



THE Westcliff Diary

September 2016 No.79

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National Athletics Success

The Inter team has performed phenomenally well in the National Track and Field Cup competition this year, scoring 529 points at the East Anglia Regional Finals. This secured the team qualification to the National Finals at Bedford International Stadium on Saturday 2 July, which brings together the top twelve teams in England. The team went to Bedford full of optimism and produced an exceptional team performance on the day. In a National final, that was the closest and highest standard ever, WHSB was one of four schools in contention to win as the track and field programme unfolded. With no fewer than 11 personal best performances on the day, the boys truly rose to the occasion and, as a team, surpassed their target total to register a massive 570 points, the highest score in the School's recent history.

In many previous years, this achievement would have been sufficient to win the title but, unfortunately, this went to Fitzwimarc who scored 577 points, with Southend Boys scoring 571 points. A podium finish of 3rd place in the Country is still an immense achievement and I would like to congratulate the boys on the way they pulled together to produce the finest team performance I have witnessed at WHSB. There were too many notable performances to mention everybody, however particular mention should be made of Posi Adekola, who threw 37.47m in discus, Jack Hussey who threw 40.35m in hammer, Oliver Johnson who threw 13.12m in shot, George Hay and Oliver Gravett who threw 44.87m and 43.74m in javelin and Micah Tsekeri and Tamilore Mustafa who jumped 6.05m and 6.13m respectively in the long jump. On the track, Rotimi Osunsami ran 11.6s in the hurdles, Micah Tsekeri and Seth Mokoulu ran 11.5s and 12.0s in the 100m respectively, Jordan Odoyuye ran 24.4s in the 200m and Noah Phillips and George Haye ran 2m17s and 2m06s in the 800m, both achieving personal bests. The relay team of Jack Hussey, David Olusina, Oliver George and Posi Adekola completed the track by winning the relay in a time of 48.6s. Competing at Bedford International Stadium was a memorable experience for the team and they should look back on their achievement of 3rd place team in England with a tremendous sense of pride.

Further success has come on an individual level with two pupils being selected to represent Essex at the National Track and Field Finals in Gateshead on the 8 and 9 July. Seth Mokoulu in Year 9 competed in the Junior Boys triple jump finishing in 6th place with a jump of 11.98m.



Tamilore Mustafa competed in the Junior Boys long jump and produced a last round jump of 6.39m to take 1st place and become National Long Jump Champion. Congratulations to both Seth and Tamilore for their fantastic achievements.

Many pupils also took part in the Borough Athletics Championships at Basildon Sporting Village on Friday 17 June. The most impressive team performance came from Year 7 who challenged Eastwood for first position. WHSB gave a number of impressive individual performances and won an impressive number of medals including 12 gold, 12 silver and 5 bronze. A number of records were broken with Joshua Ogunfolaju breaking the Borough 100m record with a time of 12.37s, Joseph Fischer breaking the Year 8 Borough 100m record with a time of 11.81s and Micah Tsekeri breaking the Year 10 Borough 100m record in a time of 11.12s.

In Year 7, any pupil who finished in the top two places at the Borough Championships was selected to represent the Southend Borough at the Essex Schools at Chelmsford on 6 July. We saw some exceptional performances on the day with Toby Linsell finishing in 5th place in the 1500m, Jack Shea and Joshua Ogunfolaju achieving bronze in the shot and 100m respectively, and Demope Akinyemi achieving silver in the long jump. The most impressive performance of the day came from Leslie Anaglavi who became Essex Champion in the 800m with a time of 2.17s. Well done to the pupils who competed on their excellent performance in the Competition and, with so much talent in Year 7, this bodes extremely well for future competitions.

*Mr D Phillips,
Head of Physical Education*

PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS 2016



This year WHSB has enjoyed a tremendous set of A Level results. Over 15% of our entries were graded A* and 44% of all entries were graded A*/A. Nineteen students gained two or more A* grades and forty-seven students achieved at least one A* grade. The majority of students have achieved or exceeded their University offers, including nine students who have secured places at Oxford and Cambridge. The School also achieved its highest AS results in the last four years. We also had outstanding GCSE results with 37% of entries graded A* and 72% of entries graded A*/A. One-hundred and nine pupils achieved eight or more A*/A grades and seventeen pupils achieved ten or more A* grades. We congratulate all our students and give them our best wishes for the future.

THE HEADMASTER FROM THE DESK



Welcome back from the Headmaster

I begin by warmly welcoming back all pupils and staff from the summer vacation.

At WHSB we never rest on our laurels, with each new academic year bringing its challenges, and this year will be no exception. Last year we successfully expanded to six forms of entry (185 pupils) in Year 7 and this expansion will be sustained this year and going forward. We also have ongoing significant national curriculum changes, capital developments and a rapidly changing national educational environment, to mention just a few of the items on our agenda for this academic year.

These measurable things absorb much of our time in education, however measureable things such as buildings and results are the less significant parts of what we aim to achieve, and rather the fruits of something else. Of course, we must deliver results and facilities but more important is giving our pupils a true sense of self-worth; helping them to shape their character and core values. In doing so, the rest follows.

Therefore I was encouraged to read fairly recently of our new secretary of State for Education expressing an interest in Grammar Schools. As a Grammar School we need to do all we can to encourage and enable pupils to compete for entry to the best universities so that they can have access to the very best opportunities in our society. To that end, we continue to run our Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children programme to encourage more local children, and particularly those from disadvantaged areas, to join us. We are working with local primary schools to create a culture that celebrates children taking the 11+ and not worrying that a failure will irreparably damage self-esteem.

Westcliff Diary Events

This edition of the Diary includes a superb range of activities for pupils and the wider community. We owe much to the staff and senior students who devote their time and energy in the service of others.

These activities offer the opportunity for our pupils to broaden their understanding and appreciation of culture, society, science, nature and human endeavour and achievement. We strongly believe that involvement in such opportunities has the potential to contribute significantly to the broader education and personal development of our pupils, extending their experience and increasing their confidence.

The success of the School's programme relies upon parents' support as well as the enthusiasm and commitment of pupils and staff. As I have indicated previously, you will, understandably, prioritise attendance at events in which your son or daughter is participating and that is important.

However, you may not yet have considered attending a wider range of events, to which you may not have this direct connection. Through our Learner Profile and activities, our pupils discover what it means to play an active role in their communities and to offer mutual support and encouragement. In this regard we would also appreciate your support, as attending events to support their peers reinforces this responsibility and extends their experience to a wider range of activities from which they can gain enjoyment without direct participation.

I would encourage all pupils and their parents and families to participate in at least two Westcliff Diary events this term. Your continuing support for our extra-curricular programme is much appreciated.

National Curriculum

This academic year, at GCSE Level, Year 10 pupils will study new and more demanding GCSE specifications which will be graded on a 1 to 9 scale. At the same time the majority of subjects taught in the Lower Sixth will be following reformed A Level specifications. The main thrust of the A level reform is to decouple the AS qualification, taken in May and June of the Lower Sixth, and the A2 qualification taken at the end of

the Upper Sixth. In short, the Government has taken the decision to return to a traditional two-year A Level course. At WHSB students will only take AS Examinations in the unreformed specifications, which are Mathematics and Further Mathematics, Geology, Design & Technology and Government & Politics. We believe that the removal of the AS Examination will allow a more enriching and educationally fulfilling curriculum.

Capital Development

This September, the School shall commence the next phase of its development of the Science Building. The School has already spent £1 million on a brand new building envelope and, thanks to a successful bid to the Education Funding Agency (EFA), it will spend a further £1.5 million on refurbishing the interior of the building. When the project is finished the School will, in effect, have entirely new Science facilities. The project is scheduled to finish this December and we are working with our contractor to keep five laboratories open throughout the building works, which we managed to achieve during the last phase of works.

A New Model for Sporting Provision

The School will be working with Mr Morrish, the newly appointed Director of Sport, to introduce a new model for sporting provision. The School will continue to provide Physical Education lessons for individual classes, however these will be supplemented with Games sessions involving the full cohorts (a split cohort for Year 7). This will allow the provision of a more flexible programme, making use of specialist sports coaching staff. It will also provide the School with greater capacity to expand its Saturday sports programme. I believe weekend sport is of enormous benefit to our pupils, and the School would welcome volunteer assistance from parents with an interest in, and preferably experience of, managing and assisting student rugby and football teams.

We anticipate that parent volunteers would work alongside our coaches to support the teams. It is fully understood that volunteers may not be in a position to commit to every Saturday, however we would be seeking to establish a pool of

OF THE HEADMASTER

volunteers and so reduce the overall commitment required from individual volunteers. Those parents who are interested in offering assistance (including adding other sports to our programme) should contact Mr Partridge, Director of Resources and Support Services, via the School's email address.

A Changing Educational Landscape

The educational landscape in England is changing significantly with the development of Multi-Academy Trusts and proposed changes to how schools are funded. At the time of writing it is too early to say if the recent change of Prime Minister will result in any shift in direction in relation to these matters. However, the New Secretary of State for Education has delayed the implementation of funding reforms for a further year and it is difficult to know whether the funding reforms will ultimately improve the level of funding received by WHSB. The School shall continue to monitor national changes to understand their implications for WHSB and shall respond as necessary.

Success at WHSB

The School has enjoyed a number of successes across the last twelve months. The Charity Week Committee raised over £20,000 for Little Havens Hospice and The Stroke Association, and our Sports Teams chalked up notable success including a podium place in the National Finals. Our CCF acted as standard bearers for the town's Remembrance Service, and our Engineers and Roboteers took local and national competitions by storm. These, and many other notable successes, are recorded on the School's recently upgraded website. Success must never be taken for granted and requires a positive attitude, hard work and resilience.

I encourage all pupils to take pride in their uniform, maintain excellent attendance and punctuality, set ambitious goals for the year and support your community.

Changes to Senior Management

I am pleased to report that Dr Oliver continues to make a strong recovery.

In his absence Mr Williams has been appointed Acting Deputy Head, and he will continue to do so during this academic year.

Mrs Mumford (our congratulations to Miss Rankin on her recent marriage), Director of Lower School Studies, has taken on a range of additional responsibilities including the role of Designated Safeguarding Person. In addition, Dr Machacek, Director of Sixth Form Studies, has new responsibilities in the area of Curriculum Development, and Mr Partridge, Director of Resources and Support Services has a wide range of additional duties.

Mr Manning, Curriculum Co-ordinator, will join the Senior Team as an Acting Assistant Head with responsibility for a range of areas including Curriculum and Performance Data. I would like to record the School's thanks to these Senior Colleagues who have taken on extra duties and performed them exceptionally well.

Annual Service of Remembrance

Friday 11 November 2016

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

School Attendance

The start of a new Academic Year provides an opportunity to remind parents and pupils of the importance of the continuity of education. The majority of pupils maintain splendid attendance records and both they and the School take appreciable pride in their commitment. However, in recent years

Annual Speech Day



The School's Annual Speech Day will take place on Tuesday 1

November in the School Hall. We are delighted to welcome Ann Widdecombe DSG as our Guest of Honour. Ann Widdecombe has enjoyed a long and successful political career, serving from 1987 to 2010 as the Member of Parliament for Maidstone (which became Maidstone and The Weald in 1997).

In 1990 Ann was appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to Tristan Garel-Jones, Minister at the Foreign Office, and then Under Secretary of State for Social Security in John Major's first administration, where she specialised in pensions. Ann was appointed Under Secretary of State Department of Employment in 1993 and she went on to hold the position of Minister of State Department of Employment (1994) and Minister of State Home Office (1995) with responsibility for prisons and immigration.

Ann served as Member of the Standards and Privileges Committee of the House of Commons in 1997 and in the following year she became Shadow Health Secretary. In 1999 Ann was appointed Shadow Home Secretary.

Ann was educated at the Royal Naval School Singapore, La Sainte Union Convent Bath, Birmingham University (BA Hons Latin) and Oxford University (PPE) LMH MA. Prior to serving as Member of Parliament, Ann was Secretary, then Treasurer of The Oxford Union, and Committee Member of Oxford University Conservative Association.

During Ann's political career, and following her decision to retire, Ann has enjoyed considerable success as an author; her novels appearing in the Times Best Seller List.

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

THE HEADMASTER FROM THE DESK

the number of parental requests for leave of absence has increased despite having thirteen weeks available when pupils are on School holidays. These requests have spiked around the beginning and end of School Terms. We understand that there will always be an exceptional case to the general rule, however I wish to advise parents that requests for leave of absence for holidays during term time will not be granted. We know that there is a strong correlation between good attendance and excellent educational outcomes, and maintaining outstanding pupil attendance remains a top priority. We are grateful for the continuing support of so many parents regarding the matter of attendance.

Staffing for the Autumn Term

I would like to take this opportunity to thank staff who left us in August for their service to the School.

Mr Renshaw and Mr Bowen, both Old Westcliffians, have given superb service in their roles as Teaching Assistants at the School. Our congratulations to Mr Renshaw who leaves us to study at the University of Oxford. We also say farewell to Mr Butler who has been an outstanding member of the Premises Team.

Miss Lee and Miss Ouali have both made valuable contributions towards the teaching of Modern Languages. We thank them for their work. We also say farewell to Mr Dillane, Mr S Doherty and Mr Goodfellow. Mr Dillane and Mr Doherty both taught English, and both are Old Westcliffians, and Mr Goodfellow joined us following a successful time teaching at a field studies centre. We wish all three colleagues every success in the future.

