



Westcliff High School
for Boys

The Westcliff Diary

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ISSUE 85 / AUTUMN 2018

IN THIS ISSUE:

ON THE COVER: WESTCLIFF AT THE FRINGE (SEE PAGE 29)

NATIONAL ATHLETICS SUCCESS

VISITS TO DUXFORD, LYON, WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE AND COLCHESTER ZOO





FROM THE DESK OF THE HEADMASTER

WELCOME BACK FROM THE HEADMASTER

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

The School's building contractors have been working hard across the holiday period to complete the refurbishment of the Technology Building. I am pleased to report that the refurbishment is now finished and that we shall be moving into the much improved building at the start of term. As part of the refurbishment process the windows and external doors have been replaced. In addition, the space on the ground and first floors has been reconfigured to make optimum use of the available space for teaching the Technology curriculum. A new state-of-the-art Food Room has been installed on the first floor, which is fully equipped to enable a whole class in Technology to undertake practical work at the same time. We have also completed some landscaping work to the front of the building to improve access. There are some final works to be completed in the Autumn half-term, including the installation of the new lift. Work has also commenced on the Science extension, which will add an additional full size

(90m sq) laboratory to the building. It is anticipated that the new laboratory will come into service at the start of the Spring Term.

A number of School activities have taken place during the summer vacation this year. Just prior to the end of term, a School party, under the leadership of Mr Hill, supported by Mr Morrish, visited China as part of the Confucius Institute Education programme. The group had a wonderful time and had the opportunity to travel to different parts of the country, as well as participate in a programme of language and cultural lessons. A group of our Year 10 pupils also participated in a



World Challenge expedition to Croatia, under the leadership of Miss Isaac and Mr Steel, at the start of the summer break. The group undertook a significant number of demanding challenges during their week in Croatia, aimed at building skills and resilience.

Later in the holidays, a party of pupils drawn from across the School (Years 8 to 13) took a show to the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. The show (*Waiting for OFSTED*) was conceived, written and directed by Mr Jeffreys, Director of Drama, and was rehearsed for one week at School immediately prior to the group's departure for Scotland. Mr Sampson, Mr McGee and Mrs Mumford all travelled with the group to provide support. The play and performances were well reviewed and received by the Fringe audience. I congratulate all those involved in these activities and offer my thanks to the staff who have volunteered their time and skills to enable these events to take place.

The School's career programme has grown and improved significantly under the leadership of our Careers Adviser, Mrs Weller. The programme of careers seminars involving local and national speakers, and covering a broad range of sectors, has been exceptionally well supported by pupils and their parents. At the same time, we have a significant number of Year 11 pupils taking up work placements following their GCSE examinations. This academic year, we shall be further developing our programme and taking advantage of support provided by the Careers and Enterprise Councils established by the Government.

The School expansion continues to work its way through the School and we now enter our fourth year of admitting 185 pupils into Year 7. We continue to invest heavily in our Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children (WCGC) *Go for Grammar!* Programme designed to encourage the entry of pupils from the local area and, in particular, the entry of those pupils from areas of socio-economic disadvantage. The programme has now run for eight years and has a record of success in both encouraging and enabling its participants to give serious consideration to applying for a Grammar School education. More recently, we have been pleased that the Local Authority and others have engaged with this matter and are also supporting more local entry to the Grammar Schools.

The School will celebrate its Centenary in 2020 and the Centenary Committee has now agreed the outline programme

for the Centenary year which will run from January to December 2020. The programme will include an official launch night showcasing the best of the School's talent, special concerts and drama productions, the commissioning of bespoke displays for the School corridors, a programme of lectures, a joint Garden Party with Westcliff High School for Girls and much more. Full details of our plans will be circulated soon and we hope to commence with bookings for the official launch event which will take place on Saturday 1 February 2020 at the Cliffs Pavilion.

A great deal of the School's success relies upon the support of its community and we are fortunate to have outstanding assistance from our wider community. The support offered by the School's Parents' Association is quite exceptional and the level of commitment and energy shown by the Parents' Association is humbling. I wish to offer my thanks to the Chair, Mrs Merriman, and her colleagues for their ceaseless work on our behalf, supporting numerous events and providing funds for facilities and projects, including our new School minibus which will be delivered later this term. I would also like to thank the Old Westcliffian Association (OWA), the Old Westcliffian Lodge and the Travers family for their generous donations which have enabled the School to purchase and install flag poles on the South Drive. These will provide a valuable resource for the School's Combined Cadet Force (the Royal Navy Section, in particular). We are also grateful to Mr Berger (former Head of History at WHSB) for a generous donation in support of History teaching at the School.

Inevitably, I can only cover a fraction of our plans, developments and activities in this article. However, I would strongly advise parents to visit the School's website and Social Media pages on a regular basis to keep in touch with the latest developments at the School. I would also take the opportunity to remind parents that we welcome their contact with the School, although this must be by letter or telephone call. We do not ordinarily reply to emails as senders' identities can be difficult to verify. We are most grateful for your continued support in relation to this matter.

There are many lessons to be learned at School; some from teachers and advisers, and some from fellow pupils. The learning can be collective and individual. Amongst the most important lessons is the understanding that learning continues throughout one's life and that experience is perhaps the greatest of all teachers. In my experience, managing that lifelong learning is all the easier when one has firm foundations provided by an effective education. The new academic year presents both challenges and opportunities and it is important that we rise to the challenges and make the most of the opportunities. Equally, we must accept that life is not without risk and setbacks, but both can be managed through resilience, a true sense of self-worth and with support from those around us. I wish all pupils and colleagues much success for the academic year ahead.

STAFFING FOR THE AUTUMN TERM

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to those staff members who left us in August and to thank them for their service to the School.

Mr Palmer, who has loyally served us for over two years as a member of the Facilities Team, leaves us to take up a position at a new school. We also say farewell to Mr Garstin, one of our Sports Coaches and the School's Cover Supervisor. A highly talented sportsman, Mr Garstin has given tremendous service and contributed much to the development of the School's extra-curricular programme.

Miss Selfridge has been with us for just one year teaching English and French, and Miss Zerrouki has been with us for

two years as both a French Assistant and French teacher. Both colleagues have made valuable contributions towards the teaching of English and Modern Languages respectively. Miss Selfridge has secured a position at another school and Miss Zerrouki will be undertaking teacher training.

We also say farewell to Mr Wightman, a highly capable Chemistry teacher who has contributed to a number of developments in both Chemistry and Science at the School. He has done much in recent times to significantly improve our provision in Lower School Science. He now moves on to a promoted position in his new School.

Mr Sims joined the staff in 2014 having had previous experience in schools and industry. He, too, leaves us to take up a promoted position at his new School. As well as a successful teacher, Mr Sims has also made a terrific contribution to the

School's extracurricular life, particularly through his support with the work of the CCF and the Duke of Edinburgh programme.

Ms Fasquel joined us in 2012. She is an able linguist, teaching not only her native language of French, but also Spanish. Ms Fasquel has played a significant role in the development of our Spanish curriculum. She also moves on to a promoted position in her new school and we wish her well.

Mr Smith joined us in 2009. He is a highly talented teacher and artist. Working closely with Mr Sinnott, he has assisted in transforming Art into one of the highest performing subjects in the School. He has also encouraged and inspired interest in Art, not least through his own highly creative work. Like his former colleagues, he too moves on to a promoted position.

Mr Despres is one of our longest serving

members of staff, having served at WHSB for 37 years. During that time Mr Despres held numerous senior roles. He was, for very many years, Head of Biology and he also held responsibility for PSHEE. He developed the School's Science programme for primary school children, which we now know as the Science Roadshow; a programme which has inspired many hundreds of local children to take an interest in Science. Mr Despres agreed to set up the WHSB Duke of Edinburgh programme at my request in 2012 and, thanks to his work, it is now well established and highly successful. I know that for many students, present and past, Mr Despres will always be associated with the WHSB annual ski trip. He led this trip for around 30 years, enabling many hundreds of students to learn and enjoy skiing. There is so much more I could mention including, for example, his outstanding contribution to School sport across many years. His

contribution has been significant and he leaves us with a tremendous legacy.

We are pleased to welcome a number of staff to the School. Ms de Andres, Mrs Genthe and Mrs Sanchez join the Modern Foreign Languages Department to teach Spanish and German. Ms Price joins the Art Department and Ms Williams joins the History Department. We also welcome Mrs Hare as our Clerk to the Governing Body.

PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS 2018

This year WHSB has enjoyed outstanding A Level results. 20% of our entries were graded A* and 50% of all entries were graded A*/A. Twenty-three students gained two or more A* grades and ten students achieved at least three A* grades. The majority of students have achieved or

exceeded their University offers, including nine students who have secured places at Oxford and Cambridge. We also had outstanding GCSE results with 48% of entries graded 8/9 (A*) and 76% of entries graded 7-9 (A*-A). One-hundred and three pupils achieved eight or more 7-9 (A*-A) grades and twenty-seven pupils achieved twelve or more 7-9 (A*-A) grades. We congratulate all our students and give them our best wishes for the future.



FROM THE DESK OF THE HEADMASTER

ANNUAL SPEECH DAY

Tuesday 16 October 2018, 7.45pm

The School's Annual Speech Day will take place on Tuesday 16 October 2018 in the School Hall. This year, we are delighted to welcome Sir Jon Cunliffe, Deputy Governor of the Bank of England. Sir Jon is a member of the Bank's Financial Policy and Monetary Policy Committees, the Bank's Court of Directors and the Prudential Regulation Committee. He has specific responsibility within the Bank for financial stability, for the supervision and oversight of Financial Market Infrastructures, Resolution and International. He is a member of the G20 Financial Stability Board Steering Committee, the Bank for International Settlements' Board of Directors and the European Systemic Risk Board.

Before joining the Bank, Sir Jon was the UK Permanent Representative to the European Union. Prior to that, he was the Prime Minister's Advisor on Europe and Global Issues and the UK Sherpa for

the G8 and G20, and the Cabinet Office Permanent Secretary responsible for EU coordination. Between 2002 and 2007, Sir Jon was Second Permanent Secretary at HM Treasury, and Managing Director of the Macroeconomic and International Finance Directorate. He was responsible for UK macroeconomic policy, international and EU policy and financial services and the Government's representative at the meetings of the Bank's Monetary Policy Committee.

Between 1990 and 2002, Sir Jon held various posts at HM Treasury, including Managing Director for Financial Regulation and posts on EU and international finance. He led the Treasury's work on operational independence of the Bank of England, European Monetary Union, and the international financial system. Prior to that, Sir Jon held a number of posts at the Department of Transport and the Environment.

Sir Jon was appointed a Companion

of the Order of the Bath in the New Year Honours 2001 and made a Knight Bachelor in the New Year Honours 2010. He has a Master of Arts in English Language and Literature from the University of Manchester and spent some time as a Lecturer on English Literature at the University of Western Ontario, Canada.

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



ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Friday 9 November 2018, 8.45am

The Annual Service of Remembrance for the whole School will take place on Friday 9 November at 8.45am. The Service will run until approximately 9.40am and will include hymns, readings, prayers and music to remember the fallen. The Head Boy, Jonathan Travers, will lay a wreath in memory of those from the School who gave their lives in both World Wars and in other conflicts. The School's Combined Cadet Force (CCF) will also participate in the arrangements for the Service. Parents are warmly invited to join us for this occasion, and for coffee in the Conference Room after the Service. Seating should be reserved in advance using TicketSource, or by contacting the School if preferred.



ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Monday 17 December 2018, 7.30pm

For many, the School's Carol Service marks the beginning of the Christmas period with its highly evocative and beautiful atmosphere in the School Hall. We warmly invite you to join us for our traditional service of Lessons and Carols which will feature some of the Christmas season's well-known Carols. It will be an opportunity for pupils, parents and staff to join as a community and sing together in what promises to be a warm and joyful evening. Following the Service, those in attendance are invited to join us for mince pies and coffee. Parents are invited to attend and seating should be reserved in advance using TicketSource.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The start of a new Academic Year provides me with an opportunity to remind parents and pupils of the importance of the continuity of education. The majority of pupils maintain splendid attendance records and both they, and the School, take appreciable pride in their commitment. The School monitors attendance closely and the data shows a strong correlation between absence and lower levels of progress. The pace of lessons is fast and an absence of a day or

more can place pupils in difficulty catching up on missed work whilst endeavouring to keep up in lessons. We understand that there will always be an exceptional case to the general rule, however I wish to advise parents that requests for leave of absence for holidays during term time will not be granted. Given its impact on educational performance, maintaining outstanding pupil attendance remains a top priority for the School. We are grateful for the continuing support of the WHSB parents regarding the matter of attendance.

SAFEGUARDING

The start of an academic year seems an appropriate time to remind pupils and parents of the importance of safe behaviour, not just at School but also at home and travelling to and from School.

Use of the Internet and Mental Health

Parents who attended Mr Bleakley's excellent presentations on the negative impact of excessive online activity on adolescent mental health will be aware that adolescents are particularly susceptible to Internet addiction. This often manifests itself as excessive time spent playing internet games and/or use of Social Media. In recent times, the School has been working with individual pupils and their parents in situations



where a pupil has been spending in excess of 20 hours each week on 'gaming' alone. Unfortunately, this behaviour is becoming normalised and often pupils and parents are not aware of the excessive use, and reliance on, 'gaming' until it has become an entrenched habit or addiction. Equally, excessive use and reliance on Social Media is increasingly placing pupils under pressure and, in some instances, encouraging a minority to engage in unacceptable behaviour such as spreading malicious gossip and/or insulting others.

There is robust evidence to suggest that excessive Internet use leads to low mood, anxiety and depression in young people. It is often manifested in insufficient sleep, lack of physical fitness, loss of interest in other activities and declining academic performance. Therefore, it is important that parents continue to discuss, monitor and agree reasonable boundaries for their children's online activity. Parents are strongly advised to not allow pupils to use or store internet enabled devices in their bedrooms. We would also advise that the Internet is switched off after 9.00pm to avoid pupils engaging in online activity into the early hours of the morning. I hope that parents will find this guidance helpful.

