



# The Westcliff Diary

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## ISSUE 96 / SUMMER 2023



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# FROM THE DESK OF THE HEADMASTER

## ***The Summer Term 2023***

This term's edition of *The Westcliff Diary* once again reflects the commitment and enthusiasm of the WHSB staff and pupils in their working together to ensure all in the School community may continue to access the highest quality extra-curricular clubs, societies, and other activities. The personal development of our pupils is at the forefront of our work, and central to our Learner Profile. I would like to thank the staff and pupils for their determination in driving forward and developing those opportunities and I hope pupils, parents, staff, Old Westcliffians and friends of the School enjoy this edition of our termly Diary.

We are fortunate that so many of our pupils recognise the value of our extra-curricular programme, in terms of their personal development, expanding their horizons and opening opportunities for themselves in the future. I urge all pupils to engage fully with the wide range of enjoyable and challenging activities on offer and, to any pupil who has yet to fully embrace our varied programme, I encourage him or her to take the leap and to try something new. We appreciate that engagement with new activities and meeting new friends can push a pupil beyond their natural comfort zone, but there is plenty of support on hand and challenging oneself in new ways is so important for healthy personal development. Should pupils experience concerns or difficulties in becoming involved in a particular activity, or wish to discuss their options with a member of staff, they are most welcome to speak with a member of staff in their Pastoral Office, a student in our Sixth Form Leadership and/or Mentor Team, a club or activity leader, Mr Barber (House Co-ordinator), or with Mr Jeffreys (Associate Assistant Head / Head of History). We have witnessed the transformative nature of wide and varied engagement with the extra-curricular programme and will do all that we can to offer support where necessary.

## ***The School Library***

Parents will be aware from previous editions of the Diary that the School Library and its wonderful staff, Mrs

Schofield (Librarian) and Mrs Oates (Assistant Librarian) play a vital role in encouraging reading within our community. Reading is at the heart of a good education and the Library staff, working closely with Mr Derrick (Associate Assistant Head / Director of Music), continue to develop innovative ways in which to encourage our pupils to expand their reading. I am delighted to inform parents that from this coming September we shall be piloting a new reading initiative with our Year 7 pupils to encourage them to broaden their reading and further details will follow shortly. If the pilot is successful, we anticipate extending it to all Year groups in due course. I would like to take the opportunity to extend my thanks to Mr Derrick for his superb support in developing this exciting project. My thanks also to Mrs Schofield and Mrs Oates for the terrific support they provide to our pupils.

## ***Public Examinations***

As we continue with our programme of activities in earnest, we are also mindful that the Summer Term is particularly busy and important for those students sitting GCSE and A Level Examinations. During the Easter Break, I know that many of these students have been taking advantage of the revision classes running in the School and, with thanks to the staff involved in delivering those classes, I am sure those additional study sessions will have been of great value.

The staff at WHSB, both within the pastoral system and in our subject departments continue to provide guidance and support to those students preparing for their examinations later this term, and students should not hesitate to seek additional support whenever needed. Equally, if parents have any concerns or believe their son or daughter is in need of assistance, they should contact the relevant Pastoral Office without delay. Last term's edition of *The Westcliff Diary* also contained some helpful advice on revision strategies, and we shall continue to provide guidance and assistance through our usual systems, including Assemblies and Form Periods. Equally, I urge the students to take on board the feedback from their teachers included in the most recent set of

Reports, and to seek support in addressing concerns or other matters raised in order to maximise their potential in the forthcoming examinations.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the students taking the Public Examinations this term the very best of luck with their preparation and in the examinations when the time arrives.

## ***Capital Works within the School***

Many in the School community will be aware that our original project to replace the entire, original 1920s heating system across the Main School Building was successfully completed in the autumn last year. I am pleased to report that the new system is working well and, aside from the obvious benefits for pupils and staff in terms of an effective heating system, and therefore a more comfortable learning environment, we are looking forward to realising some of the economic benefits too, such as lower energy costs and reduced maintenance.

The School has benefitted from a grant of just over £1 million from the Department for Education (DfE) to complete the heating project, and we have a second phase of this project which, necessarily, has been scheduled for completion during the coming summer holiday break. This is a particularly disruptive phase as it involves the complete removal and replacement of the flooring in the School Hall and therefore, for practical reasons, works can only commence when the School is no longer in session. Whilst this project will see the completion of all heating works, we are also excited by our plans to install new flooring in the Hall and to update and refurbish that general environment, as this is long overdue.

I am also pleased to report that we intend to progress plans this year to update the pupils' toilet facilities on the east side of the School site, and to work on improving changing facilities for female students. The Governing Board has set aside provision to press ahead with modified plans to update these facilities, following a number of unsuccessful bids to the DfE for funds to replace the School's East Toilet Block and to provide improved changing facilities for girls. Whilst it has been necessary to scale back the plans for these facilities due to the absence of funding from the DfE, our plans include a second phase which would bring our new facilities much closer to our original aspirations for these areas, but that second phase would almost certainly necessitate fundraising within the School community. However, in the meantime, we anticipate that the pupils at WHSB will benefit greatly from the updated facilities planned for phase 1 of this project during the summer holiday break this year.



## Teacher Recruitment and Development

We are fortunate at WHSB that we continue to attract teaching colleagues of the highest calibre; our teachers provide an unparalleled standard of teaching to the pupils at Westcliff High School for Boys, in addition to adding value to the educational opportunities available to our young people through the many extra-curricular activities represented here. The commitment from our teachers to their work is second to none and that is so evident in the outcomes and development of our pupils.

Nationally, the teaching profession faces significant difficulties in relation to teacher recruitment and that creates challenges for all schools. However, we also recognise that there are additional challenges for this School and others in our region, as the high property prices relative to teachers' salaries only serve to add to make settling in the area more difficult for young teachers.

You will no doubt be aware that, due to concern regarding the decline in teachers' real salaries, the National Education Union (NEU) decided to take Industrial Action on particular days during February and March 2023.

WHSB remained open for all Year groups throughout the days of that Industrial Action and, with some necessary changes to the timetable, we were able to maintain our familiar routines and important teaching and learning for the benefit of the pupils. We were able to remain open and offer this level of provision because a substantial majority of teachers at WHSB decided that they would not take Action, and it was only right that we responded to that feeling. As I noted in my communications with parents, schools have a duty to provide education for pupils on 190 days each year and that was not a duty to be lightly set aside. It is also the case that our current pupils have suffered significant disruption to their education as a result of the circumstances of the pandemic and lockdowns, and therefore I believed remaining open as usual was important.

I have raised the matter of teachers' salaries and recruitment difficulties with both the Education Minister and our MP, as I believe the present difficulties have reached a point of crisis and I, and my Headteacher colleagues locally, will continue to ensure these matters are raised at a national level at every opportunity.

In the meantime, the quality of the teaching our pupils are able to access through my colleagues at WHSB is not

taken for granted, and am most grateful to the many parents who offered such positive observations in this regard during the recent Industrial Action.

On the matter of teaching, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to Dr Shepherd for his superb support in developing the WHSB Teacher Profile, which has now been implemented and is well on the way to being embedded into our systems and processes. Pupils and parents will be familiar with our well-established Learner Profile, and its importance to life at WHSB. The Teacher Profile serves to facilitate the delivery of the Learner Profile attributes and to define the essence of teaching at WHSB. The design of the School's Learner Profile was originally based on my observations of the effectiveness of similar in implementing and delivering the International Baccalaureate qualification in the grammar school in which I worked prior to taking up my post at WHSB. I was impressed by the impact of a similar structure then, and I am delighted with the way in which pupils and staff have responded positively to the implementation of our own, adapted Learner Profile; it has become integral to our provision at WHSB. The addition of The Teacher Profile has been on our development agenda for a number of years, specifically because I have observed that too as delivering significant benefits in relation to the International Baccalaureate; it seemed that similar would be transferable to our own provision. We have been delayed only by capacity, and following Dr Shepherd's appointment to the role of Associate Assistant Head in September 2021, we have been able to take this important development forward, and I would like to acknowledge his outstanding support in this regard.

I am also most grateful to our teaching staff for positively embracing the development of The Teacher Profile; it is, once again, a reflection of their commitment and dedication towards their responsibilities

and I believe we shall benefit greatly from the addition of this provision.

## Staff Changes for the Summer Term

At the start of the Summer Term we are delighted to welcome Ms Peel who joins the English Department as the Lower School Co-ordinator. Ms Peel will be joined in the English Department by Mr Wheeler who will join the School following the summer half-term break.

We are also pleased to welcome Mr Gombas who joins us as an additional Teaching Assistant, and Mrs J James who joins us in the role of Sixth Form Pastoral Assistant. We say a fond farewell to Mrs Bonney who has covered a number of roles (most recently Middle School Pastoral Tutor) since joining us in August 2021 and we thank her for her splendid service. We also welcome Mr Wilson who takes on the role of Middle School Pastoral Tutor.

We continue to advertise for a Head of Religious Studies. Currently, Mr Derrick (Director of Music/Associate Assistant Head) has taken on the position of Acting Head of Religious Studies and Mrs Cook has additional responsibilities (in relation to the Lower School) within the Religious Studies Department.

## Events this Term

I would like to record my thanks to Mr Jeffreys (Associate Assistant Head / Head of History) and Mrs Shankster (Middle School Progress Leader) for their outstanding support and organisation in relation to the preparation of material for this edition of *The Westcliff Diary*.

More generally, I would like to thank all parents, Old Westcliffians and friends of the School for their continued support to the pupils and staff at WHSB. Please visit *TicketSource* to book your tickets for our events during this coming term, and we look forward to welcoming you into the School for those occasions.

Headmaster



## ART EXHIBITION: WORK IN PROGRESS

Monday 24 April - Friday 5 May 2023

Westcliff High School for Boys is delighted to be holding an Art Exhibition at Metal, a venue at Chalkwell Park, from 24 April to 5 May. This exciting Exhibition will be open to pupils, parents and friends of the School, as well as the general public.

All pupils are invited to submit a piece of work to be considered for inclusion in this special event. Successful entries will feature in the public exhibition and the remaining entries will be considered for our in-school End of Year Art Exhibition.

The Exhibition at Metal will include work from pupils from many local schools. It provides us with a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the creativity and talent of the young people studying, both at Westcliff High School for Boys and at other local schools.