Mr Wakeling is an Old Westcliffian who, having successfully trained as teacher, now leaves us to take up a position at Brentwood School. Mr Wakeling has also played an important role in the development of the School's CCF and we thank him for his contribution. Miss Slater joined us in 2014 taking up a position as a History teacher. She leaves us to take up a position in a London School. We thank her for her positive contribution to the School. Ms MacKay is an experienced and capable English teacher. She leaves us to take up a position closer to home

and we thank her for her service and wish her well.

Mr Groves and Mr Pickering have made a significant and valuable contribution to the sporting life of the School. During their time at the School both colleagues progressed in their careers, Mr Pickering worked as a Lower School Progress Leader and Mr Groves as a Head of House. Both colleagues move to new schools and we wish them every success in their new positions.

Mr Phillips, an Old Westcliffian, has served at the School in the Physical Education Department since 2004. He rose to lead that Department, taking over from Mr Williams, Acting Deputy Headmaster. Mr Phillips now leaves us to take up the position as Head of PE at an International School. He goes with our best wishes and our thanks for his service.

Mr Gordon has served at the School since 2002, first as a teacher of Geography and then, as Head of Geography. In recent years he has stepped down from his leadership role in order to work part time and he now retires from teaching having completed a career spanning some forty years. We wish him a happy and fulfilling retirement.

Mr Maughan has served at WHSB for 41 years and Mr Wringe has served for 45 years - their combined total of 86 years of service being in circumstances where the School has been in existence for just 96 years!

Mr Maughan has held numerous senior roles during his time at the School. He was, until 2012, the Head of Lower School; a role which he carried out quite brilliantly. Many pupils (past and present) will know Mr Maughan as the leader of the School's Battlefields trip, a trip he founded at the School some 21 years ago. He has also run numerous other trips across the years. He decided to step down from his senior roles in order to serve as a part-time teacher more recently and he now retires from teaching having enjoyed an outstanding career and positively influenced generations of Westcliffians.

Mr Wringe is an outstanding teacher of Chemistry. Many Old Westcliffians in the field of Science and related fields such as Medicine would be very pleased and willing

to acknowledge that they owe a debt of gratitude to Mr Wringe's outstanding teaching. Equally, like Mr Maughan, Mr Wringe served for many years as a senior member of staff. He was Head of Middle School and always commanded enormous respect amongst the pupils, staff and parents. A few years ago, Mr Wringe decided to step back in order to move to a part-time teaching role. We count ourselves most fortunate that he chose to continue to serve as a teacher of Chemistry. We wish him and his family every happiness for the future.

It would take an entire edition of the Westcliff Diary to fully quantify the scale of Mr Maughan's and Mr Wringe's contribution to the School. Therefore I shall confine myself to reminding our community that the success and reputation of a school depends upon its people and what they choose to do. For students, it is about ambition, direction and releasing potential.

For staff it is a matter of care, loyalty and a commitment to serve. We must count ourselves fortunate to have such a wonderful staff. The standing ovation from the School during our final Assembly of the year was a fitting tribute to both Mr Maughan and Mr Wringe. Their retirement leaves a huge gap that we must work together to fill.

We are pleased to welcome a number of staff to the School. Mr Jefferies takes up the position of Head of History. Mr Morrish joins us in the new position of Director of Sport. Ms Lo and Mr Ziprani, join the Science Department to teach Chemistry and Biology respectively. Mr Lilley, an Old Westcliffian, and Mr Rochester join the English Department, and Mr Rayment and Ms Brugmann join the Modern Foreign Languages Department. Ms Subbiah and Mrs Young join the Mathematics Department.

We are also delighted to welcome Mr Brinklow and Mr Atkinson who join the Physical Education team. A belated welcome to Mr Evans who joined our Premises Team in May. We also welcome Mr Holdaway to the School's support staff as an ICT technician and Mr Yeo (Old Westcliffian) and Ms Bailey who join the School as Teaching Assistants.

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Travelling to and from School

I am pleased to say that the majority of pupils travel to and from School without incident. They understand that they are wearing the School's uniform and, as such, are representing their School. I know that our students feel a great sense of pride and respect for our badge, and they are aware that we cannot simultaneously trade on the outstanding reputation of our School and engage in misconduct in public. The four Grammar Schools have been working together with bus and rail companies to address misconduct from a minority of pupils.

Our School community will not tolerate the misconduct of a few, tarnishing the reputation of all, and so any misconduct in public will be treated as a serious matter. As the content of this school Diary demonstrates, the overwhelming majority of our pupils are outstanding ambassadors for their School.

Congratulations to our new Head Boy and Deputies

It is always a great pleasure to introduce our new Head Boy and his two Deputies to our wider School community. Our Head Boy, Anuj Patel, has been heavily involved with School Music and the CCF and has also chaired our successful Charity Week Committee this year. Anuj is already highly respected by his peers for his quiet authority and modesty and I have no doubt he will be an outstanding Head Boy. Anuj will draw on the support of his two Deputies, Christina Taylor and George Tothill. George is a highly talented musician, an outstanding leader and contributor to the School's Public Speaking and Debating activities, as well as one of the two editors of the Insider. George is also a member of the Sixth Form Council and his record of contribution to the School across a range of areas is highly impressive. Christina has made a significant positive impact at WHSB since joining us in September 2015. She served as one of the two Vice-Chairs on the School's Charity Week Committee and she has also contributed to a range of activities including WCGC events. We give Anuj and his Deputies our best wishes with their new responsibilities, including leadership of the School's Prefect Body.

Headmaster



Anuj Patel
Head Boy

Previous School
St Michael's School - Leigh
Subjects at A Level
Chemistry, Economics,
Mathematics,
Further Mathematics



George Tothill
Deputy Head

Previous School
West Leigh Junior
School, Leigh
Subjects at A Level
English Literature, German,
History, Religious Studies



Christina Taylor
Deputy Head

Previous School
The King John School,
Thundersley
Subjects at A Level
English Literature, History,
Politics, Psychology

Parent Governors

The School is seeking to recruit up to two new Parent Governors. The Governing Body has 16 members including the Headmaster. All Governors, except the Headmaster, are volunteers and are from a wide variety of backgrounds. Some of the Governors are former students of WHSB, some joined due to their sons or daughters being current pupils, and others through another connection with the school. The Governing Body works with the Headmaster to set the strategic direction for the School. It is charged with ensuring the School's financial health, through achieving value for money, and enabling the School to meet the challenging performance targets it sets itself through its self evaluation and development processes.

As with any volunteer based body, school Governors are civic-minded, give of their time freely as a means of 'putting something back' and they are focussed on maintaining and enhancing the School as a learning institution which plays an important role in its local community.

Parent Governors are important to us. They are not the representatives of the parent body but rather they sit on the Governing Body in their own right. Equally, it is inappropriate for any Parent Governor to raise their individual parental concern at any of our meetings.

The School endeavours to ensure it has a Governing Body which has a broad range of complementary knowledge, skills and experience. Governors are drawn from a variety of backgrounds including, legal, financial, Human Relations, management, medical and vocational to name but a few. Whilst there is no set of prescribed skills for Governors, prospective candidates should give careful consideration to what skills and experience they can bring to the Governing Body as a whole.

I originally joined the Governing Body as a Parent Governor when my eldest son joined in Year 7. I have remained on the Governing Body and my youngest son has just moved into Year 9. As an Old Westcliffian, I was very keen to make a contribution to the School which played an important part in my formative years and, without doubt, has partly shaped the person I am today.

The two vacancies on the Governing Body for parents will be filled by way of an election assuming that there are more than two qualifying applications. The Headmaster will circulate details at the beginning of the Academic Year in September with the intention to have the new Governors in place as soon as possible. Governors generally serve a term of four years. As part of the School's statutory duties, those wishing to serve on the Governing Body are required to undertake a Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS) check and this will be organised by the School, at its expense, prior to a nomination being confirmed.

Mr J Gershinson, Vice-Chair of Governors

Science Block Refurbishment

It has long been our desire to refurbish the inside of the Science Block and, by the time this article is published, that work will have begun. The Science Block was built in 1956 and much of the interior of the building is original and therefore in need of modernisation.

The Education Funding Agency has provided the School with a grant of £1.65m to assist with the internal refurbishment. This will involve the relocation of a number of walls and doors to create more appropriate access throughout the building, the installation of a lift, new electrics, upgraded heating, replacement of all laboratory furniture, and substantial redecoration throughout the building.

We shall also be creating more appropriate staff accommodation and new preparation rooms with modern equipment installed.

The work is being overseen by Barton Willmore LLP, the architects who also oversaw the construction of the Sixth Form Centre, and the external works which were undertaken to the Science Block last year.

The internal refurbishment work has been split into two phases – Phase 1 will see work take place to the North end of the building, and Phase 2 will focus on the South end of the building. Throughout the project, we will have access to five laboratories within the Science Block, as well as the two laboratories which are situated within the Sixth Form Centre. Inevitably there will be some disruption but plans have been put in place to minimise any inconvenience.

The intention is that construction work will be completed during December 2016. We are delighted that this two phase programme will have created a brand new Science Building for the School.

*Mr D Partridge
Director of Resources &
Support Services*

Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children: Go for Grammar! Saturday Programme 2015/16

The Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children was launched in 2010, with the aim of increasing local interest in the Grammar School system.

Westcliff High School for Boys offered five Saturday programmes this year to Year 5 pupils who attend primary schools in the priority area (SS0-SS9) based on different subject themes. Programmes included a day of Combined Cadet Force activities, a Creative Subjects day, plus a Humanities Day, a Science Day and finally a Foreign Languages Day.

Nearly 600 applications were received and each pupil was welcomed to one of their first three choices of day where, alongside the themed lessons, they received lessons in Mathematics and English, as well as taking part in a House Activity.

Parents of the Year 5 pupils also visited the School to attend an information

session on how to assist their child to engage more fully with their learning in order to succeed in gaining a place, and thriving, in a Grammar School environment.

I would like to thank all the staff and pupils involved in making these days so successful. A special thanks goes to the Prefects, who worked with endless patience and good humour and gave up their Saturdays in order to host the youngsters and ensure they had a fantastic day. We will be looking for the next group of WCGC Prefects from the new Year 12 cohort. This is a great opportunity to develop your management and interpersonal skills and also to enhance your UCAS Personal Statement and Curriculum Vitae. The sign-up sheet will be available with the Wednesday afternoon activity sheets.

*Mrs K Mumford,
Assistant Head:
Director of Lower School Studies*

Oxbridge

In June, the School hosted a highly successful conference for potential Oxbridge candidates. It was attended by Admission Tutors from Oxford and Cambridge Universities, current undergraduate Old Westcliffians and around 100 students from across local grammar and partner schools. The information and advice so freely given on this occasion should significantly enhance the chances of individuals from WHSB in making successful applications to the Country's most prestigious universities this term. The School's programme of internal trial interviews will begin in October with reciprocal arrangements with Westcliff High School for Girls undertaken in November.

Generous Donation from Old Westcliffian

Michael Kelynack-Cocks left WHSB in the early 1960s. Following his time at WHSB he took up a place at Peterhouse, Cambridge and went on to a successful career in stockbroking. He ran for parliament as an SDP candidate in Taunton in the 1980s. At the age of 54 he changed direction and took up deep-sea diving and worked with commercial divers to expose poorly run companies. Michael sadly passed away recently, however he bequeathed a highly generous legacy of £10,000 to the School which will be used to further improve our Sixth Form and Science facilities. I am most grateful to Michael's sister, Mrs Richards, for sharing details of Michael's life. His generosity reflects the gratitude and affection he retained for WHSB.

Masterclasses

A group of Year 13 students from WHSB will be attending residential courses at Villiers Park, Cambridge in September and October. They will variously be looking at topics such as Cell Biology and Genetics and Quantum Mechanics to Biocatalysts. On Friday 4 November, for the 4th year running, we will be taking a party of Year 11 English pupils to Oxford for a university-style tutorial with Dr Catherine Redford, Hertford College. A number of then Lower Sixth students have already attended Subject Masterclass days at Cambridge University between Trial Examinations and the start of the AS Examinations. One student successfully won a place on the four-day Senior Physics Challenge run through the Cavendish Laboratories, Cambridge.

Two girls were able to attend the Pathways to Success residential event in June at Murray Edwards College, which is aimed at inspiring academically successful young women to apply to Oxbridge, whilst another attended a residential Summer School for young women applying for STEM courses. Some students experienced Subject Taster Days, primarily at the University of London. Further details of our students' experiences are detailed in their articles in this edition.

*Mr R Stevens
Higher Education Coordinator*

Pathways to Success Murray Edwards College, Cambridge

In June, two girls from WHSB and two from WHSG, together with Miss Dolan, were invited to Murray Edwards College, Cambridge, to join more than 100 girls from around the Country to attend the Pathways to Success residential conference. Targeted at academically high-achieving young women, the conference enabled us to learn more about what it is like to study at Cambridge University and, more specifically, what it feels like to be at an all-women's college. The welcome was warm and encouraging; the student helpers were all very nice and willing to help or answer any questions we might have had during our visit.

The two days consisted of numerous workshops and talks, including two very interesting guest speakers – graduates of the college – who recounted their own experiences, careers and achievements in fields including those often seen as rather male-dominated. We were all inspired by their talks, and by all the academic staff of the College, who showed us that we should never give up and to work hard to achieve our goals. We had the opportunity to work in groups with girls from different schools and to talk about the skills we have, the skills we wished we had, and what to do to demonstrate the value of determination and working hard to obtain them. Later that evening, we were invited to a celebratory College dinner which was not only very formal and splendid, but once again allowed us to meet new people and ask questions about studying at Cambridge.