Travelling to and from School

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind pupils that they must travel to and from School wearing School uniform,

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW HEAD BOY AND DEPUTIES

It is always a great pleasure to introduce the new Head Boy and his Deputies to our wider School community. Our Head Boy, Jonathan Travers, has been heavily involved with the Combined Cadet Force (CCF) and the Sixth Form Charity Committee. Jonathan will already be known to all in the School following his appointment as the Lord Lieutenant's CCF cadet earlier in last April. He is an outstanding young man and entirely worthy of the office of Head Boy. In a break with tradition, the School has appointed three Deputies to Jonathan, because of the quite outstanding field of candidates. Jonathan will be supported by Callum Finnigan, Marcus Kelly and Victor Popoola. Victor is an outstanding public speaker and leader within the CCF. Marcus has made an enormous contribution to the musical life of the School and contributed greatly to the work of the Charity Committee. Callum is one of our finest sportsmen and a significant contributor to WHSB Drama. We give Jonathan and his Deputies our best wishes as they take up their new responsibilities, including leadership of the School's Prefect Body.



	Jonathan Travers Head Boy	Marcus Kelly Deputy Head Boy	Victor Popoola Deputy Head Boy	Callum Finnigan Deputy Head Boy
Previous School	Our Lady of Ransom - Rayleigh	St Michael's School - Leigh-on-Sea	Earls Hall - Westcliff-on-Sea	West Leigh School - Leigh-on-Sea
Subjects at A Level	Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics, Economics	French, History, Economics, English Literature	French, Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics	French, Biology, History, Religious Studies
The most positive aspect of being a student at WHSB	The quality of preparation for academic study beyond School	The strong sense of community and identity at the School	The expertise and quality of teaching	The enormous range of opportunities provided
What I would most like to achieve in my new position at WHSB	To make a positive impact and improve the WHSB experience	To contribute to the development of an outstanding and dynamic Prefect Body	To represent and support the pupil body	To encourage maximum participation and engagement with the full range of extra-curricular opportunities
My message to our new Year 7 pupils	Endeavour to achieve your potential by always giving your best	Read widely and regularly and maintain a healthy work-life balance	Immerse yourself in WHSB life	Work hard, aim high and have fun

SCHOOL NEWS

HELPING PARENTS HELP THEIR SONS

Monday 10 September 2018, 4.00pm

The transition to a new school, and from Primary to Secondary education, is a daunting prospect for many pupils. This is often no different for parents. To help make this transition as straightforward as possible, and to support parents to help their sons settle into the routine necessary for success at a Grammar School, the School will host a 'Helping Parents Help Their Sons' education session on the afternoon of Monday 10 September 2018 at 4.00pm.

During this session parents of new Year 7 pupils will have the opportunity to hear from a number of Heads of Department about useful ways in which parents can support their sons to achieve success in the core subjects of English, Mathematics, Science, Modern Foreign Languages and PE. In addition, there will be discussion of general techniques which are helpful in coping with the changes, such as homework, timetables, and other matters which accompany academic study at a Grammar School. There will also be a review of Internet Safety during the meeting, in which we will cover some importance aspects of the risks associated with the rapid changes in technologies and ways for parents to safeguard their children against the abuse of these technologies, including its effect on mental health. Parents will also have opportunities to ask questions.

I strongly recommend that Year 7 parents attend this informative session.

*Mr J Bleakley
Head of Lower School*

YEAR 10 EDUCATION EVENING AND SUCCESSFUL STUDY STRATEGIES AT GCSE

Tuesday 25 September 2018, 7.30pm

Pupils, the School and parents all have a significant role to play in ensuring that progress and attainment is maximised throughout the Middle School years and that this ultimately leads to success at GCSE. Taking the pupils' role first, they will be more motivated with their studies if they have chosen their education and/or career goals. This may take the form of entering a particular career, pursuing Higher Education at university, enrolling

on an apprenticeship scheme or gaining admission to the Sixth Form to study at Advanced Level. Whatever goals they are pursuing, it will help them to focus on their work and give them a sense of purpose for doing well. Concentration and paying attention in lessons is, of course, essential to grasp the concepts and thoroughly understand the subject material that is being covered. Self-discipline and personal organisation are necessary attributes to ensure that homework and revision assignments to support the work that is being carried out in the School are completed by the deadlines set, and taking a pride in the presentation of their material and themselves creates a good impression.

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

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

I will be discussing the above and other issues relating to making a smooth and constructive transition into the Middle

School, at the Year 10 Education Evening. This will take place in the School Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 25 September and it is the School's expectation that all Year 10 pupils and their parents will attend.

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

*Mr A Farrell
Head of Middle School*

SIXTH FORM EDUCATION EVENING - THE PUPIL TO STUDENT TRANSITION

Thursday 27 September 2018, 7.30pm

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

And yet, while some of the subjects chosen may have the same name as the ones studied at GCSE, there are great differences. The questions on the papers of the modern, linear Advanced Level (with no modules nor AS examinations halfway through) require a high level of independent thought. In Mathematics and Physics, there is a greater emphasis on proving rather than using equations, and applying them to more novel situations. In History and Politics, the range of material and background to be learned is much greater. In short, the number of questions which can be

answered well by memorizing mark schemes from previous examinations, or by rehearsing specific methods, has been reduced. For eager, diligent students keen to master their subjects, the new examinations are a welcome change. Not only that, but the range of topics, and the depth to which they need to be understood is much greater than at GCSE.

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

It is our aim to help and encourage members of Year 12 to make the transition. However, support from home is vital. Accordingly, on Thursday 27 September 2018, the Headmaster, Mr Sinnott (Year 12 Progress Leader) and I will lead an Education Evening to explain the measures needed for a contented and successful Sixth Form education, and to give advice on study habits, the organization of notes, wider wellbeing issues as well as hints relevant to particular subjects. Current Year 13 students will speak from their experience.

I encourage all members of Year 12, together with an adult member of their family to attend this evening to ensure that they begin their Sixth Form journey with the right attitude and approach.

*Dr A Machacek
Assistant Head*

ENRICHMENT DAY

Friday 21 September 2018

The Enrichment Day on Friday 21 September is set to be an excellent opportunity to explore ideas beyond the curriculum. Our new Year 7 cohort will be team building with a range of exciting outdoor adventure activities in East Mersea, whilst Year 8 will also be heading off site for a day of fun at Colchester Zoo. Year 9 will be engaged in Science and Economics events based in School with the Bloodhound Supersonic Car activity being one that is sure to enthuse our budding young engineers. The English Department will be working with Year 10 pupils, and Year 11 pupils will be involved in a range of trips and School-based workshops dependent upon their subject options. Year 12 will be involved in a Health Day and Year 13 will be volunteering in School-related, or personally-organised activities.

YOUNG CARERS

Young Carers are children and young people under 18 whose lives are restricted in some way because of the need for them to give care to another person, usually a family member, who is either ill, has a disability, is experiencing mental ill health, or is affected by alcohol or drug misuse.

The difference between young carers and other young people who help in the home

*Mrs K Mumford
Assistant Head*

is that young carers are often responsible for someone else in their family in a way that most other young people are not. These responsibilities could include domestic tasks such as washing, shopping, cooking, cleaning, general care ranging from giving medicine to assisting with mobility, intimate care helping with washing and bathing, childcare when looking after brothers and sisters, or emotional support in listening and helping other family members to feel better.

The effect on Young Carers can be significant, leaving them feeling different or isolated, reducing the amount of time available for study and play. They can experience inner conflict and feelings of resentment, health problems including stress, headaches, lack of sleep and anxiety, as well as under achievement at school.

There is support available both in School and in the wider community. If caring for someone at home is effecting you, then please speak to your Form Tutor or Progress Leader. In some cases, we could arrange sessions with the School Counselling Service. There is also a support network in the community with Southend Carers having a monthly fun activity and weekly after school clubs.

The following websites may be helpful.

- <http://www.southendcarers.co.uk/carer/young-carers/>
- http://www.southend.gov.uk/info/200386/help_and_advice_for_carers/234/young_carers
- <http://www.essex.gov.uk/Health-Social-Care/Families-and-childrens-social-care/Essex-Young-Carers/Pages/Default.aspx>

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The new academic year sees a restructuring of the School's various Councils to give pupils in all Years a meaningful voice in matters that affect them during their time at WHSB. Under the guidance of Peter Banfield (Prefect) and Jonathan Travers (Head Boy), pupils from all Year Groups will meet regularly to discuss issues and matters affecting them before taking proposals forward to School Council level. These Bodies will undertake further discussion before proposing agenda items for the Whole School Council to discuss. Minutes from these meetings will be passed on to the Senior Team for their consideration. This is an exciting opportunity for WHSB students to get involved in the life of the School and prove themselves to be positive ambassadors and advocates for their fellow pupils.

The Sixth Form Council will continue to meet weekly and attend the Whole School Council.

- Wednesday 12 September, 12.50pm - 1.30pm – Year Council's Initial Briefing
- Thursday 13 September, 12.50pm - 1.30pm – Lower School Council/Middle School Council's Initial Briefing
- Friday 14 September, 12.50pm - 1.30pm – Whole School Council's Initial Briefing
- Thursday 20 September, 12.50pm - 1.30pm – Year Council's First Meeting
- Thursday 27 September, 12.50pm - 1.30pm – Lower School Council's/Middle School Council's First Meeting
- Friday 5 October, 3.50pm - 4.50pm – Whole School Council's First Meeting
- Thursday 11 October, 12.50pm - 1.30pm – Lower School Council's/Middle School Council's Feedback Meeting
- Thursday 18 October, 12.50pm - 1.30pm – Year Council's Feedback Meeting

*Mr A McGee
Teacher of Music/Year 13 Progress Leader*

TRIPS & VISITS



VISIT TO IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM, DUXFORD

Tuesday 2 October 2018

On 2 October 2018, all of Year 9 will travel north to the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, to spend a day learning how to complete a series of activities to help them understand the historical significance of this world-leading collection of aircraft and land vehicles spanning over 100 years of technological innovation. Pupils will be guided around the museum by a document we have put together containing a variety of tasks including mathematical calculations, historical investigations and artistic/technical sketching.

This promises to be a fantastic day of learning and, as I am sure anyone who has visited Duxford will agree, the collection on display is second to none.

Mr A McGee

Teacher of Music/Year 13 Progress Leader

VISIT TO LYON AND THE MORVAN: FRANCE AND THE OCCUPATION

22-26 October 2018

As part of the French A Level Educas specification, our students study France 1940-50, a fascinating period of French history which saw France defeated by the Germans in May 1940, occupied, and then liberated, and rebuilt. During October Half Term 2018, Year 13 French A Level students will be travelling to Lyon and Burgundy in France to complement their studies.

During the early part of the German occupation of France, Lyon was one of the most important cities of so called, "Free France". An intellectual hotbed, it was the place where a number of clandestine newspapers began to appear from the summer of 1940 and where the Resistance was very active. Upon the invasion of the Southern Zone in

November 1942, Lyon was occupied and many members of the Resistance were arrested. After the liberation of France, General Charles de Gaulle proclaimed Lyon as the Capital of the Resistance. Meanwhile, further north, Burgundy was an area which suffered greatly under the Nazis through arrests, deportations, and martyred villages. The Morvan Forest provided an ideal cover for the "Maquis" (the underground resistance) to take hold, and the area still contains many memorials and tributes to their work.

Our five-day itinerary will see visits to key Resistance and Maquis sites, but we will also be able to visit the UNESCO World Heritage sites of the amphitheatre and the cathedral in Lyon, and we will certainly sample some of the gastronomic treats for which Lyon is famous. We look forward to an immensely stimulating and exciting visit.

Mrs J Williams

Senior Tutor

YEAR 11 GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP TO WALTON ON THE NAZE

Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 October 2018

In July, Year 10 GCSE Geography pupils had a successful day collecting human geography data in Stratford, East London, which enabled them to compare deprivation and quality of life in East Village and the Carpenter's Estate. The beginning of October will see them – as Year 11s - take part in one of two physical geography fieldtrip visits to Walton on the Naze in North Essex to assess the effectiveness of coastal management there. It will provide them with an excellent opportunity to use fieldwork equipment and to apply the theory from the classroom to the practice in the field. The data will then be used to develop a range of skills, such as graph-drawing and analysis, which will be tested in the Paper 3 examination in the summer.

Dr M Shepherd

Head of Geography



BRISTOL CHEMLABS 2018: A RETROSPECTIVE

Our visit to ChemLabs started on Sunday at the bus stop outside the School, where we boarded the coach and set off for Bristol. After five hours on the coach, we arrived at the hostel where we were staying, unloaded our bags and went straight to *Za Za Bazaar*, an All-You-Can-Eat Buffet Restaurant with different foods from around the globe. After our dinner, we explored the City of Bristol in groups.

The following day, we visited the University of Bristol's Chemistry Department. The itinerary started with a short introduction to studying Chemistry at Bristol and included a Health & Safety briefing, following which we experienced our first practical session – the iodine clock reaction. During this, we had to work out the correct concentrations of two different solutions to make the resulting mixture turn from colourless to a dark purple after exactly one minute. This proved to be more difficult than it sounded and only one group from my bench managed to meet the requirements within a second. We then had a break and started on the second practical of the day – extracting caffeine from tea leaves. This involved using various chemicals (which are not normally used within the Advanced Level specification), a rotary evaporator (which can evaporate solvents far faster than just the air can, resulting in experiments being carried out far faster than usual) and a £40,000 IR spectroscopy machine to check that what we had extracted was indeed caffeine. This was extremely useful as we have learnt about IR spectroscopy in class but have not had the opportunity to use it. Following this, we had a short talk on Atmospheric Chemistry, given by Mr Tim Harrison, who leads the outreach programme at Bristol.

During the evening, we went off in groups to eat and have another look around Bristol and we then walked to *Laser Fusion Bristol* where we played *Laser Tag*. There were three teams and each team played three games; unfortunately, the team that I was on lost both our games and so we also lost overall.