Pupils interested in submitting a piece of artwork, whether this be something produced at School or something made at home, please send a photograph of it to Mrs Glassock, Head of Art, through the relevant *Teams* channels.



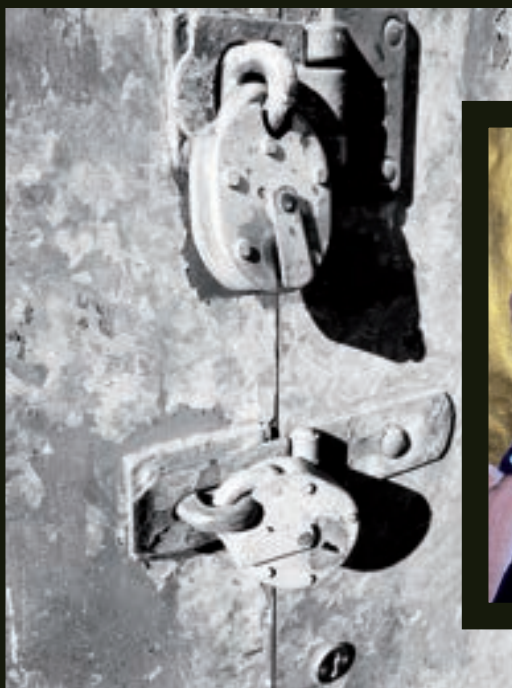
Alfie Holdstock, Lower Sixth



Zain Syed,  
Year 11



Albert Payne,  
Year 10



Saif Ali, Year 10



Max Holliman, Year 9



Gregory Walker, Year 8





Hayden King, Year 7



Varun Ayyappan, Year 10



Taha Qureshi, Year 7



Josh Clarke. Lower Sixth



Tobias Eames, Year 8

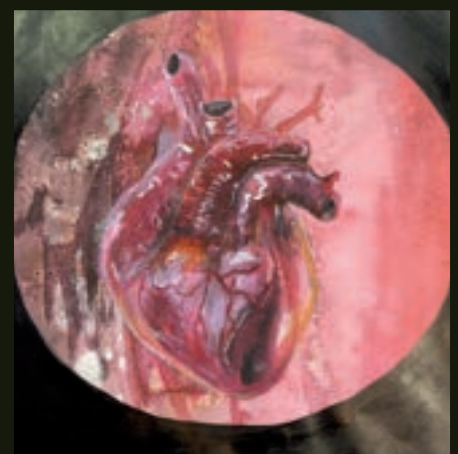
Tobi Abulude, Year 10

## GCSE ART MODERATION

Friday 28 April 2023

An important part of the completion of the Art GCSE course is the moderation of artwork produced by candidates. The Art Department at Westcliff High School for Boys works with other local Schools to support our pupils. This year, we are delighted to welcome into the Art Department Mrs Stewart from Southend High School for Girls. Mrs Stewart will review all GCSE and A level artwork to standardise and moderate the work.

Mrs C Glassock, Head of Art



## YEAR 10 PARENTS CONSULTATION EVENING

Monday 24 April 2023

On Monday 24 April 2023, the Parents Consultation Evening for Year 10 pupils will take place. This Consultation Evening remains an online event, and parents are invited to discuss their son's School Report with the relevant teacher, and to reflect on the start each pupil has made to their GCSE studies.

This event is an excellent opportunity for parents, teachers and pupils to assess the pupil's strengths, identify areas for consolidation and plan ahead for the End of Year 10 School Examinations.

We look forward to meeting with parents of Year 10 pupils for this event, and further details regarding the booking arrangements will be provided in advance.

*Mr A Barnett, Director of Middle School*



## YEAR 9 HPV IMMUNISATIONS

Monday 24 April 2023

As part of the NHS Immunisation Service's usual programme of routine vaccinations, on 24 April the School Immunisation Team will be delivering HPV vaccinations to pupils in Year 9. As soon as the School is in receipt of further details from the NHS Provider regarding the arrangements, that information will be published for parents in full.

We would like to remind parents that the School simply acts as a venue for the NHS service, so is unable to accept consent for vaccinations or answer any questions regarding the vaccination programme. Any questions should be directed to the Immunisation Service on 0300 790 0597.

*Mr J Bleakley, Assistant Head*

## JUNIOR MATHEMATICAL CHALLENGE

Wednesday 26 April 2023

On Wednesday 26 April, pupils at Westcliff High School for Boys will be sitting the Junior Mathematical Challenge. Earlier this school year, older students completed the Intermediate and Senior Challenges, and this now provides their younger counterparts with a similar opportunity. All pupils in Year 8 will be invited to participate, along with those Year 7 pupils who have chosen to take part in the selection rounds throughout the Spring Term.

The Junior Mathematical Challenge encourages mathematical reasoning, precision of thought, and fluency in using basic mathematical techniques to solve interesting problems. Congratulations to our "Best in Year Group" for succeeding in other challenges posed by the Mathematics Department so far this academic year:

Upper Sixth: Matthew Smith (Senior Maths Challenge)

Lower Sixth: Katherine Chow (Senior Mathematical Challenge)

Year 11: George Odina (Intermediate Mathematical Challenge)

Year 10: Leon Agu (Intermediate Mathematical Challenge)

Why not try a question from last year's Junior Mathematical Challenge yourself? (Right)

*Miss A James, Director of Mathematics*



A triangular pyramid with vertices  $F, U, V$  and  $Q$  is removed from the solid cube shown.  
How many edges does the remaining solid have?

A 4      B 6      C 8      D 10      E 12



Two lists of numbers are as shown below.

List S:	3	5	8	11	13	14
List T:	2	5	6	10	12	13

Jenny decided she would move one number from List S to List T and one number from List T to List S so that the sum of the numbers in the new List S is equal to the sum of the numbers in the new List T. In how many ways could she do this?

A 1      B 2      C 3      D 4      E 5



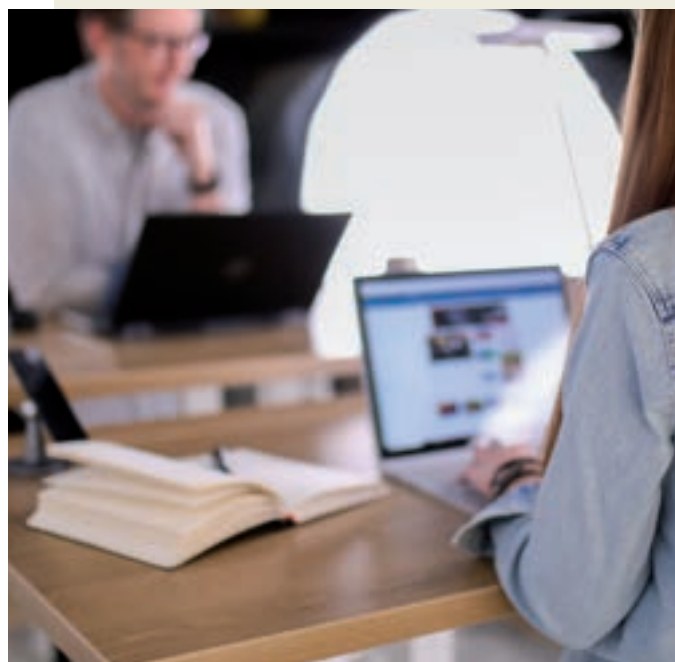
## YEARS 7 AND 8 CAREERS ENRICHMENT EVENTS

*Thursday 27 April 2023 (Year 7, Period 5; Year 8, Period 6)*

As part of our Careers Programme in Key Stage 3, there will be an enrichment event for all pupils in Years 7 and 8 during the afternoon of Thursday 27 April. Pupils in these Year groups will receive an introduction to Connexions, which is an organisation providing guidance from qualified and experienced Careers Advisers.

Pupils will also receive further information about the support that Connexions can offer them in choosing both the most suitable subjects and the appropriate pathways for their future. The events will also include a presentation from Mr James Currell, NHS Portfolio Director, Clinical Entrepreneurship Programme and Innovation Sites, during which he will address Careers in the National Health Service, including apprenticeships. We are most grateful to Mr Currell, who is an Old Westcliffian and a member of the School's Governing Body.

*Mr M Atkinson, Careers Advisor*



## SUMMER CHAMBER RECITAL

*Thursday 27 April 2023*

This term's Chamber Recital will be a wonderful sample of the talented soloists and small ensembles at Westcliff High School for Boys. Those small ensembles performing include the Treble Choir and the String Ensemble, who will be presenting an explosive interpretation of Grieg's Hall of the Mountain King.

Attendees can also expect pupil-led groups such as the Year 11 and Lower Sixth jazz trio 'The Crunch' to perform covers of well-known songs. This concert also sees the return of the Westcliff Choral Scholars, who will be performing classical repertoire in close harmony.

Tickets are available through *TicketSource* at a price of £5.00 for adults and free for pupils.

*Mr T Derrick, Director of Music*





## WESTCLIFF CENTRE FOR GIFTED CHILDREN GO FOR GRAMMAR! SPORTS BONANZA

*Saturday 29 April 2023*

The fifth and final *Go for Grammar* event of the year will be the *Sports Bonanza* day on Saturday 29 April. Following the highly successful *Past, Present and Future* and *Lively Laboratories* days, the *Sports Bonanza* day will include English, Mathematics and Language lessons, in keeping with all the *Go for Grammar!* days, followed by three sports-based lessons.

The visiting Year 5 pupils will have the opportunity to engage with our Sixth Form Students as they are chaperoned around the School, with the Sixth Form students joining their younger counterparts in some of their lessons.

We have all enjoyed our time with our Year 5 visitors this year, and very much look forward to continuing our *Go for Grammar!* Programme next year.

*Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School*



## LOWER SIXTH EXAMINATIONS

*Thursday 4 - Monday 15 May 2023*

The Lower Sixth Examinations are an important opportunity for students in the Lower Sixth to demonstrate the progress they have made in their A Level subjects and to assess where they stand as they mark the half way point of their courses. Students in the Lower Sixth will complete at least one examination paper (and in some cases more) in each of their Advanced Level subjects.

