



Westcliff High School
for Boys

The Westcliff Diary

T: 01702 475443 E: office@whsb.essex.sch.uk W: www.whsb.essex.sch.uk

ISSUE 84 / SUMMER 2018



IN THIS ISSUE:

HOUSE SNOW SCULPTURE COMPETITION

WESTCLIFF AT THE FRINGE

ART, CRAFT & DESIGN EVENING

VISITS TO BATTLEFIELDS, CERN, GERMANY, AND BLETCHLEY PARK



FROM THE DESK OF THE HEADMASTER

STAFF CHANGES DURING THE SPRING TERM 2018

There have been a small number of changes to staffing during the Spring Term 2018.

Mrs Barber (Part-Time Teacher of Biology) went on maternity leave in January and is being covered by internal rearrangements to the School timetable. Ms Bellinghausen will be leaving us to take up a position as Head of Modern Foreign Languages (MFL) at another school at the start of the Summer Term. We thank her for her service and wish her well. We have sufficient capacity to maintain the continuity of teaching for the Summer Term and we shall be making some MFL teaching appointments for the Autumn Term. Mr Keenan, an Old Westcliffian, will join the School at the start of the Summer Term to teach English.

I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr Williams on his recent appointment as Deputy Headmaster at WHSB and to thank him for his superb work as the Acting Deputy Headmaster.

FORTHCOMING PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

Later in this edition of The Westcliff Diary, Mr Farrell, Head of Middle School, provides advice for Year 11 pupils as they approach their GCSE Examinations. This is, of course, a highly demanding term for pupils in both Years 11 and 13, and Mr Farrell's advice is equally relevant for students approaching A Level examinations. The School's Middle School and Sixth Form Pastoral Offices have extensive experience of assisting pupils through this demanding period and pupils and parents should not hesitate to contact the School if they have concerns or wish to seek our advice.

Once again, the School has provided a broad range of Examination Revision Classes for our GCSE and A Level students during the Easter holiday, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of staff involved in organizing those classes. Students have also been provided with guidance and resources which should be utilised in the organization of their revision.

I give all our GCSE and A Level students my best wishes for their examinations this summer.

WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS CENTENARY 1920 - 2020

The School will celebrate its Centenary in 2020 and an interesting introduction to the School's early beginnings appears later in this edition of The Westcliff Diary. Work on the planning of our Centenary celebrations in 2020 is well underway, and we have established a Centenary Committee, and a Centenary Team, both of which will support the arrangements. Our pupils and the staff have been consulted in the planning stages, and their ideas will be shared with the Centenary Committee during the Summer Term.

The objectives for the Centenary have been agreed by the Centenary Committee. These include providing opportunities for the entire WHSB community (past and present) to mark the year. We also hope to establish a Centenary Fund to support an agreed project(s), and we plan to fully exploit the educational opportunities arising from the Centenary for our pupils. The Centenary will also allow an opportunity to further strengthen our links to the local community and our alumni.

I am delighted to share with the WHSB community that Dr Alan White has agreed to write a book on the history of the School, and this will be published in our Centenary year. Many of you will know Dr White, a former Head of History and Deputy Headmaster at WHSB, and an accomplished author. Further details of the plans for the Centenary will be shared in future editions of The Westcliff Diary and via the website and other communications. We will be looking to pupils, parents and members of our wider community to lend their support to our Centenary arrangements. The success of the School relies on the strength of its community and this is a wonderful opportunity for our community to come together to support the School as it enters its next century.

INAUGURATION OF THE WSHB CCF ROYAL NAVY SECTION

In January 2015 the School celebrated the inauguration of the WHSB Combined Cadet Force (CCF). Since that time the WHSB CCF has continued to grow from strength to strength. This has been the result of the enthusiasm and dedication shown by the cadets and the staff volunteers under the excellent leadership of Mr Bleakley. The WHSB CCF now enters a new

chapter in its exciting history having been granted permission to launch its Royal Navy Section from January 2018. 20 cadets have been recruited and Mr Hill has been appointed Officer in Command of the Section. He is joined by Miss Isaac, Miss Bailey, Mr Yeo and Mr Marriott, as officers supporting the Royal Navy Section. The official inauguration of the Royal Navy Section is scheduled to take place on Thursday 26 April 2018 and further details are provided on the CCF pages of this edition of The Westcliff Diary. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all colleagues involved for their work in supporting the WHSB CCF. I am particularly grateful to Mr Lyne, our School Staff Instructor (SSI), who provides invaluable expert advice and guidance. I am also delighted to have the opportunity to congratulate Mr Bleakley on his entirely merited promotion from Captain to Major.

ATTENDANCE

In previous editions of The Westcliff Diary I have made reference to the importance of pupils' attendance at School and the strong correlation between attendance and academic performance. The recent inclement weather presented the pupils and staff with an additional challenge. I am delighted to report that the pupils and staff rose superbly to that challenge. With an almost full staff complement throughout the weather difficulties, lessons were able to continue as usual. I would like to extend my thanks to pupils, staff and parents for their support and determination during this period. The School's Learner Profile emphasises the importance of resilience and overcoming life's challenges, and the capacity of our pupils and staff in this regard was much in evidence during the inclement weather.



CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The School, in conjunction with the Education & Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), has developed plans to refurbish its Technology Building. The refurbishment will include the installation of a lift to improve access, as well as remodelling the upper floor to enable the installation of a full-sized and fully equipped Food Technology room. The new facility will incorporate cooking facilities to enable an entire class to cook at the same time. The refurbishment will also involve some small-scale remodelling to the lower floor, and the external doors and windows will all be replaced. The project will require the Technology Building to close for the duration of the works. The refurbishment is due to commence during the Easter holidays and the completion is scheduled for the end of the summer holiday period, in time for the start of the new academic year in September 2018.

The School will also be working with the EFSA to add a small extension to the north end of the Science Building. The extension will provide one additional 90m² fully equipped Science laboratory. The School's Science facilities have been significantly improved in the last three years and the addition of this laboratory will further enhance the quality of Science provision at the School. We are most grateful to the EFSA for their generous support with this project.



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

MR DESPRES' RETIREMENT

After 37 years of superb service at WHSB, Mr Despres will retire from teaching in August 2018. Mr Despres joined the School in 1981 and, during that period, has taken on a number of senior positions including Head of PSHEE, Head of Biology, Specialist School Community Links Co-ordinator (pioneering the School's enormously successfully Science Roadshow for local primary schools) and Outward Bounds Education Co-ordinator. Mr Despres has always enjoyed a high profile at the School and many will remember his role in support of School sport. However, it is perhaps his leadership of the WHSB Annual Ski Trip across the last 37 years that will come to mind for many current and Old Westcliffians. Across those 37 years, it is estimated that Mr Despres, supported by other colleagues, enabled 1,750 pupils to enjoy the experience of skiing. I am sure that so many Old Westcliffians and their families will want to wish Mr Despres well in his well-deserved retirement. Mr

Despres would be delighted to hear from you, although he has asked me to share with you that he would like to use the occasion of his retirement to raise funds for the Aaron Lewis Foundation (ALF). As most in our community will be aware, ALF was set up following the tragic death of Lt Aaron Lewis, an Old Westcliffian, whilst in the service of his country in Afghanistan in 2008. ALF was the nominated charity of the School in 2015 and we were delighted to welcome Aaron's mother and father and other members of the charity to the School to speak on the superb work undertaken by ALF. Those wishing to make a donation to ALF, and to wish Mr Despres well in his retirement, can do so by going to his *JustGiving* page at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/despres>.

We shall have the opportunity to mark Mr Despres' retirement towards the end of this term, however I would like to take this opportunity to offer our sincere thanks, on behalf of all pupils (past and present), parents and the Staff and Governors at WHSB his excellent service at the School.



SCHOOL NEWS

ENRICHMENT DAY – SUMMER TERM

Friday 6 July 2018

Friday 6 July promises to be an exciting day for all Year Groups. Year 7 will be visiting Southend to complete Geography and Mathematics-related activities, whilst Year 8 put the finishing touches to their House Drama preparations. The vast majority of Year 9 will be visiting the Battlefields of Belgium and France with the History Department. Year 10 pupils have a day of Careers Skills to look forward to, including mock interviews. Our Year 12 students will make real headway with their plans for life after WHSB with a Higher Education Day to include UCAS applications as well as information about Higher Apprenticeships and Employment.

Mrs K Mumford
Assistant Head

YEAR 11 – THE CHALLENGE AHEAD

Our Year 11 pupils return after the Easter Holiday to a challenging GCSE Public Examination period that runs from 14 May until the 26 June. Pupils at this stage of their education in the Middle School should, after adhering to their revision programmes extensively over the break, feel in control of the situation and confident of entering the Examination Hall. There will be some, however, who are not so self-assured of their position and who are finding the situation rather daunting and stressful. The worry of this, of course, may be detrimental to their performance and so to their eventual outcomes.

To those pupils in this position, the first thing to realise is that you are not alone. Thousands of pupils across the country are all in a similar situation. If you are worried, and this may manifest itself in you not sleeping or eating properly, the worst thing that you can do is keep it to yourself. You should talk openly about your fears and concerns with others who have been through the examination system. This may be elder siblings, your

parents or older pupils at Westcliff. My colleagues and I are also here to listen and to help. Your subject teachers are always available to deal with specific issues which may be worrying you and, if your concerns are of a more general nature, then do come and see Mr Williams or me and we will do our best to allay your fears. You must, however, communicate.

Study Leave commences from 21 May. In the week prior to that pupils will attend timetabled lessons when they do not have an examination, but will be free to carry out their own independent revision. Also, during this period, there will be arranged revision sessions in certain subjects where the examination is imminent and there will be compulsory attendance for selected pupils.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all the best with your examinations as you approach the conclusion of your time in the Middle School.

Mr A Farrell
Head of Middle School

YEAR 12 AND THE FUTURE

Each year, the range of options open to Sixth Formers on leaving School becomes larger, and potentially more bewildering. While most of our students aspire to study a traditional subject at a good British university, a variety of other colleges offering very specialist courses, study abroad, and the increasingly popular direct routes into employment (particularly Degree Apprenticeships).

For the budding university student, it is important that time is spent during the Summer Term (and Summer Holiday) considering courses, and once a course is chosen, specific universities can be studied in depth and visited. While the range of courses is bewildering, it is never too soon to start investigating what is on offer, as it is only as the detail is explored that questions and ideas form in a student's mind which can eventually germinate into a decision. It is therefore pleasing to note that Year 12 students are already using the UniFrog database to research their options at university and with apprenticeships. However the decision is made, students will need to have their application more-or-less

complete (including a one-side Personal Statement) by the October Half Term. Students applying for Medical, Dentistry, Veterinary or Oxbridge courses have a tighter deadline, and should complete their side of the application by the end of September at the latest. For potential Apprentices, the need for research is, if anything, more urgent as applications will need to be tailored to particular companies, and deadlines for applying can be as early as September of Year 13. Such students are advised to seek the advice and guidance of Mrs Weller, our Work-Related Learning Co-ordinator, as soon as possible. She is able to meet with students on Wednesdays and Thursdays in her office (E18) which can be found at the bottom of the stairs next to Mrs Mumford's office.

WHSB provides particular events to assist students (and parents) with the decisions to be made. On Wednesday 20 June, all Year 12 students will have the opportunity to visit the UCAS Exhibition at the University of Essex in Colchester. All major universities are represented at that event, and students can collect prospectuses as well as directing particular questions to the representatives from each institution. There are also talks on a wide range of subjects to do with course choice and the application process. That same day, at 7.30pm, we hold our evening presentation at the School for Year 12 students and their parents. During the presentation, information will be given to help with decision making, and the application process will be explained. A comprehensive booklet will be given out with further information. We do expect all Year 12 students to be present at this event with a family member to ensure that they can benefit from this information – most of which will be presented by our Higher Education Co-ordinator, Mr Stevens, whose knowledge is encyclopaedic and up-to-date.