The second day, which was also the Cambridge Open day, included talks about the admission process, interviews and Personal Statements, all of which were very useful and thought provoking. We were allowed some free time, which we used to explore Cambridge and visit other colleges. Everything about the Conference was of a very high standard throughout the short time we visited. It was great!

*Lilia Raykova and
Penny Sucharitul
(Year 13)*

STEM Summer School for Women Corpus Christ College, Cambridge

At the end of June I attended a three day residential Summer School at Cambridge University, hosted by Corpus Christi College. In order to gain a place I had to first answer a series of challenging Isaac Physics questions over a number of weeks. I was therefore delighted to receive the news that I had been awarded a place along with 98 other girls from over 300 applicants. When I received the itinerary, I could not contain my excitement! I loved every single lecture topic: Searching for intelligence in the

Legs: Investigation of Robots That Can Walk, Run, and Dance; The Chemistry of Water: Everything You Need to H2Know; Epidemics and Viruses: the Mathematics of Disease; Gravitational Waves: A New Dawn in Astronomy; and Advanced Battery Materials.

My favourite lecture was actually the last named: Advance Battery Materials by Dr Sian Dutton, as she was most informative. We learnt about the major renewable methods for energy generation: solar, wave, wind, hydroelectric. Dr Dutton then went on to expand on solar cells; we looked at silicon solar cells, the Perovskite solar cells and how they are used in conjunction with the silicon ones to maximize the spectrum of light photons they can absorb to improve efficiency. However, their structure changes when light is absorbed so instead of using $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{Pb}(\text{Br}_0.4\text{I}_0.6)$ they replace the iodine in the Perovskite with bromine to make $\text{CH}_3\text{NH}_3\text{PbBr}_3$. Also by replacing the lead with tin, slightly more solar radiation can be absorbed, further improving efficiency!

The Summer School also consisted of a number of workshops aimed at helping STEM applicants with their Personal Statements and interview technique. We first discussed how to write an effective Personal Statement. The main tips that arose were as follows: explain why you wish to study the course; reflect on, rather than list your wider reading, competition entries, courses etc; "name drop" topics the interviewer can ask you about; 75% academic content, 25% extracurricular; and show enthusiasm by using examples. Next we discussed interview techniques. Cambridge said that they are looking for the following in a student: intellectual flexibility, enthusiasm, motivation, commitment, organization, the ability to think critically and independently, and an interest and aptitude for your chosen subject.

I thoroughly enjoyed the Summer School and have learnt so much from it. I would encourage anyone considering any form of STEM subject to apply. There are many other similar courses for both sexes.

*Catherine Folkson,
Year 13*

NEWS SCHOOL NEWS SCHOOL

Senior Physics Challenge Cavendish Laboratories, Cambridge

Physics has always been my passion and I relished the opportunity to undertake the Senior Physics Challenge. I approached the task with enthusiasm and great excitement, and completing it made me eagerly anticipate more. It genuinely was a memorable experience. The challenge initially consisted of doing as many difficult problems on the Isaac Physics website as possible, and the forty highest scoring competing Physics students in the Country were invited to attend a four day Physics residential in June at the University of Cambridge. I got a place! There were tough times when completing these problems, but, in hindsight, it was certainly worth the hard work.

I stayed in Churchill College for the duration of the trip, and the first night was devoted to helping us settle in and get to

know the other students. We were set group work with several tremendously interesting tasks. One such task was estimating how much mass the Sun loses per second. We were given information such as the solar flux at Earth and the distance, in light minutes, from the Sun to the Earth. These problems seemed quite difficult at first, but slowly everyone learnt to deal with them and we could work through them logically. As the first actual day of lectures dawned, there was an excitement and buzz at breakfast, with discussions ranging from the exercises in Chapter 1 of the Quantum Mechanics primer we should have completed before the residential, to making Nitrogen Triiodide (a contact explosive) in a garage.

The Quantum Mechanics lectures were started by Mark Warner, Professor of Theoretical Physics at the University of Cambridge and also a fellow of the Royal Society. The lectures were intense, being part of the second year course for Physics on the Natural Science course at Cambridge. The concepts were entirely new, with all of us trying to guess wave functions for second order differential equations, and trying to define the fundamental ideas of Quantum

Mechanics in the language of Mathematics. We also had lab work, to do with diffraction and interference using state-of-the-art equipment. The next two days were a continuation of lab work and attempting to finish a third of the entire Quantum Mechanics course.

This was the best week of my life, meeting future lifelong friends who share the same passion for Physics, Mathematics and academic study in general. I have taken away great memories, such as arguing and discussing Mathematics and Physics late into the night, before the scramble to bed after the sudden realization that we had a 9:00am lecture the next morning. The most profound thing that struck me as a result of the residential was, unsurprisingly, that hard work does pay off. Every single member on the SPC had worked to get there, and then worked to succeed on the course. This has done much to reignite a fire inside me for Physics and Mathematics that will drive me to work even more diligently from now on.

*Liam Lau
(Year 13)*

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

German Club



Learning a foreign language, like German is extremely useful and can open many doors in life – that much is well known. However, it is only when you get to know the people and the culture of another country that you start to appreciate the great impact that foreign language skills can have for you personally. As this year's German assistant at WHSB, I have experienced this myself being surrounded by, and talking to, English people all the time I got to know English culture and society on a much more authentic and personal level than I have

ever done in Germany. That is why I wanted to allow the pupils studying German at WHSB to have a similar cultural experience. To do so, I set up a German Club that came together at lunchtime every Wednesday. Between four and eight very eager pupils attended our weekly sessions. As FLA-Ambassador of the K-German Connection, I teamed up with an English language assistant working at a Gymnasium in Thuringia in central Germany who was running a similar club. In order to establish contact between the two schools, we sent each other Christmas cards and audio podcasts introducing ourselves, although the most fun we had was probably when we received a parcel filled with German sweets and treats! The Germans were very interested to hear our reactions. While the pupils really liked the German sausages and chewy sweets, the liquorice was... let us just say less than well received.

Apart from our exchange project, we also discussed topics like German history, traditions and current affairs. In addition, some of the German idioms or expressions that we learned will not only be useful for the next German conversation, but also allow a deeper insight into the 'German psyche': For example, did you know that all of us Germans have an 'inner pig dog' ('innerer Schweinehund') that causes us to procrastinate? Well, now you do! If you would like to learn more, look out for the displays in the Languages classrooms, where we will showcase some more of our projects.

Running the German Club has been an amazing experience for me and I believe that the club members have also had an enjoyable and interesting time. I think it is always great to see pupils showing an interest in foreign languages and cultures outside of the classroom, and I can only hope that a similar club or project will

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

continue to exist after I have left the School. For now though, allow me simply to say 'Dankeschön und auf Wiedersehen!' (*The School thanks Herr Kraus for his excellent service as our German Assistant and he now returns to Germany to complete his studies*)

Mr D Kraus
German Assistant 2015-16

Politics Society Monday 10 October

A trip to the Palace of Westminster by the Politics Department will take place this Term on Monday 10 October. We are fortunate that Sir David Amess's office is willing to help us arrange a tour of the House of Commons and House of Lords. This visit will provide a very valuable opportunity for students of AS Level Politics to look at Westminster from the inside, to gain some sense of the size and grandeur of the Palace, to visit rooms used by General, Public Bill and Select Committees, and to pick up some sense of the nature and style of our parliamentary life.

Mr R Stevens
Head of Politics

Chess Club

During the last academic year, the Chess Club has grown significantly in popularity. Due to the high level of pupil involvement, the Chess Club required more chess equipment which has been kindly donated by the Parents' Association. This donation has been greatly appreciated by members of our club and has allowed many more pupils to play.

The Chess Club plays in a friendly relaxed atmosphere where pupils are welcome to chat and observe others. However, we have also developed a second room for more serious chess players, where they can play in competition conditions (in silence using chess clocks).

Pupils have had the opportunity to participate in school competitions such as House Chess as well as national competitions such as the ECF National Schools' Team Chess Challenge and the

Delancey UK Schools' Chess Challenge. We look forward to participating in more competitions in the future and improving the overall standard of chess within the School. So whether you are a beginner, who would like to learn how to play, or an experienced competitor, join our Chess Club to meet new friends, improve your problem solving skills and have some fun! Chess Club runs every Thursday lunch-time in M5, with the competitive silent room being in M4.

Mr C Doherty
Mathematics Department

The Tolkien Society

The Tolkien Society will reconvene this term, on alternate Fridays, at 1.00pm in W2.



This term we will be taking an in-depth look at some of Tolkien's most famous poetry, through the vast range of books and manuscripts available. Some will be very familiar; others not so. Tolkien was a master of the English language, having taught this for over thirty years at the University of Oxford. His writings transcend fantasy and mythology, and pupils will have an opportunity to develop their own writing skills. All staff and pupils are welcome to attend.

Rev Dr M Halsall
Head of Religious Studies

Debating

The School's competitive debating calendar starts as ever with the prestigious English-Speaking Union (ESU) Schools' Mace Competition. As in previous years the School has entered a team of two Sixth Form debaters for this

challenging competition, in which we have been Eastern Region Runners-up a number of times across recent years. The Cambridge Union Schools' Debating Competition is also due to start this term and we shall be fielding the maximum entry of teams from Year 11 to Year 13, as well as preparing teams for the Oxford Union Senior Schools Debating Competition after Christmas. Having had the ESU in School in June for a full day of debate coaching and practice, we shall continue to offer a programme of Debating Workshops this term for some of our younger Gifted and Talented pupils.

Mr R Stevens
Head of Politics

Schools' Challenge Quiz

The School will be entering the Schools' Challenge Quiz for the 14th successive year. The competition uses a University Challenge format and a team drawn from Year 10 and the Sixth Form. Last year, for the second time in a lustrum, we reached the Regional Finals – losing once again to a strong team from Westminster School – so we have high hopes for this year's campaign.

Mr R Stevens
Head of Politics

Medical Society

We plan to run a set of practice MMIs in September using Old Westcliffians currently studying Medicine at University. This will be followed by a day of more formal panel interviews conducted by a range of hospital consultants, surgeons and GPs to whom we are indebted for their willingness to help our students meet the truly daunting challenge of securing a place at Medical School.

Mr R Stevens
Head of Politics

WHSB Garden Party in Celebration of Her Majesty's 90th Birthday

Along with the rest of the nation's celebrations, Westcliff High School for Boys opened its gates on Sunday 12 June 2016 and hosted a traditional Garden Party in honour of Her Majesty's 90th Birthday. In spite of the very British wet weather, the show went on! The event was formally opened by local MP, Sir David Amess, and supported by local companies and community groups.

The School's own community, families and friends, Old Westcliffians, alumni and local primary school pupils who have participated in this year's *WHSB Go for Grammar!* 11 Plus Familiarisation Programme, joined together with neighbouring residents for an afternoon of nostalgia and entertainment.



Hundreds of guests brought along their own picnics and enjoyed afternoon tea and Pimms provided by students and the School's Parents' Association. On display, and to entertain, were vintage and classic cars and scooters from local clubs, music from the School's Saxophone Quartet including 'Happy Birthday' and The National Anthem, and retro dance displays provided by *Dickie Bows* and *Air Raid Jive* performing a variety of 1940's swing and 1950's jive numbers. The School's Combined Cadet Force on hand to assist with the event and to provide a demonstration for the crowd. Younger visitors enjoyed a range of bouncy castles, soft play and face painting. Despite the weather, the event was a tremendous success and was very well-received by our School and wider

community. Hosting a Garden Party will become a regular event for the School, particularly as we prepare to celebrate WHSB's Centenary in 2020.

WHSB Alumni Network Project

One key part of the CDO's ongoing remit, working alongside the Old Westcliffian Association (OWA), is to develop a strong, diverse and flourishing alumni community. WHSB Alumni include all former students and staff, past and present. In addition to maintaining our existing links with those alumni who are still in contact with either the School or the OWA, we are looking to reach out to those alumni who presently have no link with us and who would like to make contact, keep up-to-date with School news and possibly attend future School events.

This term sees the launch of the new Alumni Network Newsletter and the first Alumni Network Social event which will take place in the City of London on Thursday 20 October 2016. This event, arranged by the WHSB Community Development Office, will be a drinks reception from 5.30pm until 8.00pm in Davy's Wine Bar at Plantation Place, Unit 2, Mincing Lane, EC3R 7BD (a stone's throw from London's Fenchurch Street Station). All former students and staff are welcome for a 'meet and greet' with the Headmaster, members of staff, and Old Westcliffian Association members over a glass of wine or non-alcoholic alternative. It would be appreciated if you could contact the CDO (see contact details below) if you would like to attend. We look forward to meeting members of our Alumni Community and please do spread the word.

If you or someone you know would like to join the WHSB Alumni Network and/or join the OWA, please take a few minutes to register your details via the WHSB School website. Select 'Community' from the Main Menu followed by 'Alumni & Old Westcliffian Association'. You will then receive password information enabling access to the secure 'Alumni' area of the School website. For further information, contact Mrs Clarke or Mrs Weller in the

Community Development Office on 01702 475443 or via email (community@whsb.essex.sch.uk). The WHSB Alumni Network is completely free to join and we very much look forward to hearing from you.