YEAR 8 TRIP TO COLCHESTER ZOO

Friday 21 September 2018

In a few weeks' time Year 8 pupils will be taking part in an Enrichment Day trip to Colchester Zoo. Below is an account from one of the pupils (Rudra Patel, 9N) who went on the trip last Autumn.

The Colchester Zoo trip was the first enrichment trip of the Year 8 Autumn Term. It really helped to boost our confidence coming out of Year 7. We were extremely lucky with the weather, having beautiful sunshine throughout the day. In my opinion, it was the best trip so far.

The journey there was only an hour long, and we travelled there in coaches with our Form Tutors. We were each given a booklet that had some puzzles and activities for the journey and our arrival. When we reached the zoo, we first had to get into our groups and line up. We were given a



The following day, we worked with polymers, making slime out of PVA and Borax and also using a thermoplastic to make whatever shapes we wanted. After this, we had a tour of all the analytical machines that the University had, including X-ray spectroscopy, an electron microscope that could zoom in to see rows of atoms in gold, and a nuclear magnetic resonance machine that could tell what atoms are present in compounds. During the afternoon, we learnt about how smells work and applied this knowledge to design and make our own fragrances, following which we had a demonstration session in which the lecturer made a liquid nitrogen fountain and blew hydrogen balloons up.



number of instructions and times to meet up with members of staff at the chosen locations throughout the day, and during other times we were given flexibility as long as we stayed within our groups.

The Colchester Zoo booklet was full of activities which we completed as we went on our group adventures exploring the Zoo. My favourite part was feeding the birds with a small cup of nectar, in their own little, cornered-off sanctuary. One of the birds even landed on my hand! Throughout the trip we had so much fun feeding the elephants from our hands and having our photos taken with the animals, including the giraffes.

There is one place in the Zoo where you can test your strength against the weight of other animals. For example, there was an elephant, a tiger, a chimpanzee, a smaller monkey, and otters (so the weak ones do not feel sad!). This was very enjoyable.

During our time at the Zoo there were plenty of places to eat but we chose a fantastic café,

where we filled ourselves with ice cream as the weather was really hot and, of course, other necessary foods to supplement our lunch packs. After lunch, we went on the train. This was the Lost Madagascar train, which gave you a lively tour through a part of the Zoo to see the wild dogs, and a hidden tour of the back of the cages holding the tigers and other fierce animals. We had an excellent view of them. Eventually, we left the train to continue our journey through the far zones of the Zoo.

Towards the end of the day we reached the meeting point early so that we could go to the gift shop. The gift shop had many things, including fluffy snakes, and animal stationery. After our trip to the gift shop, we went to the adventure area, where nearly everyone in the Year Group enjoyed playing until we had to go back on our coach and return home.

I would highly recommend this visit, especially to the current Year 7 pupils going into Year 8, as it was a great start to the new academic year. It was a very enjoyable trip.

This trip will run again for the Year 8 cohort shortly, as it was loved by all. We hope the weather is as warm as it was last year and that pupils enjoy it as much as we did.

Rudra Patel

Year 9



the University has as the vapours from the solvents that we were using were so toxic. To finish the trip, two guest speakers were invited to talk to us on their fields of Chemistry. One of the lecturers spoke to us about his PhD research in which he had been looking at using sugars to help cure cancer. The second lecture was on the subject of using chemicals produced by marine organisms to further medical research. This was given by Professor Tim Egan, the Head of Chemistry at the University of Cape Town.

All in all, the trip proved invaluable and enjoyable to all.

Alec Stenhouse

Year 13

TRIPS & VISITS

YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY FIELDWORK TRIP TO BARCELONA: A RETROSPECTIVE

From 22 to 25 May 2018, the entire Year 12 Geography cohort, accompanied by Dr Shepherd and Miss Dolan, visited Barcelona in order to collect data for the students' A Level coursework projects. The trip began with the sombre news of a five-hour plane delay. However, after many slow hours of looking for airport deals, the group was finally on its way.

Once we had touched down in Barcelona, the group boarded a coach



for a shortened orientation tour of Barcelona, which included a trip up Montjuïc – the city's highest point, hosting the Olympic stadium – where we were provided with scenic views expanding over all of Barcelona. With photos taken, we travelled to our hotel

in Sitges, a nearby seaside resort, where we would be staying. On arrival, most students were very satisfied with the hotel – contradictory to some people's expectations, having researched the hotel's reviews in advance. To bring the day to a close, the group enjoyed a meal

REFLECTIONS: LOOKING BACK ON AUSCHWITZ

'We immediately thought it was a work camp, we had no clue then that this was a very carefully orchestrated plan of genocide'. These haunting words come from the eyewitness account of Auschwitz survivor, Irene Fogel Weiss, born in 1930 in Bótrágy, Czechoslovakia, a small town with only 1,000 inhabitants and about 10 Jewish families. At the age of 13, she arrived at Auschwitz in the Spring of 1944, along with half a million Hungarian Jews, and together with her parents and her six siblings, the oldest of whom was 17. Seventy-five years later, I stood at the infamous unloading ramp where Irene and her family, and other prisoners, were selected by SS doctors, either to be worked to death or sent down 'death road' to the gas chambers.

When reflecting on the moment I entered Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp, what struck me most was the sheer scale of the camp, but also its precise organisation. This was reflected by the barracks being perfectly distanced from each other and the methodical layout of the camp, to make the process of killing more efficient. It was cold and calculated murder on an industrial scale. This was truly horrifying.

Auschwitz-Birkenau was the most infamous death camp used by the Nazis in their 'Final Solution' of the 'Jewish question'. It is estimated that over 1.1 million people were systematically murdered at this place. When we hear this figure, it is hard to comprehend the extent of human loss and this figure dehumanises every person that makes up that 1.1 million. We must not forget these

victims were just like me or you, special and unique in their own way. So much potential and talent was taken away by the Holocaust, so many promising lives snuffed out. One individual example of brilliance that was taken by the Holocaust is 14-year-old Avraham Koplowicz, sent to Auschwitz-Birkenau on the last transport from Łódź, murdered in September 1944. In his short time at Auschwitz he wrote an extraordinary poem. Although I am unable to quote the poem word for word, I can provide an extract demonstrating his talent. 'When I grow up and reach the age of 20... I'll soar over rivers and oceans, skyward I shall blossom'. At the tender age of 14, this young boy, in this place of untold horror and suffering, never gave up hope for a better future. Unfortunately, the dream he had envisaged never came true, as his life was cut short when he was murdered by the SS.

There is no doubt that Auschwitz concentration camp is an evil place, where the essence of suffering and death still lingers to this day. However,

despite this I felt privileged to have had the opportunity to visit this place, where the worst atrocities ever committed by mankind took place. Before visiting the death-camp, I read the words of George Santayana 'Those who cannot remember the past, are condemned to repeat it'. After this experience, I have a much deeper understanding of what Santayana meant when he wrote these words. As part of humanity, it is our duty to remember these atrocities for all time and to educate future generations about the horror that was the Holocaust. We must create a future where peace, not hate, prevails, where we no longer see people discriminated against for their race or religion. We can never allow a repeat of the Holocaust.

Whilst I was there, I read the words of a former prisoner, incarcerated in the death-camp: 'the Sun never shines on Auschwitz'. And this was exactly how I felt.

Max Humphrey
Year 13



and walk around the town.

Our first full day would be based in the El Raval region of Barcelona, linking to the Diverse Places topic studied in our Human Geography lessons. The area has undergone extensive regeneration projects in the past two decades and this formed the focus of our research. After a short train journey and walk, we arrived in El Raval. We then set off to complete our data collection, looking at residential and environmental quality, services and amenities presence, and retail diversity. After some free time to wander through the local market and Las Ramblas – a tourist hotspot street – it was time to head back to the hotel to reflect on our day and collected data.

Physical Geography was the topic for the second day, and we would be studying the Riera de Ribes River. It is a seasonally dry river, which was completely empty when we visited. At our first location upstream, we set out to generate a cross-section diagram to work out the capacity of the water the river could hold. This included measuring the width of the river channel and taking depth measurements from this line to the riverbed. However, with some students seemingly unable to walk a straight course, this process took much longer than anticipated. After a well-deserved lunch break, we headed downstream to repeat the process, and calculated the risk of flooding due to differences in potential water capacity. Once we returned to the hotel, we planned whether we wanted to pursue physical or human geography for our coursework. We then planned further data collection for the following day accordingly before heading out into Sitges for some free time.

On the morning of our final day we all collected more data in El Raval, or at the river as planned, before all travelling to Camp Nou for a tour round FC Barcelona's football stadium. Unfortunately, after



this it was time to return to the airport to catch our flight home – with the journey running more smoothly than on our way out!

On behalf of the students who participated, I would like to thank Dr Shepherd and Miss Dolan for all their effort, support and enthusiasm throughout the trip. We were able to collect the data and develop a strong understanding for our coursework projects, but also enjoy ourselves as we worked in groups, saw what we had learnt in the classroom in practice, and spent time exploring the local culture and areas.

Jack Morris
Year 13

GERMAN EXCHANGE: A RETROSPECTIVE

In April, I went on the German Exchange trip for the second time. On our arrival at the Clara-Fey Grammar School in Bonn, I was hit with a wave of nostalgia as I saw the familiar faces of friends I had made just the year before. Despite being partnered with a different family, I was quickly made to feel at home with the German people, who were very welcoming towards us. On the night of our arrival, and during the following weekend, I discovered a great deal about my exchange partner and his entire family. They all had a keen interest in Science, History and Board Games. Throughout the German Exchange, I made many great memories whilst on trips with the family and our teachers – especially in the Sports Museum and, of course, Aqualand, which were both in Cologne. Needless to say, I am participating in the German Exchange next year as well, and I hope others will too.

Adeola Kash-Oladosu
Year 11



In April of this year, I was lucky enough to take part in the German Exchange Programme to Bonn-Bad Godesberg, together with other Sixth Form students studying German, as well as pupils lower down the School. With this being my first time on the exchange, I was unsure what to expect. Once I arrived in Bonn, however, I quickly realised what a great opportunity the trip was to make new friends whilst improving my German.

In addition to being guests of a German family, as Sixth Form students we were given the opportunity of work placements in a number of different institutions, such as Deutsche Telekom, or of taking part in a university course on sports management. Working for a law firm, I found myself observing court negotiations in German, allowing me to practice key skills such as summarising arguments (as well as nodding along when I did not quite understand what was being said!).

Outside my placement, I had plenty of time to socialise with English and German students alike, including a meal out in Bonn, and culminating in a barbecue by the Rhine on the final day. Overall, the exchange was an exciting and fulfilling experience, and one that I would recommend to anyone, no matter what their present level of German. I would like to thank Ms Niedziela and Dr Francis, without whom the exchange could not have taken place.

Sam Lewis
Year 13



TRIPS & VISITS

VISIT TO ST CATHARINE'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE: A RETROSPECTIVE

Our invitation to St Catharine's College, Cambridge, provided us with a fantastic insight into the life of a medical student, and what it is like to study at one of the most highly-regarded universities in the world. We were lucky enough to listen to an array of guest speakers on Psychology and Radiology, and to hear from students of Catz, all of whom collectively contributed to the experiences of the students at the college and the enthusiasm that they all exude.

Regarding lectures, the subject content largely revolved around how the brain works and the work of radiologists. My knowledge from A Level Psychology proved useful in understanding the phenomena of the mind, including the retrieval of memory and how we perceive optical illusions. Radiology, as a subcategory of Medicine, was less familiar to the majority of the students in the theatre, whilst scanning techniques mentioned, such as MRI and CT scans, were less complex to understand than initially thought.

In addition, we were given a research topic for mock supervisions with professors, who were experts in the field that they had assigned for us to discuss in small groups. The astounding knowledge of the professors on leukocytes and neutrophils in the immune system put our



A Level knowledge to shame, but gave us some much-needed inspiration for reading beyond the syllabus. In particular, the expectations of the supervisors to deliver beyond the limitations of A Level study were daunting to start with, but guidance and encouragement from other students included in the supervision helped to push forward the challenging ideas presented to us.

After lunch in the college dining hall, we were given a tour around the grounds of Catz. Distinctive features included: two spacious libraries, a chapel complete with organ, the college bar, and numerous



courtyards to get lost in. As well as this, we were able to quiz our guide on the quirks that the college has to offer: smoothie society, graduation rituals, famous alumni and what makes Catz "the friendliest college" at Cambridge University.

Later on in the day, we were gathered for a mock interview. Whilst Cambridge has a reputation for its obscure and challenging questions during interviews, a professor, with the help of a current medical student, aimed to debunk the ambiguities surrounding the admissions process. To illustrate this, the professor asked the medic classic questions (on creating modified bacteria, for example). Whilst there is no one correct answer, it is the candidate's spontaneity and originality of thought that is crucial to a successful interview.

Throughout the day, one of the most surprising things to me was the relatively small number of undergraduate students for each subject at the college. Only 35 students are interviewed for Medicine, approximately ten of whom are successful. Without a doubt, it is easy to say that it is a privilege to be considered as a potential candidate for the college, amongst the country's best students.

Ellie Coleman
Year 13

CAREERS UPDATE

The Summer Term, involving the Year 11 work experience programme and the Year 10 Enrichment Day, completes the work of the Careers Department for the academic year. In 2018, we widened the search for work placements once again, increasing the number and variety of placements for our pupils.

We have been delighted to introduce positions from Olympus Keymed, Apollo Dental Health Clinic, David Lloyd Fitness Centre and HMRC, all offering structured programmes to WHSB pupils. In addition, Ford, at both Dunton and Dagenham sites, has generously supported our aspiring Engineers and provided 26 placements for our students. Barclays Bank has also been keen to accommodate our requirements. All offers of work experience are gratefully received, and therefore please contact me (wellern@whsb.essex.sch.uk) if you are able offer opportunities within any industry sector. Specifically, we need to secure more opportunities within Banking, Finance, Law and Medicine, and the search will commence in September 2018 for summer 2019 placements.