Once students return from the May Half Term, extensive time will be made available to each student, in their Form Group, to discuss their thoughts with their Form Tutor, and work on their application. This will culminate in our Enrichment Day on Friday 6 July. Visiting speakers will give advice on course selection and the writing of Personal Statements, and at least one past student will speak on the option of entering employment directly. Time will also be made available to use the computers to amend applications and research courses.

It is essential that students find the time to speak to Mr Stevens, Mrs Weller, subject specialists, Form Tutors and

myself to explore the options. If handled with a positive mind, this period of time can be one of the most rewarding of the Sixth Form – there is indeed something for everyone, and it never does harm to lift your eyes to the horizon to glimpse the myriad possibilities.

Dr A Machacek
Assistant Head

PSHEE: KNIFE CRIME

Pupils will cover a range of topical current affairs issues in Key Stage 4 and 5 PSHEE lessons this term. A major area for focus will be knife crime.

The purpose of the sessions will be to highlight the personal and legal risks and consequences of carrying a knife. The following objectives comes from the 'no knives, better lives' educational campaign and the '4 Rs' will be embedded in this programme of study. These are: Reassurance, Risks, Resilience and Responsibility.

Reassurance: Young people are aware that knife carrying is not common (this is important as protection is a common reason given for knife carrying).

Risks and consequences: Young people are aware of the very serious legal and personal risks and consequences of carrying a knife or any offensive weapon.

Young people often think that carrying a knife offers them protection when in fact it puts them more at risk.

Resilience: Young people are more aware of the influences, fears and pressures that can lead to the decision to carry a knife and how these can be managed or avoided.

Responsibility: Young people are aware of the importance of telling someone if they know that someone else is carrying a knife (this is an important aspect of prevention work and is relevant to all young people).

Pupils will have the opportunity to learn about real life examples and be able to express their views in a controlled learning environment.

Mr R Barber
PHSEE Coordinator

BREADTH STUDIES

This term, Year 13 EPQ (Extended Project Qualification) dissertation students are busily preparing for their presentations and vivas. This is where they present their research to an audience which includes myself and their supervisor, as well as other students. The presentations cover the following: a review of the literature, research methodology, findings, conclusions, an evaluation and possible future avenues of research.

The audience has the opportunity to ask a range of high-level questions in order to check understanding. These examinations count towards their final marks. Recent presentations have been fascinating and have included a variety of topics, such as: clinical trials, female genital mutilation, Brexit, cancer treatment and 18th Century Russian music.

Students' research is between 7,000 and 8,000 words in length and is written as a university-style dissertation. The projects are marked three times: firstly, by the student's supervisor, secondly, by myself, and finally by the Examination Board. They are graded in the same way as A Levels and are worth half the UCAS points of a full A Level.

This qualification is aimed at the most able, hardworking and intellectually curious students in the School. Learners start their work at the end of Year 12 and complete their projects in Year 13. The Russell Group universities highly regard this qualification and the EPQ can help students gain access to highly competitive courses.

If you have any questions about this qualification, please contact me for an appointment.

Mr R Barber
Head of Breadth Studies

INTERNET SAFETY AND MENTAL HEALTH EVENING - RERUN

Wednesday 9 May 2018, 7.30pm

In response to popular demand, the School will again offer an evening lecture on Internet Safety and Mental Health. This event is open to both parents and pupils and the content will be the same as for the previous lecture.

A short synopsis of the content follows: Information Communication Technology has revolutionised the way we interact and communicate, from something as simple as a telephone call or a text message, to online banking, applying for a passport or managing bills and taxes.

ICT has also changed the way young people interact and has consequent effects on the way their brain functions, sometimes leading to addiction and mental health difficulties. In this session, we will look at:

- Restructuring of the brain during adolescence;

- The nature of addiction;
- Changes in behaviour associated with the advent of the smartphone;
- Sleep-wake patterns;
- The association between technology use and particular mental health outcomes.

Helen Smith, a parent at the School, has provided this perspective on the evening:

I attended the Adolescent Internet and Mental Health evening in January and I have to say I felt pretty confident going into it. We ration computer use to one hour per day on computers in a public space, the children also have iPads, phones etc. but these log out from the internet at times appropriate to their ages. We are "friends" on relevant accounts so we can patrol their posts, we check browser histories and try to stay informed as to which apps are showing locations etc. The smug look didn't last long – the seminar was quite an eye opener. I would recommend that every student attends this as parroting it back to them did not go well. Neither did the removal of the week-old iPad which my son had saved for, however by the second night he knew there was no point arguing and by the third morning he was

waking up a very different boy. I have also changed my own screen usage. In the past when I woke in the night, I would either read on a tablet or possibly play Solitaire, often leading to a couple of hours of idle activity and rarely would I go back to fully restful sleep. I have moved back onto paperbacks, which in itself seems to have stopped me waking up as much, and if I do I am actually able to fall back to sleep relatively quickly if I avoid screens.

Tickets are available on TicketSource.

Mr J Bleakley
Head of Lower School



TRIPS & VISITS

VISIT TO BLETCHLEY PARK

During February, a number of Year 10 and 11 Computing pupils visited Bletchley Park. What follows is an account of the trip, as told by three of the pupils.

On the morning of the visit to the National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park, we were lucky enough to enjoy a trip through the history of computing. Lead by a well-versed expert on the subject, we began in wartime England and the development of technologies like Tunny and Colossus to help decrypt messages sent by the German high command; machines so large that they took up entire rooms yet completed such a basic task when compared with modern computers.

We then moved to see a demonstration of the WITCH, the world's oldest working digital computer before being guided to the era of home computers – the 1950s. We were shocked and in awe at the size of the magnetic storage drives which contained only a fraction of what is possible today but were as large as a toddler!

Finally, the most memorable part of the tour arrived – the 1980s. In this section we got to use computers and consoles from the 60's to modern consoles, playing timeless classic games like *Lemmings*, *Super Mario Bros* and *Crash Bandicoot* as well as the infamous *Mario Kart on Rainbow Road*. Overall, it was a fantastic experience to start the day and a brilliant way to prepare us for the tasks which lay ahead.

Sri Haran Loganathan
Year 10



After lunch we embarked on a tour around the different workshops, the first of which was Artificial Intelligence along the lines of programming a simplified version of *Siri*. Our task was to create a program that responds to questions sounding as human as possible and it should respond to our questions clearly. We were given a template to do this on Python and got on with the task, working in small groups.

Afterwards, when we realised that this work formed part of someone's actual, paid job, some of us were very excited at the possibilities working in this area could bring.

Prem Ravichandran
Year 10

We then came to the final room where we were told we would be programming a simple game: *Snake*. It was a slight downgrade from the previous games we had been able to play, however, we were able to programme the game ourselves, and more excitingly, we would also be able to hack the game ourselves.

After being briefed on what we needed to code we went to the computers, which were in the adjoining room. We entered to be amazed by computers we thought to be ancient, but which were, however, familiar to our teachers. An echoing screech was filling the room as we were told one of the computers made a horrible high-pitched sound; there were earmuffs for those who could not bear the sound.

We were given a sheet with the BBC Basic code necessary to programme *Snake* and we began coding in the outdated language we had never used on our school computers. Once we had the code working we had the choice to either play the game and attempt a high score, or try to hack the code to make the game more exciting. As some were achieving high scores, others had hacked the game to make the game achieve unjust scores. At the end of the session, we had achieved a high score to add to the Bletchley Park leader board with Sam Hughes achieving an impressive score of 607, without having cheated through hacking.

Overall, the experience of programming on primitive computers made me more grateful of our school computers and the programming languages we have available to us in our modern times.

Gabriel Leroy
Year 11



VISIT TO GERMANY

During the February Half Term, History A Level students went on a week-long educational trip to Germany to learn about the country's economic and political history, allowing us to further our studies of Germany from 1871-1990.

After a traumatic departure at 3.00am, the first two days were spent in Munich, the capital of the Bavarian state which was the original and favourite city of the Nazis. On the first day, we went on a walking tour to learn about the Nazi Trail and Beer Hall putsch, followed by dinner at the Hofbräuhaus where we enjoyed Bavarian entertainment and sampled traditional food.

The next morning we went to the Munich Documentation Centre for the History of National Socialism, where we learnt about the growth of Nazism in Germany from the early 1920s up until its eventual demise in 1945. This was followed by a tour of the BMW factory in Munich, learning about how firms such as BMW and Volkswagen were fundamental in how Germany became and remains the industrial powerhouse of post-war Europe.

After Munich, we drove to the city of Nuremberg where we visited the Nazi rally grounds where Hitler showcased the new German Wehrmacht which, due to its size, violated the terms of the Treaty of Versailles which had restricted the size of the German armed forces after WW1. This proved to be a personal highlight of the trip, as we were able to stand at the podium where Hitler himself stood during the annual Nazi rallies which were conducted from 1923 to 1938 and were commemorated in the famous film, *Triumph of the Will* – an amazing experience.

Our next leg of the trip was to fly to Berlin where we stayed from Thursday to Sunday. On the first day we went to the Museum of 'Society and Politics in the German Empire', where we learnt about Germany in the Second Reich, or the Kaiserreich. We learnt more about current German politics the following day with a visit to the Bundestag, the German equivalent to the Houses of Parliament, where we met with politicians from the CDU, the party of Angela Merkel, and the SPD, the left-wing group. This was particularly interesting as at that point the Chancellor had been unable to strike a deal with the SPD, and thus we were able to ask the politicians about their

respective views on a potential deal with one another, following the shock election result.

The final two days were spent in and around Berlin, attending famous locations such as Checkpoint Charlie, the Bridge of Spies and various parts of the Berlin Wall. The Berlin Wall was another personal highlight, as I remember us standing in the no man's land area with a watchtower looming over us while having the recurring thought that had I been standing there fifty years ago, I would have been shot by the East Berlin soldiers on guard.

Overall, the trip was fascinating while also being immensely enjoyable and will prove to be very useful for our study of Germany next year – I would thoroughly recommend it to pupils considering studying history at A Level. On behalf of all those who went on the trip, I would like to thank Mr. Jeffreys for organising an incredibly varied and informative trip, and Mr Neagus and Miss Jäcker for giving up their Half Term to accompany us on the trip, and their contribution to the great experience.

Marcus Kelly
Year 12



TRIPS & VISITS

SKI TRIP: A RETROSPECTIVE

The 2018 Ski trip was, in my opinion, by far the best ski trip yet. Since I went on the trip last year I thought I knew what to expect, however this year seemed much more enjoyable. The hard work of all the teachers paid off and I would like to thank them all on behalf of all those who went on the trip.

After the 17-hour long journey (which wasn't that bad if you paired it with movies, games, and a lot of sleep) we arrived in Hochfügen. The first thing we did was head down to Ski-fit to get all of our equipment: skis, poles, boots, and helmets. Once that was sorted, we headed back to the hotel to relax and unpack. We ended the day with a hearty portion of schnitzel (fried pork in batter) and an early night to get ready for the week ahead.

The first day of skiing was just a warm-up session as many people, including me, were quite rusty as we had not skied since this time last year. We started off gently using only the minor ski lifts and staying on the training slope.

The next few sessions were a blur. All I can remember is a mixture of eating, sleeping and skiing with only the afternoon event for recuperation. The first night there was a quiz in which, I admit, I became extremely competitive near the end. It was a test of one's general knowledge in different topics such as films and music.

For the following two days we were divided into two groups and one group went bowling while the other stayed in the hotel and vice versa. We did not play the usual 10-pin bowling, but a German alternative called Kegeln. It is quite different to normal bowling as you have to knock over a certain number of pins for the number of times equal to its value - for example, you have to knock over 1 one, 2 twos, 3 threes and so on.

The next day we went ice skating and we were not the only ones there. We were accompanied on the rink by four extremely good skaters who are probably the next Olympic ice skating team for Austria. There were many falls and a lot of fails, to say the least. The perk of the ice rink, however, was that you could get pizza which always seems to satisfy people.

The following day we went to the Hochfügen 'Fire and Ice Show' right next to us on the slopes. This was a death-defying stunt show on the slopes where skiers, snowboarders, and even quad bikes went off ramps high into the air. There were also choreographed fire and light performances.

