit Imperial Germany's Brandenburg Gate and Reichstag - buildings which encapsulate so much German history within their own fabric. For the Weimar and Nazi eras we visit the award-winning Jewish Museum, Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp and the Villa at Wannsee where plans for the Final Solution were drawn up. There is also a new museum building at the previously open-air Topography of Terror site, built between Prinz Albrechtstrasse and Wilhelmstrasse, where the Gestapo had their headquarters. Cold War Berlin receives attention via the Museum of the Wall at Checkpoint Charlie. In addition, the Pergamon Museum in Berlin stands alongside the Louvre and British Museum as one of the world's great archaeological repositories - the Ishtar Gate from Babylon is itself worth a visit to Berlin.

*Mr R Stevens, Head of Politics*

Brandenburg Gate



# OUR NEW SIXTH FORM CENTRE

**'The modern architecture is stunning'**

**Jack Morrison**



Stairs linking Upper and Lower Forum



The Upper Forum. A space to meet for informal debate and discussion over a cup of coffee

**'The aesthetics and architecture looks like a university campus, preparing us well for life at university.'**

**Subin Saji**



High quality catering facilities making a range of refreshments available

**'I feel these new facilities will improve my A-level studies'**

**Angus Heafield**



The Study Area. Our thanks to the Parents' Association for the donation of £10,000 to fully furnish this area for independent study

**'Amazing'**

**K**

- Upper Forum Social
- Lower Forum Flexible
- Sixth Form Independent
- Two Large Science
- Four Sixth Form T
- Office Space and



The Forum. A flexible space for study and p

**'Inspiration for learning'**

**Jack**

**'It was worth the wait'**

# OUR NEW SIXTH FORM CENTRE

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ieran Short



Our lobby areas are modern, light and spacious

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e Laboratories  
eaching Rooms  
a Meeting Room



ce for exhibitions, lectures,  
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The Conference Room. A space to meet

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t!  
Chay Taylor

'The new Sixth Form Centre appears very futuristic and awe-inspiring. I can see myself working hard in the building.'

Rowan Bailey



The Laboratories. Large state-of-the-art laboratories

'It's very modern and the classrooms and labs are well equipped, I'm looking forward to having my lessons in the new building.'

Thomas Alexander



Facilities for group and individual study

'The building promises to exceed expectations. The new facilities are amazing and provide more space than the current common room.'

Mahim Chetan

# CCF: FRONT AND CENTRE

## Review of the Autumn Term



The CCF had an exceptionally busy start to the academic year. In addition to conducting our 48 hour exercise Field Day and expanding to a 100-strong Contingent, we have been heavily involved in supporting other events in our community.

Our cadets ran a Go For Grammar! Day for the Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children, in which local Primary School children were given a taster of some cadet activities,



including First Aid training, camouflage and shelter building, and leadership tasks.

The CCF also acted as a Guard of Honour on behalf of the Army Benevolent Fund for the opening of Highbanks House in Southend by Olympian, Max Whitlock.



On Remembrance Sunday, the CCF represented the School at Southend's Remembrance Service. The Contingent was well represented and we were given the honour of leading the parade as two of our cadets, Cpl Anuj Patel and Sgt Joshua Uren,



acted as escorts for the Union Flag Banner Carrier. They were also escorts for the banner at the Cenotaph.

The CCF also contributed to Remembrance Services at three local Primary Schools. They formed a Guard of Honour at Hamstel Junior and Infant Schools, and conducted a Remembrance Service at Edwards Hall Primary School, after which they led a series of workshops themed around the First and Second World War as well as modern conflicts.

Finally, our cadets supported our own Festival of Remembrance, held at WHSB, which raised money for Essex Military Support Association supporting The Soldiers Charity, The RAF Benevolent Fund and Scotty's Little Soldiers.

It has been a busy term, but one of which the Contingent can be rightly proud as we continue to expand.

## New School Staff Instructor

The School has appointed Regimental Sergeant Major Matthew Lyne to assume the position of School Staff Instructor. RSM Lyne spent 25 years in HM Forces, serving in the Royal Engineers. He has also worked with Officer Cadets serving in appointments to both the Universities of Cambridge and London Officer Training Corps. RSM Lyne is a man of experience and enthusiasm. We look forward to welcoming him to our rapidly growing CCF.