The majority of pupils are still keen to investigate careers within Banking, Finance, Engineering, Law, Politics and Medicine, with a leaning towards Physiotherapy and Dentistry. With this in mind, I we have begun planning the Careers Evenings for 2018/19, taking these areas into consideration. As the current employment market is experiencing such dramatic changes, we were pleased to host the first *Careers in Apprenticeships* event in April, inviting former pupils George Cuniffe and Edward White back to School to talk about their experiences on apprenticeship

schemes at FTSE 100 companies in the City, since leaving WHSB in June 2017. It was an informative evening that we plan to repeat in 2019.

Following the success of last year's careers-focused Enrichment Day for Year 10, in July we once again created a day of interaction, careers talks, mock interviews, group scenarios and Mindfulness. Over 25 volunteers from the local community, as well as Old Westcliffians, willingly offered their services to enhance the experience for our pupils. In preparation, the pupils were required to complete their individual CVs to be utilised during the mock interview sessions, which will also benefit them in the future, as this is a document that they can build and develop along with their experience.

Finally, I attended a most informative and somewhat daunting National Graduate Careers Conference in May. The emphasis on how the majority of industries are moving towards technology-based positions and away from human intervention cannot be underestimated. The prognosis for the next 10 years is that some well-established job roles will disappear, whilst new roles will be created within a completely different arena. Positions potentially at most risk are identified as Accountants, Laboratory Technicians, Surveyors, IT Engineers and Financial Analysts. Areas of growth were identified as being Sustainable Power, Digital Culture, Cyber Technology, and Intelligence Services.

CAREERS IN MEDICINE EVENING

Wednesday 21 November 2018, 7.00pm

For the new academic year, we have once



CAREERS

again listened and taken on board the feedback from our students with regards to the core career pathways they have chosen to investigate and potentially follow in the future. One such career that has increased in popularity over the past two years has been Dentistry. This year, we were able to secure work experience opportunities for a number of pupils in local Dental Practices to provide them with an insight into this profession. We would like to offer our sincere thanks to Apollo Dental Health Clinic, Longford House Dental Practice and Elite Dental Studio for supporting the WHSB Work Experience Programme and kindly offering opportunities to our pupils this summer. We are delighted that a WHSB parent, Mr Sujit Patel, has agreed to speak at our *Careers in Medicine* evening to be held at the School on Wednesday 21 November 2018. Mr Patel will be in good company, alongside other medical professionals from various sectors within this field, including an Old Westcliffian, Alex Baker, who is a Chemical Biologist designing diagnostics. Our speakers will be covering areas from medicine to chemistry, and many points in between.

As ever, the Careers Evenings are free of charge and will be open to all Year Groups, their families and friends, and our wider local community. There will be further dates for events during the Spring Term, yet to be confirmed, which will cover a range of different areas and subjects. These will be announced in the next edition of *The Westcliff Diary*. If anyone is able to offer help or support with these events and/or create work experience positions for the summer, please contact me on wellern@whsb.essex.sch.uk as I would be very pleased to hear from you.

November also brings a unique experience at Southend University Hospital for our aspiring Year 12 Medics, at its *Careers in Medicine Seminar*. This annual event provides a realistic introduction to a career in Medicine. Places are always limited, and letters of invitation will be distributed in October to any interested Sixth Form students at WHSB. Anyone wishing to be included in a waiting list in anticipation, should please contact me as soon as possible, as places will be offered on a first-come, first-served basis.

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

SCIENCE

BEAMLINE FOR SCHOOLS COMPETITION

Every year, CERN runs a competition with an almost unbelievable prize. The competition is to design an experiment that makes use of a proton beam from a particle accelerator. The prize is an all-expenses paid trip to CERN, Geneva, to work for two weeks with physicists and engineers at CERN to conduct your experiment. We have entered this competition a few times in the past, but I believe we have the talent in Year 12 this year to do very well.

If you are in Year 12, studying Physics and have an interest in particle physics, please see me for details. The project must be wholly student-led, but I can offer guidance. To enter the competition, you will need to produce a very short paper and a one-minute video. Examples of previous winners can be seen on the CERN Beamline for Schools website.



VISIT TO CERN 21-23 October 2018

Every year, the Physics Department takes ten students from Year 12 across to Geneva in Switzerland to see the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN. This is a fabulous opportunity to see the world's largest physics experiment in action. The LHC contains the hottest place in the universe, and the coldest. It uses the strongest magnetic fields ever produced, with currents of tens of thousands of amperes. The tube inside the LHC is the emptiest place in the galaxy. Superfluid helium cools superconducting magnets, only possible due to the bizarre properties of this exotic state of matter.

Tours of CERN are different every year. You could be shown around by anyone from PhD student to Nobel Laureate, but always an expert in his or her field. In the past, we have seen the cryogenic testing facilities, the synchrocyclotron, the Atlas detector control rooms, the LHCb experiment, and we have even been treated to a tour of a detector 100m underground.

This trip gives our students the opportunity to see the experiments being performed. If you participate in this trip, you will get to see where the Higgs Boson was discovered, and indeed where almost every major breakthrough in particle physics happened.

We also spend some time exploring the world-famous Natural History Museum and the History of Science Museum. You will have some time to explore Geneva yourself too, and will be treated to my popular 'Geneva by Night' walking tour. The fun

students have on this trip cannot be overstated.

If you are a Year 12 Physics student and you are interested in attending, please see me for a letter. There is a very tight deadline to return the letters. On Friday 14 September, I will draw the ten names at random. The unsuccessful students will have their deposits refunded and the successful students will need to pay the rest of the balance. The total cost of the trip is £385, which includes all transportation, accommodation, food and tours. We have already had a lot of interest in this trip, so please do not delay if you wish to have a chance of attending.

Mr K Dalby
Head of Physics



BRITISH PHYSICS OLYMPIAD

If you are in Year 12 or 13 and are intending to study Physics or Natural Science at University, I hope you consider entering the British Physics Olympiad competition. This is a national competition to find the most capable young Physicists in the country. It involves answering questions from two exam papers, which can be about any topic whatsoever. It is a tremendous amount of fun. Dr Machacek participated in the competition when he was a student; he will gladly tell you about the opportunities that opened up to him because of his participation.

Last year, our students scored one Gold (Jason Walker) and two Silver Awards (Nikhil Anthony and Ciaran Dunleavy). Maybe this year we can do even better. Success in this competition could lead to you being invited to join the British team to compete internationally. Potentially life-changing experiences await if you have the passion for Physics.

Please see me to register your interest. If there is sufficient interest, we may resume Olympiad Training Classes, which are a fun way to explore the more complex parts of the subject.

VISIT TO SIZEWELL B NUCLEAR FACILITY

Friday 21 September 2018

After the success of last year's September Enrichment Day visit to the Sizewell B nuclear facility, we have decided to run the trip again for current Year 13 Physics students. There are 38 spaces available, at a cost of £15 per student. The cost covers the transportation to Sizewell B. This is an opportunity to visit a working nuclear reactor; the only commercial pressurised water reactor in the UK. You will be shown around the parts of the facility that are safe to visit, which is mostly outside.

At the time of writing, 25 of the 38 spaces are already taken, therefore spaces are limited. Please return your letter to me as soon as you can, if you have not already done so.

Mr K Dalby
Head of Physics



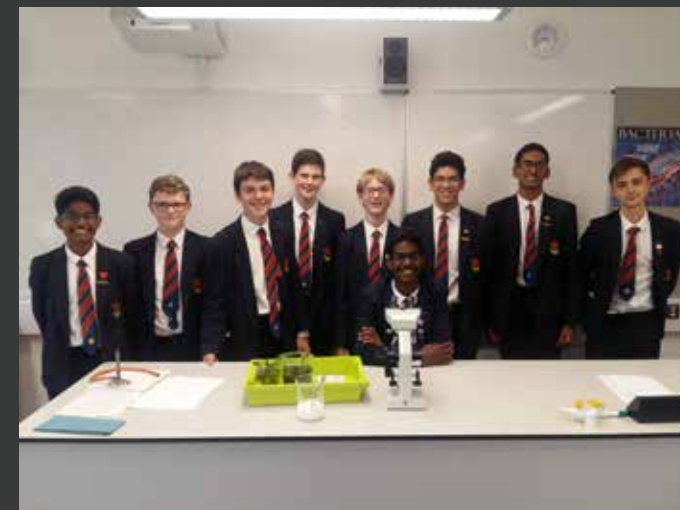
BIOLOGY CHALLENGE

After the success in the Biology Challenge competition in the 2017/18 academic year, the Biology Department and the Key Stage 3 Science Department have decided to expand the Challenge to more pupils in the 2018/19 academic year.

The pupils' intellectual curiosity in Biology, and their attitude towards lifelong learning, was clear to see as the competition rewards those pupils whose knowledge of the subject has been expanded by reading books and magazines, watching natural history programmes, taking notice of the news media for items of biological interest, and being generally aware of our natural flora and fauna.

The pupils were open to this opportunity and effectively communicated these ideas in the Challenge and, in doing so, resulted in unprecedented success with our Year 9 and 10 pupils achieving 16 Gold Awards, 29 Silver Awards and 45 Bronze Awards. This success was all the more impressive as more than 10% of our entries achieved the Gold Award, which was double the national average.

The pupils displayed many attributes of our Learner Profile by



participating in this Challenge and I hope that in the forthcoming academic year we shall enjoy similar success.

Mr K James
Teacher of Biology

KEY STAGE 3 SCIENCE CLUB

Key Stage Three Science Club is a warm and welcoming community tied together by a collective passion for Science and discovery. We have conducted a wide variety of different experiments, considered global issues and had a lot of fun.

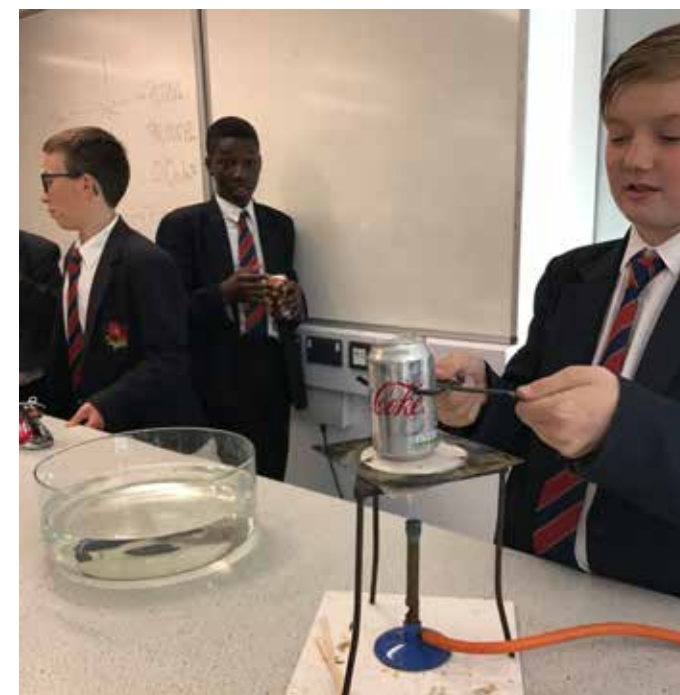
Our favourite experiment was copper coin plating. We placed a copper coin into a sodium zincate solution, the zinc ions were attracted to the copper and turned it to a glistening silver. We then held the coin under a Bunsen and turned it to a rich gold. It is amazing to actually create something whilst learning new things.

This was just one amongst many amusing, interesting and educational experiments. We made edible sherbet from citric acid, sodium bicarbonate and sugar. We have turned Bunsen flames all kinds of colours, made parachutes for Easter Eggs, observed the explosive reaction between Mentos and Coke, made slime, extracted DNA, and crushed cans with the power of our minds. The variety is seemingly endless.

More recently we have begun to prepare a presentation on how we can reduce our environmental impact on Earth, which will be important for future life ahead of us. As a group we could not recommend Science Club more, and hope to see even more of you next year. Please see Miss Tyson or Mr Marriott if you have any questions.

Key Stage 3 Science Club takes place on Wednesday lunchtimes in S13.

Sam Kasakaitis, Jordan Omotayo and Folajimi Ogunyemi
Year 8



CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

DEBATING

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

SCHOOLS' CHALLENGE QUIZ

The School will be entering the Schools' Challenge Quiz for the 16th successive year. The competition uses a *University Challenge* format and a team is drawn from Year 10 and the Sixth Form. We have struggled in the last two years to match the form – and buzzer speed – that took us to the Regional Finals, but as we now take part in the Junior Competition too, hopefully our Lower School quizzers will provide strength in depth in the coming years.

SIXTH FORM MASTERCLASSES

We have nominated and supported students applying for residential courses run by Sutton Trust, Headstart and UNIQ, which have been attended by thirteen Year 12 and Year 13 students over the year. We continue to offer the opportunity for students, nominated by Heads of Department, to attend subject-specialist courses at Villiers Park in areas such as Computing, Languages and Physical Sciences. We secured places for two of our Year 12 girls at the *Pathways to Success* event at Murray Edwards College, Cambridge, where 100 young women, aspiring to study at Oxford or Cambridge, came together, and two for a Medicine Taster Day at St Catharine's College, Cambridge.

OXBRIDGE

In June, the School hosted a highly successful Conference for Potential Oxbridge Candidates. It was attended by Admission Tutors and School Liaison Officers from the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, no fewer than 10 undergraduate Old Westcliffians and 100 students from across local grammar and partner schools. The information and advice so freely given on this occasion should significantly enhance the chances of individuals from Westcliff in making successful applications to the country's

most prestigious universities this term. The School's programme of internal trial interviews will begin in October with reciprocal arrangements with WHSG undertaken in November.

WESTCLIFF MEDICAL SOCIETY

As in previous years, we plan to run a set of practice MMIs in September, as well as a day of more formal panel interviews conducted by a range of hospital consultants, surgeons and GPs to whom we are indebted for their willingness

to help our students meet the truly daunting challenge of securing a place at Medical School. We have continued our collaboration with The Medic Portal, a not-for-profit company which specializes in helping students apply to Medical School. They visited the School in July to run a preparatory session on the UKCAT and BMAT and will return on Friday 21 September for Interview guidance.