The most anticipated afternoon activity was the swimming. This was not the typical 'David Lloyd-esque' swimming pool; this was an indoor water park. It had two enormous slides, a whirlpool machine, wave machine, fountains, and lots of other facilities. This was by far the best excursion on the ski trip and I think almost everyone would agree.

At the end of the trip, my group and I were going to the top of the mountain using the chair-lifts and the cable cars. We went on lots of black and red slopes (black being the most difficult) which was scary at first but a worthwhile experience. The views at the top of the mountain were none other than breath-taking and I encourage all experienced and inexperienced skiers to go on this trip in the future. You will not regret it.

Thomas Baldwin
Year 9



A LEVEL PHYSICS BOOT CAMP

As reported in last term's Diary, it was our privilege to take part in the national Isaac Physics Boot Camp at Churchill College and the Cavendish Laboratory, Cambridge

arranged for Sixth Formers from a wide range of backgrounds to build mastery of the basics of Physics A Level. The event was a great success, and will be repeated in August for a fresh group of students about to embark on Year 13. A photo of one of the groups of students

and teachers is shown here.

Mr K Dalby/Dr A Machacek
Head of Physics/Assistant Head

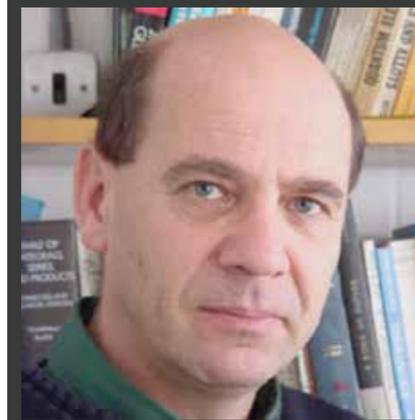


VISIT BY PROFESSOR MARK WARNER

Tuesday 1 May 2018

It gives us great pleasure to announce that Professor Mark Warner, FRS, will be visiting the School on Tuesday 1 May. During the day, he will be giving a talk to Year 11 and Sixth Form Physics students on Angular Momentum and how it can explain the counter-intuitive phenomenon of gyroscopic precession (enabling a heavy wheel to appear to float in mid-air). He will also be speaking to students on the best way of preparing for study at our nation's most academic universities. In addition, Professor Warner will visit lessons and meet staff and students for conversations.

Professor Warner is one of the founders of the field of liquid crystal elastomers, which has yielded many exotic phenomena that are now confirmed experimentally.



A flavour of some of these is given below as background to the proposed projects. For this, he received a Maxwell Medal and Prize and a von Humboldt Research Prize. In 2003, Professor Warner was awarded the Agilent Technology Prize by the European Physical Society. Professor Warner was born in New Zealand and attended school in Auckland. He studied Mathematics and Physics as an undergraduate in Cambridge, before completing his PhD in London. He is a Fellow and Director of Studies at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, as well as holding a professorial position at the Cavendish Laboratory.

More recently, Professor Warner has greatly enhanced Physics education in secondary schools throughout the UK through the Isaac Physics project,

which he co-directs with Dr Lisa Jardine-Wright of Churchill College, Cambridge. Together, they secured a grant from the Department of Education which has enabled them to provide online and printed resources together with mentoring opportunities (online and face-to-face) enabling the nation's young physicists to learn mathematical problem-solving skills through engaging and challenging tasks. He is also famous on YouTube for his role in providing a theoretical explanation of the 'Mould Effect' where a chain of ball bearings, on falling out of a beaker, can trace exotic and beautiful patterns in the air.

Mr K Dalby/Dr A Machacek
Head of Physics/Assistant Head

TRIPS & VISITS

VISIT TO THE ISLE OF ARRAN

23-29 June 2018

Geological field studies are a compulsory requirement for students studying A Level Geology. As part of the new Eduqas specification, the field trip will be undertaken on the Isle of Arran between Saturday 23 June and Friday 29 June and will be based at the Lochranza Field Studies Centre on the north of the Island. The Isle of Arran is considered to be a world-class location for geological studies because, in a relatively small geographical area, many topics of interest to geologists can be studied. Such studies range from igneous rocks and volcanism, metamorphism of rocks and their plate tectonic settings, fossils, folding and faulting of rocks and much more besides. For some of the time, students will be undertaking investigative work with respect to the opening of the North West Atlantic approximately 65 million years ago when Scotland separated from Greenland; Iceland is much younger! Students will also make their own maps of a small part of Isle of Arran.

During the visit, students will continue



to build on their field knowledge and understanding developed previously in Folkestone and Dorset within an outstanding and beautiful mountainous landscape, whilst also developing transferable skills such as numeracy, problem-solving and teamwork; skills which are considered so important in

the modern world of employment. The photograph shows columnar jointing within the Drumadoon Sill on the western side of the island flanked by the only 12-hole golf course in the world.

*Mr N Cooper
Head of Geology*

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD: EXPEDITION AND PROGRESS

9-10 June 2018

With the New Year came a new cohort of Duke of Edinburgh participants. In January, we opened applications for the Bronze Award and, due to the increased number and strength of those applications, the decision was made to increase the intake from the usual 30 participants to 42 for this year. The cohort has been divided into their expedition groups and most have selected their activities for the Skills, Volunteering and Physical Sections. Unfortunately the planned training walk around Hockley Woods was cancelled due to snow, and this training will take place at a time which will be advertised in due course. They will complete their Practice Expedition from 9-10 June around Danbury, with their assessment being 22-23 September, based at Skreens Park.

27-29 April and 15-18 July 2018

The number of Silver participants has also risen, from one group of six, to five groups, totalling 30 pupils. They will soon start planning their practice expedition which will take place over three days from 27-29 April in the South Downs National Park. They will then travel to the Peak District

for their assessment which will take place from 15-18 July, after their summer examinations.

*Mr H Tresidder
DofE Leader*

2018 GREAT WAR BATTLEFIELDS TOUR

6-9 July 2018

This summer sees the 28th annual visit to the Great War Battlefields in France and Belgium organised by the History Department. Around 90 pupils from Year 9 are due to attend and there is a packed schedule of tours and visits over the weekend with the focus on the British and Allied experience of warfare on the Western Front. Pupils will spend a full day around the Belgian city of Ypres where four major battles were fought, most notoriously the Battle of Passchendaele.

Pupils will spend another full day visiting sites on the Somme Battlefield and learning about the circumstances which preceded 1 July 1916 (the bloodiest day in British military history) and the 60,000 casualties suffered on that day, as well as the significance of the Battle within the context of the wider War. We are delighted that Andrew Robertshaw, a military historian who has frequently

visited WHSB, will be joining us at the Somme and pupils can expect an eye-opening educational visit.

We look forward to giving pupils a valuable insight into the experience of soldiers in The Great War. Planning is well underway for our trip in 2019 and it is pleasing that so many pupils have signed up for this!

*Mr S Neagus
Teacher of History*

YEAR 12 ENGLISH TRIP TO STRATFORD-UPON-AVON

Tuesday 1 May 2018

On Tuesday 1 May, Year 12 students will be travelling to Stratford-upon-Avon to attend a conference about Othello run by the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust. Students will attend a series of seminars and workshops, and will also have the chance to visit Shakespeare's birthplace during the day. The seminars will have a particular focus on the staging of the play, and will be led by Dr Anjna Chohan and Dr Nick Walton. Both of these academics are experts in the field, and we look forward to our visit with excitement.

*Mrs J Williams
Acting Head of English*



VISIT TO THE CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT OF UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

8-11 July 2018

As in previous years, the Chemistry Department will be taking 45 Year 12 students to Bristol ChemLabS for four days at the beginning of July. The focus of the trip is to develop their practical skills in one of the UK's foremost and largest Undergraduate Chemistry laboratories. Below is a review of last year's trip, written by Oliver Wagstaff.

On 9 July 2017, a group of 44 Year 12 Students gathered outside the front of the School. We were heading for the city and University of Bristol for a 3-day Chemistry Course designed to give A Level students a better idea of the Degree-level work and facilities a world-class university can offer. Arriving in the city during the early evening, it was clear the city had a nice air to it and we could not wait to see what was in store for us.

The first evening was an eventful one, once checked in and settled we headed out across the river to *Za Za Bazaar*, a locally-known all-you-can eat buffet that offered an astounding array of cuisines; be it Indian or Italian that took your fancy, there was something for everyone. After the meal, groups went different ways, some explored Bristol's streets and scouted out lunch venues for the following days, others sought out the University and took their first glimpses at the building that would become our home for the next few days. There was a sense of excitement as all were keen to find out what was in store for us.

The next morning, after breakfast, we set off up the hill to the University, passing various buildings of ranging styles that embodied the city's vibrant culture and history. After a short introductory meeting with our guide and final-year PhD student, Steve, we were shown the laboratories and conducted our first experiment: the iodine clock reaction. It was taken a step further than A Level as we were tasked with finding the concentration of iodine in an unknown solution. The practical was a great way to showcase the differences of an undergraduate chemistry laboratory and an enjoyable introduction to the course.

In the afternoon, after an interesting lecture on the gases within the Earth's atmosphere by Dr Chris Adams, we conducted our second practical. This was

the extraction and purification of caffeine from teabags, an experiment I thoroughly enjoyed. We were given access to equipment far more advanced than any at A Level, such as a Büchner funnel and Rotary Evaporator, both of which acted under vacuum conditions. Once we had obtained and purified our samples, we were able to run them through an Infrared Spectrometer. This would enable us to determine we had produced the correct compound for our sample. That evening we headed out to a local laser tag venue and had a great time. The highlight was probably a whole team that named themselves after one of the group, with Team Arthur comfortably winning their match during the evening.

The next day promised just as much as the first. In the morning, we were shown an insight into the mesmerising world of Polymers, be it the ones that became mouldable when exposed to hot water or a neat trick involving casein that meant a type of cheese could be made. After also extracting Benzoic Acid crystals from Sodium Benzoate we broke for the morning, with a tour of the facilities next up. We saw some absolutely astounding equipment. The pinnacle of which was the NMR (Nucleic Magnetic Resonance) laboratory. In one 10 square metre room, there was over £5 million worth of machines, all of which would become available to University students during their research projects in the third and fourth years of their courses. We were also shown several Electron Microscopes and some Time-Of-Flight Mass Spectrometers, with which I had the pleasure of running a test. Returning to the laboratories after the tour we were given a crash course by Steve in the science of perfumery. After acquiring rudimentary knowledge of Head, Body and Base 'notes', we were set loose with around 30 different oils. Some of these oils would have once been incredibly expensive to extract, but advancements in synthetic chemistry have meant we could experience these oils for ourselves. We were even allowed to take a 25ml bottle of our fragrances away with us, although some people obviously had a better nose for it than others.

That evening we took part in an extremely challenging event, an escape room. Locked in a room for 60 minutes with minimal hints and a series of challenges to solve, only the sharpest minds would succeed. In group 1 only one team (which contained both Mr Hill and myself) escaped, with a tiny margin of 92 seconds left. Group 2 were given a room with a higher success rate, but it was still a challenge and we congratulated those who made it out unaided.

The final day dawned and we began with the synthesis of Azo dye, a bright orange pigment that would permanently colour any fabric it encountered. After that practical almost everyone's pristine white lab coat has at least one orange stain on it; as chemists we still have a long way to go in terms of precision, it seems! Our last experiment was the synthesis and analysis of benzocaine, using techniques such as Thin Layer Chromatography. Our trip concluded with some lectures from PhD students, such as Steve, into their research and where chemistry may take future students.

The trip was an amazing experience, my thanks goes to the Chemistry department for organising and taking us. We learnt an unbelievable amount and experienced the type of Undergraduate study that we will soon pursue in detail. To anyone who is thinking about this trip, I cannot recommend it highly enough.