WHSB Pupil Fund Purchases Life-Saving Defibrillator

This year, just under £500 from the WHSB Pupil Fund has been used to purchase a defibrillator for use on the School site. Current Department of Education guidance encourages schools to buy a defibrillator as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) and defibrillation in the event of a cardiac arrest is proven to save lives. Having a defibrillator in School will help us provide an even greater level of emergency care in the event of one of our students, staff or visitors suffering a cardiac arrest, meaning that they would be given the best possible chance of survival. The School's defibrillator (a Mediana HeartOn A15 AED) is an automated external device and designed especially for use in public areas for both adult or paediatric use. It is located in the Medical Room opposite the Main Office.



We should like to thank all those parents and guardians who have previously donated or continue to donate money to the School's Pupil Fund. We are extremely grateful for any donation received, no matter how small or infrequent, at any time during the academic year. Donations can be made in the form of one-off payments in cash or by cheque (payable

to WHSB) or by monthly standing order. If you would like to make a donation, are a current donor and wish to amend your donation or payment method, or wish to register with us for Gift Aid purposes, please contact Mrs Shirlin, the School Bursar. All donations and enquiries are treated in the strictest confidence.

Donating Tax Efficiently to WHSB

Westcliff High School for Boys is recognised as a charity for UK tax purposes and claims tax relief through the HMRC Gift Aid Scheme. For individuals, the value of your gift is maximised by giving via the HMRC Gift Aid Scheme, through a payroll scheme or pension, by donating assets, or by leaving a gift in your will. If you are a UK taxpayer, Westcliff High School for Boys receives an additional £25 for every £100 you give. All we need from you is a Gift Aid Declaration Form from you which can be obtained from Mrs C Shirlin, School Bursar in the Finance Office.

Through your employer you may be able to donate to the School via their Payroll Giving Scheme (also known as "Give as You Earn" or Workplace Giving). Through Payroll Giving your donation is deducted from your salary before tax. Each £1.00 you give may only cost you 80p, 60p or even 55p if you are an additional rate taxpayer. Your employer will then send your donation to their approved Payroll Giving Agency who will pass it on, plus any matched employer giving, to WHSB. Your employer may be one of the companies that helps boost employee charitable donations through a Corporate Matched Giving Scheme. Some will match pound for pound, and others will even double donations made to us by its employees. To find out if your employer is able to help you donate to WHSB through either their Payroll Giving or Matched Giving schemes, contact your Payroll or Human Resources Department.

Please contact the School Bursar, Mrs Shirlin in the Finance Office (shirlinc@whsb.essex.sch.uk) to inform her if you would like to take part in your employer's Payroll Giving or Matched Giving scheme and she will forward the relevant form. Please note: the charity

name is "Westcliff High School for Boys". You will not find the School listed on the Charity Commission website because WHSB is an exempt charity under section 12 of the Academies Act 2010.

For Businesses, the benefits associated with charitable giving depend on whether you are a sole trader, partnership or a company. The tax relief for sole traders and partnerships is through the Gift Aid Scheme. Companies claim corporation tax relief on gifts to charity of money, land, buildings, shares, equipment, trading stocks, and even staff. In addition, there is Sponsorship and the School is grateful to the individuals and businesses who choose to support the School by sponsoring an event or student scholarships. If you would like to financially support Westcliff High School for Boys in this way, please get in touch with Mrs Clarke or Mrs Weller in the Community Development Office on 01702 475443 or community@whsb.essex.sch.uk

More information is available on the School website under *Community* on the Main Menu.

OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION (OWA)

By the time this article is printed there will, hopefully, still be time to book your place at our Annual Dinner, on 9 September 2016 which will be held in the School Hall.

Our speaker will be Martin Townsend, editor of the Sunday Express. Tickets are £28, or £16 for those in full-time education. These are always very enjoyable evenings so if you have not been before, why not give it a try?

I would like to pay tribute to Mr Partridge and his team in the new Community Development Office, Mrs Clarke and Mrs Weller, for their commitment to the OWA. Their help and support in doing all they can to increase our numbers is very welcome. However, we desperately need new committee members. Our existing members have been in post for many years and, whilst I value their help and wise counsel, we need an injection of fresh blood! The call on your time will not be great so please have a think about it.

Since the publication of our last newsletter, in June 2015, we have lost many members; some very distinguished. They all received, not just an excellent education, but a basic grounding and a set of values instilled in them that stayed with them for life. Their obituaries and stories are published in our newsletter which may be viewed in the Secure Area of the School website. If you want a personal copy in book form, then please contact me. There will probably be many more OWs who have stories to tell that I do not know about. If you know of any then please get in touch.

Membership of OWA is open to current and past members of staff, and past pupils. Life membership is moderately priced at £10 and you will find a warm welcome.

Mr T Birdseye, Secretary, Old Westcliffian Association, terry.birdseye@gmail.com



Annual General Meeting (AGM) Monday 12 September

All parents and guardians of students at WHSB are invited to attend the Parents' Association AGM on Monday 12 September at 7.00pm. A summary of our fundraising efforts over the previous year will be communicated together with a presentation of our accounts and the voting in of Committee post-holders for the present academic year. There is no charge to attend but places should be confirmed using the WHSB electronic ticketing system. We look forward to seeing you.

New Parents' Meet & Greet Evening Monday 12 September

On Monday 12 September 2016, the Parents' Association warmly invites parents and guardians who are new to the School to a *Meet & Greet* evening for those whose sons and daughters have joined Years 7 and 12 this September. The event provides the opportunity for parents and guardians to meet others from their locality as well as those of other students in their son's or daughter's

Form. Following the informality of the first part of the evening, the Parents' Association Annual General Meeting, which we very much hope that you will be able to attend, the informal *Meet & Greet* part of the evening will commence at 6.30pm. There is no charge to attend but places should be confirmed using the WHSB electronic ticketing system at <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/>. We look forward to meeting you.

100 Club Monthly Prize Draw

Our Parents' Association 100 Club was established in December 1996. Since its launch, the PA 100 Club has raised thousands of pounds, enabling the Parents' Association to provide many items beneficial to the School and its students. We would like to thank all those members of the PA 100 Club, both past and present, for their support over the years. With the passing of each School year, the Parents' Association loses members of the 100 Club as their sons and daughters leave WHSB. Therefore it is vital for new members to become involved. For a monthly contribution of just £5, members of the 100 Club (who must be associated with the School) are entered into a monthly draw to win a cash sum, currently in the region of £150.

Lucky winners will be sent a cheque by our PA Treasurer. If you would like to join the Parents' Association 100 Club, please contact the Parents' Association via email: pa@whsb.essex.sch.uk. A registration form and instructions can also be downloaded from the School website under the Parents' Association sub-section followed by the Parents' Association '100 Club'. Thank you for your support.

Finally, we always welcome new members to our Committee and, in particular, those parents who are new to the School this September. You can find out more about the WHSB Parents' Association on the School website, or email us at pa@whsb.essex.sch.uk. Alternatively, you can contact us via the School Office.

*Mrs J Clarke,
Chair of Parents' Association*

Annual Winter Ball Saturday 26 November

Saturday 26 November heralds the Parents' Association Annual Winter Ball, which is undoubtedly the highlight of our fundraising calendar. Guests are welcomed into the School Hall, which is transformed into a sparkling and festive venue for the evening, with a drinks reception and canapés whilst a pianist

MUSIC AT WHSB MUSIC A

WHSB Musical: *Oliver!*

We are excited to announce that WHSB will be staging *Oliver!* in February 2017. This popular Lionel Bart musical, based on *Oliver Twist*, is packed with fantastic songs such as: *Food Glorious Food*, *Consider Yourself*, *Got to Pick a Pocket or Two*, *I'd Do Anything*, *Oom-Pah-Pah*, *As Long as He Needs Me*, plus many more. Probably one or other of these melodies is already revolving in your head!

The show will be playing for three nights in the week running up to the February

half term in the Main Hall. There is opportunity for a significant number of pupils across all Years to be involved, with both on stage and backstage/technical roles. There will be information meetings and taster sessions at the beginning of term and, whilst there is no selection for involvement in this show, there will be auditions for main characters in due course. Interested pupils should keep an eye out for more details.

Rehearsals will primarily be on Tuesday afternoons, 3:45-5:00pm, but a rehearsal schedule detailing full commitments will be available for all those interested.

Ticket prices are yet to be announced, but will be available to order soon. We anticipate they will sell out for all three nights, so please do book early!

Mr P Goldsmith, Teacher of Music

Autumn Chamber Recital Thursday 6 October

Chamber Recitals are an opportunity for Westcliff musicians to demonstrate their abilities as soloists or chamber musicians, and this event is sure to be

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plays. A professionally-catered, waitress-served dinner follows, then dancing to a live band with carriages at half past midnight. A professional photographer will also be on hand to capture the moment. Tickets are priced at £47.50 per head and seating is on tables of eight to ten. An Invitation to this year's Winter Ball has been distributed along with this edition of the Westcliff Diary, detailing how tickets can be purchased through WHSB TicketSource. Please ensure that you indicate clearly when booking online (using the boxes that are applicable) if you wish to be seated with friends, if you require the vegetarian option or have specific dietary requirements. Tickets do sell out quickly so early booking is advised. We look forward to welcoming both our regular and new guests, particularly those parents and guardians



who are new to the School, to this black tie occasion – an event not to be missed, and which raises thousands of pounds for WHSB.

Robinson Crusoe at The Cliffs Pavilion Group (Discounted Pantomime Tickets) Saturday 31 December

This year WHSB Parents' Association is able to offer our School Community, family and friends the opportunity to purchase discounted pantomime tickets (subject to sufficient interest) through the Southend Theatres' group booking ticket scheme. Group discounted seats in the front stalls have been reserved for the 10.30am performance on Saturday 31 December 2016, New Year's Eve, of the Cliffs Pavilion's production of Robinson Crusoe. Please note, as this will be an unsupervised trip, any children under the age of 16 must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or a specified responsible adult. For further information or to obtain a booking form, please email the Parents' Association (pa@whsb.essex.sch.uk). Tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis and all booking forms

should be returned to School marked for the attention of the Parents' Association, no later than Friday 28 October 2016. Tickets will be distributed to pupils prior to the end of term (Oh no they won't!).

Shop Online and Raise Funds for the School

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

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another terrific showcase of the talent at WHSB. In addition to performances from stalwarts such as the String Orchestra and Brass Ensemble, audience members can expect to see performances from Choral Scholar, Jacob Gough; Organ Scholar, Alex Wood; flautist Zoe Sheaf; and pianist, Peter O'Sullivan. Lovers of baroque and classical chamber music will be excited to hear Telemann's Trio Sonata in C minor for oboe, viola and continuo, as well as Mrs Williams' String Quartet playing an excerpt from the classical era.

Tickets are £5 for adults and free of charge for pupils and should be made at <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/>

Year 9 Curriculum Enrichment

This term, as part of our Lower School Music curriculum and enrichment programme, all Year 9 pupils are expected to attend at least one of the music concerts listed in the Westcliff Diary as an audience member, and to write a review of their chosen event. This written work will be evaluated as a formal assessment and will contribute to report and end-of-year grades. More details will be given in lesson time and

bookings should be made at <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/>.

Year 7 Free Trial Instrumental Lessons

For the first time, all pupils in Year 7 will be offered the opportunity to apply to learn a musical instrument free of charge. These lessons will be on string or brass instruments, taken in small groups of three, and will be paid for by the School for five weeks. Pupils wishing to continue these group

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lessons after the free trial period has ended will have the option to continue, paying a reduced group rate.

We believe that it is important for all pupils to be given the opportunity to get involved in Music at Westcliff. Learning an instrument develops vital transferable skill and gives pupils the opportunity to join musical ensembles within the School such as the Brass Ensemble, Concert Bands, String Group and, eventually, the Westcliff Sinfonia.

At present, only 12 spaces are available for this free trial. Interested pupils should return the form that will be distributed at the beginning of term, and should attend the 3 weekly theory sessions held by the Music Department. Any pupils requiring further details should see Mr Derrick.

Westcliff Music Scholarships: A Year in Review



The Westcliff Music Scholarship scheme continues to be a huge success, with all seven Scholars deemed eligible to have instrumental lessons provided to them by the School for another academic year. Since September 2015 the School has seen Organ Scholar, Alex Wood, give a virtuoso performance of a baroque Organ Concert, accompanied by the Westcliff Sinfonia. Our second Organ Scholar, Alex Usher, began to accompany the School's hymn singing in January and will be taking more opportunities to accompany in the coming academic year.

Choral scholars Jacob Gough and Luke Barnard have both provided strong support to the Westcliff Choir. Additionally, both have given excellent performances as soloists in Chamber Recitals, and Luke recently took his Grade 5 singing examination at the end of the Summer Term. Jacob, meanwhile, gave an excellent performance in the summer's Band and BBQ event.

Our Brass Scholars Jack Stiles (Trombone), Marcus Siu (Trombone) and George Jefferson (French Horn) began the last academic year as total beginners in their instruments, but have made real gains over the last 12 months. All 3 of them were members of the Junior Concert Band by the end of the year, and they are looking to become members of the Brass Ensemble in the near future.

We are extremely proud of our Music Scholars, and wish to continue funding their progress. As such, donations are gratefully accepted. Parents wishing to contribute to the scheme should contact Mrs Shirlin at the School.

Christmas with the Big Band Friday 9 December

Join the WHSB Music Department for a night full of jolly jazz and Christmas crackers, sure to get you into the festive spirit. John Chapman and Zac Barrett will lead the Big Band and Junior Jazz Band respectively in a variety of Jazz, Swing and Blues favourites, in addition to some traditional Christmas melodies. Joining them will



be a collection of smaller ensembles playing a collection of contemporary music. As in previous years, guests are invited to bring their own food and drinks to enjoy while sitting with their friends at tables in the main hall. This much anticipated event has only approximately 360 tickets available so you are advised to book early.