## Field Days 10-11 February

It is anticipated that the CCF will conduct an overnight Field Day for our, now, 100 cadet strong Contingent in the ACF's Cherry Tree Camp on 10-11 February. Cadets will leave immediately after School on 10 February and, once established in the camp, they will be able to review weapon handling and receive other training during an evening session. The following day, training will be arranged around live firing at an ETR (Electronic Target Range) in the Fingringhoe Range Complex at Colchester Garrison. There will also be opportunities to learn various aspects of Fieldcraft, Navigation and First Aid.

## Competitions

Once again, the CCF has applied to compete in the Exercise Combat Cadet Competition, 7 Brigade's Champion Military Skills' Cadet Competition. In our last entry, we performed well in many of the events, and it is our intention to improve our position in this Competition.

It is also our intention to participate in the Welbeck Leadership Competition, in which we were placed 3rd last year.

*Captain JJ Bleakley  
Contingent Commander  
WHSB Combined Cadet Force*

# Duke of Edinburgh Award: An Update

## Bronze Award

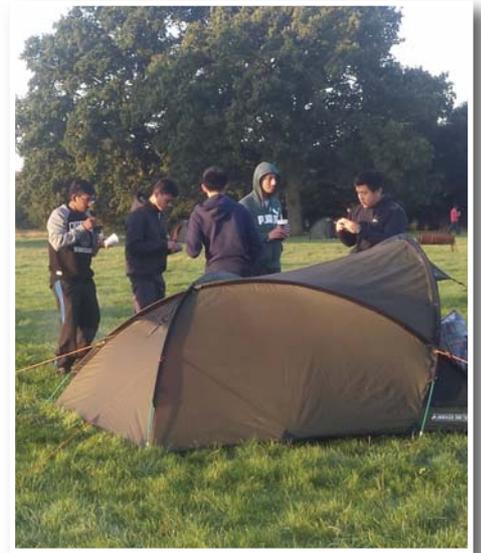
In September 2015, we advertised for a new intake of Bronze Award pupils and we were inundated with applications. From these, we selected 30 pupils and we have been working with this group on the different sections of the Award. We will be organising a one-day walk around Hockley this term and a practice expedition in the Summer Term. The final Assessment for the Bronze Award will be in September 2016 and this should be the final aspect for the pupils' certificates.

## Silver Award

The 2014 intake for the Bronze Award completed their Assessment expedition in September 2015 and we expect to create a Silver Award group from these students. However, at the time of writing, the number finishing is rather disappointing and we hope we will be up and running by the time this is read. The group that started the Silver Award in 2015 have had some success and many of those that completed are now taking the Gold Award at local Open Centres.

*Mr D Despres*

*Duke of Edinburgh Award Coordinator*



# Slices of Pi: Mathematics at WHSB

The Mathematics Department is 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 notice boards in the Mathematics block foyer.

## UPPER SCHOOL EVENTS

## Senior Mathematics Challenge



Every year, students in the Upper School take part in the Senior Mathematics Challenge in order to show their skill and aptitude at solving problems that they



would not encounter in their studies at Advanced Level. This year the Senior Mathematics Challenge fell on 8 November 2015. As usual, all of the Year 13 Mathematicians and the Year 12 Further Mathematicians were entered, competing nationally to showcase their ability. This year, we have been awarded 10 Gold certificates, 41 Silver certificates and 55 Bronze certificates out of 124 entries. Five of our best mathematicians managed to progress to the Senior Kangaroo follow on round: Andrew Lo, Oliver Coe, Charles McGee, Oliver Croysdill and Anuj Patel. Sebastian Mok made it to the highest next round, the British Mathematics Olympiad, which is a tremendous achievement. We wish all six of these students luck with their future competitions.

## Senior Team Mathematics Challenge

The Senior Team Mathematics Challenge took place in November, where a group of four of our best Sixth Form students teamed up to compete against local schools. Students are challenged in different ways; their problem solving and time management skills are tested to the limit. The first round is a group round where all four students work together to answer 10 questions. The next is a cross number, where the students split into two teams and work on two different sets of clues in their teams, where the only form of communication between teams is by putting answers onto an answer grid. The final round is a relay, where students are once again in teams of two and must answer each question before the next team can start on theirs. Last year we just missed out on first place by a small margin. This year, Sebastian Mok, Andrew Lo, Oliver Croysdill and Anuj Patel, are hoping to beat all the other teams, but at the time of writing we do not have the results of their competition.