During the Autumn Term, the results of these examinations will then form part of the calculation of students' individual predicted grades for University entry and Apprenticeship applications. I would encourage all Lower Sixth students to prepare extremely carefully for these examinations and to ensure that they perform strongly and do their considerable abilities justice.

Please remember that support is on hand and students should speak with a member of the Sixth Form Pastoral Team should they have any concerns, or require further guidance or support. We wish all the students well in these examinations.

*Mrs K Revell, Director of Sixth Form*





## FRENCH, GERMAN AND SPANISH SPEAKING EXAMINATIONS

Within the Modern Foreign Languages Department during April and May 2023, the Speaking Examinations for both GCSE and A Level in all three Language Subjects will take place.

The Speaking Examinations take place prior to the start of the written public Examinations, and form an important part of the final examination mark in each case.

The schedule for the Speaking Examinations is outlined below.

### **GCSE French Speaking Examination:**

*Thursday 20 - Friday 21 April 2023*

25% of the final examination mark.

### **A Level French Speaking Examination:**

*Thursday 27 April 2023*

20% of the final examination mark.

### **A Level German Speaking Examination:**

*Friday 21 April 2023*

20% of the final examination mark.

### **GCSE German Speaking Examination:**

*Wednesday 3 - Thursday 4 May 2023*

25% of the final examination mark.

### **GCSE Spanish Speaking Examination:**

*From Monday 24 April 2023*

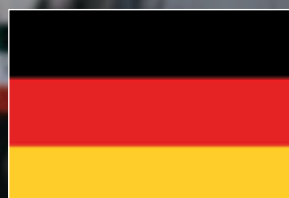
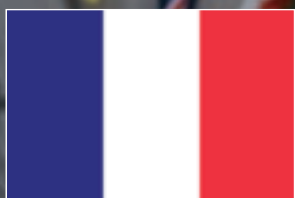
25% of the final examination mark.

### **A Level Spanish Speaking Examination:**

*Wednesday 10 May 2023*

20% of the final examination mark.

We wish all of our candidates  
muchacha suerte, viel Glück and  
bonne chance!





## THE KING'S CORONATION

*Monday 8 May 2023*

The crowning of King Charles III will give the School a second additional Bank Holiday in this School Year as 2023 becomes a Coronation Year. In historical terms, the arrival of King Charles III is both interesting and historic. At 73 years, 9 months and 23 days, the King is the oldest monarch of the 55 who have come to the English/British throne since 871. The previous oldest, King William IV, was a sprightly 64 years 10 months and 3 days at his coronation in 1830. If the throne had bypassed Charles and gone to the 40-year-old Prince William, the new King William V would still have been the eleventh oldest King to ascend the throne, and actually two years older than William the Conqueror when he took power in 1066. If 9-year-old George had taken the throne as King George VII, he would have been around the same age as Aethelred the Unready and as Edward VI (son of Henry VIII) when they took the throne. There would still have been two younger, baby Kings – Henry III and Henry VI. The late Queen's lengthy reign may well be reflected in a sequence of older monarchs for decades to come.

The coronation ceremony itself is shrouded in history, mysticism and ceremony. The task has been performed by the Archbishop

of Canterbury for centuries. Canterbury has led the English Church since Augustine arrived in the Jutish Kingdom of Kent in 597AD, head of a Catholic mission to Christianise pagan England. Aethelberht, King of Kent, gave Augustine land in his capital city of Canterbury and the former prior of St Andrew's Abbey in Rome became the first English Archbishop there. As Head of the English Church since 1534, the monarch is now crowned not by a Catholic archbishop but by an Anglican one.

The ceremony involves the Sovereign taking the Coronation Oath. Although an Oath had been taken at royal coronations for many centuries, by the time of the 1688 Glorious Revolution, this Oath was judged to have become meaningless to a Parliament determined to bind the Monarch ever more strongly. As a result, Parliament set down the Coronation Oath Act of 1688, which was approved by King William and Queen Mary, in order to maintain "the true Profession of the Gospel and the Protestant Reformed Religion Established by Law". Under George I, the section reading "this Kingdom of England" was replaced (after the Union with Scotland of 1707) by the words "this Kingdom of Great Britain".

Most recently in June 1953, the late Queen Elizabeth II undertook to rule according to law, to exercise justice with mercy



- promises symbolised by the four swords in the coronation regalia (the Crown Jewels) - and to maintain the Church of England.

Following the oath, the Sovereign is then 'anointed, blessed and consecrated' by the Archbishop. This anointment with oil is considered the most sacred and mystic element of the ceremony. Holy oil is symbolically touched on the monarch's head, chest and hands. For the coronation of King Charles, the oil selected will for the first time be completely animal-free, an olive oil scented with a mixture of jasmine, rose, sesame, cinnamon, orange blossom, and essential oils. This reflects oil from the Mount of Olives, a key early Christian site. The oil has been taken to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, perhaps the most important Christian site in Jerusalem, and blessed there for its use in our King's Coronation.

Throughout this, the Sovereign is seated in King Edward's chair. This chair was commissioned in 1296 by King Edward I, hailed 'Hammer of the Scots', who had his throne-chair remade to include space for the Stone of Scone, Scotland's ancient stone of destiny on which its own monarchs were crowned. The chair was named for St Edward the Confessor and carved of oak by carpenter Walter of Durham, being finished in March 1300. It has been used by every monarch since 1626. The Stone of Destiny was returned to Scotland in 1996 and has been kept in Edinburgh Castle ever since but with the proviso that it be returned for use in coronations. This means that the Stone should be reunited with the Chair for this event.

As the next part of the ceremony, the King receives an Orb and Sceptre, ancient symbols of monarchy. The Orb is a symbol of Godly power, a hollow and 30cm wide gold sphere and cross. The orb itself symbolizes the world over which God rules while the cross reflects the Monarch's role as Head of the Church, and therefore God's Regent on earth. The Orb is mounted with 9 emeralds, 18 rubies, 9 sapphires, 365 diamonds, an amethyst and a glass stone. It was specially made for the coronation of King Charles II in 1661 – the current King will be the first King Charles to use it in a coronation since then. Meanwhile, the Sceptre represents the Monarch's provision of good government in the temporal sphere. 92 cm long and first used in 1661, the Sceptre holds the infamous 530-carat Cullinan I diamond, the world's largest, found in 1905 in South Africa and popularly known as the 'First Star of Africa'.



*The coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, 2 June 1952*

After receiving the Orb and Sceptre, the Archbishop places St Edward's Crown on the Sovereign's head. This Crown was remade in 1661 after its original, made for St Edward the Confessor and thereafter a holy relic, was melted down by Cromwell during the Interregnum. The remade Crown is solid 22-carat gold, 12 inches tall, weighing 4.9lb and decorated with 444 precious stones. The Crown was not used between 1689 and 1911 but King George V revived its use then and it has been used ever since.

At the funeral of our late Queen Elizabeth II, the country was privileged to see deeper into this process when, at St George's Chapel Windsor, the Crown, Orb and Sceptre was taken from atop her coffin and handed to priests of the Anglican religion, who then placed these on the Chapel's altar. The antiquity of these ceremonial actions was startling and powerful. It was as if these holy items were being taken from the late Queen and handed back, via High Priests, to the God who had awarded her the Crown so that, in time and at this Coronation, God might award Kingship to a new Sovereign through the granting of these symbols of power by his High Priest. Such a concept of Divinity in Kingship may hardly fit modern perceptions. But then, this is hardly a modern ceremony.

*Mr B Jeffreys, Head of History*



*The Imperial State Crown, orb, and sceptre, pictured atop the late Queen's coffin, will all be used during the coronation ceremony*



*King Edward's Chair*

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS



The Duke of Edinburgh Awards are designed to promote, among young people, a commitment to personal development, the development of strong leadership skills, and participation in outdoor activities. To achieve the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, candidates must complete a series of activities,

including volunteering, developing new skills, physical activity, and undertaking an expedition.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award** Thursday 11 – Saturday 13 May 2023



The Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award is a prestigious achievement for those young people in the United Kingdom who attain to this level. The Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award expeditions are designed to test participants' skills in outdoor activities, teamwork, and navigation. The expeditions involve camping overnight and walking a predetermined route with a team. The expeditions usually take place in areas of natural beauty, such as National Parks or other protected areas. The Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award requires participants to complete a three-day, two-night expedition.

This year's Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award expeditions will take place in the South Downs National Park for the Practice (Thursday 11 to Saturday 13 May) and the Peak District National Park for the Assessment (Wednesday 14 to Saturday 17 June). Both parks offer stunning natural scenery and challenging terrain, making them ideal locations for the Silver Award expeditions. The longer, four-day Assessment period reflects the extended travel time required to reach the destination, the additional field training required and the need to take time to upskill candidates' navigation techniques whilst also assessing their ability to cope with more challenging terrain.

In order to prepare for the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award expeditions, participants must undergo extensive training. This training includes elements such as advanced map reading, compass work, and route planning. Participants must also learn essential outdoor skills, such as navigation in low visibility conditions, emergency procedures, and First Aid. Effective teamwork is a crucial aspect of the training, and participants must learn to work together and support each other throughout the expedition.

The remaining aspects of the Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award include volunteering, physical fitness, and developing new skills. Participants must complete a minimum of six months of volunteering, six months of physical fitness and three months of developing a skill, although pupils have discretion to swap the amount of time taken for each of the latter two elements. These activities allow participants to explore their interests, develop new skills, and give back to their communities.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award** Friday 19 – Saturday 20 May 2023



To achieve the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, participants must also complete a series of activities including volunteering, developing new skills, and a physical component, as well as undertaking two expeditions.

For the Volunteering, Skills and Physical sections, candidates must participate in one section over the course of six months and the other sections over a three-month period. Candidates are able to decide which section is matched with each of the timeframes.

To prepare for the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award expeditions, participants must undergo training during lunchtime and at after-school sessions. The training includes map reading, compass work, and route planning. Participants must also learn essential outdoor skills, such as cooking on a camping stove, pitching a tent, and packing a rucksack. Teamwork is a crucial aspect of the training, and participants must learn to work together and to support each other throughout the expedition.

In addition to the training, participants must also complete a Practice Expedition. The Practice Expedition is an opportunity for participants to put their skills into practice and test their endurance in a safe environment. The Practice Expedition takes place in a local area, and participants must walk for two days and camp overnight. The Practice Expedition, which will take place in the Danbury area and runs from Friday 19 to Saturday 20 May, is a valuable experience that prepares participants for the Assessment Expedition. This will take place from Friday 15 to Saturday 16 September, also around Danbury.