Reserve your tickets at a price of £8 for adults and £5 for pupils at <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/>.

The Philharmonia Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall

Thursday 20 October

This term's Music Department trip will be to the Royal Festival Hall in London, to see the Philharmonia Orchestra, conducted by Temirkanov, performing works by Glazunov, Sibelius and Tchaikovsky. Glazunov's Valse No. 2 avoids the pomp and bombast usually associated with the famous Strauss waltzes, instead focussing on developing flowing elegant melodies. Careful listeners will hear the inspiration for the well-known jazz waltzes written by Glazunov's student Shostakovich. The première of Sibelius' Violin Concerto in 1904 was disastrous, due to tight time constraints leaving little time for the composer to complete, and for the soloist to practise the score. The piece is tremendously challenging and has been withheld from public performance by the composer's heirs. Since 1991 only a handful of orchestras have been given permission to perform the piece. World famous violinist Sergey Khachatryan will be joining the orchestra to tackle this impressive work. Tchaikovsky's Fifth Symphony is a staple of the classical canon, and is a thrilling interpretation of the Beethovenian 'tragedy-triumph' narrative. Throughout the piece, audience members will hear the martial main theme develop from slow introductory dirge, to a terrifying and bold interruption of the gorgeously melodic second

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movement, to the triumphant march that closes the work. Due to the theme of the work, it was extremely popular during World War II, with the most famous performance taking place in Leningrad during the siege of the city. The concert was broadcast live to London, and English listeners could hear the sound of bombs beginning to fall on the Russian city during the second movement. Despite this, the Orchestra continued to play on until the final, glorious note of the finale.

This trip is open to all students, staff, parents and friends of the School. Tickets cost £18.50 including travel. Tickets will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Booking closes on Friday 16 September. Booking should be made at <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/>.

Autumn Sinfonia Concert

Thursday 17 November



The Westcliff Sinfonia begins the year with a typically ambitious concert, once again featuring a range of classical styles and composers. This year will see the orchestra, conducted by Year 13 student, Alex Wood, joining the Music Department staff on the podium for the first time, and will feature soloist, Miles Graham.

The concert will open with Vaughn Williams' Overture to Waspas, written to introduce a 1909 production of Aristophanes' play of the same name. While the piece begins with a 'buzzing' in the strings, the following music will

not remind listeners either of insects or of ancient Greece! Instead, audience members will be treated to lively and ear-pleasing themes that are responsible for making this piece so popular.

The first half will end with a performance of Fauré's Elegie by cellist Miles Graham, accompanied by the orchestra. While the work begins in a sombre fashion, the main elegiac theme is eventually replaced by a more lively melody, featuring interplay between the orchestra and soloist. This piece was to be the slow movement of a cello sonata, a work that Fauré never completed.

After the interval the orchestra will tackle Schubert's Symphony No. 3, which follows the typical classical format. This is clearly Schubert's writing though, with a sense of humour verging on the cheeky! The work contains a wealth of contrast that is bound to keep listeners engaged, with the grand opening giving way to the dance-like second movement, spirited third movement, and bold finale.

Tickets are £5 for adults and free of charge for pupils and are available at <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/>

Choir Visit to The Church of St Mary and St Michael, London

Thursday 8 December

The Westcliff Choir has, once again, been invited to join the congregation of the Church of St Mary and St Michael in London for their annual Carols by Candlelight service. This is the third year that the Choir has taken part in this service, and it is another wonderful opportunity to see them sing in a grand and impressive environment, heralding the start of the festive season. All pupils,

parents, staff and friends of the school are invited to join us at the church; booking is not required for this event.

Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols

Monday 19 December

We warmly invite you to join us for our traditional service of Lessons and Carols which will feature a selection of well-known carols and readings telling the Christmas story. This is a wonderful opportunity for pupils, parents and staff to join as a community and sing together in what promises to be a splendid evening. Following the Service, those in attendance are invited to sample mince pies and hot drinks. All pupils and staff are invited, as well as parents and members of the wider community and free places should be reserved in advance at <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/>.

Assisted Purchase Scheme for Musical Instruments

Students at WHSB are eligible for the Assisted Purchase Scheme, meaning that musical instruments can be bought through the School excluding additional VAT costs. This could potentially save hundreds of pounds, depending on the cost of the instrument. Interested parents should apply for the scheme in writing to the School's Finance Department, along with a quotation from the supplier. Parents will pay for the instrument, with an additional administration fee of £25 once the School has received an invoice. The Finance Department will notify parents when the instrument has arrived.

Mr T Derrick
Director of Music

CCF & Duke of Edinburgh

Welbeck Leadership Challenge

Earlier this year, WHSB CCF entered a team of six Year 10 pupils and four Year 9 pupils into the Welbeck Leadership Challenge. The Welbeck Leadership Challenge is a national competition for under 16 year olds, held annually by the Welbeck Sixth Form Defence College, the Ministry of Defence's Sixth Form College for aspiring servicemen and women in the engineering professions. It pitches CCF and ACF teams against each other through a series of challenges, including engineering problems, a first aid scenario and a high ropes course. These are designed to test their leadership skills as well as their application of the Science and Mathematics they have learned in lessons.

After a shaky start for our team, we soon calmed the nerves and claimed good positions in the majority of the latter challenges. The team achieved its best results from those events centred on innovative thinking. These included designing a satellite and drone, with our efforts in orienteering and high ropes letting us down. Overall, we secured a fifth place ranking. As team captain, I am very proud of the WHSB Team and the manner in which we worked together and looked after each other, not least because no one on the team had participated in a camp or competition before.

Jonathan Travers, 11C



Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award at WHSB

DofE continues to be very popular, with applications significantly outnumbering the number of places available. However, completion is a matter of concern. Of the 2015 contingent, twenty-two have completed and nine have progressed to the Silver Award. This is disappointing as the majority of the Bronze usually finish and continue to the Silver Award. Pupils are reminded that the DofE Award requires nothing less than complete commitment and total determination.



Silver Award

The current Silver Award group took part in a Practice Expedition to the South Downs in April this year and the first day was one of the wettest I have experienced in over 20 years of supervising the Award! Despite the tough weather conditions the group soldiered on with the Expedition and I commend their efforts in the difficult circumstances. The Assessment, to the White Peak, took place in July after the GCSE examinations.

Bronze Award

The new intake in September have been working towards this aspect of the Award for some time and entering details into their eDofE portfolio. This group attended a Practice Expedition in June and will be completing their Assessment in September. We have decided to adopt a new approach when recruiting and selecting pupils for the DofE programme. In particular we have advertised and accepted the latest cohort from Year 9. This is to give the pupils more time to complete the Bronze Award and to make an easier transition to Silver Award to avoid clashes with their GCSEs in Year 11. We hope to start slightly earlier again in the Spring Term next year.

Mr D Despres, DofE Coordinator



German Exchange 2016: A Review

On Thursday 7 April 2016, a party of WHSB students from the Sixth Form and from Years 9 and 10, led by Dr Francis, Mrs Niedziela and former student, Brandon Cozens, set off on what would be the School's first exchange trip with the Clara Fey Gymnasium, located in Bad Godesberg, Bonn. The anticipation and excitement was high as the coach departed. Twelve hours, one ferry and five borders later we pulled up in front of the German school and met our partners and host families. Personally my exchange family was much like my own; two parents and two brothers, and one huge Berner Sennenhund, a dog which would fit rather well under the description of a grizzly bear. After spending the first day with our exchange partners in school, we spent the weekend in the German sun, all participating in a range of experiences with our partners and their families. The host families were not only welcoming, but we all experienced a fantastic taste of German culture, whether it was the Rhine, FC Köln vs Bayer Leverkusen, or unbelievable amounts of Currywurst. There was much to enjoy. During the weekend we also got to know our families much better. We used all the German we knew and, failing that, resorted to gesticulation, but we all managed to pick up new phrases and improve our German speaking. An early ending school day left us with plenty of time to look around the city with our partners and friends. The Rhine was beautiful, the streets full of life, and huge Haribo shops everywhere you could see. Our school could not have picked a better area to give this experience to those of us lucky enough to go.

Despite the numerous excursions we took part in, we took the time to meet other German students and their exchange partners out of the school and trip time, and share great days and evenings. We attended barbeques, went to the cinema and played sports together. We managed to form groups of German and English students that got on extremely well. To say that the majority of

the students had a good time is, in my opinion, a gross understatement. This trip has given many students the opportunity to experience life in a foreign country, improve their German, and participate in amazing excursions. It has given us a new aspect on how to learn the language in a way we will never forget.

Jasper Harmer, 11S

The Fourth Annual CERN Tour Sunday 23 to Tuesday 25 October 2016

This October, Mr Dalby will be taking ten students to Geneva, Switzerland to see the Large Hadron Collider at CERN and the Palais des Nations (former headquarters of the League of Nations and the UN). We will be leaving the School early on Sunday 23 October and returning late on Tuesday 25 October, spending two nights in Geneva. This is an outstanding opportunity to see how physicists, engineers, mathematicians, computer scientists and other individuals from the STEM industries work together to try to answer the greatest question in the universe: why does the universe behave in the way it does?

In the Physics Advanced Level course, there is content about Particle Physics, so this trip provides a good practical grounding for that theoretical work. Short of investing billions of pounds in our own particle smasher, an unlikely scenario in the current economic climate, attending this trip is the best chance you will get to see this groundbreaking physics in action.

The trip will cost £375 this year, which includes all flights, accommodation, food and tours. In previous years, students have been very positive about the benefits of attending. They also had a lot of fun. Due to the short time between the start of term and the trip, we will be drawing the names of the ten participating students, from those who have applied to attend, on 16 September; please make sure your reply slip and cheque is given to Mr Dalby before then.

Mr K Dalby, Head of Physics

Outdoor Pursuits in Italy: A Review

Sitting on a coach outside the School gates in our new trip hoodies, 38 pupils, accompanied by five members of staff, waved goodbye to their parents and siblings and embarked on the 19 hour journey to Valle d'Aosta, a region of Italy in the Western Alps.



For some, this coach journey would be tiresome, but for many of the pupils it was an exciting one as the departure from School marked the first Italy Adventure trip for Years 9 and 10. Arrangements for this trip had started some time ago and I had been telling the pupils since March 2015 simply how amazing this trip would be. I do not think they truly realised how exciting the activities would be, or how impressive the scenery was, until we arrived.

The campsite in Villeneuve is nestled in a little valley alongside the Dora Baltea River. From our tented village we had spectacular views of snow topped mountains and green, lush hills. When we arrived, the sun was beaming gloriously and we were pleasantly surprised, having expected the weather to be as low as -2 degrees.



TRIPS & VISITS TRIPS & VISITS

The next six days flew by, and by the time we were packing our bags back onto the coach we had all had an unforgettable experience. We had trekked up mountains to abseil, boulder and rock climbed; we had jostled down hills to jump and swim in an absolutely freezing glacier waterfall, which challenged us all but became the favourite experience of many; we had decked ourselves in wetsuits, shorts and buoyancy aids and battled the white water rapids of an Italian river; we had steadied our nerves on the Mont Blanc cable car only to reach the top and embark on a mass snowball fight, then thaw our frozen fingers with hot chocolate; we had worked together as a team to build rafts and compete against each other in a game of Kayak football; we had walked breathlessly up a hill to look at the ruins of a French castle and church; and we had laughed a lot.



While it was fun, it was not always easy, but the pupils were a credit to themselves and the School. They survived freezing water, tiring activities, rainy days, slugs in tents and, most surprisingly, a week without a television or games console! They were fun, friendly, interesting, willing, enthusiastic and polite. They were commended by Acorn staff and the coach drivers and they should not only be proud of what they accomplished, but also of how they presented themselves.



The trip will be running again next May for the current Year 9 and 10 pupils, and I am hoping it becomes a permanent fixture on the School's calendar. It provides pupils with a range of opportunities to work collaboratively and supportively, to learn new things, to take an interest in another country and to find something new that interests them. It really was an amazing experience and I am certain that it will continue to be so for many years.

*Miss A Elphick
Year 10 Progress Leader*

2016 Chemistry Trip to Bristol University

On Sunday 3 July, 46 students set off from the School for an intense three-day course in the undergraduate laboratories at Bristol University. Our first experience of Bristol was ZaZa Bazaars – a buffet of immense proportions.

There was food for everyone, no matter what their taste, and we certainly took advantage! Later that night we went out to explore the city, which left every single one of us very impressed. There was a buzz in the streets, even late on a Sunday night, which amazed me given our own experience of Southend at a similar time. Naturally, with university applications fast approaching, this was raising Bristol in my estimation.

The next day we hit the ground running

with an oscillating iodine clock challenge. Whilst A Level practical work is not everyone's cup of tea, the PhD students and university demonstrators ensured that there was a competitive twist to most of the tasks. There was also support available whenever it was needed, so whilst we were left to gain hands-on experience of some undergraduate skills, and the associated hazards, the experiments seldom went wrong.

Over the next three days, we had a mix of lectures, tours and practical tasks. It would be impossible for me to list everything, but a highlight for me was a presentation on the multi-billion pound UK fragrance industry and the complex chemistry that sits behind every bottle of Chanel No. 5. We then had the opportunity to design our own perfume, smelling our way through bottles of fruit extract, musk, whale vomit and the anal secretions of the civet cat – not something to turn your nose up at!