# Slices of Pi: Mathematics at WHSB

## Senior Mentoring Scheme

The Senior Mentoring Scheme is an initiative of the UKMT to offer stretch and challenge to able A Level students. Beginning in October, each month a number of problems are set and students are encouraged to submit those to the Mathematics Department for assessment by the published deadline; these are then marked and returned with feedback so that students can then attempt more challenging problems in the months ahead. There has been a very pleasing response to the scheme so far – although there are certainly some very able students in the School from whom we have yet to receive any solutions! Whether you can solve just one problem or all of them, we look forward to receiving your solutions in the months ahead.

## Mathematics Inspiration

38 Sixth Form students were off site on Thursday 3 December enjoying the Mathematics Inspiration lectures at the Palace Theatre in London. It was a worthwhile experience with topics such as *Adventures in the Fourth Dimension*, *Yeah-but is it Significant?* and *Maths on the Back of an Envelope*. We have run this trip for many years and students are always enthusiastic about the new ideas they encounter; it also serves to give a flavour of Mathematics at University. We hope that some of the students involved will be writing something for the Tabula in due course.

## Project Euler

A number of Sixth Form students have relished taking part in the Project Euler club running on Thursday lunchtimes in M20. Last year's members were joined by some enthusiastic new talented problem solvers and programmers to solve, in some cases, the first 50 problems; this represents an outstanding level of achievement. There are currently 533 problems to solve on Project Euler, so more than enough to challenge any budding programmers and mathematicians.

New members are always welcome, just turn up and take part.

## STEP Club

The STEP Club has been running as part of the Sixth Form activities in order to better prepare those students seeking to take the STEP examination for entry to Cambridge, Warwick and other universities, or simply to improve students' understanding of Mathematics. Students have been learning to use skills from Mathematics in a broader context and improving their problem solving ability. So far, the club has looked at intelligent representations of problems, proof by induction and contradiction, logic statements, and differentiation. If this is something you would be interested in, please see Mr Dowding.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENTS

### Year 10 Team FMSP Maths Feast

For pupils in the Middle School looking for a team challenge to get involved in, we have the Maths Feast. This is a competition for four Year 10 mathematicians, run by the Further Mathematics Support Programme. It aims to test the logic skills, mathematical ability, and teamwork of our students. This year the competition is taking place on 11 February at KEGS. We have been very successful in previous years, progressing to the final which is held at Cambridge University, so we have high hopes for the team.

## Intermediate Mentoring Scheme

All pupils in the Middle School who have an interest in solving mathematical problems, such as those that appear on the UKMT Mathematical Challenges, have the opportunity to take part in the

Intermediate Mentoring Scheme run by Mr Manning. Some pupils have already taken up the opportunity to be on this Scheme, but if any others wish to participate they should contact Mr Manning. It is not too late to join up.

## Intermediate Mathematics Challenge

The Intermediate Mathematics Challenge (IMC) will be held on the 10 March. All of Year 10 A Band and all of Year 11 will be entered into the competition, and it is our hope that we will improve on last year's results. Any Year 10 or 11 pupils wishing to know how they might prepare for this competition should ask their subject teacher or contact Mr Manning to join the Intermediate Mentoring Scheme.

## LOWER SCHOOL EVENTS

### Junior Mentoring Scheme

The Junior Mentoring Scheme has been running since last summer, and we have four groups of able young pupils tackling the monthly problems. They are guided by some of the best mathematicians in the School, who meet with them each week to give clues and support their progress. We have a good number of pupils in Years 8 and 9, but the response from Year 7 has been disappointing thus far. If there are other pupils in the Lower School who would like to take part with these fun Mathematics challenges, then please speak to Mrs Marsh who will arrange new groups.