*Mr H Tresidder, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator*





## THE STEPHEN SPENDER PRIZE 2023

*Friday 12 May - Early July 2023*

The Modern Foreign Languages Department is pleased to announce that the Stephen Spender Prize will be back for another year, with the competition due to be launched on 12 May. This is a very prestigious award with prizes for adults as well as in youth categories. Competitors may choose a poem from any language to translate into English; last year, the organisers received entries translated from over 90 different languages.

I was fortunate to have been involved in an online discussion group amongst teachers and the Stephen Spender Prize organisers, where we discussed potential changes to make the competition more accessible and more appealing to a wider range of schools and pupils. There will be more details to follow

in May when the competition begins, but it is likely that there will be a wider range of suggested poems to choose from and a greater number of languages included.

Last year, Ayman Sharif was commended for his translation of the German poem 'Wo?' by Heinrich Heine. This year, we hope to have even more of our pupils' translations commended and to see perhaps our first age category winner. If you are interested in reading more about the Stephen Spender Prize and would like to read the translations of past winners, please visit the website: <https://www.stephen-spender.org/stephen-spender-prize/>.



*Ayman Sharif, Prize Winner*

*Ms J McKeown, Head of Modern Foreign Languages*

## PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

Monday 15 May 2023

### GCSE Examinations

The GCSE Public Examinations begin in earnest on Monday 15 May and this will be a most important period for our pupils. Those studying in Year 11 will be looking forward to demonstrating the skills and communicating the knowledge they have gained during the last two years in all their subjects. They will have the opportunity to put that to good use, alongside with the examination and revision techniques which have been shared with them during lessons, Form Periods and Assemblies, including the 'Memory Clock'.

Members of Year 11 are also strongly encouraged to make effective use of the time and opportunities arising after the end of their GCSE Examinations. They should engage proactively in activities such as work experience, part-time employment, and preparation for study in the Sixth Form.

Should any pupil require support or guidance in relation to the examinations please speak with your relevant subject teacher, or contact the Middle School Office.

*Mr A Barnett, Director of Middle School*

### A Level Examinations

The A Level Examinations also commence on Monday 15 May, although we shall be providing revision sessions during that week in some subjects. Students should please see the Headmaster's letter dated March for further details.

Following the Trial Examinations in January, the students and staff have been developing revision notes and reinforcing this with past paper practice. This will continue including walk through papers and formative assessments in class so that all the students are fully prepared for this, their first set of external examinations. As many of their future choices hinge on these results, it is naturally a stressful time for many, therefore please do not hesitate to contact the Sixth Form Pastoral Office for should you be in need of support.

*Mrs K Revell, Director of Sixth Form*

Parents are also most welcome to contact the relevant pastoral office should they have any queries or believe their son/daughter requires additional support as we approach the public examinations.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of Year 11 and the Upper Sixth the very best of luck for their examinations this summer.



## STRAVINSKY'S FIREBIRD, PERFORMED BY THE PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA

Thursday 18 May 2023

This concert by the world-class Philharmonia orchestra features music from Stravinsky's first major ballet, and a fiendish piano concerto by Prokofiev.

The Firebird was Stravinsky's first collaboration with the ballet choreographer Diaghilev and the Ballets Russes, a partnership that gave birth to some of the defining music of the early 20th century. The tale of a huntsman prince, a magical bird, an evil monster and 13 enchanted princesses is based on stories from Russian folklore. It is the perfect showcase for Stravinsky's masterful orchestration skills and harmonic and rhythmic originality. "Mark him well," said Diaghilev, "he is a man on the eve of celebrity".

Prokofiev's Scythian Suite also started life as a commission from the Ballets Russes, intended to capitalise on the success of



Stravinsky's The Rite of Spring a few years later. Prokofiev's music shares some of the visceral rhythmic power of Stravinsky's – he noted that, at the premiere, "the timpanist tore the kettledrum head with his furious blows".

Between these two comes a piano concerto no less vivid or powerful. Prokofiev's Piano Concerto No. 2 is full of savage energy. It makes huge technical demands of its soloist – even Prokofiev himself, an outstanding concert pianist, confessed "I do not manage to stay calm during the most difficult parts". In this concert, the concerto is in the more-than-capable hands of Behzod Abduraimov, acclaimed for his "virtuoso command and individuality of voice" (Gramophone).

Tickets are available via *TicketSource* at a cost of £38.00 including travel. All pupils, staff and friends of the School are welcome.

*Mr T Derrick, Director of Music*



## LOWER SIXTH GEOGRAPHY TRIP: FLATFORD MILL

Monday 22 - Wednesday 24 May 2023

As part of their A Level Geography Examination, all students are required to undertake a number of fieldwork days. The aim is to develop the skills needed to complete an Independent Investigation during the summer holidays. In May, the Lower Sixth Geography residential trip will be to the Field Studies Council (FSC) Centre at Flatford Mill in Suffolk, the setting for John Constable's *The Haywain*. Students will complete small-scale investigations in both human and physical geography, including studies of rivers and surface water flow, the perception of the village of Dedham, and the regeneration of the Ipswich docks area, all with guidance from highly-trained tutors from the FSC.

*Dr M Shepherd, Head of Geography*



Flatford Mill

## YEAR 8 HPV IMMUNISATIONS

Tuesday 23 May 2023

As part of the NHS Immunisation Service's normal programme of routine vaccinations, on 23 May the School Immunisation Team will also deliver HPV vaccinations to pupils in Year 8. The School will communicate further details to parents as soon as these are received from the NHS provider. As noted previously, the School simply acts as a venue for this NHS service. Therefore, the School cannot accept consent for vaccinations or answer any questions regarding the vaccination programme. We remind parents that any questions should be directed to the Immunisation Service on 0300 790 0597.

*Mr J Bleakley, Assistant Head*



## CHARITY DAY

Thursday 25 May 2023

The Charities Committee has chosen to support two local charities this year. We are working to support Gold Geese, a charity that supports families battling childhood cancer. The Committee is also supporting Multiple Neurone Disease, Southend, a service that cares for and advises families dealing with this challenging disease.

In order to raise funds for these two excellent causes, the Charities Committee will be organising a day of entertainment

and a Tuck Shop, following successful similar events earlier in the School Year. Please look out for the posters advertising these events and please do give as generously as you can.

Thank you to all our pupils for their support and engagement with our charity events.

*Mrs K Revell, Director of Sixth Form*



## INTERNAL EXAMINATION WEEK

Monday 5 - Thursday 8 June 2023

### Lower School

Pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be sitting internal End of Year School Examinations between Monday 5 and Friday 9 June. This is an important opportunity for pupils to consolidate and demonstrate the knowledge and skills that they have developed throughout the year. For pupils in Year 7, this will be the first time that they have faced such examinations, and therefore support and advice on revision strategies will be provided through Year Assemblies, Form Periods, Enrichment sessions, and normal subject lessons.

*Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School*

### Year 10

Year 10 pupils will be working towards their Internal Examinations, which will begin on Monday 5 June. This is an excellent opportunity for pupils to test themselves on the work covered so far in each of their GCSE subjects and to assess their progress through the course. Pupils will have received advice about revision and organisation ahead of these examinations through Form Periods and Assemblies. I would encourage all members of Year 10 to make effective preparations now for these examinations, as this will improve their process of revision and allow them to assess more fully their progress thus far through the Middle School.

### Looking to Year 11

The second half of the Summer Term and the summer holiday period is a timely opportunity for pupils in Year 10 to consolidate knowledge, create or modify independent study strategies and put themselves in a strong position for the start of what is a very busy and surprisingly short Year 11. At the same time, I would encourage all members of Year 10 to take some time during the forthcoming summer holiday to rest and recuperate, keeping both aspects in balance.

*Mr A Barnett, Director of Middle School*

We wish all pupils in the Lower School and in Year 10 the very best of luck with their Internal Examinations this term. We also remind pupils and parents that support in on hand through Pastoral Offices should this be required.



## LOWER SIXTH EXAMINATION DATA RELEASED

Friday 9 June 2023

On Friday 9 June, students in the Lower Sixth will receive the results of their Internal Examinations. As noted previously, these results will form an important part of grade prediction for University entry and receipt of this information will enable students to begin making informed choices for the next step in their education.

*Mrs K Revell, Director of Sixth Form*



## UCAS DISCOVERY EXHIBITION

Wednesday 14 June 2023

This year, all students in the Lower Sixth will visit a "University Superfair", which will be held at the University of Essex campus in Colchester. This Superfair will take place on Wednesday 14 June and will provide an excellent opportunity for students in the Lower Sixth to talk to representatives from over 120 universities and colleges, as well as to collect prospectuses and useful course information.

- The UCAS Discovery Exhibition is a further opportunity to focus on important questions regarding your future.
- Do you know exactly what you want to do when you finish your time at WHSB, or are you still deciding?
- Perhaps you know where you want to study or train, but are still not sure which pathway is best for you?
- Do you have a subject you particularly like, or a certain career in mind?
- Maybe you have more practical questions about things like accommodation and funding?



### What questions might you ask the exhibitors?

- Do you think this path is the best choice for my goals?
- Would you recommend any others?
- What is the typical career path for graduates of this course or apprenticeship?
- Is there anything different about your application process?
- What does the ideal applicant look like?
- What are the options open to me for funding this course or apprenticeship?
- What is life like in [town/city] for students or apprentices?

### While you are there:

- Log in to UCAS Hub on your phone. Enhance your experience by scanning exhibitor QR codes and adding favourites.
- Locate the UCAS Welcome Stand. Start the day with help and directions from the team.
- Visit your favourite institutions. These might be universities or apprenticeship providers. Give them all the time they need.
- Ask questions, and follow up questions. Move beyond the standard sales pitch and explore the really important and interesting facts.
- Do not miss talks and presentations. These are unique, one-off events at which you have the opportunity to hear from experts on a topic relevant to you.
- Locate the dedicated zones of interest. Areas such as the Gap Year Zone and Apprenticeships Zone are also excellent places to seek specific information and advice.
- Save important details for later. Should you come across an institution or course of particular interest, and would like to take time to follow it up after the event, save it to your UCAS Hub.