Aside from the liquid nitrogen, dry ice, colour changing urine and, of course, some audience participation with loud bangs, we learnt some serious Chemistry on the trip. Our third day comprised of a tour of the University's multi-million pound facilities and a series of workshops looking at a Chemists' toolbox – Nuclear Magnetic Resonance, Time-of-flight Mass Spectrometry, X-Ray Diffraction and Scanning Electron Microscopy where we saw in almost atomic detail the facial features of a gold-covered-fly. Our third and final day saw us utilise the skills we had learnt over the previous few days to prepare, separate and analyse a sample of Benzocaine, a local anaesthetic found in cough drops. The synthesis took a total of five hours and we had the opportunity to practise not only A Level core skills, but also to use some equipment that would normally be reserved for an undergraduate chemist.

Of course, after a heavy day in the lab it was only fair that we had the time to relax and celebrate our successes. The evening activities were brilliant! The group was split between the Puzzlair Escape Rooms and Laser Tag. The escape rooms involved a small band of heroes essentially locked into a room with only one way out – solve the myriad of hints, clues and puzzles in just one hour. Each

TRIPS & VISITS TRIPS & VISITS

room had a theme and I was lucky to experience the 'Poltergeist' room, from which we escaped with just 78 seconds remaining. Laser Tag was certainly less cerebral with every one of us drenched in sweat by the end of each match. For the next group of students attending the trip, I challenge you to defeat Mr Wightman and his dirty tactics; he aced both matches and remains the undefeated champion of laser tag. The final evening was spent celebrating Mr Hill ageing another year with a group meal.

Despite all this fun, it would be easy to assume that nothing was learnt, but I can wholeheartedly say that the experience was academically rewarding for me. I only realised how much I had learned once I had returned home and found myself lecturing my family about solvent extraction, the olfactory system and, of course, the secretion from that gland. The experience has been invaluable and will be sure to get a mention in my personal statement. I wholeheartedly recommend this to any aspiring chemist, scientist, or indeed anyone who wants to experience first-hand what University can offer.

*Miles Graham,
Y13*

Enrichment Trip to London Buddhist Centre Saturday 17 September

On Saturday 17 September, Dr Halsall and a colleague from the Religious Studies Department will take a group of 15 pupils from Years 9 and 10 to the



London Buddhist Centre in Bethnal Green. This will be our fourth visit, and is it primarily aimed at pupils who have clearly demonstrated that they are our most able pupils in Religious Studies, and therefore attendance on the trip is by invitation. Others, however, may apply to join the trip if it is not filled.

The day is directly linked to their curriculum, especially the new OCR GCSE specification, where pupils will build upon their Year 9 studies in the autumn term, learning how Buddhist teaching is lived out in an urban and diverse community such as East London. The London Buddhist Centre exists to promote Buddhist philosophy, ethics, and mindfulness, but there is no intention to persuade anyone to join them.

Srivati Skelton, the leader for the day, will be visiting WHSB later in the term, in order to provide bespoke teaching to a wider range of pupils, where there will be further opportunities in which to enrich pupil knowledge and experience. This has proved to be an invaluable opportunity for pupils to extend their learning beyond the classroom, and regardless of their faith background or none, all have learned something about themselves.

*Rev Dr M Halsall
Head of Religious Studies*

Adventure Island Physics Trip Saturday 8 October



The Physics Department is running a trip for the Year 13 Physics Students to Adventure Island in Southend-on-Sea. Students will have the opportunity to

enjoy the rides, whilst using their own electronic devices as data-loggers to take measurements of quantities such as acceleration and barometric pressure. They will then be able to solve Physics problems using their measurements. It promises to be an exciting and entertaining day, which will help the Year 13 Physicists put into context what they have learnt in the classroom.

The trip will take place on 8 October and the cost will be £17 per person. Please collect a letter from your Physics teacher and return it no later than 16 September.

*Mr K Dalby
Head of Physics*

Year 8 London Museums Visit Friday 23 September (Enrichment Day)



On Enrichment Day, 23 September, the Science Department will be taking the entirety of Year 8 to the Science Museum and the Natural History Museum in London. These are two of the finest museums in the world and they currently house exhibits such as the oldest steam engine; the Apollo 10 Command Module; and, in the Natural History Museum, a 32m long replica of a diplodocus skeleton, which was donated to the museum in 1905. This trip will help Year 8 pupils to contextualise what they learn in their Science lessons, in addition to being inspiring and enjoyable.

*Mr K Dalby
Head of Physics*

AND EVENTS DRAMA, LECTURES

Sixth Form Education Evening: Success at A Level **Tuesday 27 September**

The transition to the Sixth Form presents new challenges and opportunities to students. In many subjects, the concepts are at a considerably higher level than at GCSE and, in addition, the increased freedom in the Sixth Form requires a greater degree of maturity and focus on the part of the student. To help parents and carers support their daughters and sons through this transition, the School is organizing a Sixth Form Education Evening. We strongly encourage all Year 12 students to come with a member of their family (or more) to this event.

During the evening, there will be presentations from the Headmaster, Mr Sinnott (Year 12 Progress Leader), current Year 13 students and me. These talks will make clear the structure of the academic year, the expectations of the School, and will explain the support available to our Sixth Form students. Advice on setting up good study habits, and other practical tips for a successful Year 12, will be shared.

If as a parent or carer of a Year 12 student, you are keen to meet our staff and to find out the structure of the year, this is the opportunity to have your questions answered. We believe that as a result of coming you will be in a much stronger position as you guide, encourage and support your son or daughter through their A-Level courses.

While tailored specifically for Year 12 students and their families, other members of our School community are welcome if they think that they would find the information useful.

Dr A Machacek
Director of Sixth Form Studies

Sixth Form History: The Stuarts **Dr Gabriel Glickman** **Wednesday 28 September**

On Wednesday 28 September, Dr Gabriel Glickman (Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge) will talk to A Level History students on Religion and Politics in the 17th Century.

Without doubt, religious controversy and debate helped to shape the political discourse of what proved to be a highly turbulent century. Many of the issues originated in the Elizabethan Church 'settlement' – once praised by historians for its apparent moderation – which failed to satisfy the ambitions of key religious constituencies. Arguably, the Glorious Revolution towards the end of the century "settled" religious questions by abandoning for good the idea of a national 'confessional state'.

Sixth Form Black Holes and Gravitational Waves Lecture and Saturn - A Beautiful Planet Lecture: **Dr Carolin Crawford** **Thursday 29 September**

Professor Carolin Crawford, Astrophysics Fellow at Emmanuel College, Cambridge and member of the Institute of Astronomy, will be in School on Thursday 29 September. She will be speaking to Sixth Form Physics students from 3:45pm to 5:30pm about Black Holes and Gravitational Waves. Dr Crawford's second talk, on Saturn and her rings, will be for a general audience and all are welcome to join us at 7.00pm for this talk. Tickets can be reserved for £2 for adults (no charge for pupils) at <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/>

Sixth Form Spectroscopy and Chemical History of the Universe Talks: **Dr Claire Vallance** **Wednesday 5 October**

Dr Claire Vallance, Chemistry Fellow at Hertford College, Oxford, will be visiting the School on Wednesday 5 October and she will be talking, in the afternoon, to Sixth Form Chemistry students about Mass Spectroscopy. We are delighted that Dr Vallance will be remaining with us after school on 5 October to deliver a lecture on The Chemical History of the Universe and Earth in particular.

PiP (Poetry in Performance) CLUB Celebrate Shakespeare 400 **Wednesday 23 November**



The PiP Club re-emerges from the summer recess to tap into the unflagging interest in the Country's greatest playwright against the backdrop of this commemorative year, the 400th since Shakespeare's death. Born in the era of Elizabeth and dying in the Jacobean period, Shakespeare's life witnessed societies torn apart by social and political conflict, espionage and plague. We will be trying to capture the exuberance as well as the brooding turbulence of Shakespeare's dramatic imagination in scenes performed by students and staff. History, comedy, tragedy and romance will all feature in a wide range of exciting performances. Musicians, actors and dancers will be in the Main Hall performing in the round for your entertainment and delight as we try to recreate a world long since gone and yet, inescapably, one which profoundly touches our minds and hearts today.

Tickets for the PiP Club Evening can be reserved at <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/> at a cost of £5 for adults (no charge for pupils).

Mr J Allan-Smith
Second in English

S AND EVENTS DRAMA, LECTURE

Year 8 English Civil War Day: Past People Friday 25 November

On Friday 25 November, the School plays host once more to the Past People re-enactment group which will join Year 8 pupils for a day of lectures and artefact handling relating to the English Civil War. In addition to opportunities for pupils to put on the armour and equipment of a 17th Century soldier, learn pike drill, practice how to fire an artillery piece and hear a lecture from one of the Country's leading military historians, there will be professional re-enactors 'in character' to question and explore what it was like to live and fight in the Civil Wars and to find out more about what motivated participants in this extraordinary 'war without an enemy'.

Year 9 Eyes Deep in Mud and Digging the Trenches: The Archaeology of the Western Front, Redux Lectures: Mr Andy Robertshaw Thursday 15 December

On Thursday 15 December, Mr Andy Robertshaw, military historian and star of numerous TV history and archaeology documentaries, and Military Advisor on Spielberg's Warhorse, will visit the School to take Year 9 through a presentation on the soldiers' experience of the First World War. As usual on such occasions, we are delighted that Mr Robertshaw will stay to present a talk to staff, students and parents in the evening at 7.00pm. This will be entitled Digging the Trenches and is an update of a talk he delivered at WHSB some years ago, covering recent discoveries, and he will also look at the draw of First World War battlefield sites to tourists and visitors, and touch upon the phenomenon of 'dark tourism'. Places for the evening lecture should be reserved at <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/> and cost £2 for adults (no charge for pupils).

Charles I - Hero and Villain: Dr David Smith Wednesday 7 December

On Wednesday 7 December, Dr David Smith (Selwyn College, Cambridge) will talk to our Advanced Level History students on Charles I: Hero or Villain. In the argument about the role of individuals in History versus the influence of more long-term social, economic and political changes, there can be few more striking examples than Charles I and Oliver Cromwell. Before Christmas, Dr David Smith will tackle the former and, in the New Year, will return to speak about the latter.

Visits to the National Gallery and the National Portrait Gallery December 2016

In December, we will be visiting the National Gallery and National Portrait Gallery with Year 12 History students to explore the representation of power and monarchy through art in the 17th Century. The centre piece will be Van Dyck's Equestrian Portrait of Charles I but we will also visit the Banqueting House which houses the great ceiling painting The Apotheosis of James I. Last year's inaugural trip was well received and additionally gave A level Art students a valuable opportunity to visit two of the nation's finest galleries, something which we will hope to repeat. The exact date of this trip will be announced in due course.

*Mr R Stevens
Head of Politics*

Literature Lectures

All Sixth Form Literature students and any other interested parties from other Year Groups who have a passion for poetry are very welcome to attend a series of weekly lunchtime lectures in W31, the Lecture Theatre, running across the whole of the Autumn Term.

Poems taken from The Oxford Book of War Poetry, one of our Year 13 texts this year, and other famous poems taken

more generally from various sources and periods of English Literature will form the focus of the lectures. Mr Allan-Smith intends these sessions to serve as supplementary material to classroom study and he will aim to develop new critical approaches by looking in depth at the social, political and historical backgrounds of the poems, as well as analysing their language effects in detail. Each lecture will be accompanied by a PowerPoint presentation and hand-outs will be available to take away at the end.

*Mr J Allan-Smith
Second in English*

The HOT Club



The Higher Order Thinking (HOT) Club will reignite this term with students from the school making lunchtime presentations once a fortnight in the Westcliff Lecture Theatre, around themes that galvanise their academic interests beyond the curriculum. In the past, great interest in the Club brought large numbers of Sixth Form students and others along to our discussions on such varied topics as time and the eleventh dimension, genetics, exoplanets and their importance, plus a wide range of other philosophical and Humanities-based themes. Our first meeting, during which we will sound out the interests of potential speakers, in order to draw up an agenda, will take place early in the autumn term. All students from Years 10 to 13 are welcome to join our meetings, which will start promptly at 1.00pm every other Tuesday.

*Mr J Allan-Smith
Second in English*

Slices of Pi: Mathematics at WHSB

The Mathematics Department is once again 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, pupils should refer to the noticeboards in the foyer of the Mathematics block. 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.

Curriculum Changes

The Mathematics Department is excited about the recent curriculum changes we have implemented and we will be teaching Pre-U Mathematics and Pre-U Further Mathematics to Year 12 students this year, alongside the modular Advanced Level we have offered since it was introduced in 2001. We expect around 60 students to take the Pre-U course, with around 20 of these also studying Pre-U Further Mathematics, as well as a large number of students studying Advanced Level.

Our Year 7 pupils experienced a different curriculum to those who have studied in the past, with the explicit introduction of taught problem-solving skills, loosely based on Pólya's famous work, *How to Solve it* (1945). As pupils have been increasingly taught higher level content in primary schools, we have been able to spend less time teaching content and more time teaching skills, better preparing them for the new GCSE Curriculum, as well as Further Mathematics. This will continue into Year 8 and Year 9, and we expect our Junior Mathematics Challenge results for Year 8 next year to reflect the pupils' work.