*Oliver Wagstaff/Mr D Hill
Year 13/Head of Chemistry*

IMMUNOLOGY SEMINAR

It was my pleasure to introduce Mr Jamie David Matthews, researcher at the University of Cambridge to Years 11, 12 and 13 on Friday 16 March. He spoke to a large group of predominantly Biologists about his background in Immunology, and its relevance to his current research on Paediatric Burkitt lymphoma – the most aggressive form of lymphoma, and perhaps the most aggressive form of human cancer.

Most pertinently, Jamie highlighted to the room the importance of considering tumour cell heterogeneity during treatment, something that until recently has too often been overlooked in the medical community.

He was also able to dispel some of the most pervasive societal misunderstandings about cancer and give glimpses of some promising avenues for the future. Jamie rounded off the lecture with some genuine insight into his day-to-day work – something that you are unable to glean from simply browsing a university handbook. He finally gave some well-received advice on how to get in to the field of Science, a career in which I hope those interested will follow.

*Mr S Marriott
Teacher of Biology*

VISIT TO CERN: A RETROSPECTIVE

The 2017 WHSB CERN trip to Geneva kicked off on Friday 15 December with our early arrival at London Southend Airport. With everyone together and ready for a school trip abroad, we wandered off up the escalator to Security and then to the departure lounge with only Mr Dalby and Miss Isaac setting off the security scanner. What was meant to be a relatively straightforward and painless experience turned out to be a much bigger affair when we learnt that our plane had broken down and so our flight was delayed.

After seemingly endless trips to WHSmith to claim free food vouchers, we boarded the plane six hours later, some glad and some sad in the knowledge that we had missed an entire day of School while waiting in the departure lounge. After a short flight, we were in Geneva Airport and on the train further into the city. It was a short walk from the train station to our hostel and once we had checked in, eaten and looked at the can crusher (to Mr Dalby's delight) we went off on a walking tour of the city, led by Mr Dalby. It was both fascinating and fun including stories, playing in playgrounds and sitting on the world's longest bench. However, when one of us forgot their travel pass, we had a long walk back in heavy rain and snow.

The next morning, we had a period of free time where we could look at an area of Geneva by ourselves for a while, however, this mainly involved going to McDonald's and looking in shop windows packed with either Swiss army knives or clocks. Following that, we met up and got the tram to CERN. We visited the two museums at CERN and climbed into the Gargamelle Bubble Chamber which, unbeknown to us at the time, was the very piece of equipment that the Z0 boson was discovered in. Later, we had lunch, then a presentation on CERN and what the Large Hadron Collider does, followed by some tours. We went to the building above the ATLAS detector then boarded a minibus to

one of the cryogenic factories for a series of talks.

Once we had taken the tram back to the hostel and had dinner, we walked to see the Jet d'Eau (a big jet of water originally designed as a safety feature for the old hydraulic station) and then towards the Science Museum to see a pair of parabolic reflectors that we were meant to have seen on Friday (had our plane not been delayed). After that, we walked on further, to the UN and Red Cross buildings before getting a late night tram back to the hostel.

We woke up on our final morning, sad that the trip was coming to an end but excited for what was still to come. We had a fairly long walk to visit the Muséum D'histoire Naturelle (or Natural History Museum) but it was worth it with the group barely managing to see everything before we needed to leave. We then walked to a nearby pizzeria and, with the aid of *Google Translate*, we were all able to decipher the menu and order what we wanted before we had to leave for the airport. Luckily the returning airport experience was much smoother and straightforward than before so we arrived back in the UK on time.

For all of the students, it was a truly amazing trip with the perfect mix of fun and education, and one that we would all eagerly do again if we had to opportunity to do so. Finally, on behalf of all students who were on the trip, I would like to thank Mr Dalby and Miss Isaac for all of their effort and enthusiasm, without which it would not have been nearly as good.

If you are in Year 11 and wish to attend the trip next year, you should ask Mr Dalby for a letter during the Sixth Form Induction Days.

*Jonathan Travers
Year 12*



CHARITY ACTIVITIES 2017/18

With the School's charitable activities running smoothly thus far, the WHSB Charity Committee is awaiting the Summer Term with cautious optimism. We urge all parents, pupils and staff to support the School's efforts in aid of Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital Charity and South East and Central Essex MIND, to help improve the lives of others less fortunate than ourselves.

later in the term.

I can assure you that the details above provide only a mere glimpse into what the Summer Term holds, and it will surely be the greatest feat of fundraising the School has ever seen.

Joe Turnpenny
Charity Committee Chairman

In the much-anticipated Summer Term, the Committee will run a variety of events to make sure there is something for each and every member of the School community. It promises to be a term to remember and, personally, I could not be prouder with the programme we have put together. I would urge you to book your tickets from *TicketSource*, and your wristbands and programmes from *ParentPay* without a moment's hesitation – do not miss out on being a part of this unforgettable journey.

Exciting new events are set to take the School by storm, including a night at the Romford Greyhound Stadium (Friday 18 May), a Fine Dining evening (date TBC) and Finale Night (Friday 29 June). In addition, WHSB Charity classics return, such as eating challenges and the 'Teacher Roasting', mixed with brand-new ideas like Staff Sumo Wrestling and a daily Tuck Shop on the field, when the field is opened



The Staff Pantomime, Peter Pan, took place on Wednesday 21 March 2018.



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

LANGUAGES IN CAREERS EVENT

On the 22 February 2018, I had the privilege of being invited to Cambridge University to a Languages in Careers event, run by the company *Routes into Languages*. The main focus of the event was the importance of languages for careers. The speakers worked for a variety of companies such as the BBC, the RAF, GCHQ, MI6, NHS, the UN, travel agencies and foreign correspondence organisations. It was fascinating to hear about the ways in which these people had found languages useful for their chosen career paths.

To give one example, there was Ms Bridget Kendall, a journalist for the BBC, who had visited 90 different countries and was able to speak English, Russian, German, French, Greek and some Italian. This speaker had interviewed and translated speeches for ministers and world leaders, held talks with President Putin, the former American President Barrack Obama, and President Donald Trump. I was incredibly inspired by her talk about how languages featured in her job. Her ability to speak additional languages has broadened her perspective of the world and opened up many doors for her career. Having read *Modern Languages at Oxford*, Ms Kendall started working for the BBC knowing English, Russian and German. During the Cold War, when the tension between the then Soviet Union and the USA was at its greatest, she was one of the few people

within the company who could speak Russian fluently, so the BBC chose her to travel to Russia as a journalist. Ms Kendall had the opportunity to visit the Kremlin and many grand palaces in Russia. Having recently retired from the BBC, she is now a Mistress at Cambridge University, the first ever female Master at the University.

English is the leading language of international discourse; this fact has led to many British people being unable to perceive the importance of learning a different language. However, knowing languages presents you with endless exciting opportunities and opens so many doors, as I discovered at this Language in Careers event. If you study languages, it does not mean you have to become a teacher or a translator. So many companies will take you in and invest time and money to train you up for a particular job, just because you know a language. It demonstrates good cognitive skills and memory capacity, and proves that you are flexible and have a desire to try new things.

For those interested in learning more languages, speak to any the member of Modern Foreign Languages Department. Try a new language! You may discover a talent and love for language, culture, and people that you never knew was there.

Jay Suragh
Year 13

DRAMA, LECTURES & EVENTS

SCHOOL DRAMA

The Summer Term promises to be another action-packed term of Drama. The School's brand new Show Choir will be rehearsing a string of songs from musical shows and practising its dancing to bring these musical numbers into performance.

Students will also be rehearsing for a production of *Pyramus and Thisbe*, to be shown multiple times during Open Evening. This will provide a chance for many of our younger actors to step into the limelight.

Rehearsals will be beginning for next year's productions, yet to be announced,

which will involve both a play and a whole school musical.

Towards the end of term, the revamped Junior House Drama Festival will take to the stage, providing an opportunity for Year 8 pupils to be involved in all areas of a production, acting, creative artwork and design, lighting, sound and backstage. This Festival will also provide the opportunity for our young directors to showcase their creative visions and bring their first works to the stage. Get ready for a term full of spectacle!

Mr B Jeffreys
Director of Drama



WESTCLIFF AT THE FRINGE

11-19 August 2018

The story of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe dates back to 1947, when eight theatre groups turned up uninvited to perform at the (then newly-formed) Edinburgh International Festival, an initiative created to celebrate and enrich European cultural life in the wake of the Second World War. Not being part of the official programme of the International Festival did not stop these performers, they just went ahead and staged their shows on the fringe of the Festival anyway, coining the phrase the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. The Fringe has since become the single biggest celebration of arts and culture on the planet. Every August for three weeks the city of Edinburgh, Scotland's capital, welcomes an explosion of creative energy from around the globe. Thousands of performers take to hundreds of stages all over the city to present shows for every taste. With 50,266 performances of 3,269 shows in 294 venues in 2016, the festival caters for everyone and includes theatre, comedy, dance, physical theatre, circus, cabaret, children's shows, musicals, opera, music, spoken word, exhibitions and events.

This year, Westcliff Drama will be appearing on the Edinburgh Festival Fringe for the first time with our devised performance of *Waiting for Ofsted*. This absurdist play responds to Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, and explores the tension in education between the expectations of big meaningful events and the need to enjoy the everyday. We will be performing daily at 12.05pm at the Upper Theatre of 'theSpace', Niddry Street, from Monday 13 to Saturday 18 August. The Upper Theatre is a 'theSpace' venue, a long established Fringe company that sold over 147,000 tickets across 18 venues during the 2017 Fringe. We will begin our project in School the week before with our company and crew of 15 students from across the Years, developing our play from scratch in just five days, before transferring on Saturday

11 August to Edinburgh where we will refit our production to the performance space. Over the following week, we will then perform every day to a paying, public audience before heading off to watch the full range of shows and events that the Fringe offers, including the world-famous Military Tattoo. If you are in Edinburgh this summer, please do come and say hello!

Mr B Jeffreys
Director of Drama



DRAMA, LECTURES & EVENTS

DEBATING

The three premier Schools Debating Competitions concluded last term. In the English-Speaking Union's School Mace our team of Conrad Kunadu and Ross McIntyre (Year 13) fought their way through two qualifying rounds to be one of four teams contesting the East of England Regional Final. They were unable to claim the title despite a spirited defence of the legitimacy of destroying property in the cause of environmental protest but can be proud of having been named Runners-Up in one of the stronger English regions outside of London.

We were also represented in the International Final of Oxford Union's Senior Schools Competition, this time by three teams: Conrad and Ross (Y13) again; Jasper Harmer and Marcus Kelly (Year 12); and Antony Haiser and Alex Small (Year 12). The British Parliamentary system of debating gives only 15 minutes' notice of motion and position (i.e. Proposition or Opposition) so competitors must really think on their feet. Uniquely, we secured places for two teams from the Eastern Regional Round, with Conrad, Ross, Antony and Alex going to Oxford for the International Finals.

In the Cambridge Union Schools Competition we fielded four teams: Conrad and Ross (Year 13); Jasper and Antony (Year 12); Alex and Marcus Kelly (Year 12); and Amiola Kash-Odalawu and Jake Pilkington (Year 10). Once



again, one of our teams qualified for the International Finals, at Cambridge, but unfortunately snow prevented Conrad and Ross from making the journey so they had to be content with the title of East of England Champions on a perfect score from the qualifying round.

Our Lower School debating teams – Joseph Delaney and Tom Duddridge (Year 7) and Luke Burrige and Joshua Glynn (Year 9) – took part in the International Competition for Young Debaters.

The Schools Debating Competitions are large-scale undertakings. The ESU Mace attracts around 400 entries nationwide, whilst the Oxford Union and Cambridge Union vie annually for the title "largest school competition in the world" with around 900 teams taking part, including private and international schools from Canada, Asia, the Gulf and Europe. Additionally, at the start of the academic year, David Fagbemi (Year 13) took part in the European Youth Debating Competition, which focuses on STEM-related issues, won the London round and took part in the European final in Berlin. All-in-all it has been a strong year for debaters at WHSB.