### Junior Team Challenge

The Junior Team Mathematics Challenge will once again be taking place this year and Mrs Hammond has chosen her team from our best Year 8 and Year 9

# Slices of Pi: Mathematics at WHSB

Mathematicians. They are Willaim Skeldon, Peter Simon, Sammy Joujou and Jake Pilkington. There are various rounds involving the four pupils working together or in pairs, and they have started looking at some past problems to start preparing for the competition in the summer. To be successful, pupils will need to work well with each other as well as being able to think laterally and solve problems unlike those they have encountered before.

## Support in Mathematics: Classroom Assistants, Help Clubs, Mentoring and Maths Angels

Mathematics mentoring continues to thrive, thanks to the dedication of many hard-working students. Currently 42 students are giving up their own time in order to mentor others who encounter difficulties with their mathematical studies. And there are more mentors eagerly waiting in the wings! If you would like a mentor to give you the additional one-to-one support in Mathematics to help you fulfil your potential, to extend your mathematical knowledge or to assist you with those difficult questions from lessons please see Mr Doherty as soon as possible. Alternatively, if you wish to volunteer as a Mathematics mentor or if your current mentor or mentee is not attending your scheduled sessions, again please see Mr Doherty. The Mathematics Department would once again like to thank all mentors for their continued hard work and looks forward to continuing the success of the scheme in the spring term.

A number of Sixth Form students have again volunteered to assist in Mathematics classrooms this year - some for a second year running. They are working with pupils in all Years 7 to 11. Under the guidance of the class teacher, some are taking the opportunity to help those that would benefit from additional support in Mathematics, whereas others

are using their time to stretch and challenge our gifted pupils. Some assistants have taken a key role in helping our Year 11 pupils prepare for their trial examinations, and will continue to help them in the approach to the summer. If any student in the Sixth Form would like to volunteer to help in Mathematics classrooms, please speak to Miss Dole.

Our lunchtime help clubs continue to run successfully this year. As in previous years, Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 help is available on Monday and Thursday lunchtimes in room M2, and is open to all pupils from Years 7 to 11 who require help in Mathematics or simply want to discuss problems they have been working on. Attendance has been excellent so far, with 15 pupils attending on average, and steadily rising. There are Mathematics teachers and several Sixth Form Mathematics mentors available every session to help out. Pupils who have attended on a regular basis have found the one-to-one help they get incredibly useful and a perfect way to boost their understanding in Mathematics. Key Stage 5 Help is available every Tuesday and Friday in M6 and, again, we have regular attendees as well as acting as a drop-in service for students who have any difficulties with any topic across the whole of Key Stage 5. The help clubs will continue to run as usual for the remainder of the year.

We continue to work in partnership with the Southend High School for Girls' Mathematics Department to provide Maths Angels for online mentoring in the evenings. This valuable scheme also works in alliance with the Southend Young Carers' Association and the pupils who volunteer to be a Maths Angel are actively involved in helping disadvantaged young people in our local area. If any pupil in the School would like to know more, please contact Mrs Marsh in the first instance.

## Curriculum Changes for September 2016

At A Level we are preparing for a

significant change in our provision as we are offering Cambridge Pre-U Mathematics and Further Mathematics, starting teaching in September 2016. For those unfamiliar with the Pre-U qualification, it is an alternative to A Level which is designed to better prepare students for University education. The grading of Pre-U is in nine parts with the top three being Distinction 1–3. D2 is currently equivalent to an A\* at A Level. We will continue to offer the current modular A Level Mathematics course as well as Pre-U, and all Year 11 pupils have had a presentation explaining the differences between the two qualifications and how to decide between them.

At the Sixth Form Open Evening in November, there was considerable interest from potential new students and current pupils alike in the Pre-U, and several Year 11 pupils have spoken to their Mathematics teacher about preparing for the Pre-U Further Mathematics course. We look forward to teaching this qualification which gives students a broader understanding of Mathematics which they can apply to several subjects at a higher level.

*Mrs A Marsh*  
Head of Mathematics

## Royal Institution Mathematics Masterclasses at KEGS

This term, the Royal Institution is running Mathematics Masterclasses on Saturday mornings for gifted Year 9 mathematicians. We were only permitted to nominate two pupils, and we had many more worthy nominees than places. Peter Simon and Dhilan Patel are our two nominees, and they will be attending KEGS each Saturday morning, working with other gifted mathematicians from across the County. The sessions will be challenging and will require a persistence and insight into Mathematics. We expect both boys to benefit greatly and enjoy the challenge.