*Mr R Stevens, Oxbridge Co-ordinator and Higher Education Advisor*



## DUKE OF EDINBURGH SILVER AWARD

Wednesday 14 - Saturday 17 June 2023

This year's Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award assessment will be taking place in the Peak District National Park between 14 -17 June. The longer, four day Assessment period reflects the extended travel time required to reach the destination, the additional field training required and the need to take time to upskill candidates' navigation techniques whilst also assessing their ability to cope with more challenging terrain.

*Mr H Tresidder, D of E Coordinator*

## WARHAMMER AGE OF SIGMAR SCHOOL TOURNAMENT

Friday 16 June 2023



On Friday 16 June 2023, Warhammer World in Nottingham is hosting a national school tournament in which pupils represent their school to compete in games of 'Warhammer: Age of Sigmar (AOS)'.

Warhammer is a miniature wargame that simulates battles between armies by using

miniature models. As a hobby, it allows wargamers to explore the world of Warhammer, be creative in the design of their models, and test their strategy and tactical prowess.

AOS is an extension of the Warhammer franchise and is fantasy themed, whereas the original Warhammer 40,000 is based on futuristic warfare.

Westcliff High School for Boys will have ten pupils in Years 7-9 competing in the national tournament. Previously, the School has been most successful at the national school tournaments, our team placing fourth nationally in 2019 and with one pupil winning the solo tournament in 2019. The School's team this year is keen to go even further as competitors and deliver even greater success for the School at Warhammer.

*Miss E Lo, Teacher of Chemistry*



## WHSB PARENTS' ASSOCIATION: BOLLYWOOD NIGHT

Friday 16 June 2023

Bollywood comes to Westcliff High School for Boys this term on Friday 16 June, hosted by award winning dance choreographer and entertainer Jay Kumar. Jay, with his charismatic personality, has many television appearances under his belt. With almost twenty years of experience, he has the ability to include and involve people of all ages and ability in fun-filled Bollywood dance routines. In recognition of his services to both dance and the community in Greater London during the pandemic, Jay was awarded the British Empire Medal in the late Queen Elizabeth II's Birthday Honours list in June 2022.

Doors open at 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start, and guests will be greeted with a complimentary welcome drink. Along with dancing to DJ Music and (optional) participation in group dance routines, the ticket price includes a three course Indian buffet meal with vegetarian choices available. To raise funds for the School, there will be a 'pay' bar selling both alcoholic and soft drinks, together with a luxury prize raffle (cash and card payments will be accepted). Also available on the night will be a henna artist and a fun photo booth to capture the moment, plus prizes for the best dressed guest!

Tickets, which are priced at £24.50 for adults and £18.50 for pupils, are available through WHSB TicketSource now and early booking is advised. Please ensure that you indicate clearly when booking online (using the boxes that are applicable) if you wish to be seated with friends, if you require vegetarian options, or if you have any specific dietary requirements. Come and join us for what promises to be a fun packed event!

*WHSB Parents' Association*

WHSB  
Wargaming Club



## YEAR 10 CITIZENSHIP EVENT

Monday 19 June 2023

Citizenship is an extremely important aspect of Personal Development Education at Westcliff High School for Boys. A high-quality Citizenship education helps to provide our pupils with the knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare them to play a full and active part in society.

Over the course of the day on Monday 19 June, pupils in Year 10 will hear from a range of speakers, and participate in activities, in order to further their understanding of Politics, Law and Finance. Topics covered will be taken from the following Department for Education's prescribed subject content for Citizenship:

- Parliamentary democracy and the key elements of the constitution of the United Kingdom, including the power of government, the role of citizens and Parliament in holding those to account, and the different roles of the executive, legislature, judiciary and a free press;
- The different electoral systems used in and beyond the United Kingdom, and actions citizens can take in democratic and electoral processes in order to influence decisions locally, nationally and beyond;
- Other systems and forms of government, both democratic and non-democratic, beyond the United Kingdom;

- Local, regional and international governance, and the United Kingdom's relations with the rest of Europe, the Commonwealth, the United Nations and the wider world;
- The legal system in the UK, different sources of law, and how the law helps society deal with complex problems;
- Income and expenditure, credit and debt, insurance, savings and pensions, financial products and services, and how public money is raised and spent.

We are delighted to welcome our local Parliamentarian, Mrs Anna Firth MP, who will open the day for us. Our Joint Chairs of Governors, who are both solicitors, Mr Anthony Cole and Mrs Fiona Colwell, will give us an insight into the legal system within the UK, and their specific areas of legal practice. Mr Adam Berry, Senior Cash Management Consultant with HSBC and the School's Enterprise Adviser, in addition to members of our own Economics Department, will focus on both national and international economic and financial concerns.

This is the first time that we have organised such a day, and we are confident that all pupils in Year 10 will find this event stimulating, exciting and rewarding.

*Miss G Fairfax, Third Deputy Head*



## PETER PAN

Wednesday 21 – Friday 23 June 2023

This Summer, Westcliff Drama is again taking to the stage to bring you J M Barrie's timeless classic, Peter Pan. Oh no it isn't!! No, that is the pantomime version, not the play. And it is testament to the power of Barrie's creation that the story of Peter Pan has been adapted and readapted so often into pantomime, musical, cartoon and play, creating a whole world of story telling for a plethora of audience types. However, our own aim will be to bring forward a very classic retelling of the tale of Peter Pan, working to the original book and playtext.

James Matthew Barrie came from a weaver family and was born in Angus, Scotland in May 1860. A graduate of Edinburgh University, Barrie worked as a journalist and published his first novel *Better Dead* in 1887. He started to write plays in the 1890s and his first play *Walker London*, a comedy mocking marriage, was warmly received. Barrie's own marriage, however, to actress Mary Ansell, was unhappy and ultimately ended in divorce. Perhaps to escape these troubles at home, Barrie took to walking in Kensington Gardens, where he met the Llewelyn-Davies brothers. This began a relationship with the five young brothers that is perhaps unclear and certainly uncomfortable in the modern climate. Barrie became extremely close to the boys and ultimately acted as their guardian after the death of their parents. The characteristics and life stories of these brothers formed the basis of his creation of Peter Pan.

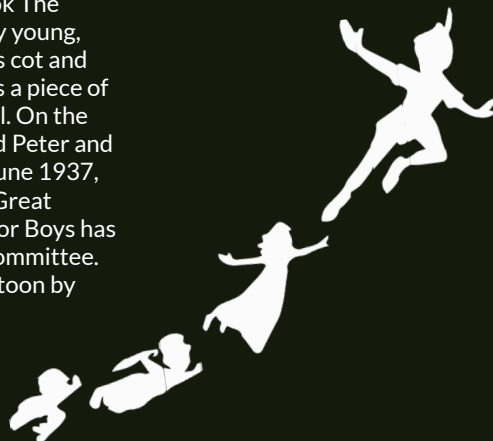
Peter Pan first emerged as a character in the 1902 book *The Little White Bird*. The original character was extremely young, being just a seven-day old baby who had fallen from his cot and been lost by his nurse. In 1904, Peter Pan premiered as a piece of theatre on the London stage and was hugely successful. On the basis of the play, Barrie wrote a follow up book entitled *Peter and Wendy*, which was published in 1911. At his death in June 1937, Barrie gave the copyright to the children's hospital at Great Ormond Street, a hospital that Westcliff High School for Boys has supported regularly in the past through our Charity Committee. The story was transferred into an animated classic cartoon by

Disney in 1953 and acted as the basis for the Robin Williams feature film *Hook* in 1991. Musical versions of the play have also been generated and a second movie, *Peter Pan*, was released in 2003. Just as the boy himself never ages, neither it seems does the popularity of the story fade.

Our intention is to bring a very traditional telling of Peter Pan to our Westcliff audience. The original has a darkness and wistfulness to it that has been lost in some later adaptations. Centring around home and the nursery, the play bemoans the lost innocence of infancy and the forsaken safe space of the nursery. The three children, Wendy, John and Michael Darling, play out a range of infant fantasy adventures throughout the tale, swimming with mermaids, fighting with pirates and creating the original 'Wendy House' alongside the tragic Lost Boys. As Mother, Mrs Darling is a sweet protective presence while the Father-figure of Mr Darling is darkly menacing to these young children, often paired up with the darkly villainous Captain Hook. Many versions of the story present Hook as a loveable rogue but the original envisages a much darker and more chilling figure, who embodies the paternal threat that has echoed down the ages – "Just wait until your Father gets home". And Peter himself, famously 'the Boy who never Grows Up', is that permanent reminder of lost innocence that tears at our aging hearts. "To die," says Peter, "would be an awfully big adventure". Indeed.

Westcliff Drama will look forward to sharing this wonderful and stirring classic tale with you in the later stages of the Summer Term.

Mr B Jeffreys, Director of Drama



Westcliff Drama: Richard II, March 2023





## OPEN EVENING

Tuesday 27 June 2023

On Tuesday 27 June, the School will close at 12.50pm in order that staff and pupils can prepare for our Open Evening which will be held between 5.00pm and 9.00pm.

At the Open Evening, the Headmaster's Talks will take place at 6.30pm and 7.30pm.

We very much look forward to welcoming prospective pupils and their parents into our School, and would like to thank in advance all members of the School community involved in this very special event.

*Miss G Fairfax, Third Deputy Headteacher*



### Volunteering for Open Day

On Open Evening the School opens its doors to pupils in Year 5 to provide them with an opportunity to visit the School, receive a tour, visit subject departments, look at the considerable range of extra-curricular activities the School offers, and to receive a presentation from the Headmaster. This is an exciting opportunity for the School to demonstrate to prospective pupils everything that is available to pupils at Westcliff High School for Boys.

We are looking for pupils from all Year groups to volunteer to help on this important day. Year 7 pupils act as tour guides, whilst other pupils work with departments, clubs and societies to promote the various activities at the School. There is a role for everyone, and pupils are strongly encouraged to volunteer to support the School. Further information will be published as Open Day draws near.

*Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School*

## TEACHERS LEADING AS LIFELONG LEARNERS

If our students are looking for inspiration in terms of their quest to be Lifelong Learners, they would do well to turn to the examples set by their teachers. Students and parents may not be aware that Dr Shepherd has recently provided support in developing our Teacher Profile, which encapsulates everything that is special about teaching at Westcliff High School for Boys. One of the strands of our Teacher Profile is that teachers commit to being career-long learners. We achieve this in various ways as professionals, whether it be through engaging with research, reading books published about various aspects of teaching and learning, engaging in Continuing Professional Development (CPD) or even undertaking a Master's Degree in Education.

Teaching colleagues at all stages of their careers are involved in these types of CPD activities, and research has demonstrated that the opportunity to engage in high-quality CPD leads to greater job satisfaction and lower attrition rates within the teaching profession. Those in the early stages of their career are supported through training programmes such as the Post-Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) or through the newly developed Early Career Framework (ECF). Since September 2021, our Early Career Teachers (ECTs) have followed a two-year Induction programme. Each ECT has an experienced mentor, dedicated mentoring time, regular observations of teaching and feedback, and 10% release time (5% in year two) on top of usual preserved planning time in order to complete training activities. Our first cohort of Year 2 ECTs will complete the ECF this summer and we wish them all the best in their future careers.

*Mrs J Williams, Senior Staff Tutor*



## SIXTH FORM INDUCTION DAY

**Thursday 29 June 2023**

All students who receive an offer to study in the Sixth Form at Westcliff High School for Boys are expected to attend various sessions during the day on 29 June, organised by way of guidance and support, including introductions to A Level subjects, advice on independent Sixth Form study, and a visit to the Sixth Form Café. Students will also receive appropriate summer work from subject departments in order to help them prepare for the new courses.

Further details will be made available nearer the time of this event.

*Mrs K Revell, Director of Sixth Form*

## LOWER SIXTH PHASE 3 REPORTS

**Friday 30 June 2023**

On Friday 30 June, all students in the Lower Sixth will receive a written Report from their subject teachers and pastoral leaders. These Reports will follow the Lower Sixth Internal Examinations and will include the Internal Examination results, predicted grades, comments regarding progress in each A Level subject, pastoral information, and attitudinal indicators, in advance of the cycle of University applications.

*Mr P Bloomfield, Head of Lower Sixth*





## OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION



I am pleased to report that the assimilation of the Old Westcliffian Association into the School is proceeding well. Whilst the OWA embeds itself into the School's body and culture, the Steering Group wishes to ensure that OWA traditions are maintained.

The primary change in the thinking of those serving on the Steering Group is their clear understanding that the OWA is now the School, and the School is now the OWA. There is no longer a distinction between members of the OWA and School alumni. All alumni are part of the Old Westcliffian Association and, all that is required for a former pupil or member of staff to become a member, is for the School to receive and record their contact details. The School is seeking to ensure that it holds members' details in an accessible format, and therefore your Steering Group intends to be proactive in reaching out to those alumni with whom we may have lost contact to ensure that as many, if not all, future leavers remain in touch with us.

Our wish to expand the OWA is ambitious and it is worth noting that the OWA is open to all former WHSB pupils (including those who left at any stage of their education) and former WHSB staff, Trustees, and those who attended other schools but who received their tuition for Politics and/or Music A Levels at WHSB (this included a number of pupils from Westcliff High School for Girls long before our Sixth Form became co-educational).

As outlined in my Spring Report in *The Westcliff Diary*, the OWA is a multi-generational body. Many current and former pupils have parents, grandparents or great-grandparents who were also pupils at the School. What could be more reflective of the OWA's inclusivity than for a Mother or Father to invite her or his son or daughter along to our annual dinner?

This term, we intend to conduct a survey of current and potential members and we are keen to receive feedback from as many of you as possible. We are reaching out to you via our database and social media, so please take a few minutes to let us know your views and to alert others to our survey. The OWA is your organisation; we need your views to shape its future.

## Old Westcliffian Association Dinner: Friday 30 June 2023

Arrangements for this year's dinner to be held at the School are well underway. Last year's dinner saw a change in format with current pupils providing high quality musical accompaniment, whilst we enjoyed the dinner and chatted. We are pleased to advise that that format will continue this year. Due to major works planned for the School Hall during the summer break, this year's dinner will be held on Friday 30 June, which we anticipate will be more attractive for those leavers currently at University – the last thing we wish to do is clash with Freshers' Week! Alumni wishing to attend the dinner are most welcome to also bring along their spouse or partner.

Tickets are available from [Ticketsource](#) or, if more convenient, please contact me directly [secretary@oldwestcliffianassociation.org](mailto:secretary@oldwestcliffianassociation.org).

### **Terry Birdseye, President of the Old Westcliffian Association**

Terry was a pupil at WHSB from 1957 to 1962. He served a two-year apprenticeship with Post Office Telephones, which later became British Telecom. Terry took early retirement in 1997, his last appointment being Engineering Training Manager for East Anglia. He is also a retired magistrate and a former chair of Leigh Town Council.

Terry became Secretary of the OWA in 2000, taking over from Dick Arnold, and this was a position he held for twenty years. He retired from the role of Secretary in February 2022, and was elected President, a position he considers a significant honour.

Terry enjoys classic cars, gardening, politics, books and walking.

*Jon Gershinson, Secretary of the Old Westcliffian Association*



*Terry Birdseye, laying a wreath on behalf of members of the OWA on Remembrance Day 2022, The Cenotaph, Southend*

## CCF ARMY SECTION SUMMER CAMP

Thursday 29 June - Tuesday 4 July 2023

This year's Army Section Summer Camp will take place at Beckingham Training Camp in Lincolnshire and will involve 80 cadets in Years 10 – 13. The Camp will comprise a wide range of activities. The Military Skills Day will focus on Skill at Arms, Paintball, and working in the Field. This will build to a Fieldcraft package, during which cadets will undertake an overnight Field Training Exercise including a wide range of practical and tactical skills. There will also be a day on the Range for cadets to develop their live firing marksmanship.

Finally, there will be a change of pace as we go to Kingsmill Reservoir where activities are likely to include water-based activities such as Rafting, Sail Sports, Kayaking or Canoeing, and land-based activities such as a climbing tower, building personal confidence through tunnels, or archery. This promises to be an exciting and enjoyable camp!

*Mr A Baggs, Officer Commanding, Army Section*



## HIGHER EDUCATION EVENING

Tuesday 4 July 2023

The School's Higher Education Evening will take place on Tuesday 4 July at 7:30pm. It is a compulsory event for all members of the Lower Sixth, but we invite parents to attend as well and strongly encourage them to join us in the Hall for this event.

The evening enables the School to offer guidance about the UCAS university application process and to explain the School's related in-house procedures. The School's Higher Education Handbook will also be distributed at this event and we very much welcome questions regarding the application process.

*Mr R Stevens, Oxbridge Coordinator and Higher Education Adviser*



*A level Results Day, August 2022*



## SUMMER SINFONIA CONCERT

Wednesday 5 July 2023

It has been a long time coming, but in the summer of 2022 a style of music finally gained that most sought-after symbol of musical legitimacy: A whole BBC Prom concert devoted to it. Comfortably sandwiched between concerts of music by Stravinsky and Beethoven sat a whole evening of Pokémon pieces, Kingdom Hearts cues, and Mario medleys. This was, of course, the 'Gaming Prom – From 8-bit to Infinity'.

If it is good enough for the largest music festival in the world, it is good enough for the Westcliff High School for Boys Sinfonia: This term's concert will feature music from classic and contemporary video games. It has come a long way from the beeps and blips of Tetris and Donkey Kong, with composers from film music and modern classical music spheres now frequently providing cues for games.

2005's Playstation 2 game *Shadow of the Colossus* has frequently been cited as one of the most compelling cases for video games as an art-form, not least by Oscar-winning director Guillermo del

Toro, who described the game as a "masterpiece". This musical suite by composer Kow Otani featured at the 2022 Prom and follows the literal highs and lows of a story that deals with meditative explorations on the themes of life and death, as well as climbing giant monsters to stab them in the head with a big sword. The music fluctuates between quiet, reflective, almost monastic choral themes, and bombastic action-packed cues.

Like the BBC nestled video game music in between two classical concerts, here the Sinfonia finds a place for Beethoven. His *Romance in F* is a beautifully lyrical piece written for orchestra and solo violin, in this concert performed by Upper Sixth student Henry Man. This gentle piece's juxtaposition with the previous suite's bluster reflects the tumultuous period in which Beethoven wrote this piece: It is an oasis of calm, sandwiched between the furious Third and Fifth symphonies.

Other pieces featured in this concert are best left as a surprise, but the programme is sure to delight gamers young and old. Tickets are available from [TicketSource](#) at the price of £5.00 for adults and free for pupils.

*Mr T Derrick, Director of Music*



## MEDUCATORS UK WORKSHOP

Wednesday 5 July 2023

Applying for Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science (MDV) is an extremely competitive process. As part of our support for those who wish to commit themselves to this challenging process, the School has arranged a series of workshops through a highly rated education company called Meducators UK.

Meducators UK is an education company that provides affordable interactive workshops towards students who are interested in studying Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary or any other healthcare course at university.

The workshops involve a series of activities delivered by doctors, dentists, veterinary surgeons and senior medical students. During the workshop, students will rotate around multiple stations, each of which will teach a different skill and provide the students with a taster of what life is like in the healthcare profession.

The workshop will be running in-person at Westcliff High School for Boys on Wednesday 5 July 2023 for any pupil in Year 9 or Year 10, and any student in the Lower Sixth who is considering applying to study MDV or related courses.

Participating students will receive a certificate of attendance following the workshop. This can be used in the future as a

supporting document for their UCAS personal statements, CVs, portfolios or job applications.

Any student who has not already registered their interest for this event, please in the first instance see and inform Miss Lo.