UCAS PROGRAMME

Monday 25 June 2018

Continuing to build on a programme established over nearly fifteen years to support applications to the most

prestigious universities, the School will host its annual Oxbridge Conference on Monday 25 June. Admissions tutors, academics, staff and students from Oxford and Cambridge will visit the School to talk to potential applicants on a range of issues. They will seek to demystify the application process, and the notorious interview, as well as providing concrete advice on the extra preparation expected over the summer of those who would seek to study at these ancient institutions. This year, we have already conducted a tour of Cambridge, and a visit to Oxford University will take place this term.

Within our programme, we have also recommended students for University Study Days, supported applications for Headstart and Sutton Trust Summer Schools, Oxford's UNIQ Summer School and nominated Sixth Formers for residential courses at Villiers Park. I am also pleased that we have encouraged participation through London University "Taster" Courses and various Masterclasses hosted by Universities.

MEDICPORTAL TRAINING SESSIONS

Friday 6 July and Thursday 19 July 2018

Following the success of last year's programme we have, again, arranged with the MedicPortal® to come into School to run training sessions for the UK Clinical Aptitude Test (UKCAT) and BioMedical Admissions Test (BMAT) on Friday 6 July and Thursday 19 July respectively. There will also be a session on medical interview preparation in September. There is a charge made for these sessions, but feedback from last year's prospective medicine and dentistry students was very positive.

Mr R Stevens
Higher Education Co-ordinator

CAREERS ADVICE

As ever, the Spring Term is the most active time for the Careers Department. All initiatives for work placements have been put in place, from sending out CV templates, example cover letters, instructions on how to apply to specific companies offering superb opportunities, insight days, apprenticeship information, advice and guidance. This is in addition to the Careers Evenings currently in full swing and reaching record attendance levels.

A highlight has to be the superb guest speakers and audiences who have attended the three Careers Evenings taking place each month during the Spring Term. The debut Careers in Law, Politics and Finance Evening drew a welcoming crowd of over 400 people. We were delighted to see so many from our local community, as well as WHSB, arriving in their droves to hear from our prestigious speakers - Adam Fleming (BTMK



Solicitors), Laurence Stellings (Populus), Greg Handelaar (NatWest Markets) and Ben Williams (former Chief of Staff, Liberal Democrats). The event was well received, with audience participation and questioning throughout. Due to its success, we are looking to repeat this as part of next year's programme.

Year 11 pupils have been inundated with a spectacular array of work experience opportunities in 2018, not only locally but in London as well, far exceeding any previous years' placements – these opportunities have varied from engineering to website design, banking to teaching, finance to recruitment, dentistry to fitness. With parental help and support, the pupils will hopefully all experience a professional working environment to enlighten and guide them towards their future career destinations. However, a prompt response to internal communication is key, as the boys are all becoming rather competitive, recognising the amazing placements that could be theirs.

The Summer Term will also see the first ever Careers in Apprenticeships Evening on 25 April, due to increasing interest from parents and students. The event will offer all Year Groups, with their families, friends and the wider community, the opportunity to hear from an Apprenticeship expert and

CAREERS

Old Westcliffians who are currently working on Apprenticeship programmes in the City for FTSE 100 global financial institutions. I have been taking weekly enquiries about Apprenticeships and this event will hopefully allow everyone to understand the current status, entry levels and diversity of positions available. Tickets will be available on TicketSource.

The 2018/19 Academic Year will bring with it fresh inspiration for Careers events and work experience once again, so if you are able to offer either time and/or placements, I would be grateful if you could contact me on wellern@whsb.essex.sch.uk. In addition, 6 July is Enrichment Day and, following a thoroughly successful careers-focused day in 2017, the same theme will be repeated this summer. One of the most popular lessons was the mock interview sessions, whereby volunteers from the wider community gave up their time to 'interview' Year 10 boys, offering them advice and guidance in preparation for the outside world. Any volunteers who feel they could also offer their services would be very much appreciated.

Mrs N Weller
Careers Advisor & Work-Related Placement Co-ordinator

RELIGIOUS STUDIES EXAMINER VISITS

On 8 March we were privileged to welcome Ms Libby Ahluwalia to the School to deliver a workshop to A Level Religious Studies' students. The day was focused on essay-writing techniques and how to improve the quality of our written work in order to achieve an A* grade in our summer examinations.

Through discussion and debate on topics such as Liberation Theology and Meta-Ethics, we were able to vastly improve our knowledge and evaluation of key issues relevant to our course. Students in both Years 12 and 13 greatly enjoyed the day, and we would like to thank the Religious Studies Department, and Ms Ahluwalia, for all their support.

Ross McIntyre
Year 13



YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Young Enterprise with Year 12 always proves to be a unique experience for the students each academic year, with fresh-faced participants eager to get involved and utilise their entrepreneurial spirit. Once the initial settling in period has been overcome, the teams become established, roles agreed and ideas start to flow.

The Christmas Trade Fayre in Southend Victoria Shopping Plaza is a fundraising event for students in and around the local area. The main objective is to raise enough money to finance the product idea that they will eventually take to the mass market by producing goods for sale to the general public

Team Arora and Team Imperium both set up their individual stands, selling their



wares for the festive period. Team Arora also had articles printed in The Echo and Leigh Times in support of their efforts.

Since the New Year, and following one or two changes in team members, the teams have taken the mature decision to merge together, focusing on one key product idea. This product, however, is something really rather special and with the support of two local Business Advisors, Mrs Mason and myself, we are all positive that this will prove to be something amazing, with longevity which will allow for the students' continued involvement. Following research undertaken at the local St Christopher's School, team members agreed upon the idea of producing a children's book that would appeal and benefit people with special educational needs. We were also delighted to speak directly with children's

author, Caroline White, who wrote *The Label* which was also transformed into a West End play in support of Mencap. Caroline used to attend Westcliff High School for Girls and was more than helpful with the information she could offer our students in taking their next steps through this process.

We look forward to developments over the coming months and will keep the School community informed when we are ready to go into production. However, if anyone can offer our team their services to assist with self-production/publication of this book for a wider audience, we would gratefully receive offers of help, support and advice. Please contact me on wellern@whsb.essex.sch.uk.

Merging the teams has meant that, as a collaborative effort, there are more skill sets to draw upon to make this exciting venture become a reality. There are exciting times ahead for WHSB's Young Enterprise Team Arora - good luck to everyone concerned!

Mrs N Weller
Careers Advisor & Work-Related Placement Co-ordinator

ART, CRAFT & DESIGN

ART, CRAFT & DESIGN EVENING

Thursday 5 July 2018, 7.30pm

What is Art? Well you can find out at the Annual Art, Craft and Design Show on Thursday 5 July.

I am always being asked 'What is Art?' Is there a definitive answer? Outside the world of Key Stage 3, GCSE and A Level, a 'blank' canvas can sit alongside a 'da Vinci'; both are valid statements but so different. Here at WHSB, the Art Department has become an oasis of curiosity. This year we have continued on our journey of discovery and personal enlightenment. The strength of the work we do is built on the foundations of drawing and recording, both in a traditional way from direct observation sketches to the use of proportion grids and photographic sources. The Department insists on work that is truthful, honest and meaningful, and we adhere to Plato's notion that the strength of the idea is manifestly more important than the mere process of imitation.

During the Summer Term, A Level Art students are required to create an exhibition of their work. These interactive installations will be on show throughout the Summer Term, some publicly in the Humanities Forum, but we also have a permanent set of installations that the students have created in E27. This, and other work, will be part of the annual Art, Craft and Design Evening and it promises to be as competitive in sophistication, skill and diversity as any leading London Art Gallery.

The Summer Term is a busy time. GCSE pupils will be creating their 10-hour examination outcomes on 25 and 26 April and the Year 13 students will be celebrating their 15-hour, end-of-course examination during the period 2-4 May. Over the past two years, the Art Department has helped students to produce some outstanding artwork. The scale and diversity of the academic story behind the works can often bring a tear or a smile, but always a reaction. The journey behind the student's work is now a major factor in the acquisition of marks and, as we have some deep thinkers, this has helped the Department top the performance tables.

As a taster, themes explored this year have been as wide-ranging as Amendra Madipola's 'Hey what are you looking at?' (exploring how body image can have a profound effect on one's well-being), Jodie Lewis' 'hospital corridor' of anxiety (an interactive piece in which one comes face-to-face with our fears), Hannah Phillips' Cyclorama (featuring her memories of her Grandma Irene), Carmen Fribbins' spiritual installation 'Looking back in Anger', and Georgia Gonzalez's 'Crooked House' which explores the themes associated with emotional well-being, and the masks we wear to hide it.

These students have created work which demonstrates how Art can be substantial, academic and profound and should continue the extraordinary achievements of A Level students at WHSB.

We will also showcase work from all our Year Groups along with work from our amazing Design & Technology Department on the evening. The Parents' Association have kindly offered to provide food and drink and nibbles, so please come along to be dazzled and amazed!

*Mr T Sinnott/Mr D Smith
Head of Art; Second in Art*



This year the Design & Technology Department is exhibiting pupils' work from all levels of the School. The work incorporates a variety of technical skills and processes used on woods, metals, and plastics including aluminium casting, brazing, vacuum forming, and electronics

The exhibits from our young designers provide creative and interesting working solutions to a wide range of design problems and display a high level of craft skills. In addition, extra-curricular work produced for the Engineering Education Scheme will be on show, with pupils demonstrating their remote-enabled drone.

My thanks for their support and dedication goes to Mr A Moore, Mrs K Mumford and Mr N Beshoori.

*Mr C Wright
Head of Design & Technology*

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



COMBINED CADET FORCE

ROYAL NAVY OPENING CEREMONY AND ANNUAL CCF MESS DINNER

Thursday 26 April 2018

Following the opening of the Royal Navy Section of the CCF in January, Sub-Lieutenant Hill has been appointed as its Officer Commanding. To recognise this, the CCF will be holding a Royal Navy Opening Ceremony on Thursday 26 April. As part of this, there will be an Inaugural Parade at 2.30pm for all CCF cadets and any guests who wish to attend.

We will also be holding our Annual CCF Mess Dinner that evening, starting at 4.30pm for 5.00pm. This is a formal military tradition and is an excellent opportunity for cadets to take part in a

formal event showing a different side of the Armed Forces, and for parents to recognise and be a part of the celebration of the CCF's achievements during the year.

Our Guest of Honour for these events will be Commodore David Elford OBE ADC Royal Navy, Commander of Regional Forces and Naval Regional Commander Eastern England. Commodore Elford represents our first Guest of Honour from the Royal Navy and we are very happy to have him in attendance.

Tickets are available on TicketSource and all are invited to attend.



EXERCISE WELBECK CADET LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE

20-22 April 2018

In our third show at this competition, Lt Tresidder will again accompany CCF cadets to the Defence Sixth Form College in Loughborough where CCF cadets, from both our Royal Navy and our Army sections, will compete against other teams from all over the United Kingdom in military and leadership skills. The competition is physically and mentally demanding and will involve long hours. It involves command tasks, an obstacle course, a high ropes confidence course, air rifle shooting, an engineering task, First Aid and Navigation. Cadets will be accommodated in tents for the duration.



YEAR 9 SKILL AT ARMS TRAINING AND REARRANGEMENT OF THE YEAR 11 RANGE WEEKEND

In order to prepare our Year 9 cadets for Summer Camp and their first experiences with the Cadet General Purpose Rifle, it is our intention to arrange a Skill At Arms Cadre shortly after the Summer Examinations. It is also our intention to rearrange the Range Weekend for Year 11, which had to be cancelled because of inclement weather, to take place between the conclusion of GCSE examinations and Summer Camp.

CCF PASS OFF PARADE

Friday 29 June 2018, 4.00pm

The CCF will hold its annual Pass Off Parade on Friday 29 June at 4.00pm. It will be an opportunity to award promotions and prizes in advance of Summer Camps and to celebrate the achievements of the cadets across the year. Tickets are available via TicketSource.

ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE

Saturday 30 June 2018, 10.45am

The CCF will send a group of cadets to Southend Armed Forces Day Parade to acknowledge and pay tribute to the work

of our Armed Forces. The Contingent will join other uniformed Units, marching into Victoria Circus in Southend at 10.45am on Saturday 30 June, for those who wish to attend to watch.



CCF ARMY SECTION SUMMER CAMP

7-14 July 2018

The annual CCF Summer Camp will be held at Beckingham in Lincolnshire from Saturday 7 July to Saturday 14 July 2018. This will be the Contingent's first

return to Beckingham Camp since our first camp in 2013. The Camp is run by regular army soldiers, mainly drawn from the Cadet Training Teams that specialise in training cadets, together with the School's CCF staff, and provides a varied week of activities with a military theme. The training packages on offer include military skills (patrolling, ambush drills, close quarter battle, fighting in built-up areas, tactics in woods and forests, section attacks and platoon attacks), shooting, a Contingent field exercise, and competitions against the other schools on camp.

This is always the highlight of our annual calendar and an opportunity to say farewell to our departing Sixth Form cadets.

Major J Bleakley
Contingent Commander



RSME BOAT SCHOOL

Friday 8 June 2018

On Friday 8 June 2018, we will be taking cadets from the Army and Royal Navy sections to the Royal School of Military Engineering Boat School in Chatham, Kent. This centre is where the regular Army learn watermanship with training conducted by regular soldiers. The training package has been arranged by the Boat School instructors and involves an Army boat operations introduction, and familiarising cadets with the Mk6 assault boat, Mk3 rigid raider and combat support boat.





CENTENARY SPONSORSHIP

You, or your company, could become involved in our Centenary Programme of Events in the run up to and throughout 2020, the School's Centenary Year. There are many benefits from an association with a School which features regularly in the top 50 State Schools in the Country.

The WHSB Community is made up of several constituent groups with whom a sponsoring partner may have appropriate exposure to, including:

- Almost 1,200 pupils living in the local catchment area and throughout Essex;
- Over 1,000 families;
- Over 5,000 Alumni in the UK, other European countries and around the rest of the world;
- Many sports teams visit WHSB for tournaments and fixtures across various sports, with a multitude of annual fixtures;
- External Sports Clubs, including rugby, football, cricket, hockey, athletics, badminton and archery use the School's sports facilities;
- The School attracts thousands of visitors to sports events, exhibitions, productions, concerts and prospective Open Evenings throughout the academic year.

To discuss ways in which you, or your organisation, could become involved with the School, please contact the Community Development Office Team community@whsb.essex.sch.uk.



ALUMNI NETWORK SUMMER SOCIAL

Monday 16 July, 7.30pm

We look forward to welcoming members of our Alumni Community to our Annual

Summer Drinks which will be held in School on Monday 16 July from 7.30pm. This year's Summer Social follows the Old Westcliffian Association's AGM which commences at 7.00pm and we would encourage as many of you as possible to attend both these Alumni Community events.

YEAR 13 LEAVERS 2018 – WELCOME!

As a WHSB student, whether for two years or seven, you will have made many friends and will be part of a strong network that can stay with you for the rest of your life. When you leave WHSB, keeping in touch with your friends, the School and the Staff can help you as you progress through the different phases of your career. There will inevitably be older Old Westcliffians at your university who can help you find your way around. When you apply for jobs, you may find Old Westcliffians who can offer advice and guidance. Conversely, as you progress through your career, you will have knowledge, experience and skills that you may like to share with pupils still at School.

This year's Leavers are invited to attend the Alumni Summer Drinks, outlined above, and also the OWA Annual Reunion Dinner held in September.

All former students are encouraged to sign up to the WHSB Alumni Network before they leave the School. All we need is a non-school email address for you and your permission to be contacted by us after you have left the School. Sign-up forms will be distributed at the start of the Summer Term and should be completed and returned to the CDO Team as soon as possible. For further information please come and see us in the Community Development Office (E18) or email us at community@whsb.essex.sch.uk. We look forward to welcoming you to the WHSB Alumni Community and keeping in touch!

WHBSB CENTENARY: THE SCHOOL'S EARLY BEGINNINGS

The First World War had ended in victory, peace had returned and with it, prosperity. From 1918 onwards, and into the early 1920s, Southend saw a period of considerable growth. The County Borough's boundaries expanded to take in Leigh, with the Highlands and Marine

Estates being established.

In 1919, as a result of the town's expansion and growing population, Southend's Education Committee decided a new Intermediate School was needed for boys and girls. 'Belsfield' at 110 Victoria Avenue, a large house on a two-acre site, was purchased at a cost of £7,000 (the equivalent of £350,000 today). 'Belsfield' had previously been owned by Henry Brown, a director of the 'Westcliff-on-Sea Motor Char-a-banc Company' (later Westcliff-on-Sea Motor Services). Mr Brown's company founded the town's first motorbus service which ran between Southend High Street and Hamlet Court Road in Westcliff. This motorbus service commenced on 19 July 1920 with the route numbered 1, the designation still in use today.

Following the acquisition of the Victoria Avenue site (seen below in the early 1960's) and the building being made ready for its new use as an educational establishment, 'The Commercial Secondary School', as Westcliff High School was first known, opened on 27 April 1920 with 109 pupils (boys and girls) on the register. 1920 was a significant year for the town: Priory Park was officially opened by H.R.H. The Duke of York (later King George VI); Southend's War Memorial designed by Edward Lutyens (who was also responsible for the Cenotaph in Whitehall) was erected on Clifftown Parade; and the Royal Naval & Military Club in Royal Terrace opened its doors for the first time as a place for First World War veterans and their families to socialise and support each other following their experiences in The Great War.



In August 1921, the School changed its name from 'The Commercial School' to 'Westcliff High School' (the original title having been somewhat confusing). By 1922, 372 children were on the School's roll and it was rapidly outgrowing its original site. Plans were, by this time, well underway to relocate to new, larger and purpose-built premises to the west of the town. Westcliff High School for Boys in Kenilworth Gardens was officially opened in 1926 for 850 pupils to attend. The Girls' School remained in

Victoria Avenue until 1931 when they too relocated to Kenilworth Gardens. 'Belsfield' subsequently housed the Municipal College's Junior Technical School and Senior Technical Department. In 1939, when WW2 broke out, 'Belsfield' became the Town's Air Raid Precaution (ARP) Headquarters. Post-war, 'Belsfield' housed the Victoria Avenue Primary School (Junior Mixed and Infants) and was then vacant for several years prior to its demolition in 1964 to make way for the new Civic buildings in Victoria Avenue (it can still be seen in front of the Southend Technical College in the photograph below taken during the construction of the new Civic Centre).



We would like to thank Mr P J Wren who allowed us to print the photograph of the Civic Centre (www.southendon-sea.me.uk). Material for this article was sourced from the Essex Record Office, Kelly's Directories of Southend-on-Sea, The Southend Timeline (www.southendtimeline.com) and the book 'Westcliff-on-Sea Motor Services Ltd: An Outline History' by Alan Osborne and

JR Young. We should also like to thank those members of our Alumni Community who were able to shed light on what the original 'Belsfield' Victoria Avenue site was used for following the Girls' School move in 1931 and its demolition in 1964.

Mrs J Clarke & Mrs N Weller
Community Development Officers

OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

The Association is pleased to welcome two new members to the committee, Kirsty Hickey and Billy Warby. They will bring a very useful focus on the views of our younger members. Billy and Kirsty did some tremendous work in drumming up support for our Annual Dinner last year and will use social media to spotlight attention on our Dinner this year.

This year's Dinner will be on 7 September 2018, meeting at 6.15pm for a 7.00pm start at the School. Our speaker will be Neil Harman. Neil has been Sports Correspondent for *The Daily Mail* and *Sunday Telegraph* and, latterly, Chief Tennis Correspondent for *The Times*. He is a prolific author and an OW. We look forward to welcoming him. Our Annual Dinners are always fun occasions and if you have not been before why not give it a try this year? The details and application form will be in our annual newsletter which will be published at the end of May. You will also be able to apply online using TicketSource.

Details of the Dinner and the current and past newsletters and other interesting material can be found on the website. If you would like your personal copy of the

newsletter, please contact me.

Our AGM this year will be on Monday 16 July at 7.00pm at the School. This will be followed by the Alumni social at 7.30pm. The Alumni social is a chance to meet the Headmaster and some of his team as well as other OW's in an informal and relaxed atmosphere over a drink. I look forward to meeting some of you.

The OWA congratulates the School on gaining permission to form a Royal Navy section of the CCF. The Association has always given the CCF its full support and we will continue to do so in this new and exciting venture.

We have a very large database of members with whom we have lost contact, some of whom we reconnect with each year. If you know of an OW who is not a member, please put them in touch with me. Our subscription is only £10 for life membership or £5 if in full time education. The application form is on the website.

In conclusion, I would always be pleased to hear from you if you have any comments about our Association or suggestions as to future activities.

Terry Birdseye
terry.birdseye@gmail.com



UNIFORM

Uniform Shop Manager, by e-mail (uniform@whsb.essex.sch.uk).

LOST PROPERTY

A 'lost property' rack is located in the East Basement and pupils who have lost an item can access this area or enquire at the Front Reception desk. Many mislaid items are returned to pupils and we kindly request the assistance of parents and pupils in ensuring that clothing and other items are clearly labelled.

Miss C Parkinson
School Bursar

ONLINE UNIFORM SHOP

For our current pupils, uniform and other essential School items can be ordered and paid for via the School website. Pupils will receive notification in their register when orders are ready to collect from the Front Reception and this will, under normal circumstances, be within two School days following submission. The WHSB Online Uniform Shop can be accessed by visiting www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/uniform or by selecting 'About Us, Practical Information, Uniform' on the School's website.

To purchase items, simply select the size and quantity required and click 'add to basket'. Payment for online purchases can be made by credit and debit card only. Whilst the majority of uniform orders can be made online, we appreciate that there

will be circumstances whereby items are required urgently and the mail order system will continue to accommodate this. Payment for these purchases can be made by cash or cheque and forms are available online or from the Front Reception.

The School Uniform Shop will be open between 3.45pm and 4.45pm on Thursdays during term time, giving parents an opportunity to oversee uniform fittings.

The Uniform Shop will also be open on Monday 3, Tuesday 4, and Wednesday 5 September 2018 for purchases to be made and online orders to be collected prior to the start of the Autumn Term. The shop will be open between 1.00pm and 4.00pm on these days. For further information please contact Miss Mayne,

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



WHSB PARENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL RACE NIGHT 2018

Following the postponement of our Annual Race Night due to last term's bout of adverse weather, the event will now take place this term on Saturday 9 June. Everyone can be a winner at this significant fundraiser for the School. Doors open at 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start and tickets are priced at £6 for adults and £3 for pupils. Bring your own drinks and nibbles, or for an extra £4.50 per ticket, you can enjoy a fish and chip supper (vegetarian alternative available). Tickets can be booked on TicketSource. The Race Night is an extremely popular event and early booking is advised. Please come and join us for what always proves to be a fun packed and highly competitive evening for the entire family!

PIMM'S STALL AT THE SUMMER BIG BAND AND BBQ

We will be running our ever-popular Pimm's Stall selling alcoholic summer punch and soft drinks at the School's annual Summer Big Band and BBQ event on Friday 13 July 2018. In addition, we will be holding our summer raffle in



support of the School with a seasonally-relevant grand prize. We look forward to seeing you there.



SPORTS DAY CAKE SALE

The Parents' Association will be represented again this year at WHSB's Sports Day on Tuesday 3 July, serving refreshments, providing complimentary fruit and selling quality baked goods. All proceeds go to the School.

*Mrs K Merriman
Parents' Association Chair*

DRAMA AT WHSB

The Parents' Association were delighted to be able to support Drama at the School's recent production of *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*. Selling 'PA Sunrise' mocktails and holding a successful raffle on each performance night, over £500 was raised for the School's Drama Department. Thank you to all those members of our School Community who supported us.