# MUSIC DEPARTMENT REVIEW

## The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Cliffs Pavilion, Westcliff

**Sunday 13 March**

Students, teachers, parents and friends of the School are all welcome to join the Music Department at a concert of well-known works from the canon performed by an outstanding orchestra, right on our doorstep. The evening will begin with Mozart's Overture to the Marriage of Figaro, followed by Barber's doleful Adagio for Strings. A performance of Mozart's Piano Concerto No 21 by the exciting British pianist Tom Poster will end the first half; the concerto is an excellent example of Mozart's mastery of the keyboard instrument, and a showcase of classical elegance.

The second half begins with Mahler's most famous work, the 4th movement of his 5th Symphony, Adagietto. This piece, harking back to the composer's Romantic roots, is thought to have been a love-letter to his wife, Alma, and was prominently used in the soundtrack to Death in Venice. The concert will end with Beethoven's 7th Symphony, whose second movement is well-known for its insistent, omnipresent rhythmic motif. This piece of music was heard most recently in the Oscar-Winning film, The King's Speech.

Tickets are priced at £10 for students and £24 for adults. Ticket numbers are limited, and booking for this event will close on Friday 15 January.

## Spring Sinfonia

**Wednesday 9 March**

After the great success of our Autumn Concert, the Sinfonia returns with an even more ambitious programme. Gone are the comforting waltzes of Gounod

and Britten, replaced with Beethoven's intimidating Symphony No.5. Often linked to Beethoven's 1802 Heiligenstadt Testament, in which the composer admits his encroaching deafness, the symphony features arguably the most famous melodic idea ever written.

This four-note motif was described by Beethoven as "fate knocking at the door," and the ferocious spirit of the first movement certainly gives the impression of a man faced with certain doom. However, another sign of the importance of this work is its creation of the archetypical 'hero's journey' in music, and so the motif presented so tragically in the opening movement is gradually transformed until it emerges as a triumphant fanfare at the symphony's close.

The Sinfonia will also be accompanying Alex Wood, playing an Organ Concerto by William Felton, a lesser known English Baroque composer who was a contemporary of Handel. This will be a particular treat for audience members, as this work is very rarely performed.



# MUSIC DEPARTMENT REVIEW

The parts have kindly been lent to the School by Organist and collector of Baroque English Concertos, David Woods.

Tickets are priced at £5 for adults and without charge for students.

## Spring Chamber Concert

Thursday 28 January

All are warmly invited to our Spring Chamber Recital which will once again spotlight some of our most outstanding musical performers. A range of the School's musical talent will be on display, from the various ensembles such as the Brass Ensemble, String Orchestra and Concert Band, to soloists such as George Tohill, playing a movement from the Krommer Oboe Concerto, violinist Anton Haiser, and pianist Jacob Clark. The variety of musical styles explored at this event will be eclectic, ranging from Sinatra to

Vivaldi: there will be something to match everybody's tastes.

Tickets are priced at £5 for adults and without charge for students.

## ECHO (Essex Chamber Orchestra) at Felsted School

Sunday 3 April

The Essex Chamber Orchestra features musicians from the local area, regularly performing challenging and exciting repertoire. Three of the musicians performing in this concert are teachers at WHSB, who regularly support musical events organised by the School: Mr Goldsmith (Music), Mrs Williams (Languages) and Mrs Pattenden (Brass).

The concert will consist of Weber's Euryanthe Overture, Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto in B flat Minor, performed by soloist Irina Lyakhovskaya, and Elgar's Enigma Variations. This is an excellent opportunity for interested students to hear high-quality classical music performed by a local orchestra. Tickets are priced at £10 for Adults, £5 for 16-18 year olds, and £1 for under 16s. Tickets can be purchased at [www.essexchamberorchestra.co.uk](http://www.essexchamberorchestra.co.uk) or on the door.