*Miss E Lo, Higher Education Adviser for Medicine*



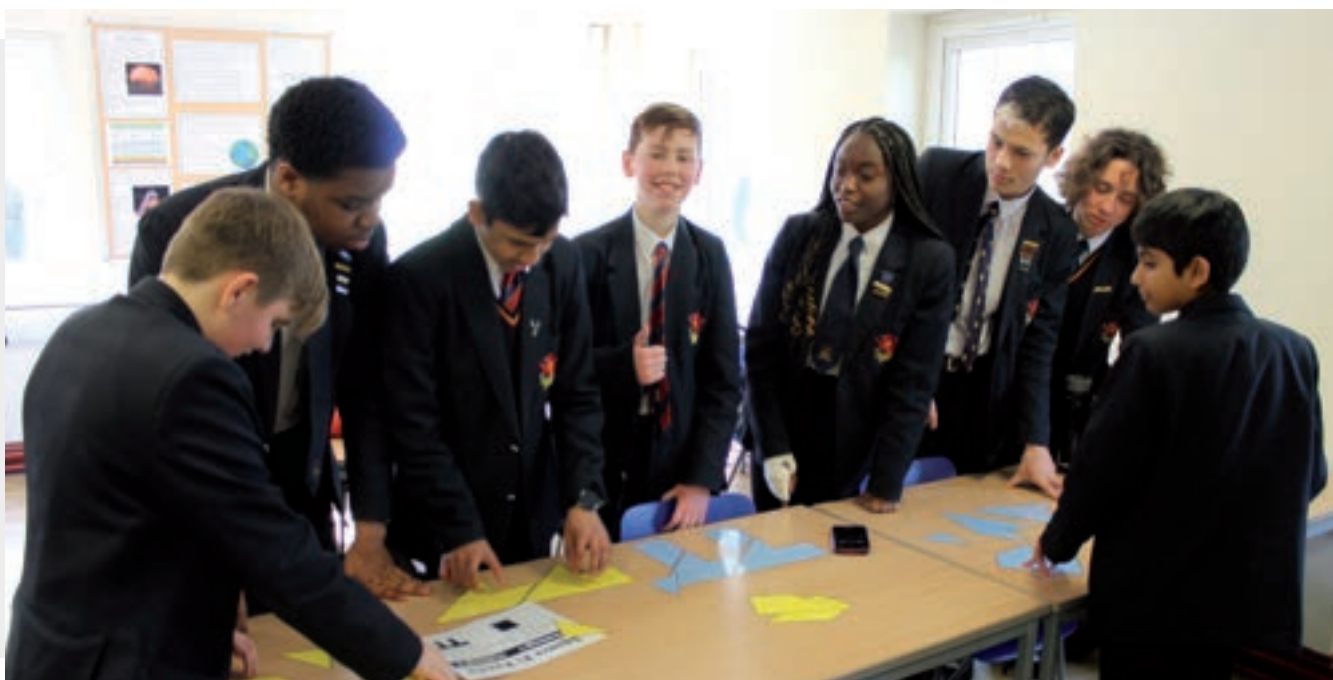
## LOWER SIXTH MATHEMATICS PROBLEM SOLVING CONFERENCE

Wednesday 5 July 2023

A small group of Mathematicians in Year 10 and the Lower Sixth will be invited to attend a Problem Solving Conference at the University of Essex in July. This Conference will provide students with an opportunity to increase their depth of mathematical understanding and so gain confidence in attempting more challenging questions and problems.

The Conference will allow students to discuss and try out problem solving strategies, to think about different ways of looking at example problems and how to approach writing solutions. This opportunity will provide students with presentations and activities that stimulate mathematical thinking. The intention is to encourage students to take their Mathematics studies further, whether that is to A Level Further Mathematics or to degree level studies.

*Miss A James, Director of Mathematics*





## NEW YEAR 7 PARENTS MEETING

Thursday 6 July 2023

As we approach the end of the School Year, we turn our attention to those pupils who will be joining the Westcliff High School for Boys community in September 2023. Towards the end of this term, we look forward to welcoming the boys and their parents to the School to meet staff, current pupils and their new classmates before arriving in Year 7 at the start of the new academic year.

On Thursday 6 July at 7.30pm, parents of the incoming Year 7 pupils will be welcomed to the School by the Headmaster, members of the Lower School Pastoral staff and representatives of the Parents' Association. We look forward to this important evening, which is also a fantastic opportunity for parents of all our new Year 7 pupils to meet and get to know one another.

## NEW YEAR 7 INDUCTION DAY

Friday 7 July 2023

On Friday 7 July, pupils who will be joining the School in Year 7 in September will join us for the day, in order to familiarise themselves with the School and its operations, and to give them greater confidence as they prepare to join our community. We look forward to welcoming the pupils to Westcliff High School for Boys for this special day.

*Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School*



*First Day at Westcliff High School for Boys (Year 7, September 2022)*

## ENRICHMENT DAY: OVERVIEW

Friday 7 July 2023

Twice each year, the School takes a break from curricular studies to support the development of our young people with a different form of education, that of personal enrichment through whole day extra-curricular activity. Our Enrichment Days are highly valued by pupils for the new opportunities they offer, and many new lifelong interests have started with participation in the events organized on these days.

We are most grateful to the colleagues who run Enrichment Day activities, often for whole Year groups – the opportunities and

experiences they create for our pupils are invaluable beyond measure. This summer, we will hold our second Enrichment Day of the year, with pupils pursuing Geography Field Trips, creating House or Language plays, learning more about applications to University and for apprenticeships, and many more enriching activities.

We encourage all pupils to throw themselves wholeheartedly into all these activities as the more they put in, the more they will gain!

*Mr B Jeffreys, Associate Assistant Head, Participation, Personal Development and the Co-Curricular*

### Year 7 Enrichment: Geography Fieldwork in Southend

Pupils in Year 7 can look forward to a Geography fieldwork trip to Southend on Enrichment Day 2023. The trip provides an excellent opportunity for Geography students to study the local area, collect primary data, and work together collaboratively. The trip covers many different topic areas, including tourism, urban issues, settlement patterns, coastal processes and management, and population changes in the town. Pupils also get to practise a range of important skills, such as drawing field sketches, annotating photos, and collecting questionnaire responses. The results are then used back in the classroom to produce a fieldwork report.

In 2022, pupils worked with focus and attention, making the most of this opportunity and producing some high quality reports. The highlight for many pupils seemed to be walking down the pier and looking back at the town and its geography. The dress code for this July will hopefully include sun cream and sun hats rather than raincoats and umbrellas, but pupils in Year 7 will need to be appropriately prepared whatever the weather.

*Dr M Shepherd, Head of Geography*



### Year 8 Enrichment: MFL Drama

Pupils in Year 8 will enjoy a day using their Language and Drama skills to put on short sketches in one of the foreign languages they are studying. The day provides pupils with an opportunity to be Collaborative and Supportive, Effective Communicators, and Open to Opportunities.

Pupils will work in groups of five and will be assigned one of three Languages – French, German or Spanish - that they are studying. They will be provided with the dialogues in advance of Enrichment Day, and they may make small changes to the dialogue if they wish. The settings are in the reception of a hotel and in a restaurant.

In the morning, pupils will rehearse their dialogues and work out the staging and resourcing of their play. At the end of the morning session, pupils will perform their plays to the rest of their group. From these performances, one group will be chosen from each class to perform in the Westcliff Theatre in the afternoon, watched by the rest of Year 8 and by MFL Teachers.

Following all of the performances in the Westcliff Theatre, prizes will be awarded for the best performances.

Last year, we were very pleased with the enthusiasm of the Year 8 pupils who threw themselves into the day with gusto, and they showed determination in memorising as much of the dialogue







as they could within the time constraints. The highlight for many was dressing up and we are most grateful to Ms Cleave, the School's Drama Assistant, for her support in providing access to the costumes in the Westcliff Theatre and tips on costuming. Pupils are also encouraged to bring in their own costumes and props for the day.

We hope that Year 8 pupils will enjoy the Languages and Drama day in July, and we look forward to watching their performances.

*Ms J McKeown, Head of Modern Foreign Languages*

### **Year 9 Enrichment: House Drama**

This summer, on Enrichment Day, Year 9 pupils will have the opportunity to participate in a day of preparation for the forthcoming House Drama event. There are many pupils in Year 9 who have already proven themselves bold and creative talents, and this day should provide an excellent opportunity for further creative exploration.

On this day, there will be the opportunity for pupils to rehearse plays, sort and make costumes, make artwork or technical items that will act as props and set, make programmes for the event using computers or learn about signing performances. This promises to be a fun filled and creative opportunity, and we hope that pupils will throw themselves into these activities with their usual aplomb.

*Mr B Jeffreys, Director of Drama*

### **Year 10 Enrichment: Careers Day**

Enrichment Day on Friday 7 July provides pupils in Year 10 with opportunities to learn more about their future careers in a whole day dedicated to this purpose. On this special day we have the pleasure of welcoming to the School representatives from Paul Robinson Solicitors (Law), Whirledge & Nott (Chartered Surveyors), Ipeco (Aeronautical Engineering), and the National Crime Agency (Law Enforcement) all of whom have generously offered their support. STEM Ambassador, Neeta Darragh, will also be discussing the many benefits of pursuing a career in STEM. Pupils will spend time with each of our speakers, and will be given the opportunity to ask questions after each presentation. This day will help to ensure that pupils in Year 10 gain a superb insight into the industries showcased.



*Mr M Atkinson, Careers Coordinator*

### **Lower Sixth Enrichment: UCAS**

All Lower Sixth students will attend talks and seminars advising them on various options post-Sixth Form, including university study, apprenticeships and employment. Additionally, they will start the UCAS application process, and submit a first draft of their personal statement.

*Mrs K Revell, Director of Sixth Form*

## YEAR 9 AND 10 PHASE THREE REPORT DISTRIBUTION

Friday 7 July 2023

Following on from their End of Year Examinations, pupils in Years 9 and 10 will receive their Phase 3 Reports.

Pupils in Year 9 have already received a full written report in Phase 2. This third phase of reporting will therefore focus on reporting key data, showing percentage scores in each examination undertaken, indicating final end-of-key-stage attainment grades, and reporting attitudinal indicators. There will also be a written commentary from the Year 9 Progress Leader, Mr Lilley. This Report will provide pupils with an opportunity to assess their performance in the subjects they hope to continue studying at GCSE. It will also help academic and pastoral leaders guide and support pupils in making these important choices, prompting, if necessary and in consultation with pupils, final adjustments to option choices. Academic and pastoral leaders will also be able to draw on these Reports to congratulate those who have performed at a high level, and those who have made outstanding progress.