Junior Mathematics Challenge Results and Follow-On Rounds

This year was the first time the Mathematics Department entered Year 7 in the Junior Mathematics Challenge, and it was undoubtedly a success. The majority attained a certificate and several qualified for one of the follow-on rounds. Year 8 also excelled, with several impressive individual performances. Overall, from both Year 7 and Year 8, 44 students achieved a Gold certificate, 94 a Silver and 103 a Bronze. Twelve pupils qualified for the Junior Kangaroo follow-on round, placing them in the top 2% of candidates nationally. These were: Sammy Joujou, Stanley Upton, David Jackson, Graham Young, Samson Main, Jonathon Huggett, Dineth Wickremabandu, Joseph James, Justus

Genthe, Alfie Risk, Oliver McCarthy and Zhong Wang. Two of our pupils were placed in the top 0.5% nationally: Nivasan Loganathan in Year 7, and George Jefferson in Year 8.

Nivasan and George each achieved a Merit in the Olympiad. Well done to both boys – this is an exceptional achievement which demonstrates the calibre of our pupils. We look forward to seeing how Nivasan performs next year, and George, in future challenges. The boys who sat the Junior Kangaroo also returned impressive scores, with all boys deserving congratulations. Zhong was particularly outstanding, with his result placing him in the top 25%. Well done to all those who took part.

We will, of course, run the challenge again this year so if you are looking for any extra help, or to improve your scores, then please ask your class teacher for extra resources or join the Junior Mentoring Scheme which looks at problem-solving strategies and interesting questions.

Senior Mathematics Challenge Tuesday 8 November

The Mathematics Department is once again 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, pupils should refer to the noticeboards in the foyer of the Mathematics block.

On Tuesday 8 November 2016, all of the Year 13 Mathematicians and all of the Year 12 Pre-U Mathematicians will be taking the Senior Mathematics Challenge. This paper contains 25 multiple choice questions which will give them an opportunity to demonstrate their problem-solving skills. This is a national competition and the top 40% will gain a certificate. The certificates are graded Gold, Silver and Bronze, and are awarded in the ratio 1 : 2 : 3 respectively. The top 2% will qualify for the Senior Kangaroo and the top 0.5% for the British Mathematical Olympiad.

We wish our mathematicians the best of luck in the challenge. If any student would like extra resources to prepare further for this examination, please ask your

Mathematics teacher or sign up for the STEP club or the Senior Mentoring Scheme. Resources are also available online on the UKMT website.

Year 7 Southend Trip

On Friday 8 July, the whole of Year 7 went to Southend for a Mathematics and Geography field trip. The Mathematics portion of the day focused on data collection to be utilised later for statistical analysis in the classroom. The pupils were given zones of the high street where they needed to track the number of people entering and leaving. There was also a questionnaire to be carried out and by the end of the day every pupil had gathered the confidence to approach at least one member of the public. We were fortunate with the weather and it was an enjoyable day for all involved.

Senior Team Mathematics Challenge

Four of our best problem-solvers, two in Year 12 and two in Year 13, will be competing once again this year to win the Senior Team Mathematics Challenge. Last year we had a good degree of success, with our team of Sebastian Mok, Andrew Lo, Anuj Patel and Oliver Croysdill getting through to the final in London. This year, Anuj Patel and Oliver Croysdill will be leading the team with hopes of gaining a podium position. If you wish to represent WHSB as part of the team and are currently in Year 12, there will be an internal competition at the School in October. Further information will be provided closer to the time, but please note that you must join as a pair and will be expected to complete difficult problem solving questions from past challenges.

STEP club

For Sixth Form students who are looking for a challenge, or preparing for additional entrance examinations for University, the Mathematics department offers the STEP Club. As part of Wednesday afternoon activities, students have been meeting to study the methods required to pass the

Slices of Pi: Mathematics at WHSB

infamous STEP examinations at Cambridge, focusing mainly on STEP I, but improving techniques that will help with STEP II and STEP III. So far, students have studied geometrical problems and looked at angle properties, shape properties and reduction to algebraic equations. This included studying proof by induction, proof by contradiction and proof by counter-example. After this they studied number theory, looking at Diophantine equations (which are equations with only integer solutions) and general number properties. Finally they studied graph sketching, and the considerations required to sketch accurate graphs. Anyone in the Sixth Form who is looking to take Mathematics at University is encouraged to sign up for STEP Club.

Architecture Day

On Wednesday 22 June 2016, all Year 12 Mathematicians participated in the annual Architecture Workshop. Students have consistently enjoyed participating in the workshop and, with some slight alterations, the workshop this year became a competition for the first time. Students were required to work in groups to complete two challenges. The first challenge required students to build the tallest tower that could carry the weight of an apple. Whilst this sounds simple, the building materials for their towers consisted of just spaghetti and jelly babies – hardly the best construction materials! This challenge has been used as a group interview exercise at university interviews for courses such as engineering and, needless to say, the students found the task a significant challenge. The second challenge involved students working together in groups to build the longest free-standing bridge using bamboo sticks, wooden dowels and elastic bands. As always, there were some structural catastrophes but some groups managed to build strong and successful bridges. The overall winners of the competition were Wrichik Biswas and William Brookes – well done to both of you! The students found the Architecture Workshop a most



enjoyable and worthwhile experience. The Mathematics Department look forward to offering the Architecture Workshop to students in the future.

Mentoring, Classroom Assistants, Help Clubs and Maths Angels

We continue to provide support for pupils in Mathematics in the usual ways. The first port of call for support is usually mentoring. The Mathematics Department is thankful for the many dedicated students who make Mathematics mentoring so successful. Last year, many students gave up their own time to mentor others who encountered difficulties with their mathematical studies. These meetings usually take place during the lunch break at a mutually convenient time, and can be used to consolidate understanding of any topic, or go over difficulties that have arisen from set tasks or unit tests. Last year, we had some outstanding mentors, whose efforts had a significant impact on their mentees. Notable mentors include: Liam Lau who was exceptional at motivating pupils in the lower School; Daniel Sanders, who helped with GCSE success, marking past papers and giving excellent feedback; and Adam Piggott, who also conscientiously mentored towards GCSE examinations. The mentors have spoken of the satisfaction they gained in supporting others and if you would like to become a mentor, please see Mr Doherty as soon as possible. Conversely, if you would like a mentor to give you the additional one-to-one support in Mathematics, to extend your mathematical knowledge, or to assist you with those difficult questions, please see Mr Doherty as soon as possible.

We also arrange classroom assistants to work with individuals in class, or small groups who would benefit from some additional support. This can be particularly helpful to classes who are beginning a new and challenging course, such as Year 10. Those volunteering gained valuable

experiences from the roles and learnt how to adapt in the moment when explaining different topics. The younger pupils also greatly appreciate the additional support and enjoy having older students in their classes to help them. Last year, Jack Scrutton was a great help in the classroom, being reliable and supportive of younger pupils.

This year we will be welcoming a fresh group of Sixth Form students to begin as classroom assistants. Hopefully there will be a wide selection of new faces willing to join us in educating the younger years through group work and one-to-one sessions. Students have previously found that their own knowledge has deepened through explanation to others and by having to recall topics and techniques from their own younger years. We hope that the new Sixth Form students will grasp the opportunity to join us, and the Mathematics Department is happy to talk to any students that would like more details. Any Sixth Form student who would like to sign up to be a classroom assistant (this can be your Wednesday afternoon activity) should speak to the Sixth Form Pastoral Tutor.

Our help clubs continue to run this year, with staff available during four lunchtimes each week to help pupils with any topics in which they would like to reinforce their understanding. Any problems with homework, classwork, unit tests or revision can be brought along. Full details will be published in the Mathematics block, in registers, and on noticeboards.

We are still working in partnership with the SHSG 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 Maths Angels are actively involved in helping disadvantaged young people in our local area. Both James Quigley and Nikhil Antony have been highly praised by Mrs Imbush (who runs the scheme) for being dedicated mentors.

Last year, we had a number of Mathematics Prefects who assisted with activities in the Mathematics Department. Mathematics Prefects assisted with Help Club sessions, organised Mathematics problems for year groups and assisted with Open Evenings. If you wish to become a Mathematics Prefect please write a letter of application to Mr Doherty explaining why you consider you would be suitable. It is worth noting that you must also be a Mathematics Mentor to become a Mathematics Prefect.

*Mrs A Marsh,
Head of Mathematics*



Construction Day: South Essex College

On Tuesday 14 June, 30 Year 9 pupils were selected to attend the Construction and Engineering day that took place at South Essex College. It was a very beneficial and worthwhile trip that was enjoyed by all who attended.

Upon our arrival we, along with two other schools, were given a welcome speech informing us what was required in the Construction and Engineering field. This was important for many of us as it gave us something to work towards for our future careers. Then we were split off into four groups and we began our day.

Throughout the day we completed four salient activities, in each of which my peers and I learnt something new. Our first activity was organised by Redhouse. Here we were informed of the process of building a house and of the various stages involved. In addition, we were also told about the different groups of people involved in the construction of a house. The activity leader also shared some of his experiences with us as well as explaining the career opportunities available in the construction industry. Despite this session not involving any activity, we enjoyed it immensely and found it most beneficial.

Our next session was more practical as we worked in small teams of 3 to 4 to design an app for a certain job. My team was given the job of 'architect' and, as such, we had to design and present our app. This was harder than I was expecting as we had to supply all the needs of an architect in an app, and we also had to explain how it was possible. Also in this session, we were lucky enough to be able to try a new piece of technology called VR (Virtual Reality). We each took it in turns to try on and experience a pair of VR glasses. Whilst doing this, we incorporated some of our experiences into our task, and I personally believe that my team's idea, along with those of many other teams, was extremely successful. After our second activity, we had a 30 minute lunch break where WHSB pupils all went to McDonalds. After lunch, we continued with the final two activities. The penultimate activity was tremendous fun, as well as difficult, as we had a certain time and a certain amount of materials to build a freestanding tower. The teams had many exceptional ideas all of which were good in their own way. From the paper pipe and wire that we had, my team managed to build a 2m tower that was well supported, however another group managed to build a 3m tower in a shorter amount of time. Despite the results, the session was very beneficial and it got WHSB pupils thinking about support within structures.

Our final activity of the day was a Google Sketch-Up lesson in which we designed a house using many different tools. This was not new to any WHSB pupil, however it was great fun to design a building using this technology.

In general the trip to South Essex College was a huge success, and a fun and beneficial visit. Any pupil who has the opportunity to go must do so, as it is a fantastic learning experience.

Dhilan Patel, 9E

TeenTech Awards

Early in the academic year, two sets of Year 10 pupils achieved success after entering a competition run by TeenTech, an



organisation which aims to enthuse young people about Science, Engineering and Technology. TeenTech is an industry-led initiative which runs a number of competitions and events throughout the year during which pupils benefit from exhibits and challenges run by leading organisations. WHSB student Adwaith Palat embarked on an attempt to develop The Palat Engine, with the only waste product of combustion being almost pure water. Rather than being driven through the use of conventional and environmentally damaging fuels, Adwaith set about using a mixture of liquid and solid sodium, an element which combusts when exposed to water, to power the engine. After the regional stage, Adwaith was awarded a Gold Award, but then progressed to the TeenTech Finals in London, where he went on to win the national competition in the Energy category.

Gold Awards were also achieved by Alex Monk and Anton Haiser who entered the competition with their fashionable head protection. They considered that many teenagers perceive a bike helmet as looking un-cool and so they focused their energies into designing a woolly hat that can protect your head during collision through the use of nitrogen.

IDEALondon

A group of eight Year 8 pupils attended an event run by TeenTech at the IDEALondon centre. The day involved them participating in a number of hands-on demonstrations, including video conferencing and programming a Raspberry Pi to choose music. However many of them reported their favourite demonstration as being the one where they tried on a prototype Virtual Reality head set and were asked to give feedback so the developers could improve on their design.

The afternoon consisted of the team working together to design a product which could solve a problem of their choice. WHSB decided to design a home security system which allows you to remotely check whether your doors and windows are locked. Pitching their ideas in a format similar to the BBC's Dragons Den, and against teams studying for their GCSEs and A Levels, the pupils performed admirably and were highly commended by the judge, despite their relative inexperience.

Rocket Car Challenge

Two teams of Year 10 pupils are competing against each other in order to be selected to represent the School at the Model Rocket Car Challenge. This involves designing and building a car which is to be propelled along a wire in an attempt to be the fastest in the measured mile. Mimicking the attempts of the Bloodhound SSC, an international collaboration which aims to break the land speed record and hit their 1000mph target, last year's competition had model cars travelling at over 300mph, with this

STEM ACTIVITIES STEM ACTIVITI



year's teams attempting to break that record. The two teams will face off against each other at school, with the fastest being entered into the final to be held at Anglia Ruskin University.

UKAYRoC Youth Rocketry Challenge

A group of Year 10 pupils entered the UKAYRoC Youth Rocketry Challenge, which involved designing a rocket to be fired into the air, that had to separate in order to deploy a parachute and safely land its pay-load (an egg) without it breaking on impact. The pupils had to design every aspect of the rocket including the size, number and arrangement of the rockets to be used for propulsion. They then had to use their own intuition to work out how to make the rocket separate and the parachute to deploy. After all this, they had to tune it so it would fly for 44-46 seconds in total and reach exactly 825 feet in altitude. The team managed to hit both targets precisely – an achievement not matched by any other team. However due to having to compromise on weight, the team broke their egg which resulted in their disqualification. Next year's team will have to reflect more on the safety of their payload.

Royal Institution Road Show – 'Exploding Food'



In January, the Royal Institution: Science visited the School to give a presentation on food, where Year 7 pupils were invited to

participate in hands-on demonstrations designed to illustrate how food interacts with the body. This involved designing an experimental method to determine the amount of energy in various food sources. The main experiment involved food being set on fire and pupils observing the dramatic release of energy. They also witnessed an experiment replicating the stages of digestion in order to illustrate the nature of this within the human body.