*Mr T Derrick  
Director of Music*



# HOUSE SYSTEM SPORT AND TH

## School Sport: Review of the Autumn Term 2015

### School Sport: Autumn Term Review

In Rugby, the winter season has started well with Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and the 1st XV all in action in the Essex Cup. The Year 9, 10, 11 and 1st XV sides remain in contention for the Essex Cup and well placed for the later stages of this competition. The Year 8 team is working hard to progress as a team and is looking to qualify in the Emerging Schools' Cup this year. Year 7 pupils have made a strong start to their rugby careers with over 30 pupils regularly involved in games and many showing real potential.

The Year 10 team is through to the 3rd round of the NatWest Vase competition having secured some significant victories in the competition to date. The 1st XV were unsuccessful against Coopers Company & Coburn School in the NatWest competition and so will need to work hard for success in the Essex Cup later this year. There is much rugby still to come this year with the aforementioned competitions still running and the County seven-a-side yet to come. Our Year 10 team will also visit Portugal during the Easter break.

In Football, it is fair to say the season so far has been one of mixed fortunes with several teams having made slow starts, whilst others have enjoyed good performances. The Year 7 team has been unfortunate to have been on the wrong side of some close results in cup fixtures, despite demonstrating some impressive skills in football. The Year 8 team is still struggling with performance in the 11-a-side game, but the team is slowly improving. Both the Year 9 and Year 10 teams are the notable performers in the Main School, with Year 9 remaining in two competitions, including the Essex Cup, and Year 10 remaining in all three cup competitions. Both have

reached the 3rd round of the Essex Cup which is impressive. The Year 11 team has not enjoyed the results that their commitment and style of play deserve, but have performed well nevertheless and still harbour ambitions of success in the South East Essex Cup.

The Senior teams have experienced extremely contrasting fortunes so far this year. Following an opening half term without victories, the 2nd XI have recorded their first points of the year with a draw against Ormiston Rivers, and then a splendid victory against Sweyne Park. Hopefully this will provide the spark to initiate a strong second half to their Essex league campaign. The 1st XI, meanwhile, have an impressive record, including four consecutive victories in the League that places them joint top of their division. We hope to report on some trophies won at the end of the Spring Term.

In Athletics, we have entered the Indoor Lee Valley Cup for the first time. Our Year 10/11 'A' and 'B' teams qualified for the final. In the final, the teams performed well but finished 4th and 3rd respectively, The Year 8/9 'A' and 'B' teams have performed well in their opening round and the 'A' team qualified for the semi-finals later this term. The Year 7 team will also be participating in January. We wish all teams well.

In Badminton, the Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 teams participated in the Borough tournament this term. Both teams performed extremely well, however a special mention should go to Peter Simon and Shiv Shenoy who won the overall Key Stage 3 tournament. We offer these students our congratulations.

*Mr D Phillips  
Head of Physical Education*

| Year            | Rugby     |           |          |           |      | Football  |           |          |           |
|-----------------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|------|-----------|-----------|----------|-----------|
|                 | P         | W         | D        | L         | PD   | P         | W         | D        | L         |
| <b>7</b>        | 7         | 2         | 1        | 4         | -97  | 10        | 3         | 0        | 7         |
| <b>8</b>        | 4         | 0         | 1        | 3         | -30  | 6         | 0         | 0        | 6         |
| <b>9</b>        | 9         | 6         | 1        | 2         | +159 | 9         | 6         | 1        | 2         |
| <b>10</b>       | 5         | 4         | 0        | 1         | +138 | 8         | 5         | 1        | 2         |
| <b>11</b>       | 1         | 1         | 0        | 0         | +12  | 6         | 1         | 1        | 4         |
| <b>1st team</b> | 5         | 2         | 0        | 3         | -23  | 9         | 6         | 0        | 3         |
| <b>2nd team</b> | -         | -         | -        | -         | -    | 8         | 1         | 1        | 6         |
| <b>Total</b>    | <b>31</b> | <b>15</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>13</b> |      | <b>56</b> | <b>22</b> | <b>4</b> | <b>30</b> |



## Year 10 Rugby Tour to Portugal

**25-29 March**

In March 2016, the Year 10 rugby squad will embark on a five-day tour of Portugal. During the tour they will reside in the beautiful seaside town of Estoril near Lisbon. The tour will provide them with the opportunity to play two matches against representative sides from Portugal with the evenings at leisure to enjoy the hospitality arranged by the tour company, Gulliver's Travel. They will also have a leisure day when they will experience an all-day event such as visiting a water-park, paintballing or tour of Benfica's Estadio de Luz. Both the squad and staff are greatly looking forward to the tour!