Mr R Stevens
Higher Education Co-ordinator

DOUBLE SUCCESS AT THE JACK PETCHEY SPEAK OUT! CHALLENGE

WHSB had its most successful results in recent history in this year's Jack Petchey *Speak Out!* challenge.

The event is a series of workshops and competitions aimed towards letting young people around Essex and London spread their voice and gain experience in the important skill of public speaking. It was set up by Sir Jack Petchey CBE to give young people opportunities he did not receive as a child.

I was lucky enough to be one of the 60 Year 10 pupils to be selected to take part in the workshops at School, from which the four strongest competitors were selected to compete in the School final. The School final took place during one of the Year 10 Assemblies, with each competitor delivering their two minute speech to the Year Group and a panel of judges. The two deserved winners of the School final were Sri Haran Loganathan and Joshua Seal, pipping Nathaniel Familusi and me to the post for the places in the regional final, to which I followed as understudy.

We were greeted at St. Bernard's High School for the regional final, where Haran and Josh would be in competition with around another 19 pupils. Luckily, nerves were not getting to them and they were so focused on their speeches that they went out on to the stage in full confidence. They were amazing, gripping their audience and impressing the judges. After all the speeches were finished, we waited impatiently for the judges to finalise their results as we hoped that we would be receiving the top places!

The results were finalised and Westcliff 'swept the board'. Haran achieved third place and Josh second place, with the entry from Westcliff High School for Girls taking first place with a potential position at the national final. The whole experience of the *Speak Out!* challenge allowed a substantial number of pupils to improve their speaking ability and confidence and, personally, I thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity and would recommend it to everyone who has the chance to participate.

Ethan Locke
Year 11



HAMLET

Tuesday 13 to Thursday 15 November
2018, 7.30pm

"To see or not to see? – that is the question..."

This autumn, WHSB returns to Denmark for the greatest play of them all. Phantoms, pirates, princes and poisoners unite to bring William Shakespeare's tale of *Hamlet*, Prince of Denmark, to the Westcliff stage. The story of *Hamlet* starts with an 11th century Danish Prince, recorded as Amleth by the 13th century writer, Saxo Grammaticus, and turned into an early play by William Kyd. However, it was Shakespeare's masterpiece, written c.1599, that has been the predominant rendering of the story and this will be the text used in our performance, packed full of some of the greatest, and most often quoted, lines in theatrical history. The story is the ultimate revenge tragedy – Prince Hamlet learns that his uncle, Claudius, has killed his father and married his mother. The ghost of Hamlet's father appears to urge Hamlet to take revenge for this assassination. Hamlet is torn between his philosophy/morality and the active need to avenge his father's wrong. The play explores issues of life and death with some of the greatest lines ever written by Shakespeare. No education should be complete without watching *Hamlet* at least once and we hope that you will come along and enjoy our performance of this famous story.

Hamlet will be performed in the Sixth Form Forum between Tuesday 13 and Thursday 15 November 2018, with performances beginning at 7.30pm. Tickets are available on TicketSource priced at £8 for adults and £5 for pupils. Tickets are strictly limited for this production, so please purchase early to avoid disappointment.

Mr B Jeffreys
Director of Drama



WARGAMING CLUB

WARGAMING CLUB FAQS

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

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

Who can attend? Anyone from any Year is most welcome to attend. No prior experience is needed. I would recommend you attend one session to see what is on offer and to learn more about wargames.

When does Wargaming Club take place? Wargaming Club takes place every Friday after school from 3.35pm to 5.00pm in M2.

Do I have to bring my own models? You do not need to buy or bring any models. The club has many models which you can use to try and learn the game to decide whether you want to pursue this further. Many pupils go on to buy and make their own models which they use to play. The biggest advantage to getting your own models is that you can create a backstory for them and design them to suit your requirements.

What games are played at Wargaming Club? Currently the wargames available are *Warhammer*, *Yu-Gi-Oh*, *Magic the Gathering*, *Dungeons and Dragons* and *Zombicide*. New wargames are always welcome.

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

Miss E Lo
Teacher of Chemistry

WARHAMMER 40K SCHOOLS' LEAGUE SEMI-FINAL: A RETROSPECTIVE

On Thursday 22 March 2018, the WHSB team of Charlie Wright (Year 10), Max Allsopp (Year 11), Alexander Fall (Year 12), William Skeldon (Year 12) and Ellis Swindell (Year 12 travelled to *Warhammer World*, Nottingham, for the semi-finals of the Warhammer 40k Schools' League National Championships.

In total, 24 teams competed, with the WHSB team hoping to finish in a higher position than last year's 13th. All teams were well-prepared with a range of different, interesting and competitive armies. Due to a recent rule change, we were unsure of the strategies that other schools would be using.

When we arrived, we quickly set up our armies so they could be judged: points were awarded for being organised and having the 'Tools of War'. This included having all equipment, such as a rulebook and dice, as well as having models completely painted and based. During the inspection, scouting took place to gauge what we were up against.

The competition comprised of three rounds with each individual in the team playing one game per round. 10 points were awarded for a victory, 5 for a tie and 0 for a loss. After the competition, the four highest scoring teams would progress to the national final.

In the first round we faced The Deanes

School, and all four members of our team won. This was a perfect and positive start from the team. Subsequently, confidence was high. In the second round, we faced Bridgnorth Endowed School and after several close games, WHSB won three games and narrowly missed out on a fourth victory. The WHSB team entered the final round with cautious optimism after the previous victories, knowing that we stood a chance at qualifying. This was not to last. After a gruelling 50 minutes against Woking High School, the team came away with one win, one draw and two losses. The draw was particularly tense, with the result decided in the last 5 minutes. With nervous anticipation we awaited the result.

Once the results were announced, we were elated upon discovering we had finished in fourth place, meaning WHSB qualified for the national final.

Ellis Swindell
Year 12



WARHAMMER 40K SCHOOLS' LEAGUE FINAL: A RETROSPECTIVE

The Schools' League final took place on Tuesday 26 June. The WHSB team was excited as this was their first time competing in the final. Since qualifying for the final, the team had long been considering what army lists to run and what they would expect to be competing against.



Each school competes against three other schools, with four players competing in head-to-head games, each lasting 45 minutes. Each victory scores 10 points, a draw scores 5 points and a loss scores zero points. In addition, teams are awarded extra points for aspects such as being organised, having the 'Tools of War', and being voted as a fellow competitor's favourite game, to name a few. In the end, the school with the highest number of points wins.

WHSB's first game was against Dauntsey's School in a game known as The Scouring. This game has two objective markers on the field, one placed by each competitor. One objective is known as the superior objective, worth 4 victory points, and the other is known as the inferior objective, worth 1 point. This is decided by a roll of a dice – commonly referred to in the game as depending on the "Dice Gods".

Beginning the game, the WHSB team



was confident and in high spirits, with the biggest threat being the Deathguard army (Space Marines infested with pestilence and disease). Max Allsopp faced the Deathguard army with his mechanical battlesuits known as the Tau. Max played a good game but ended up with WHSB's first loss of the day. Alexander Fall's Dark Angels army, a legion of Space Marines, competed against the Eldar, which are elf-like humanoids. The game was close throughout and Alex narrowly missed out on the victory.

Ellis's army was the Orks, a primitive goblin-like army and he competed against the army of mankind, the Imperial Guard. It was a tense match for Ellis right from the start and, despite the close game, he pulled out the first win for WHSB. Charlie's Tau army battled against another Tau army. This game approved to be an easy victory for Charlie.

Round 1 was complete and WHSB had achieved two victories and lost two, but the team remained positive for the second round. Charlie was on great form, winning his second game of the day, tabling his opponents. Tabling means all of the opponent's army was destroyed in battle. For the rest of the team, the day took a dark turn with three losses to follow.

At this point, the team felt a little deflated but, following a lunchbreak



of photos against a green screen and being interviewed by Warhammer TV, Max and Alex competed against pupils from Altrincham Grammar School. Unfortunately, they were overpowered by their opponents. Ellis and Charlie competed against pupils from Southend High School for Boys. Ellis found this game his easiest to win whereas Charlie's game began bleakly. Fortunately, the Dice Gods favoured Charlie and he managed to claw it back and secure the win.

In the end, WHSB came a respectable 8th place and due to a mystery lucky dip draw, WHSB managed to win some Warhammer merchandise including scenery, a board game, and paints and brushes to add to the Wargaming Club's collection.

Our team left the event feeling driven to amend their army lists and prepare for next year, with discussions of bringing the Learner Profile to war in the form of an Ork army. This would entail assigning each attribute of the learner profile to squads of Orks who believe this will make them more prepared for battle.

Miss E Lo
Teacher of Chemistry



GCSE ART 2018

WHSB Art students have developed an outstanding reputation in the local area and, indeed, further afield too. Year on year, our wonderfully talented pupils have managed to achieve so many A and A* grades I have actually lost count now. It never fails to impress me and never stops giving me a warm feeling inside, whenever we put up the end of year show for moderation. The purpose of the show, of course, is to display our Year 11 artwork in the best way possible and for the AQA moderator.

Being AQA moderators ourselves, Mr Sinnott and I understand the moderation process well, but it never ceases to be a daunting experience, because this is the one time in the year when we are being judged by the Examination Board itself. In essence, we have to go through the same stress and worry as the pupils every year, because we too are tested by the Examination Board every summer.

For a few days before, during and after the moderation, rooms E26 and E28 were out of bounds because they were full of work, which is pretty impressive given that there were only 13 pupils in the cohort. In fact, the work would not all fit on the desks, so I had to remove an entire wall display just so that I could pin one pupil's coursework portfolio to the wall!

The moderator is not permitted to give feedback on the day, but they can make generic comments and I can tell you that his were extremely positive.

This is my last piece for *The Westcliff Diary* as I have recently moved on to pastures new, but I would like to extend my best wishes to 2018's Year 10 pupils (a talented group of pupils) and the Sixth Form artists, all of whom have it within themselves to repeat the fantastic achievements of those who have come through the studio doors over the past five years. I would like to thank Mr Sinnott for having faith in me and for giving me the most enjoyable working experience I have ever had. I have thoroughly enjoyed working at WHSB for the past 10 years and leave with a smile in my heart and a few tears in my eyes. I look forward to watching the Art Department continue to grow and flourish.

Mr D Smith
Former Second in Art



Josiah Maggs



Thomas Fewings



Josiah Maggs



Benjamin Bave



Al-Uzair Qayyum



Seyon Ramesh



Seyon Ramesh



Al-Uzair Qayyum



Aston Fessey



Daniel Barton



Daniel Barton



Jaisan Chauhan



Rex Gutierrez



Rex Gutierrez



Andrew Twimasi

COMBINED CADET FORCE

UPDATE ON OUR CCF

The School's Combined Cadet Force continues to grow from strength to strength. 2017-2018 proved to be an exceptionally successful academic year for the CCF, during which time we inaugurated our Royal Navy section in April, had two cadets who passed the national Cadet Leadership Course, and two who passed the Brigade Senior Cadet Instructor Course. Additionally, three cadets were chosen by Brigade to attend the national selection weekend for the National Cadet Exchange with the Royal Canadian Army Cadet Force. Two of these cadets were selected and they attended the six week long *Whitehorse Cadet in the Rocky Mountains Programme* during July and August. Further success included a WHSB cadet being selected to be part of Lord Dannatt's Round Britain Challenge, which is a yacht tour around the British Isles, and the Contingent competed in the Welbeck Cadet Leadership Challenge,

additional details of which are included in the following article.

Once again, the Contingent took part in a number of Remembrance Services, including Southend Remembrance Parade, and represented the School at Southend's Armed Forces Day Parade. We were delighted that we were awarded a 'green' in our Annual Assurance and Inspection report, which indicates that we are fully meeting the expectations and requirements of delivering the cadet experience.

The Army Section conducted seven Field Days. These included a Field Training Exercise, a Junior NCO Cadre, a Skill at Arms Cadre, a Range Day, two visits to the RSME Boat School and one to the EOD Bomb Disposal Regiment. We have also represented the School at 7 Brigade annual Central Summer Camp. An even more ambitious programme has been developed for the coming academic year,

including a Battle Camp and much more. Although only a new addition, the Royal Navy Section has already run two Field Weekends and a Summer Camp, with a full year's programme arranged for the coming academic year.

A full programme of CCF Events will be communicated via a newsletter directly to cadets.

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all the Cadet Force Adult Volunteers for the many hours of unpaid labour that they contribute to the running of our successful contingent, but special mention must go to Capt Baggs who has so ably taken on the mantle of OC Army Section, SLt Hill who has made an outstanding start with the Royal Navy Section as its OC, and RSM Lyne as School Staff Instructor, whose contribution to the administration of the Contingent is invaluable.

*Maj J Bleakley
Contingent Commander*



The WHSB CCF Contingent at the Inauguration of the Royal Navy Section

WELBECK DEFENCE CHALLENGE

On 27 April 2018, a group of 10 Year 9 and 10 cadets went to the Welbeck Defence Sixth Form College to participate in a series of competition-based activities against other Contingents from around the country. The trip was also designed to give us an insight into the College.

We left the School with high expectations after seeing how fellow cadets had done over the past few years and, on arrival at the College, it was clear to see that there was lots of competition. We were assigned two students from the College to host us for the whole weekend and went to sleep in the tents we had just put up, knowing that the next day was going to be an action-packed day.

The day started at 5.30am with the Cadet-in-Charge, Ethan Locke, and



Second-in-Command, me, having to wake everyone (not forgetting Lt Tresidder) for the full day of activities. A hearty full English breakfast ensured that the spirits were high going into the events for the day. These events tested our knowledge, physical endurance, and teamwork, to mention but a few of the skills required. For me, the most thrilling event was the Trim Trail which was a two-mile course which had many obstacles that we had to tackle. This day also included a College tour which enlightened us about what life at Welbeck DSFC is like and we had the opportunity to put questions to some of its students. Despite being exhausted, we had been told we were leading in four of the events, and a quiz and disco later on further lifted our spirits.