SLICES OF PI: MATHEMATICS AT WHSB

INTERMEDIATE MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE

On Thursday 1 February 2018, all pupils in Year 11 took part in the Intermediate Mathematics Challenge. Much like the Senior Mathematics Challenge that our Sixth Form students undertook in November last year, this is a national competition designed to test the problem-solving skills of pupils and promotes more creative thinking in Mathematics.

This year, the following 10 pupils got through to the Pink Kangaroo follow-on round: Adam Whittaker 11W, Ahad Awan 11C, Atdhe Gashi 11S, Tamilore Mustafa 11E, Peter Simon 11N, Joshua Rawden 11N, Harinhan Gowrethasan 11W, Klain Fernando 11C, Matthew Mohan 11W and Oliver Clarke 11W. In addition to this, 13 pupils achieved a gold certificate, 32 a silver and 45 a bronze. We would like to congratulate these pupils and all who took part. The questions posed in these challenges can be very difficult but allow pupils to showcase their mathematical abilities and delve into areas of Mathematics beyond their normal curriculum.

YEAR 10 TEAM CHALLENGE (MATHEMATICS FEAST)

On Wednesday 7 March, eight Year 10 pupils took part in the FMSP Year 10 Maths Feast. The pupils were in two teams of four for the competition and had to demonstrate their understanding of a number of topics across the breadth of Mathematics. The key aim of the event was to have fun through Mathematics and to develop great teamwork, and each team was tested through a series of rounds which relied on good problem solving skills and effective team work and communication.

The teams placed 4th and 6th out of 15 teams overall, with one of the teams



winning a certificate for achieving the highest score for one of the rounds. The Year 10 pupils involved were: Jason Chin 10S, Alexander Giffin, 10N, Farhan Hossenbux 10S, Jonathon Huggett 10N, Niall Ivie 10S, George Jefferson 10E, Sammy Joujou 10W, Arnihan Sarveswaram 10N. We were also supported by Jasper Wiblin from Year 12, whose presence allowed the trip to run with a second team and whose help was invaluable at the competition.

YEAR 8 TEAM CHALLENGE

On 9 March 2018, four Key Stage 3 pupils competed in the UKMT team Mathematics Challenge at Bancroft's School, Essex. Rudra Patel 8N, Bhavy Metakar 8N and Justus Genthe 9N and Nivasan Loganathan 9N performed well in this competition, coming 5th out of 27 local schools. We congratulate them on their performance and the effort they put in throughout the year, attending sessions with Mrs Hammond to prepare for this competition.

If you are interested in taking part in the competition next year then please contact Mrs Hammond. We are looking for capable Year 7 and 8 pupils to take up the mantle and represent the School. Mathematics teachers can supply material to those pupils wishing to prepare for these competitions or those who generally want more imaginative problems to solve.

JUNIOR MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE

Thursday 26 April 2018

The Junior Mathematics Challenge runs on the 26 April 2018 this year. All Year 8 pupils will be able to participate in this national competition that will test their problem-solving abilities. Previously, we have experienced a great deal of success in this competition, and we wish to highlight specifically that success has come from pupils across the whole ability range. Due to the nature of this competition, we have some pupils who find aspects of their normal academic studies challenging who succeed in the JMC because they are able to showcase their problem-solving ability.

Feel free to ask your teachers for some additional questions, or you can search for the papers yourself by visiting the UKMT's website and following the links. Last year's paper with extended solutions

is available for you to use for preparation.

STUDENT MENTORING

The Mathematics Department continues to run a successful pupil-to-student tutoring scheme over lunch time and break time. If you wish to sign up for this scheme, either as someone who can help mentor another pupil or someone who needs help themselves, please see Miss Dole in the Lower School Pastoral Office.

We can accommodate pupils from Year 7 to Year 13 in both Mathematics and Further Mathematics, so if you are having any problems with any work feel free and ask for help. The sessions with your mentor are designed to run across the year but the scheme is flexible to suit your needs, so if you are having a particularly challenging time this term as there is a lot of work on Algebra then we can arrange a mentor for a short period of time instead.

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

STEP, MAT AND AEA SUPPORT

Mr Tsang has started to offer Sixth Term Examination Paper (STEP) and Advanced Extension Award (AEA) support for those looking at taking these examinations in order to aid their university entrance prospects. This club is aimed at those in Years 12 and 13 who are looking to go to universities that offer entrance examinations, such as Cambridge, Oxford, Durham and Warwick. Potential mathematicians, engineers, physicists and economists may wish to research some universities in order to assess whether it is worth attending the club. Students are also welcome to attend, even if they do not intend to sit any entrance exams; this club is a good opportunity to see some difficult questions answered in imaginative ways that may benefit your studies of mathematics generally. Furthermore, it will provide a great deal of rich material for students to discuss with potential interviewers at university. Please talk to Mr Tsang to obtain more details.

*Mr M Dowding
Head of Mathematics*

MUSIC AT WHSB

SUMMER CHAMBER RECITAL

Thursday 3 May 2018, 7.30pm

This term's Chamber Recital promises to be another exciting evening of soloists and small ensembles performing a wide variety of musical styles and instruments. Ensembles such as the Saxophone Quartet and Brass Ensemble will be demonstrating their repertoire, performing numbers as diverse as Van Halen's *Jump* and *City of Stars* from *La La Land*. A range of vocalists and soloists will also be flaunting their talent onstage, such as brass musician Grace Jackson, returning to the Chamber Recital after her exciting performance in the Spring, and Oboist Charlie Gershinson who continues to tackle ambitious and virtuosic pieces.

Tickets are priced at £5 for adults. This concert is free of charge for pupils.

WESTCLIFF SINFONIA SUMMER CONCERT

Wednesday 4 July 2018, 7.30pm

Prepare for some movie magic as the Westcliff Sinfonia presents a dazzling programme of music from film. Composers such as Howard Shore, Jerry Goldsmith, Ennio Morricone and, of course, John Williams, will be represented and you can be sure that all audience members will find at least a few familiar themes to hum along to.

John Williams is responsible for some of the most famous film scores ever written, and so it is that he will be the most



prominent composer of the evening with music from *Jurassic Park* and *Harry Potter* featuring in the programme. Howard Shore's Wagnerian score for *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* will provide for any fantasy buffs, while sci-fi aficionados can set their phasers to 'fun' in anticipation of a medley of well-known themes in *Star Trek Through the Years*.

Tickets are priced at £5 for adults. This concert is free of charge for pupils.

YEAR 7 CULTURAL ENRICHMENT PROJECT

This term, all Year 7 pupils will be required to attend at least one of the musical concerts or trips listed in the Diary as an audience member and will be expected to write a review of their chosen event. This written work will be evaluated as a formal assessment and will contribute to reports and end-of-year grades. More details will be given in lesson-time but it is advised that pupils sign up to events



as soon as possible to guarantee a ticket. The Department recommends the trip to London to see Tchaikovsky's *Symphony No.5* performed by the Philharmonia Orchestra.

TCHAIKOVSKY AT THE ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Thursday 14 June 2018, 4.45pm

The world-class Philharmonia orchestra are joined by Korean conductor, Han-Na Chang, and pianist, Sunwook Kim, to perform Grieg's piano concerto. This is an exciting and popular work, with the folk music style of Norway on display as much as the pianist's virtuosity. The concert will also feature Rossini's famous galloping fanfare overture to *William Tell*.

Tchaikovsky's emotive Fifth Symphony will close the concert. This important work was modelled on Beethoven's Fifth Symphony and features a similar 'Tragedy to triumph' trajectory, even with a motif that intrudes on each of the movements. The piece has an important place in history: During the Second World War, a performance of the symphony was broadcast to London from Leningrad while the city was under siege. The orchestra continued to perform the final triumphant march while bombs could be heard falling nearby.

Tickets for pupils, staff, parents and friends of the School are £21.50, including travel. Spaces for this event are limited and booking closes on Friday 4 May.

Mr T Derrick
Director of Music



MUSICOLOGY SEMINAR – WAGNER ON FILM

Thursday 10 May 2018, 3.45pm

Richard Wagner composed opera in the 19th century, yet of all classical composers he has had by far the biggest impact on Film Music of the 20th and 21st century. This seminar will explore the basics of Wagner's compositional technique before launching on an odyssey through animation and cinema. Examples of the use of Wagner's music in film will range from the Looney Tunes' short film, *What's Opera Doc*, to the famous chopper attack of *Apocalypse Now*. The seminar will also delve into how Wagner's ideas have been adapted by composers for films as diverse as *Star Wars*, *The Lord of the Rings*, and the movies by the Japanese anime auteur, Hayao Miyazaki. This seminar will last an hour and, whilst it is particularly recommended for students studying GCSE or A Level music as material covered will be directly relevant to set works, it is open to all interested students from Year 9 to Year 13.

Mr T Derrick
Director of Music



SUMMER BAND AND BARBECUE

Friday 13 July 2018, 7.00pm

Join the Westcliff Big Band in welcoming the summer with lively music and delicious food. Performers at this anticipated annual event include the Saxophone Quartet and the Westcliff Choir who will entertain the crowd with a selection of well-known songs from popular genres while hot dogs and burgers are flipped on the grill. Following the entertainment outside in the quads, the Westcliff Big Band will take to the stage to play a selection of jazz and swing numbers. After a long academic year of working and studying hard, pupils, parents and staff are encouraged to let off some steam in what is sure to be an unforgettable evening's music.

This event is open to all, costing £14 for adults and £10 for pupils, including food. Tickets are £7 for adults and £4 for pupils excluding food.

Mr T Derrick
Director of Music



THE HOUSE SYSTEM

HOUSE ACTIVITIES INCLUDING HOUSE DRAMA

This academic year has been most productive for the House System and I am very pleased with student levels of participation. House rugby, basketball, table tennis, rowing and football have been a great success. Other events such as House French, German, spelling, photography, cartography, microbiology, *Star Wars*, *Lord of the Rings*, chess, board games, cards, drawing, *War Hammer* painting, mental arithmetic and oratory have also been popular.

I would like to take this opportunity to

thank the Heads of House for their hard work this academic year as they have made such a valuable contribution.

Upcoming events include model car building, palaeontology, improvisational theatre, scrabble, model car building, golf, squash, sports quiz and music.

House Drama will also be an important event for Year 8 and all pupils are expected to participate in some way. This can include acting, directing, music, lighting, costumes or making the programme. It is one of the biggest events of the academic year and is worth a significant amount of House points. Aspiring House Captains/Vice Captains in Year 12 are expected to help with this event.

I would also like to express my gratitude and appreciation to Mr Rayment, Mr White, Mr Sexton, Mr Morrish, Mr Atkinson and Mr McGee for the support that they have given the House System recently.

Thank you also to all the House Representatives, House Captains, House Vice Captains and other pupils who have helped to run, and been involved with, House activities over the past term.

Finally, if you have any ideas for new House events, or would like to help run an activity, please do come and see me. I am interested in any thoughts that you may have.

Mr R Barber
House System Coordinator

HOUSE SNOW SCULPTURES

The end of February saw what has been described as 'once in a generation' levels of snowfall at WHSB. It was the perfect opportunity to introduce a new House competition, *Snow Sculptures*.

Year 7 pupils donned their layers and headed out to the bottom field on the afternoon of Friday 2 March. They revealed their creativity and collaboration skills in creating sculptures in the snow, as well as demonstrating their own brand of resilience as the snow blizzard arrived in the late afternoon.

As well as receiving individual House Points for participation, points were awarded to the Houses in the following

order. In 4th place were Kestrel, joint 2nd were Harrier and Osprey with an amazing motte-and-bailey castle and crocodile amongst other offerings, and the well-deserved winner was Merlin for a very charming living room, complete with Sofa, TV and games controller, as well as an impressive snake. Congratulations to new Head of Merlin House, Mr Sexton, and to all the pupils who participated.

Mrs K Mumford
Assistant Head



HOUSE GOLF EVENT

Friday 8 June, 4.30pm

The House Golf Event is a Lads and Dads tournament, where twosomes compete in Texas Scramble or Golfer Putter Pairs as well as a staff competition played over 9 holes at Garon Park Golf Complex.