*Mr L Groves  
Tour Organiser*

## House System: Autumn Term Review

When pupils join WHSB, in Year 7 and in the Sixth Form, they are placed into one of four Houses: Harrier, Kestrel, Merlin or Osprey. Placing students in Houses enables School competition at all levels, as well as creating a sense of belonging. At the end of the year, the points gained during house competitions are totalled up and the winning House receives The Phoenix Cup.

As Coordinator of House Activities, it is my role to develop the House System and encourage all pupils to participate in

the wide range of activities that make up the House competition programme. If pupils have any ideas for future events then they should approach their Head of House in the first instance.

Six House competitions have taken place thus far this term. Osprey currently leads the competition from Harrier, Merlin and Kestrel. Osprey has secured the top position after strong performances in Football, where they won four out of the six Year Group competitions, Debating, where they won the Sixth Form competition and the Enrichment Day challenges of raft-building and the Economics Business challenge. Harrier has secured a firm 2nd place by winning both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 Debating and Public Speaking competitions. Both Kestrel and Merlin had poor debating and public speaking campaigns this term which has led to them falling behind early on in the competition for The Phoenix Cup.

From October to February, the following competitions will be run: Rugby, Geography, Geology, General Studies, Table Tennis, Rowing, French, Spanish and German. Participation is, again, the main focus for the year, with points being awarded for each participating student in each event. With the competition often being separated by small margins these extra points could make the difference between first and last position.

The current positions are:

|     |         |        |
|-----|---------|--------|
| 1st | Osprey  | 916pts |
| 2nd | Harrier | 800pts |
| 3rd | Merlin  | 769pts |
| 4th | Kestrel | 701pts |

*Mr D Shoesmith  
Coordinator of House Activities*

## Under-13 Cricket Side Crowned County Champions

Last September, the Under-13 Cricket team travelled to Hutton Cricket Club to play their rearranged Essex Cup final against St Martin's School. WHSB's route to the Essex Cup Final had seen them restrict sides with their bowling and fielding predominantly in the early rounds. They were tested in the semi-final however when they were set 136 to win in 25 overs. Klain Fernando and Viraj Khagram played superbly in getting 69 and 35 not out respectively to take the School to victory with an over to spare. Therefore, the side knew that they were more than capable with both bat and ball ahead of the final, as they looked to retain their title of Essex Champions.

Having won the toss and put St Martin's in to bat on a soft, green late-season wicket, WHSB started strongly, taking a wicket in the first over, though they did have the opposition's Essex batsman dropped on the third ball of the innings. At the halfway stage of the innings it looked as though this mistake would prove costly as St Martin's established a run-rate of six per over with their Essex batsman still at the crease. Fortunately, he was soon dismissed and WHSB managed to restrict St Martin's further. They were still left, however, with an imposing total of 154 to chase from 30 overs.

Our reply did not start well. We were left chasing the game at 18-3 with semi-final hero Klain Fernando dismissed very early. Matthew Mohan joined opening batsman, Khagram at the crease tasked with rebuilding the innings whilst attempting to replicate St Martin's run-rate. Both boys proceeded to build an excellent partnership of over 100 runs with Matthew Mohan playing outstandingly for his 65 and Khagram mirroring his anchor role from the semi-final with 34 not out. With other boys coming in to help secure the game, WHSB managed to reach the total required with over four overs to spare and emerge victorious as Essex Cup champions. The scale of this achievement in terms of a run chase cannot be understated at schoolboy level, with both batsmen displaying real maturity.

It should be pointed out that a WHSB side winning back-to-back Essex Cups in Cricket is unprecedented. The team worked incredibly hard in training in order to play consistently at such a high level. The School hears about such endeavours in School assembly but they may not realise the hours of practice and the dedication shown by the boys to better themselves and achieve their goals. They are an example of what is required in all aspects of School life to be successful, and should be highly commended for this as well as their outstanding achievements.