The next day saw us come closer together as a team in which we were assigned the task of building a K'nex car. The

Contingent which built the car that travelled the farthest would have its name included on the side of the world's fastest car - The Bloodhound. While this task seemed simple, it required lots of effort and testing to find a streamlined car that would go the furthest distance. After an hour of making our cars, it was time to test them and we knew that even if we did not come first we had put our maximum effort into the task. However, we were pleasantly surprised to find out that we won the Bloodhound competition, resulting in 'Westcliff High School for Boys' being printed on the car attempting to break the 1,000mph speed barrier. Whilst we may not have won the whole weekend, we returned proud of what we had achieved and how it had improved many of our skills.

*Sammy Joujou
Year 11*



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

At the start of 2018, both Bronze and Silver level participants began planning their practice routes. The Silver participants undertook their practice expedition in April, on the South Downs, and completed this with ease. Unfortunately, due to inclement weather, the day hike was cancelled for Bronze participants, who then had to undertake their practice expedition with slightly less experience than usual. However, most groups managed to rise to the challenge and completed what was asked of them with little or no issue. Some groups started with understandable nerves and made mistakes, however they learned



from these and progressed through the second day with confidence.

For their Assessment Expedition in the Peak District, the Silver participants were given more autonomy regarding their route-planning. Although there were some issues initially, they quickly adapted their routes to the tougher terrain. Having completed this in July, they now just need to finish the other three sections to complete the Award. The Bronze Assessment Expedition will take place on 21 and 22 September, and they must then finish the other three sections before the Christmas break, after which interest

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

letters for the Silver Award will be available. Year 9 pupils will also have the opportunity to apply to participate in the Bronze Award shortly after Christmas, when these details will be circulated.

*Mr H Tresidder
DofE Coordinator*



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

ALUMNI NETWORK

Our Alumni Network continues to grow and this summer we welcomed those students leaving the School at the end of Year 13 into the WHSB Alumni Community. We wish them every success with their future studies and careers and look forward to keeping in touch with those who have signed up to our Alumni Network distribution listing. If you would like to join the WHSB Alumni Network and/or join the Old Westcliffian Association, please take a few minutes to register your details via the WHSB School website. Select 'Community' from the Main Menu followed by 'Alumni & Old Westcliffian Association'. You will then receive password information enabling access to the secure 'Alumni' area of the School website. The WHSB Alumni Network is completely free to join.

In addition, you can follow WHSB on *Facebook* and *Twitter* where you can find out about the latest developments and events taking place at the School. We would be delighted to welcome members of our Alumni Community back to the School to see what is going on. You can also network and keep in touch with other members of the WHSB Alumni Community on *LinkedIn* and the Old Westcliffian Association (OWA) *Facebook* and *Twitter* accounts. We welcome your comments and contributions for future editions of the Alumni Network Newsletter which is published termly, with the next scheduled for Autumn 2018. Please contact Mrs Clarke or Mrs Weller in the Community Development Office on 01702 475443 or via email at community@whsb.essex.sch.uk. We look forward to hearing from you.

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to local organisation, Planet Leasing, for generously sponsoring WHSB at the England Schools Athletics' Association (ESAA) National Finals in Gateshead in July. Details of our pupils' excellent performance at this event are included on page 35.



DRAMA SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Every two years, WHSB stages a major whole School musical production in the Main Hall. WHSB's last production of *Oliver!* was seen by over 1,100 pupils, teachers, parents and members of our local community. It was a significant event in the life of the School and another opportunity to bring our School and local communities together.

In February 2019, the School will be staging *Guys and Dolls*, considered by many to be the perfect musical comedy, and we will again be hoping to present this to over 1,000 people. At present, we are aiming to fund this through ticket sales. Sponsorship of this production could help us make this an even more successful and spectacular event, giving a more enjoyable experience to the pupils involved and raising the School's profile within our local community. We would welcome sponsorship in specific areas such as costumes, lighting or choreography, or general support for the project. To discuss ways in which you could help, please contact our Community Office Team on 01702 475443 or community@whsb.essex.sch.uk in the first instance.

Mrs J Clarke/Mrs N Weller
Community Development Office

OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

This year's Reunion Dinner will be on Friday 7 September in the School Hall. Our speaker will be Neil Harman, celebrated sports journalist and author.

Neil has been Sports Correspondent for the *Daily Mail* and *Sunday Telegraph* and latterly, Chief Tennis Correspondent for *The Times*. He is also an OW. We look forward to welcoming him. Our Dinners are always hugely enjoyable occasions and the highlight of the OWA year.

The School's centenary will be in 2020, and our President, David Norman, represents us on the Steering Committee. This is a notable milestone for any organisation, and the OWA will play a full part in ensuring that the celebrations are a resounding success. Our own Centenary will be in 2026... a sobering thought!

Our newsletter was published in May. If you think that you should have received one and have not then please let me know. There also many OWs who are not members. We would warmly welcome them for a very modest life subscription of £10 (or £5 if in full time education).

Please take some time out to look at the website, where you will find back issues of our newsletters and other interesting snippets.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Headmaster and the staff at the School, including Mr Partridge, Mrs Clarke and Mrs Weller for their continuing support. Without that invaluable help, my job would be so much harder to keep the show on the road.

Terry Birdseye
OWA Secretary
terry.birdseye@gmail.com

WESTCLIFF CENTRE FOR GIFTED CHILDREN

GO FOR GRAMMAR! 11 PLUS FAMILIARISATION PROGRAMME 2018/19

The School's Go for Grammar! Programme is offered through the WCGC which was established in 2010, and delivers a series of 11 Plus Familiarisation events throughout the School year aimed at encouraging local children to consider the possibility of a state Grammar School education. Since the Programme's inception eight years ago, over 4,000 local children have participated. Working closely with local primary schools to offer opportunities for bright children, primarily from disadvantaged backgrounds, the Go for Grammar! Programme for Year 5 boys and girls living within the School's local priority catchment area (postcodes SS0 to SS9) provides a taste of what a Grammar School education is like. In addition, parents are provided with practical information about the 11 Plus examination and how best to help their children prepare to sit the examination.

The Go for Grammar! Programme itself consists of a series of themed 'workshop' events which take place on Saturdays throughout the academic year. Each workshop has an overall theme and

includes Mathematics and English tutorial sessions, run by members of WHSB's teaching staff, covering material that is relevant to 11 Plus examination questions.

Workshop themes for the 2018/2019 academic year are:

Leadership and Teamwork (led by CCF) - 29 September 2018

First Aid, Camouflage and Drill skills, something for everyone;

Creative - 10 November 2018

Sessions in Art, Music, Technology and Design to learn new creative skills;

Humanities - 12 January 2019

Activities in Philosophy, Volcanoes and World War II to engage and challenge;

Science - 9 March 2019

The Chemistry of Sweets and Magic of Magnets for budding scientists;

Multi-Sports - 11 May 2019

Action packed summer sporting opportunities that are fun for all.



LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOL OUTREACH - SCIENCE ROADSHOWS

The ever-popular Science Roadshow programme has continued to entertain and enlighten local primary school pupils on Wednesday afternoons by bringing science experiments to children in their own classroom environment. The Science Roadshows employs WHSB Sixth Form students to take science into junior schools. This has allowed Sixth Form students to gain some teaching experience and enable the Year 5 pupils to take part in aspects of science otherwise unavailable to them. The Roadshows have evolved over the years, now taking a carousel of Physics, Chemistry and Biology into local schools. Each Year 5 class has one afternoon rotating through the three disciplines. This year's activities included parallel circuits in Physics, flame tests and simple forensics in Chemistry and cheek cells in Biology. Over the years, this has been enjoyed by all involved, especially those in Year 5 who view our Sixth Form students as a cross between teachers and older brothers or sisters, enhancing the fun factor!

Mrs J Clarke/Mrs N Weller
Community Development Office

WELCOME TO WESTCLIFF: AN EVENING FOR NEW PARENTS

Monday 24 September 2018, 7.00pm

On Monday 24 September at 7.00pm, the Parents' Association will be hosting a "Welcome to Westcliff" evening for all those parents new to the School whose sons and daughters have joined Years 7 and 12. Members of the Parents' Association will be serving drinks and nibbles in the Screens area, adjacent to

the Main School Hall. This is an informal and enjoyable evening where you can meet the Headmaster and members of the Westcliff staff. During the course of the evening, you will also have the opportunity to network and socialise with other new parents. In previous years, this Welcome Evening has proved very useful in helping answer practical questions that may have arisen once pupils have actually joined the School.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Contact can be made with other parents whose sons and daughters are in the same Form Group and with those who live in the same locality. The evening is free of charge to attend but please confirm your attendance via TicketSource, the School's electronic ticketing system at <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/> by Friday 21 September in order that we can have an idea of numbers attending. We look forward to meeting you.



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Monday 24 September 2018, 8.00pm

The Parents' Association AGM will be held on Monday 24 September at 8.00pm in the School Hall. A summary of our fundraising efforts over the previous year will be communicated together with a presentation of our accounts and the voting in of Committee post-holders for the new academic year. The meeting is open to all members of our School Community and we look forward to seeing you.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION 100 CLUB MONTHLY PRIZE DRAW

Established in 1996, our Parents' Association "100 Club" has raised thousands of pounds over the years enabling us to provide many items beneficial to the School. We would like to thank all those members of the PA 100 Club, both past and present, for their support. With the passing of each School year, the Parents' Association loses members of the 100 Club as their sons and daughters leave WHSB. Therefore,

it is vital for new members to become involved. For a monthly contribution of just £5, members of the 100 Club (who must be associated with the School) are entered into a monthly draw to win a cash sum, currently in the region of £150. Lucky winners will be sent a cheque by our PA Treasurer. If you would like to join our 100 Club, a registration form and joining instructions can be obtained by contacting the Parents' Association at pa@whsb.essex.sch.uk. Thank you for your support.

EASY FUNDRAISING

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



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL RACE NIGHT

A great crowd gathered in the Westcliff Schools' Dining Hall one balmy Saturday evening in June for the Parents' Association's 'postponed due to the Beast from the East' Annual Race Night. A good time was had by all with many lucky race-goers walking away with handsome winnings and luxury raffle prizes after an extremely successful 'Night at the Races'! We would like to thank all those members of our School Community, their families and friends who attended for their generosity – over £400 was raised for the Physical Education Department to purchase new athletics kits.



this fantastic scheme. All you need to do is visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk and when you register, select Westcliff High School for Boys as the organisation you wish to support. Our thanks to those members of the School Community who have raised over £1,500 through Easyfundraising to date.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Looking ahead, the Parents' Association will be supporting the School at their annual seasonal events held this term. We will be serving mulled wine at the ever popular Christmas with the Big Band event and at the School's Lessons and Carols Service in December. We will also be selling WHSB Christmas puddings again this year together with assorted Parents' Association merchandise which will make excellent gifts! Look out for announcements on the School's Social Media feeds.



NEW MEMBERS

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

Mrs K Merriman
Parents' Association Chair

SLICES OF PI: MATHEMATICS AT WHSB

PROBLEM SOLVING ACROSS ALL KEY STAGES

On the face of it, the recent changes to GCSE and A Level Mathematics could appear to have been merely superficial. Some modules moved here, a few topics edited there. There is, however, a deeper meaning to the changes that are being made to Mathematics, and that meaning comes across in two words: Problem Solving.

Mathematics is now being viewed as "the Art of Solving Problems" rather than the art of memorising and using formulae. Many recent Year 11 pupils have been dismayed and deterred by some of the new style questions cropping up in their GCSEs, but it turns out that we are quite good at them. We have, in Lower School at Westcliff, been taught a deep respect for problem solving already. All those starters and plenaries that have challenged you to think, all those hard questions in unit tests and end of year examinations, was the means to enable you to apply techniques in context rather than merely answering run-of-the-mill, low-level questions.

There are many examples on these pages of what we offer students to extend their problem solving, and we are continuing to grow and evolve our provision in this respect. The Junior, Intermediate and Senior Mathematics Challenges really push students; they pose unfamiliar styles of questions that train lateral thinking. The team competitions do the same, encouraging students to appreciate others' approaches to solving problems

and encouraging the use of team work to find better solutions. Every teacher appreciates the requirement for a good dose of problem solving in their lessons, and every unit test and assessed homework will seek to challenge your ability to solve problems.

In the long run, however, it is not only what your teachers offer that will help you improve. If you want to get better at problem solving, you have to solve problems. In this manner, have a look around some of the Mathematics Department's rooms; E10 now hosts a board with many problem solving questions included and ranked by difficulty. Have a go at these; they may not be transparent and easy at first viewing, but you may find after a day thinking about it (and a little research on the internet) the answer is more obvious. Perhaps ask your teacher for some more difficult work if you have completed what they have asked; teachers have access to Mentoring Booklets which host a large number of problem solving questions in them. You could even work through some problem solving papers or questions in your own time – the new Year 7, 8 and 9 text books offer an entire section per chapter on Extension work and Problem Solving.

All of this work is to prepare you, not just for GCSEs and A Level, but for a life in Mathematics. Although it is true that not many adults would use the Quadratic Formula in day to day life (although I do!), it is true that every adult has to solve problems. So while we may not expect you to remember how to use trigonometry

when you are 70 years old, we do expect that you will be able to use the problem solving strategies you were taught and have developed across your lifetime.

STEP CLUB (SIXTH FORM ONLY)

The Mathematics Department is pleased with the increasing number of Sixth Form students who regularly attend STEP Club during the lunch time. They have been working through some STEP questions to stretch their ability in mathematics.

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

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

From the point of view of admissions to a university Mathematics/Science/Engineering course, STEP has three purposes. First, it acts as a hurdle: success in STEP is thought to be a good indicator of potential to do well on a difficult course. Second, it acts as a preparation for the course, because the style of mathematics found in STEP questions is similar to that of undergraduate Mathematics. Thirdly, it tests motivation. It is important to prepare for STEP (by working through old papers, for example), which can require considerable dedication. Those who are not willing to make the effort are unlikely to thrive on a difficult Mathematics course.