Even though the headline is Dads and Lads, it could just as easily be Mums and Sons, Grandads, Uncles, or a family friend.

There is a competition for the Upper Years - 'Senior Singles' and this will be suitable for any player in Year 10 or above to compete in matchplay to represent their House.

The event will take place at Garon Park Golf Complex on Friday 8 June. Tee-off times will be from 4.30pm.

Golfer and Putter Pairs: This competition will require one golfer, who will take all shots onto the green, and a non-golfer 'Putter' taking all putts. This is a great opportunity to involve non-golfers, as everyone can putt! Will Jamie Findlater and Grandfather return to defend their title?

Texas Scramble Pairs: This competition will be for pairs of golfers who make their way around the course, but only using the better ball. Both players take a turn from the better ball lie.

Both competitions will be determined using the Stableford Points system, with the lower golfer's handicap being used to calculate the points. An impressive performance from rookie Joshua Harrison with his father won this prize for Osprey in 2017.

Senior Singles Matchplay: Any pupil in Year 10 or above may enter the Senior Singles Match Play competition. Unlike Stroke play where it is player versus the course, in Match play, each hole can be won or lost directly to your opponent. The rules are easy - the lowest score on a hole wins the hole. The golfer who wins the most holes, wins the competition.

Bonus Competition: There will also be bonus points for 'Nearest the Pin' and 'Longest Drive', which played a crucial part in the overall standings last year, with both being won by Mr Tim Turner for Harrier.

We will be joined once again by Leigh Professional Golfer, Martin Foreman, and friends of the School and members of the Old Westcliffian Association and Alumni are also welcome to join the event and represent their House. The Staff competition promises to be exciting this year, with Director of Sport, Mr Morrish, former 4 handicapper, joining forces with Mrs Mumford representing Harrier House. But competition is set to be tense in the Physical Education Department, with new-comer Mr White and last year's champion, Mr Sexton, once again stepping up to the tee.

Will any of the other Houses step up to seize the Golf Cup from Merlin? Traditionally a close competition, participation is crucial to success in this activity.

The cost of this event is £12 per head and will include refreshments at the end of the round. Please use TicketSource to indicate your participation. I look forward to seeing you there.

Mrs K Mumford
Assistant Head



SCHOOL SPORT

THE SCHOOL'S SPORTING PROGRAMME

WHSB's sport has continued to improve over the Spring Term. This would not be possible without the commitment of Mr White, Mr Sexton, Mr Atkinson and Mr Garstin providing a platform of practices that enables both recreational participation in sport but also enables the widening of our competitive stream of sport. Mrs Burden's organisation enables the School to be involved in such a variety of fixtures both at weekends and during the week. I am very grateful to have such a dedicated group of people working

towards the common goal of enabling all pupils at WHSB to experience the power of sport.

As a Department, we are always trying to widen the opportunities that we can provide to WHSB pupils. If there are any parents or pupils that are interested in supporting this through sports that are not currently available at WHSB, please contact the School as being 'open to opportunity' is an important part of being a pupil at WHSB.

As our attention now turns to Athletics, Cricket and Tennis it is important that we maintain attendance at the wide variety of extra-curricular clubs which are available before School, during lunchtime and after School. Work ethic is a

foundational stone of the Department and strong foundations are important. Our community strives to meet the challenges presented, and those challenges are now the Borough and County Competitions for Athletics, Cricket and Tennis.

In addition to these external challenges, WHSB also sets its own, internal challenges. Our internal challenge in School sport this term is that each individual pupil will reach the end of the Summer Term knowing that they have participated and achieved to their full potential. This can only be achieved through attendance at practices and making WHSB their priority when it comes to representing the School in sporting fixtures both in midweek matches and at the weekends. So many

BASKETBALL UPDATE

WHSB's sport has continued to improve during the Spring Term. The commitment levels of pupils within Basketball has continued to impress, and this endeavour saw four teams from WHSB reach the Borough Basketball Finals. This is the most successful Borough campaign that we have had as a School. The Year 7 team were victorious against Southend High School for Boys, giving an exceptional performance against strong opposition. Noah Louis continued to impress during this game, racking up the points and defending superbly. Unfortunately, the Year 8 team narrowly lost against St Thomas More, but they were a credit to the School, demonstrating commitment and determination. They will play St Thomas More again in the semi-final of the Essex Cup shortly and will hope to avenge this defeat. At the time of writing, our Year 10 pupils are yet to play their Final, where they will meet Shoeburyness High School; however, they will have high hopes having beaten them once already this year. The Year 11 team reached the Final, which was the reward for a year of hard work and commitment. This was the first time they have reached this stage since attending the School and this was an excellent achievement. I would like to make special mention of Fope Oguntuga and Mayowa Okunuga who have set an exceptional example, both at training sessions and during games; they are a clear example as to what can be achieved with an excellent work ethic and attitude.

The County season is coming to a close now and we have had some excellent results on this stage too. All five age groups reached the quarter-final stage of the competitions, with four teams reaching the semi-finals. This puts WHSB in the top four schools in the County for Basketball in four out of five age groups. While, of course, it may be disappointing for the pupils to have just one team in the Final at this stage (with one semi-final still to play), on reflection they should understand this is an outstanding achievement in our first year of entering this competition and it provides a target for us to better the performance in the years to come. The Year 10 team played a challenging semi-final against St Martin's, who are a renowned Basketball school in the County, to reach the Final. Demi Adeyeye, who represents England, and Nathaniel Familusi, really stepped up and led the team to ensure that they were the first age group from WHSB ever to reach the Essex Cup Basketball Final. Our Year 8 pupils will now attempt to join them by playing St Thomas More in the semi-final. This will no doubt be a tough game, although it is certainly within their

grasp should they continue to work hard and put the effort in.

This has been an outstanding season for Basketball at WHSB, which demonstrates the standards that we can reach should we continue to work hard and strive for excellence. This season will now be a barometer for us to measure ourselves against in the future, with the ambition to better this next year.

*Mr J White
Second in PE*



of our pupils understand that it is a great privilege to represent WHSB and is therefore something for which they strive in any activity from sporting, to musical and theatrical to academic.

I would like to make special mention of the Year 7 pupils who have arrived at WHSB this year and shown outstanding School spirit, and work ethic to match, during the last two terms. It is not a coincidence that their teams are seeing success and that the pupils in the Year Group interact superbly with one another. Sport is a powerful tool to bring communities together and the pupils in Year 7 are an incredibly strong community. They show true pride in their School at any sporting fixture they attend. They have had great success in Rugby, remaining undefeated since the Millfield Festival. Dikachi Godwin has led the way and has been unstoppable, scoring over 40 tries. Brendan Burgess has shown impressive physical prowess and relentless commitment. Riley Thomas has shown mature leadership as Captain and leads by example. Our Basketball team were victorious in the Year 7 Borough Final

beating Southend High School for Boys. Performance in the Essex Cup semi-final against SHSB was disappointing; however, lessons were learned and targets are being put in place for September when we resume our basketball.

It is no coincidence that this success has come about at a time when the number of Year 7 pupils who attend training sessions has been steadily increasing during the last two years. This superb attitude from our pupils is the reason for their success and their strong community. The outcomes are a by-product of the consistent way in which they pursue team involvement and their desire to represent WHSB.

The talent of pupils at WHSB continues to astound the Department. The combination of attitude and commitment, together with the sporting talent, translates into improved sporting performance at WHSB.

*Mr T Morrish
Director of Sport*

FOOTBALL

This year has been a good year for football at WHSB. Our Year 7 team reached the quarter-final of the South East Essex Cup and the Borough Cup Final where they are shortly due to play Eastwood (at the time of writing). The Year 10 team reached the quarter-finals of both Cups and our Year 11 team will also represent the School in the Borough Cup Final. We say farewell to the majority of our 1st XI who will soon head off to pastures new and we thank them for their support over the past seven years.

*Mr M Atkinson
Sports Coach*



TABLE TENNIS

WHSB enjoyed success at both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 Borough competitions this year. In Key Stage 3 all of our six competitors qualified for the quarter-finals. Congratulations to the eventual winner, Peter Eriksson, and Justus Genthe who finished in 3rd place. Pictured with Peter and Justus are the other four players who represented the School.

In the Key Stage 4 competition, again the School entered six players and we are delighted that Kieran Williams reached the quarter-final stage. This was an excellent achievement and WHSB did the 'double' as Kieran became Key Stage 4 Borough Champion! Well done and congratulations to all pupils who represented WHSB.

*Mr M Atkinson
Sports Coach*





CALENDAR FOR SUMMER TERM 2018

Mon 16 April **STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY**
 Tue 17 April **SUMMER TERM BEGINS, 8.45am**
 20-22 April CCF Welbeck Cadet Leadership Challenge
 Mon 23 April Year 10 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm
 Wed 25 April IMechE Lecture, Dunton, 7.30pm
 Apprenticeships Careers Evening, 7.00pm
 Thu 26 April Junior Mathematics Challenge
 Royal Navy Inaugural Parade and CCF Dinner
 Fri 27 April Year 8 Phase 2 Reports issued
 27-29 April Silver Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition
 Tue 1 May Year 12 English visit to Stratford-upon-Avon
 Visit by Professor Mark Warner
 Thu 3 May Summer Chamber Recital, 7.30pm
 Sat 5 May WCGC: Languages Day, 8.30am
 Mon 7 May **BANK HOLIDAY**
 Wed 9 May Internet Safety and Mental Health Evening, 7.30pm
 Thu 10 May Musicology Seminar, 3.45pm
 22-25 May Year 12 Geography visit to Barcelona
 28 May-1 June **SUMMER HALF TERM**
 Fri 8 June CCF RSME Boat School
 House Golf Competition, 4.30pm
 9-10 June Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Practice Weekend
 Sat 9 June Parents' Association Race Night, 6.15pm
 Thu 14 June Visit to Royal Festival Hall, 4.45pm
 Wed 20 June Year 12 University Superfair
 Higher Education Evening, 7.30pm
 23-29 June Year 12 Geology visit to Isle of Arran
 Mon 25 June Oxbridge Conference
 Tue 26 June **SCHOOL FINISHES AT 12.50PM**
 Open Evening for Year 5 pupils, 5.00pm

Wed 27 June Battlefields trip Parents' Briefing, 7.30pm
 28-29 June Sixth Form Induction Course
 Thu 28 June New Year 7 Parents' Meeting, 7.30pm
 Fri 29 June Year 12 Phase 3 Reports issued
 CCF Pass Off Parade, 4.00pm
 Charity Finale Night, 7.00pm
 Sat 30 June Armed Forces Day Parade, 10.45am
 Mon 2 July Year 13 Leavers' Dinner, 7.00pm
 Tue 3 July Sports Day
 Wed 4 July Westcliff Sinfonia Summer Concert, 7.30pm
 Thu 5 July Art, Craft & Design Evening, 7.30pm
 Fri 6 July Enrichment Day
 6-9 July Year 9 History visit to Great War Battlefields
 7-14 July CCF Army Section Summer Camp
 8-11 July Year 12 Chemistry visit to Bristol
 Thu 12 July Junior House Drama Festival, 7.00pm
 Fri 13 July Year 8 Phase 3 Reports issued
 Year 10 Phase 3 Reports issued
 Tennis Ambassadors visit to Wimbledon
 Summer Band and BBQ, 7.00pm
 15-18 July Silver Duke of Edinburgh Assessment Expedition
 Mon 16 July Alumni Network Summer Social, 7.30pm
 Thur 19 July Year 7 Phase 3 Reports issued
 Year 9 Phase 3 Reports issued
 Fri 20 July **SUMMER TERM ENDS, 2.45pm**
 11-19 August Drama visit to Edinburgh Fringe Festival
 3-5 September Uniform Shop open, 1.00pm-4.00pm
 Wed 5 September **STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY**
 Thu 6 September **AUTUMN TERM BEGINS, 8.45am**

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



Facebook:
/WHSforBoys



Twitter:
@WHSforBoys



LinkedIn:
Westcliff High School for Boys