*Mr L Groves  
Teacher of Physical Education*



# THE HOUSE SYSTEM SPORT AND



# SPRING TERM 2016 CALENDAR

## FIRST HALF TERM

|                 |                                                                                   |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mon 4 Jan       | <b>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY</b>                                                      |
| Tues 5 Jan 2016 | Spring Term begins                                                                |
| Wed 13 Jan      | Years 12 and 13 History Lecture:<br>Oliver Cromwell                               |
| Fri 15 Jan      | Year 11 Phase 2 Reports issued                                                    |
| Sat 16 Jan      | WCGC: Humanities Day<br>Bronze DoE Walk in Hockley                                |
| Tue 19 Jan      | Year 11 Entry to Sixth Form<br>Evening, 7.30pm                                    |
| Wed 20 Jan      | Sixth Form Geographers'<br>Lecture at RGS                                         |
| Thurs 21 Jan    | Holocaust Remembrance<br>Service, 8.45am<br>Barcelona Briefing Meeting,<br>4.00pm |
| Fri 22 Jan      | Year 8 Phase 2 Reports issued                                                     |
| Thurs 28 Jan    | Spring Chamber Recital, 7.30pm                                                    |
| Mon 1 - 5 Feb   | Years 12 and 13 Trial<br>Examinations                                             |
| Fri 5 Feb       | Year 9 Phase 2 Reports issued                                                     |
| Sat 6 Feb       | Year 11 Oxbridge Tour                                                             |
| Mon 8 Feb       | Year 11 Parents' Evening                                                          |
| Wed 10 Feb      | Careers in Banking Lecture,<br>7.30pm                                             |
| 10 and 11 Feb   | CCF Field Days                                                                    |
| Thur 11 Feb     | Year 7 Phase 2 Reports issued<br>Photonics Lecture, 7.30pm                        |
| Fri 12 Feb      | Year 13 Religious Ethics<br>Conference, London                                    |
| 12-20 Feb       | Annual Ski Trip                                                                   |
| 14-18 Feb       | Year 11 and Sixth Form Trip<br>to Berlin                                          |

## SECOND HALF TERM

|                |                                                                                    |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15-19 Feb      | <b>SPRING HALF TERM</b>                                                            |
| Sat 20 Feb     | Year 9 Trip to Buddhist Centre                                                     |
| Mon 22 Feb     | <b>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY</b>                                                       |
| 23-26 Feb      | Year 13 Geography Visit to<br>Barcelona                                            |
| Fri 26 Feb     | Year 10 Phase 2 Reports issued<br>Politics Conference at WHSB                      |
| Sat 27 Feb     | Parents' Association Race Night,<br>6.15pm                                         |
| 27 Feb - 4 Mar | Year 10 Geology Field Trip<br>to Dorset                                            |
| 29 Feb - 4 Mar | Year 7 Charity Week                                                                |
| Fri 4 Mar      | Year 12 Phase 3 Reports issued                                                     |
| Sat 5 Mar      | A Day in Toy Making                                                                |
| Mon 7 Mar      | Year 10 Parents' Evening,<br>4.00pm-6.00pm                                         |
| Wed 9 Mar      | Sinfonia Spring Concert, 7.30pm                                                    |
| Thurs 10 Mar   | Year 9 Options Evening, 7.30pm                                                     |
| Fri 11 Mar     | Year 13 Phase 3 Reports issued                                                     |
| Sat 12 Mar     | WCGC: Science Day                                                                  |
| Sun 13 Mar     | Royal Philharmonic Orchestra<br>at the Cliffs Pavilion                             |
| Mon 14 Mar     | Year 9 Parents' Evening,<br>4.00pm-6.00pm                                          |
| Wed 16 Mar     | Year 12 and 13 History Lecture:<br>Russian Revolution                              |
| Fri 18 Mar     | Science & Engineering Lecture,<br>7.30pm                                           |
| 21-24 Mar      | Year 11 Targeted Report issued                                                     |
| Thurs 24 Mar   | Charity Week Launch Night,<br>7.00pm                                               |
| 25-29 Mar      | Charity Week                                                                       |
| 25 Mar -8 Apr  | School ends, 2.45pm                                                                |
| Mon 11 Apr     | Year 10 Rugby Tour to Portugal                                                     |
| Tues 12 Apr    | <b>EASTER HOLIDAY</b><br><b>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY</b><br><b>SUMMER TERM STARTS</b> |