MR TSANG'S A LEVEL LIBRARY

Since coming to Westcliff, Mr Tsang has amazed students and teachers alike with his enthusiasm and dedication to Mathematics. His newest initiative, leading on from STEP/MAT/AEA club, is to introduce a Mathematics library. So far, he has a collection of 12 books



SLICES OF PI: MATHEMATICS AT WHSB



which Sixth Form students may request to read, and these can be found upstairs in the Library. These books will broaden your understanding of Mathematics at University level, but are written in a way which is entirely accessible to a Sixth Form student. You will be able to reference these books in your future work and perhaps even astonish a University interviewer with your rounded and off-curriculum knowledge. The new series of books are: *Pushing the Limits*; *Prime Numbers (An unpredictable series)*; *Rhythm, Resonance and Harmony (The Mathematics of Music)*; *When Straight Lines Curve (Non-Euclidian Geometry)*; *Eternal Challenges (The Great Conundrums of Mathematics)*; *Fermat's Enigma (The Quest to Prove Fermat's Last Theorem)*; *Creating the Perfect Balance (Symmetry in Maths)*; *Pythagoras' Theorem (The Sacred Geometry of Triangles)* and *Tricking Senses (The Science of Perspective)*.

At A Level, we offer a recommended reading list, but all students should consider reading at least one 'popular' Mathematics book. Some good examples to start from are: *Does God Play Dice?*; *The*

Music of the Primes; *1089* and *All That and How to Lie with Statistics*.

JUNIOR MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE (JMC) AND JUNIOR KANGAROO (JKANG)

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

Congratulations to all Year 8 pupils who participated in this year's UKMT Junior Mathematics Challenge but particular credit must go to the following pupils who were awarded the Gold Certificate for their efforts:

Jacob Bennett, Devan Chauhan, Alex Crisp, Peter Danchev, Shaun Ekiyoyo, Eric Frost, Pejash Ghoorah, Fenton Hopkins, Daniel Hunt, Oreoluwatimi Ibinola, Hugo Johnson, Issac Leung, Peter Mauz, Rudra Patel, Ben-Nii Quarshie, Aidan Riglin, Akshat Singh, Rafael Smakaj, Matthew Smith, Joshua Soper, Abdulsamad Taiwo, Jack Thorn, Anish Verma and Eesen Nullatamby, who was our highest scoring pupil.

Of these pupils, Eesen Nullatamby, Jacob Bennett, Alex Crisp, Daniel Hunt, Shaun Ekiyoyo, Pejash Ghoorah, Fenton Hopkins, Jack Thorn, Ben-Nii Quarshie, Rafael Smakaj, Matthew Smith and Peter Danchev were all invited to participate in the Junior Kangaroo, the follow on round from the Junior Mathematics Challenge, which took place at the beginning of June.

MENTORING

The Mathematics Department continues to run a successful student-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 student or someone who needs help themselves, please see Miss Dole in the Lower School Pastoral Office.

We can accommodate students 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 so much work on Algebra, then we can arrange for a mentor for a short period of time instead.

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

Mr M Dowding
Head of Mathematics

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE: A RETROSPECTIVE

Here is the challenge. You put your performance together, to showcase your talents, be it acting, dancing, singing, magic, cracking jokes, or something unusual like tying yourself to a pole or play fighting a vampire. You seek out funding to cover expensive accommodation and venue charges. You rehearse and rehearse. And then, for three glorious weeks during August, you head to Edinburgh, cross your fingers and present your performance to an army of professional reviewers. At the start, you wonder whether it will be your show that hits the headlines, your show that secures five stars or a Fringe First, your show that sells out, or your show that is condemned by the critics, your show that does not sell a seat. And by the end, for better or worse, you know.

This summer, four teachers and 15 Westcliff students took up the challenge. We met on Monday 6th August in the sixth form forum and put together our play, *Waiting for Ofsted*, in five days of energetic rehearsal. We booked a venue space with theSpace, a 92-seat theatre in the round. Then we transferred to Edinburgh and staged the play at 12.05 every day, for a week, to an audience of parents, Fringe-goers and reviewers. For the rest of each day, we watched some of the other 5,000 shows, toured around Edinburgh and visited the Castle.

Two reviewers came to our opening show and you can read their reviews, thanks to the miracle of Google. And we are proud to draw to your attention that both were four star reviews, including comments such as "we remained firmly seated in admiration at what is a delightful gem of a production" (*Broadway Baby*), and "to produce work of this ambition and quality is remarkable" (*Sardines*). Those comments were fitting testament to the remarkable talent and skill that our pupils display in theatre at Westcliff.



EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE



Of course, any school trip depends for its success on personnel and the Edinburgh troupe were an absolutely wonderful company. It was a particular honour to share the moment when our four school leavers received confirmation of their University placements - Ross McIntyre and James Quigley to Cambridge, James Fraser to Durham and Matthew Clark to a sound acoustics course at Salford. Our cast and crew were drawn from across the School (Year 7 to the Upper Sixth) and the way in which company members interacted and worked together, both on and offstage, reflected this wonderful group. Mrs Mumford and Mr McGee played the vital role of driving minibuses, managing the catering and supporting the

trip in other myriad ways. Mr Sampson was, as ever, the engine room of the entire operation.

The next stop for Westcliff Drama is a performance of *Hamlet* in November and we hope you will come and watch our officially 'four star' company in action. In two years, we hope to return to Edinburgh. With this year's Fringe now over, however, we are left with the memory of a wonderful moment in time. But is that not what theatre, and perhaps life, is all about?

Mr B Jeffreys
Director of Drama



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



MUSIC AT WHSB

AUTUMN CHAMBER RECITAL

Thursday 4 October 2018, 7.30pm

This academic year's musical programme kicks off with the termly Chamber Recital, featuring the best soloists and small ensembles that the School has to offer. Performing as soloists are A Level students, Josh Wood and Grace Jackson, who are beginning their final year at WHSB. Joining them are Middle School regulars, George Jefferson and Charlie Gershinson, as well as Lower School pupils, Aran Tanseli and Dexter Legon.

Small ensembles, such as the Brass Ensemble and String Ensemble, will also be demonstrating their new repertoire in what is sure to be an exciting evening of music.

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



AUTUMN SINFONIA CONCERT

Thursday 1 November 2018, 7.30pm

This term's Sinfonia Concert begins with Holst's *Somerset Rhapsody*, a piece of music that alternates between soaring string melodies and martial brass sections. The piece was Holst's first major success, composed about a decade before his famous *Planets* suite. It was written on the suggestion of famous folk-song collector, Cecil Sharp, who gave Holst a selection of songs sung by the residents of Somerset and the surrounding area. Holst, alongside other composers, such as Percy Grainger

and Ralph Vaughan Williams, became well-known for immortalising these folk melodies which are now practically extinct, no longer remembered by the communities that passed them on through oral tradition.

Following this will be an organ concerto by British composer William Felton. The musical canon has almost forgotten British Baroque organ music – a real shame considering the quality of this piece. The Sinfonia will be accompanying soloist and Organ Scholar, Alex Usher, performing music compiled by local musicologist, David Woods, who has kindly donated copies to the School.

MUSICOLOGY SEMINAR: TURN THAT OFF! A HISTORY OF MUSICAL CENSORSHIP

Thursday 11 October 2018, 3.50pm

Join us for a discussion on the various ways in which music has been curtailed, censored and banned throughout history, and how artists and composers have sought to fight back against governments, media organisations and the press to make their voice heard. Musical examples will range from Shostakovich and his run-ins with Stalin, the Sex Pistols and their number one that never was and the presence of the Devil in medieval music, with much more besides. This seminar will be of interest to musicians, historians, aspiring politicians and all those with an interest in free expression.

Mr A McGee
Teacher of Music



VISIT TO THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL FOR A CLASSICAL SPECTACULAR

Thursday 22 November, 4.30pm

From the very best classical music and state-of-the-art technology to electrifying multi-coloured laser displays and a famous thundering finale to the music of the 1812 Overture, the Music Department is hosting a trip to the Royal Albert Hall on Thursday 22 November. 47 students, staff and friends of the School will have the opportunity to travel to London to attend the Classical Spectacular! Featuring a number of well-known pieces

of music (and thundering cannons and indoor fireworks!), this is a concert not to be missed:

GRIEG *Morning and In the Hall of the Mountain King*
ROSSINI *Largo al factotum* from *The Barber of Seville*
JENKINS *Benedictus* from *The Armed Man*
BIZET *Duet* from *The Pearl Fishers*
HOLST *Jupiter* from *The Planets*
SUPPÉ *Light Cavalry Overture*
TCHAIKOVSKY *Waltz of the Flowers*
SOUSA *Liberty Bell March*
VERDI *La donna è mobile*
HANDEL *Zadok the Priest*
PARRY *Jerusalem*

SIBELIUS *Finlandia*
PACHELBEL *Canon*
Land of Hope and Glory
Rule, Britannia!
Nessun Dorma
Hornpipe
1812 Overture

Tickets cost £31.50 including coach travel and are available to purchase on TicketSource.

Mr A McGee
Teacher of Music



The Concert will end with Beethoven's *Second Symphony*, written a few years before the famous *Fifth* and *Sixth*. By this point in his life, Beethoven was beginning to grapple with the deafness that would define his later works. As such, this piece does not have the same explosive drama of his later work, but still contains a wealth of musical jokes and shocks. In fact, the consensus at the time was not kind with one critic writing that the symphony was "a hideously writhing, wounded dragon that refuses to die, but writhing in its last agonies and, in the fourth

movement, bleeding to death!"

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

CHRISTMAS WITH THE BIG BAND

Friday 7 December 2018, 7.30pm

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

with their friends at tables in the Main Hall. Reserve your tickets at a price of £8 for adults and £5 for pupils.

YEAR 9 CULTURAL ENRICHMENT PROJECT

This term, all Year 9 pupils will attend at least one of the musical concerts or trips listed in the Diary as an audience member and will be expected to write a review of their chosen event. 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.

Mr T Derrick
Director of Music



THE HOUSE SYSTEM

HOUSE SYSTEM REVIEW

Last academic year (2017/18) was a most productive period for the House System and I am very pleased with the levels of participation, amongst other things.

Since my last article in the Westcliff Diary, there have been a number of a staff changes. Mr Sexton took over from Mr Hill in the Summer Term as Head of Merlin House and he has made an excellent start. Although Mr Hill was only involved with the House System for a short while, I would like to thank him for the valuable contribution that he made to Merlin House.

Mr Tresidder stood down as Head of Kestrel at the end of the Summer Term and Miss Bailey will be leading Kestrel House from September 2018. Again, I would like to thank Mr Tresidder for all his

hard work as he moves on to pursue other interests within the School.

I have been a proud Head of Harrier House for five years and this is now my third year as Senior Head of House and House System Coordinator. This year, there has been some restructuring of the House Leadership team and Mr Yeo has joined us as Head of Harrier House for the academic year 2018/19. I will remain as overall Head of the House System, as Senior Head of House and House System Coordinator, but with a greater emphasis on the management and strategic oversight, ensuring further opportunities are created for the development of the House System. Therefore, I will no longer be attached to one House alone, meaning my role will be entirely independent within the structure.

This year we have a tantalising array of events on offer which include:

House chess, Scrabble, snakes and ladders, cards, geography, cartography, model dragster racing, rugby, football, basketball, photography, drawing, poetry, public speaking, epidemiology, model painting, Lord of the Rings, Star Wars, spelling, German and Mathematics, to name but a few.

I would like to give our best wishes to the new House Captains, Vice Captains and Year Representatives and remind everyone that participation is the key to success. The House System is all about trying new things, getting involved and, most importantly, having fun!

If you have any ideas about new House events or would like help run a House activity, then please do not hesitate to contact me. I am willing to entertain any sensible and feasible suggestions.

*Mr Barber
Senior Head of House and House System
Coordinator*

HOUSE GOLF: A RETROSPECTIVE

After suffering traditionally dreadful weather, it was pleasantly surprising to be driving off in glorious sunshine for the House Golf Competition on Friday 8 June. Kestrel and Harrier had an advantage from the start as they shared the maximum points for participation, but Joshua Harrison of Merlin was not deterred as he set out to defend his title in the Texas Scramble competition and managed a podium finish again this year with joint second. Newcomers Dillon Purohit and Aaron Hilsum performed well, as did James Turner, who also represented the School at the Essex Schools Competition in March this year. However, the scramble was dominated by the Year 12 grudge match – George Earle vs Noah Kasakaitis, with George and his father lifting the trophy with an impressive 24 points. George also secured the 5 bonus points for the longest drive, with an enormous drive on the 8th fairway.

As George and Noah were both playing on behalf of Kestrel, it was this house which emerged as the winner. Thomas Davis, the sole Osprey pupil representative, and Hector Bailey split the points for the Golfer Putter pairs. The staff and friends scramble was a much-hyped affair. The Osprey team of White/Wright played a superb round in an impressive display off the tee, but despite earning maximum points, the low participation

from Osprey left the house in 4th place overall. Mr Sexton and Mr Mumford teamed up for Merlin and a magic touch from the Head of House earned them the 5 bonus points for closest to the pin on the 3rd hole and secured 2nd place overall. Kestrel was represented by local golf PGA professional Martin Foreman who played as a single against the rest of the staff pairs. Harrier was represented by Mrs Mumford and Director of Sport,

Mr Morrish, but an off day for Mr Morrish meant they contributed just one point to the Harrier total and were only saved the overall 'Wooden Spoon' by the participation numbers from Harrier boys. This year, therefore, the House Golf trophy will be adorned in red ribbon for Kestrel House.

*Mrs K Mumford
Assistant Head*



SPORTING OVERVIEW

The attitude and behaviours shown towards sport at WHSB continued to evolve positively during the Academic Year 2017/18. Culturally, the Department has strengthened throughout the year, building on the inception of the new Department from last year. As a community, we know how important behaviours and attitudes are in shaping personal progress and performance which, when combined with the efforts of other like-minded pupils, creates team progress and performance. This also means that, as a community, we have made progress and improvements in our performance.