Mr H Tresidder, Teacher of Physics

Teen Tech City

TeenTech City 2016, London's most inspiring Science and Technology event ran for a 5th year in The Copper Box at the Olympic Park. Over 200 scientists, engineers and technologists were welcomed to the Copper Box Arena to share a day of challenges and experiments with Year 8 and Year 9 pupils from schools across London.

A group of 12 pupils from WHSB attended the event and were given a very carefully timetabled and immersive experience, giving a real insight into the industries of the future and the skills they will need in order to take advantage of them.

Mr R Easby, Physics Technician

Rampaging Chariots 2016

After weeks of building and testing their remote controlled robot, Team Sumo headed to Selex for the annual Rampaging Chariots Competition on Saturday 2 July. Mr Moore was optimistic as the team had constructed a reliable robot and had skilled operators – a vital combination for the trials they would be facing on the day. The first competition was Sumo which is a head to head battle to push your competitor's robot off the arena platform. A combination of skill and luck saw the team progress easily to the quarter finals, casting aside local rivals WHSG with ease in the heats. WHSB was eventually eliminated in a gruelling battle, but sustained little damage, so still had high hopes for the obstacle course.

Jack Stiles took the control in the Obstacle course and delivered what can only be described as a 'Demonstration' round as he soared through the course in 64 seconds, without picking up a single penalty. He proved the reliability of the robot, and his skill as a handler, as he defeated Southend High School for Boys in another local derby. Given his earlier performances, it was no surprise that Jack took home the trophy, with a blistering run of 54 seconds. In my nine years at this event, I have never seen such a controlled and consistent display.

The afternoon saw the Football competition and we were not left wanting for action. With an easy victory taking us through to the quarter finals, a particularly nasty 'tackle' left us with little control and it was there that the competition would end for us.

The team, consisting of Jack Stiles, Anthony Haiser and Alexandre Monk proved themselves to be skilled engineers in the build-up and demonstrated resilience when faced with problems on the day. Congratulations to them all!

Mrs K Mumford

Assistant Head: Director of Lower School Studies

House System Report 2015-2016

Last academic year was very busy for the House System. Throughout the year, events were completed in Football, Music, Debating, Public Speaking, Raft Building, Table Tennis, University Challenge, Geology, Basketball, Rugby, Geography, Rowing, Netball, Golf, Chess, Badminton, Short Tennis, Tennis, Cricket, Spelling, Drama and an Economics event. All this activity ran along with the Annual Sports Day event that was very well attended. I am sure you will agree that 23 opportunities to participate for their House provides a huge provision in which all pupils should get involved.

The competition was very close until January when Kestrel House created a substantial lead. However, some constant shifting in positions between Osprey and Harrier meant that the competition remained fierce.

At the time of writing the, positions are as follows: Kestrel 4941, Osprey 4579, Harrier 4476 and Merlin 4302. However, as usual, the House Drama and Sports Day events can have a significant impact on the overall placings.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank last year's House Captains, Vice-Captains and, of course, Heads of House. These events would not run without their hard work.

Pupils are reminded that their House collects points for participation in all of the events, as well as for winning. There are lots of events already in the calendar, but if there is not an event for you, please pass on any ideas for future events to your House Captains.

House Golf 2016

The young golfers of WHSB, along with their dads and, in a couple of cases, mums, made their way to the Garons Park Golf Complex on the afternoon of Friday 17 June to compete in the annual House Golf competition. We were joined by some familiar faces and a few new competitors as Merlin, Osprey, Harrier and Kestrel teams went head to head in Texas Scramble or Golfer Putter pairs.

Kestrel and Osprey had a head start in the competition for participation alone, so Merlin and Harrier had much to do on the day in order to maximise their points. The Nearest the Pin competition was nearly a hole-in-one as rookie player Jack Burden bumped and ran his ball to within two feet of the hole for an easy birdie putt, securing five bonus points for Kestrel. It is with mixed emotions that I report that, despite putting up a brave defence of my Longest Drive title, I was happy to have been outdriven by Mr Tim Turner, who notched up the five bonus points for Harrier, who retain an unbeaten record in the Longest Drive Competition.

The final scores were, for the most part, impressive, especially given the novice players in the field. It took 26 points played over 9 holes to win the Texas Scramble Competition, with Drew and Mr Nicholas Johnson taking home the trophy and the maximum points for Osprey. A shameful seven points claimed the Golfer Putter Pairs title and Mrs Burden and I are proud to share

custody of that trophy on behalf of Harrier.

Once the final points were tallied, it appeared that there was little competition for last place; Marcus and Dr Kelly were the sole representatives from Merlin and they played exceptionally well, but it would have taken nothing short of a miracle from them to claim anything more than fourth given the participation levels from the other teams. Harrier came third, just two points behind Osprey, and Kestrel claimed the overall title with a one point advantage.

Mrs K Mumford

Assistant Head: Director of Lower School Studies

National School Equestrian Association Sunday April 3 2016



Natasha and Rangewood Second Act successfully clear a fence in the challenging smaller ring.

On 3 April 2016, three students from WHSB (Natasha Webb, George Mayson and Noah Waterfield) participated in an inter-school Dressage event. The students had to present a display of their control over their horses by performing a series of movements, which were merited based upon the accuracy of the movement, impulsion and response of the horse.

For the team, it was their first competition and incredibly challenging, since they competed against 16, more experienced teams, in addition to Dressage being the teams' weakest discipline. Despite this disposition, the team performed



Noah and Clover show precision in their speed round.

admirably, scoring 54%, 64% and 52% respectively, in comparison to first place with 74% and sixth place (last ranked position) with 68%.

With a promising start to the National School Equestrian Association, the WHSB equestrian team left the Dressage event eager for their next competition.

On 19 June 2016, two members of WHSB's Equestrian team – Natasha Webb and Noah Waterfield – competed at the NSEA's Southeast Regional Show Jumping Qualifier. Both students had to clear a course of coloured jumps, completing as quickly as they could. Once again, there was very stiff competition from other School teams, but our two competitors showed their talent, grit and determination in true style. Whilst Natasha faced the challenge of a smaller arena and an uncooperative mount, in his two rounds, Noah knocked one pole and then two in the second round.

Noah and Natasha set a fantastic example for the School, where they both remained cool and calm competitors. Perhaps most importantly, both students showed themselves as true horsemen and women.

*Miss C Slater
Teacher of History*

School Cricket

In Cricket, it has been a mixed year with successes in some year groups and some disappointments in others. At the time of writing, the Year 7 team is in the Essex shield semi-final, as well as the local cup final. The Year 8 team had a good run in the Essex Plate, eventually losing in the semi-finals. Unfortunately, the Year 9 team failed to win the Essex Cup title for a third consecutive time, losing to a very strong Barking Abbey team. However this team is well placed to secure the local league and cup titles. Our Year 10 team has had a mixed season with some victories, but also some disappointing performances.

Tennis at WHSB

The summer term has seen the continuation of the 'School of Tennis' programme. Our elite tennis squad receives weekly training at Westcliff Hardcourt Tennis Club, whilst our participation players have received coaching at lunch times. The School also ran a house tennis tournament for the first time on Sports Day, with over 200 pupils participating. Kestrel became our Key Stage 3 Tennis champions. We congratulate eight pupils who had been regularly participating in the tennis programme and who were rewarded for their efforts with tickets to Day 2 of Wimbledon. The pupils, accompanied by Mr Phillips and Mrs Burden enjoyed an excellent day of tennis on Court One, with the highlight of the day being Stan Wawrinka's opening round match.

As I move on to a new post at an International school in Malaysia, I would like to thank the pupils for all their hard work over the season. I would like to give all the Sports students my best wishes for next season, with the commencement of a full winter programme, and I hope many of you continue to play sport and exercise into adulthood.

*Mr D Phillips
Head of Physical Education*

AUTUMN TERM 2016 CALENDAR

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



AUTUMN TERM

AUTUMN TERM

Thur & Fri, 1 & 2 Sept
Mon 5 Sept
Fri 9 Sept
Mon 12 Sept

Thurs 15 Sept
Sat 17 Sept

Wed 21 Sept

Thurs 22 Sept

Fri 23 Sept
Fri & Sat, 23 & 24 Sept
Tues 27 Sept
Wed 28 Sept

Thurs 29 Sept

Sat 1 Oct
Wed 5 Oct

Thurs 6 Oct
Fri 7 Oct

Sat 8 Oct

Mon 10 Oct

Tues 11 Oct

Thurs 13 Oct

Fri 14 Oct
Wed 19 Oct

Thurs 20 Oct

Sun-Tues, 23-25 Oct
w/c 24-28 Oct inc
Mon 31 Oct
Tues 1 Nov

Thurs 3 Nov

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS

AUTUMN TERM BEGINS, 8.40am

OWA Dinner
Year 7 Meet & Greet followed by PA
AGM, 6.30pm
Year 10 Education Evening, 7.30pm
11+ Entrance Examinations
Buddhist Centre Visit, 8.30am-5.00pm
Year 7 Helping Parents Help their
Sons, 4.00pm-6.00pm
Year 9 Helping Parents Help Their
Sons, 4.00pm-6.00pm

ENRICHMENT DAY

DoE Bronze Assessment
Sixth Form Education Evening, 7.30pm
Dr G Glickman - Sixth Form History
Lecture, 1.55pm-3.35pm
Prof Crawford - Sixth Form Physics
Lecture, 3.45pm-5.30pm,
Evening Lecture, 7.00pm
WCGC: CCF Day, 8.30am-4.00pm
Dr C Vallance - Sixth Form
Chemistry Lecture, 3.45pm-5.00pm
Autumn Chamber Recital, 7.30pm

Year 12 Phase 1 Reports Issued

Year 10 Visit to Bletchley Park,
8.00am-4.00pm
Year 12 Geologists Folkestone Visit,
8.30am-6.00pm
Year 13 Physicists visit Adventure
Island, 11.00am-4.00pm
Sixth Form Visit to Palace of
Westminster

Year 11 Geographers visit Walton on
the Naze, 8.45am-3.15pm

Year 11 Geographers visit Walton on
the Naze, 8.45am-3.15pm

CCF Interest Meeting for Year 9
Parents, 7.30pm-8.30pm

Year 13 Phase 1 Reports Issued

Open Day / Evening for Year 6
Passes only, 2.30pm-4.00pm /
7.00pm-8.30pm

Years 7 and 11 Phase 1 Reports Issued

Philharmonia Concert, Royal Festival
Hall, 5.30pm-11.00pm
CDO's Alumni Network Social Event,
Davy's Wine Bar, London,
5.30pm-8.00pm

Year 12 Physicists Visit CERN

AUTUMN HALF TERM

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

SPEECH DAY, 7.45pm-9.30pm –

School closes at 12.50pm

German Exchange Students Arrive

Fri 4 Nov

Mon 7 Nov

Tues 8 Nov
Wed 9 Nov

Thurs 10 Nov
Fri 11 Nov

Mon 14 Nov

Thurs 17 Nov

Fri 18 Nov
Sat 19 Nov

Mon 21 Nov

Wed 23 Nov
Fri 25 Nov

Sat 26 Nov

Mon 28 Nov
Mon 5 Dec
Wed 7 Dec

Thurs 8 Dec

Fri 9 Dec

Thurs 15 Dec

Fri 16 Dec

Mon 19 Dec
Wed 21 Dec

Sat 31 Dec

Thurs 5 Jan 2017

Year 9 Phase 1 Reports Issued

Selected Year 11 English pupils visit
Oxford, 8.30am-6.00pm

Year 8 PSHE off-timetable: Prince
Charming Production, 9.15am-10.30am

Year 13 Parents' Evening,
4.00pm-6.00pm

Senior Mathematics Challenge
**Sixth Form Open Evening for
External Candidates**, 7.00pm-9.30pm

French Exchange Students Arrive

Annual Remembrance Service,
8.40am-10.00am

Year 12 Parents' Meeting,
4.00pm-6.00pm

Autumn Sinfonia Concert,
7.30pm-9.30pm

Year 8 Phase 1 Reports Issued

WCGC: Creative Day, 8.30am-4.00pm
England v Fiji Rugby at Twickenham,
9.30am-7.00pm

Year 13 Formative Examinations –
All week

PIP Club Evening, 7.30pm-9.00pm

Year 10 Phase 1 Reports Issued

Year 8 English Civil War Day,
9.15am-3.35pm

PA Winter Ball, 7.00pm-12.30am

England v Argentina Rugby at
Twickenham, 9.30am-7.00pm

Year 11 Trial Examinations – All week

Year 7 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm-6.00pm

Dr D Smith - Year 12 History
Lecture, 1.55pm-3.35pm

Choir visit St Mary's & St Michael's,
London, 3.40pm-10.30pm

Ski Trip Parents' Briefing Meeting,
7.30pm-9.00pm

Geology Conference, 9.00am-4.00pm

Christmas with The Big Band,
7.30pm-10.30pm

Mr A Robertshaw History Lecture,
7.00pm – 9.00pm

Year 13 Phase 2 Reports Issued

Year 11 Geologists Visit to the Earth
Galleries, 8.45am-5.30pm

CAROL SERVICE, 7.30pm-10.30pm

Year 11 Trial Results Report Issued

AUTUMN TERM ENDS, 2.45pm

PA visit to Robinson Crusoe, Cliffs
Pavilion, Southend, 10.30am

SPRING TERM BEGINS, 8.40am