Creating a culture with strong values, attitudes and behaviours is vital when the aim is for sustained progress and success over a prolonged period of time. The level of personal excellence that can be reached is totally dependent upon how strong the foundations for that excellence are. In the Physical Education Department, the foundations of work ethic, integrity, School first, enjoyment, respect and loyalty are central to everything that we do, whether that is during curriculum or extra-curricular time. When looking at the WHSB Learner Profile, the connotations and connections between the two are clear. As a community we have bought into the sporting culture of the School to a greater degree than was previously the case. The continued excellent work of Mr White, Mr Sexton, Mr Atkinson, Mr Garstin and Mrs Burden creates an environment

where pupils are given the opportunity to make improvements to their own skills and also their ability to work in a team environment through training and competitive situations.

The intention is that the sporting culture will continue to grow over the next academic year and beyond. Each Year Group has helped to grow the culture but a special mention must go to Year 7 pupils who have been outstanding in their attitude towards sport. With these impressive attitudes and values the Year Group has been most successful across a multitude of sports. Pleasingly, there are a large contingent of pupils who have represented the School in three or more sports; they have most definitely been Open to Opportunity as we, as a community, encourage in our Learner Profile.

With regard to sporting performance and outcome, WHSB had an excellent year, with greater success across more sports and Year Groups than in the previous year. This is most rewarding for our School community, and for our pupils who gain so much from the personal satisfaction resulting from their performances. Although it is challenging to select just a few achievements across the year, I consider that the following pupils deserve a special mention; Samson Main has represented the School in three National Finals this year in the Medley Relay, Freestyle Relay and the Track & Field Cup – this is an outstanding achievement. Demi Adewewe has represented England in Basketball, as well as leading the Year 10 to an undefeated season



SCHOOL SPORT

being crowned Essex Champions, with Nathaniel Familusi playing an integral role to the successes that the team experienced. Damope Akinyemi is ranked in the top three in the UK for both Long Jump and High Jump; he has represented Essex at the multi events and the English Schools' Athletics Championships, as well as representing the School at the Track & Field Cup Final. Josh Ogunfolaju has a UK-leading Triple Jump of 13.44m and has represented Essex at the English Schools' Athletic Championships, as well as representing the School at the Track & Field Cup Final.

These performances provide just a snapshot of the incredible talent we have within our School community. These pupils have achieved these outcomes due to the attitudes and behaviour which are encouraged, not just in the Department, but throughout WHSB.

Reflection is a vital process when the intention is to improve. When I reflect on the sport at WHSB over the past academic year I am filled with a great sense of pride. I am proud of how the Physical Education Department of Mr Williams, Mr White, Mr Sexton, Mr Atkinson, Mr Garstin and Mrs Burden have come together to form such a strong bond, where all love their work and enjoy seeing how much enjoyment and life-long learning sport can bring to the pupils at WHSB. As a Department, we are inordinately proud of the achievements of our pupils. This is reflected not only in the elite, who have been outstanding, but also in the increase in attendance at extra-curricular sport practices, meaning more and more pupils are experiencing the tremendous benefits of sport. However, to quote the successful Team GB at the Olympics, "better never stops". Therefore, it is vital that, although we can celebrate the success of sport at WHSB for the last academic year, as we did at the inaugural Sports Awards Hog Roast. It is more important that we look to how we are going to improve for 2018/19.

I am very much looking forward to what the Physical Education Department and pupils of WHSB can achieve next year. As the necessary attitudes for sport continue to strengthen in our pupils, so too do the foundations for success, and the determination in our pupils. When combined within our School community that is powerful indeed.

*Mr T Morrish
Director of Sport*

SCHOOL SPORT

SPORTS AWARDS AND HOG ROAST

On Saturday 16 June, WHSB hosted its first annual Sports Awards and Hog Roast afternoon. This was an event designed to celebrate the many successes of our pupils over the course of what has been an extremely busy and successful sporting year. The event itself was very well attended, with over 100 parents and pupils enjoying this celebratory afternoon. Mr Morrish prepared an exceptional hog roast for all to enjoy, and the pupils certainly did, returning for thirds and fourths!

The Awards which were to be presented were for Best Club Attendance, Best

Trainer, and the Outstanding Sportsman of the Year Group. These pupils' achievements were all reflective of the foundation stones which the Physical Education Department believes are integral to achieving sporting excellence. Each pupil who received an Award has shown an excellent work ethic, great integrity and a 'School first' attitude over the course of the year. These foundations have allowed the boys to go on and achieve great success. The Best Club attendees for Years 7, 8, and 9 were Emmanuel Echanah, Djhon Evans and Jimmy Adekola. These pupils have consistently attended training sessions over the course of the year in a wide variety of sports and should be proud of their efforts. The Best Trainer Awards for Years 7 and 8 went to Brendan Burgess and Jake Bausor. These two pupils have not only attended a huge number of training sessions, but have worked

hard when they are present, always trying to better themselves. Finally, the Outstanding Sportsman for each Year Group went to Dikachi Godwin (Year 7), Alex Thompson (Year 8), and Damope Akinyemi (Year 9). These three pupils have not only represented themselves superbly, but they have been a credit to the School during the course of the year, epitomising the ethos of the School, combining work ethic, loyalty and integrity with a team focus, technical ability and physical prowess in order to achieve excellence.

The School would like to congratulate our prize winners for an outstanding year, but most importantly all the pupils who have trained and represented the School.

Mr J White
Second in Physical Education

TENNIS

This year, the Physical Education Department has significantly increased the profile of tennis within the School and the local community. Our competitive teams did exceptionally well in their respective competitions, the highlight being the Year 7/8 B team reaching the Essex Division 2 final. Over 20 players represented the School this year, which is an increase on the previous year.

The Department also participated in the LTA *Road to Wimbledon* event for Key Stage 3 pupils. Nearly 40 pupils took part, with both eventual winner, Max Cole (Year 8) and runner up Alex Stewart (Year 9) progressing to the county-wide next stage.

With the assistance of Westcliff High School for Girls, we also hosted a *Festival of Tennis* for local Year 5 pupils. The top field was turned into a mini-Wimbledon as nearly 200 eager pupils from local schools enjoyed an afternoon in the sun. Both WHSB and WHSG are part of the LTA School of Tennis programme and our Tennis Ambassadors introduced Tennis to a number of pupils with a skills session, while our Year 12 students hosted a 'Team Challenge' event in which 80 Year 5 pupils competed in 10 teams, and where a team from Darlington called 'Murray's Mints' were victorious.

Mr M Atkinson
Sports Coach



NATIONAL SUCCESS IN ATHLETICS

On Friday 6 July 2018, our Junior and Intermediate teams travelled to Gateshead International Stadium to compete in the English Schools' Athletics Association Track & Field National Cup Final. This is the second year in succession that both teams have qualified for the National Finals – a marvellous achievement that places us in a very select group of schools in the country.

Despite some initial difficulties with travel arrangements, the attitude and behaviour of the pupils was exceptional from the outset. Following qualification in the regional round (where the Junior and Intermediate teams were placed 3rd and 2nd in the country respectively), pupils demonstrated an outstanding attitude towards training in the build up to National Final. In particular, attention should be drawn to Nathaniel Familusi, Jake Bausor, Semilore Dada and Brendan Burgess who all travelled, on numerous occasions after School, to a local athletics track to replicate throwing in a facility that was similar to that of Gateshead International Stadium. It is this relentless work ethic, dedication and commitment shown by all team members that has led to the impressive outcomes we have achieved this year.

Travelling through Newcastle on the morning of the competition, there was a tangible sense of excitement and energy. The sense of pride that the staff felt as all 32 pupils went on a warm-up lap of the track, led by the two outstanding student Team Managers, Oluwarotimi Osunsami and Brian Kasanda, illustrated the progress made by pupils within School Sport at WHSB. I would like to extend

my thanks to *Planet Leasing* who provided sponsorship for the Athletics Kit worn by the team on the day itself.

In terms of the actual competition, the Junior Boys' team started very well on the Track with personal best performances by Isaiah Akinlabi, Akishan Jasokumar and Onyedikachi Godwin. The whole team contributed positively and therefore, going into Field events, the teams were ten points ahead of their target score. After their Field events, the Intermediate Boys were slightly down on the aspirational targets they had been set. Semilore Dada deserves a mention for being the only athlete in the competition to get all of his throws out of the cage achieving a personal best of 41.39m in the Hammer. Boosted by this impressive performance, Samson Main also achieved a personal best of 31.40m in the Discus – a remarkable 5m increase on his previous performance.

During the Field events, the Junior Boys produced performances which reflected the number of practice hours accrued over the Summer Term. Oreoluwatimi Ibinlola and Isaiah Akinlabi produced jumps of 11.84m and 11.51m in Triple Jump to provide added impetus to the team. Akishan and Jake performed superbly in the Hammer. The Intermediate Team performed well on the track with Ademilola Adeyeye running 11.6s in the hurdles and Samson Main securing another personal best with a time of 2:19 minutes in the 800 metres. Toby Linsell produced another remarkable 800m performance of 2:07 minutes, the fastest of the day. This was a great way to progress into the final event of the day, the Relay.

After both teams safely secured the passage of the baton around the track,

we waited with baited breath for the final scores. The Junior Boys finished tied 3rd in the country, whilst the Intermediate Boys finished with the 3rd best score in the country (although with two teams tied for 2nd place, WHSB were placed 4th in the overall competition).

The School is incredibly proud of the achievements of these pupils. This, once again, illustrates the talent of our sporting community at WHSB. When we show a relentless work ethic, coupled with our desire to better ourselves and improve we can achieve excellence. The strengthening of these values is a constant process and one that I am sure will continue into the new academic year.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Headmaster, Mr Williams and Mrs Mumford for all the support they have shown to sport over the Year – I know that the pupils really do appreciate the time and effort. Additionally, I also wish to thank the teaching staff of WHSB for their understanding as, without the support that staff show through, we would not have teams in National Finals. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the work of the Physical Education Department (Mr White, Mr Sexton, Mr Atkinson, Mr Garstin and supported by Mrs Burden); without their dedication, none of this would be possible. The hours that the staff spend improving performances and organising transport and hotels enables us, as a community, to show just how good we can be. I trust that all pupils enjoyed a good Summer break and I look forward to seeing what we can do as a community in 2018/19.

Mr T Morrish
Director of Sport





CALENDAR FOR AUTUMN TERM 2018

Wed 5 September **STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY**
 Thu 6 September **AUTUMN TERM BEGINS, 8.45am**
 Fri 7 September OWA Annual Reunion Dinner, 6.15pm
 Mon 10 September Year 7 Helping Parents Help Their Sons, 4.00pm
 Wed 19 September Year 12 Biologists visit Reading University, 8.30am
 Thu 20 September Year 9 Helping Parents Help Their Sons, 4.00pm
 20 - 23 September CCF Royal Navy visit to Portsmouth
 Fri 21 September Enrichment Day
 21 - 22 September DoE Bronze Assessment Weekend
 Sat 22 September 11+ Entrance Examinations
 Mon 24 September Year 7/New Year 12 Meet & Greet, 7.00pm, followed by PA AGM, 8.00pm
 Tue 25 September Year 10 Education Evening, 7.30pm
 Thu 27 September Sixth Form Education Evening, 7.30pm
 Sat 29 September WCGC: CCF Day, 8.30am
 1 - 2 October Year 11 Geographers visit Walton on the Naze
 Tue 2 October Year 9 visit to Imperial War Museum, Duxford
 3 - 9 October Year 11 Formative Assessments
 Thu 4 October Autumn Chamber Recital, 7.30pm
 Fri 5 October Years 12 and 13 Phase 1 Reports issued
 Years 11-13 Othello Workshop Day
 Thu 11 October Musicology Seminar, 3.50pm
 CCF Interest Meeting for Year 9 parents, 7.30pm
 Parents' Association Meeting, 7.30pm
 Fri 12 October Charity Activities Day
 Tue 16 October **SPEECH DAY, 7.45pm; School closes at 12.50pm**
 Thu 18 October Years 7 and 11 Phase 1 Reports issued
 Year 10 Chemistry at Work Day
 Parents' Briefing Meeting for German Exchange, 7.00pm

21 - 23 October Year 12 Physicists visit CERN
 22 - 26 October **AUTUMN HALF TERM**
 Year 13 Students visit Lyon
 Mon 29 October **STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY**
 Thu 1 November Autumn Sinfonia Concert, 7.30pm
 Fri 2 November Year 9 Phase 1 Reports issued
 5 - 9 November Year 13 Formative Assessments
 Tue 6 November Year 8 Prince Charming PSHEE Production, 9.10am
 Senior Mathematics Challenge
 Sixth Form Open Evening, 6.30pm
 Annual Remembrance Service, 8.45am
 WCGC: Creative Day, 8.30am
 Mon 12 November Year 7 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm
 13 - 15 November Performance of Hamlet, 7.30pm
 Thu 15 November Parents' Briefing Meeting for Ski Trip, 7.30pm
 Fri 16 November Year 8 Phase 1 Reports issued
 Tue 20 November Parents' Association Meeting, 7.30pm
 Wed 21 November Year 11 Romeo & Juliet Live Screening, 9.10am
 Careers in Medicine Evening, 7.00pm
 Visit to the Royal Albert Hall, 4.30pm
 Year 10 Phase 1 Reports issued
 Year 11 Trial Examinations
 Year 13 Phase 2 Reports issued
 Year 13 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm
 Christmas with the Big Band, 7.30pm
 Year 11 Trial Results Report issued
 Year 11 Geologists visit The Earth Galleries
 Charity Activities Day
 Mon 17 December Geology Conference, 9.10am
 Carol Service, 7.30pm
 Thu 20 December **AUTUMN TERM ENDS, 2.45pm**
 Thu 3 January **SPRING 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.



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