For Year 10, this will be a full written report that will include an examination percentage, an examination grade, an attainment grade, and attitudinal indicators. This Report will also include written comments from subject teachers, Form Tutors, and from Mr Barnett, the Director of Middle School. This Report will provide pupils with an opportunity to assess their progress at this important point of their GCSE courses and, where necessary,

enable the School to put intervention measures in place to support progress. Academic and pastoral leaders will also draw on the Report to congratulate those who have performed at a high level, and those who have made outstanding progress.

The Report will provide pupils with valuable guidance on how to achieve the highest possible grades at GCSE, which will in turn put them in a strong position to make well-informed choices during Year 11 regarding their potential A Level/post 16 options.

*Mr M Manning, Second Deputy Head*



## LOWER SIXTH GEOLOGY TRIP: ISLE OF ARRAN, SCOTLAND

Saturday 8 - Friday 14 July 2023

A Level Geologists will visit the Isle of Arran between Saturday 8 and Friday 14 July 2023 in order to undertake their compulsory fieldwork studies. The field group will be based at the Lochranza Field Studies Centre on the north of the Island. From this location, Geologists will be able to study the nature of the rock, and record how these features were formed, including their fossil content, folding and faulting, and their plate tectonic settings

Part of the week will be spent undertaking investigative and

problem-solving field exercises related to the origin of the North Atlantic Ocean approximately 65 million years ago, before which time Scotland and Greenland were conjoined. This work will involve students in building their own geological maps.

The Isle of Arran is considered to be a world-class location for geological studies and the students will develop knowledge and understanding of field geology, and will be able to relate such work to their class studies. Transferable skills such as numeracy, problem-solving and teamwork are all developed within an area of outstanding natural beauty, characterised by mountainous glaciated terrain.

*Mr P Marlow, Head of Geology*



## SPORTS DAY

Tuesday 11 July 2023

Once again, this year Sports Day has been organised along the lines of a House Competition, in a format that we hope will continue to offer excitement for spectators, and further increase the significance of the event for competitors. Points have been awarded to pupils in each House throughout the year so far for their success in competitions across a range of sports and other activities. On Sports Day, further points can be secured and added to these totals, meaning that Sports Day points awarded will contribute to the overall 'Inter-House Championship'.

The Athletics Programme will commence at 11.10am on the School's Lower Field. We are confident that the standard of competition will continue to be high, and we hope that everyone derives a great deal of enjoyment from participating in events, assisting in organising the proceedings or watching friends and family compete.

All competitors who take part in the events will gain points for their House team as long as they finish their race or record a valid throw or jump in the Field Competition. It is important, therefore, that all teams are complete so that each may secure as many points as possible for the House.



## ORDER OF EVENTS: (Track)

11.10am - 12.45pm: Track (see running order below)

1.50pm - 2.45pm: Track – (see running order below)

2.45pm: Relays

3.20pm: Results and Presentation of Trophies by the Headmaster

3.35pm: Pupils may leave after being dismissed

## FIELD EVENTS: (N.B. 3 attempts in throws and jumps)

11.20am: All Year 7 Field Event competitors report to event judges

11.50am: All Year 8 Field Event competitors report to event judges

12.20pm: All Year 10 Field Event competitors report to event judges

1.55pm: All Year 9 Field Event competitors report to event judges

2.20pm: All Lower Sixth Field Event competitors report to event judges

We look forward to an enjoyable day and wish all pupils the best of luck in their respective events.

Mr M Fletcher, Director of Sport

## YEAR 10 MATHEMATICS PROBLEM SOLVING

Wednesday 12 July 2023

Pupils in Year 10 will have the opportunity to attend a Problem-Solving Conference at the University of Essex on 12 July to stimulate mathematical thinking. This promises to be an enjoyable and rewarding day for participating pupils, and we look forward to seeing the benefits of pupils' involvement when they return to the classroom to further study Mathematics.

Miss A James, Director of Mathematics

## ART EXHIBITION: A VIEW THROUGH A WINDOW

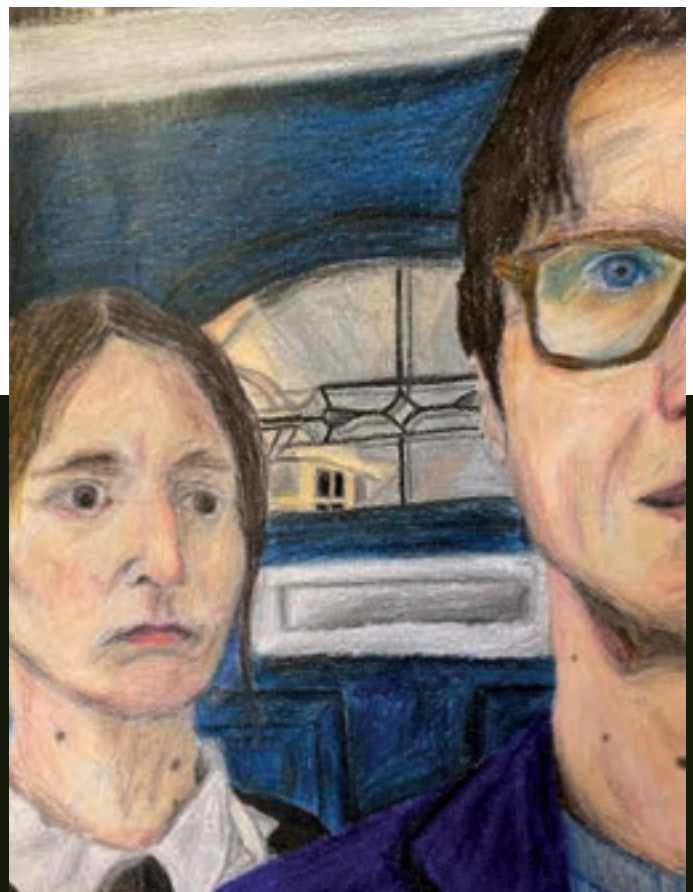
Wednesday 12 July 2023

The Art Department is delighted to herald the arrival of our Westcliff High School for Boys' Art Exhibition. This will take place on Wednesday 12 July, and members of the Department can barely wait to showcase all the incredible work our pupils have created this year. We believe that it is going to be a very inspiring event, and we would urge pupils, parents and staff to join us at the Exhibition.

The Art Department continues to be very proud to showcase our pupils' hard work, talent and commitment to the subject on Instagram and within the School.

@whsb\_art

Mrs C Glasscock, Head of Art



Joseph Stubbington, Year 8

## HOUSE DRAMA COMPETITION (YEAR 9)

Thursday 13 July 2023

This summer term, Westcliff Drama is delighted to invite parents, pupils and staff to attend the 2023 House Drama event. House Drama creates the opportunity for students in the Lower Sixth to lead as directors and producers of plays, and many very talented Old Westcliffians have trodden this path as a starting point for further directing at University and beyond. The event also offers Year 9 pupils the chance to have a go at acting and performing under less pressure, perhaps, than they might face in a whole School production. From small acorns grow mighty oaks.

We will again draw our four short plays from a repertoire of mythology plays, telling the story, perhaps, of Quetzalcoatl or the Monkey King, Tshai the Brickmaker or Why Bears No Longer Talk, or some other ancient and absorbing tale. Pupils in Year 9 will have some additional time to prepare for this on Enrichment Day, and I look forward to seeing the creative energy of the Year 9 group unleashed on that day as rehearsers, costume designers, prop makers, set builders and programme writers.

Tickets for the evening itself are available through *TicketSource*, and we would love to see as many Year 9 pupils and their parents as possible in attendance to make this a Year 9 special event!

*Mr B Jeffreys, Director of Drama*

## PHASE THREE REPORTS: YEARS 7 AND 8

Friday 14 July 2023

Following their End of Year Examinations, pupils in Years 7 and 8 will receive their Phase 3 Reports.

Pupils in Year 7 have already received a full written report in Phase 2. This third phase of reporting will therefore focus on reporting key data, showing percentage scores in each examination undertaken, indicating attainment grades, and reporting attitudinal indicators. There will also be a written commentary from the Year 7 Progress Leader, Mr Tresidder. This Report will provide pupils with an opportunity to assess their performance at the end of their first year at the School. It will also help academic and pastoral leaders appraise pupil performance in this important first step in their secondary school career, intervening to provide further support where necessary.

For pupils in Year 8, this will be a full written report that will include an examination percentage, an examination grade, an attainment grade, and attitudinal indicators. This Report will also include written comments from subject teachers, Form Tutors, and from Mr Williams, the First Deputy Headmaster. This Report will provide pupils with an opportunity to assess their performance at the end of their second year at the School. It will also help academic and pastoral leaders appraise pupil performance as they settle into School life, intervening to provide further support where necessary.

Academic and pastoral leaders will also be able to draw on these Reports to congratulate those who have performed at a high level, and those who have made outstanding progress.

*Mr M Manning, Second Deputy Head*



## SUMMER BIG BAND & BBQ

Friday 14 July 2023

The popular Summer Big Band event features pop, rock, jazz and funk music from across the decades, performed in the open air by musicians from across the School. Expect to see smaller pupil-led groups supporting bigger ensembles like the Westcliff Choir, the Jazz Band and, of course, the Big Band.

The mix of styles at this event is always eclectic, and this year is no exception. Expect to hear music from artists as diverse as Herbie Hancock, Dizzy Gillespie, Michael Jackson and Jamiroquai, all while burgers and sausages are flipped on the grill. This concert is the last music event of the year, and it is sure to usher in the summer break with a bang!

Pupils, parents, staff and friends of the School are invited to join us for this fantastic event, and tickets should be booked through *TicketSource*.

*Mr T Derrick, Director of Music*

## CCF NAVY SUMMER CAMP

Saturday 15- Friday 21 July 2023

From Saturday 15 to Friday 21 July, 30 cadets from the School's Royal Navy Section will be attending the Royal Navy Summer Camp, held and accommodated at The Royal Hospital School, Holbrook, Suffolk. The Royal Hospital School was founded in 1712 as part of Greenwich Hospital, in order to act as a 'charitable institution for the aged, infirm or young'. It was primarily established to provide boys from seafaring backgrounds with the privilege of learning arithmetic and navigation. Having once been based in the buildings which now house the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, London, the School moved to its spectacular 200-acre site overlooking the River Stour in 1933, while retaining its links and traditions with the Royal Navy. These links make the School a very special location in which to hold a camp.

Throughout the week of the camp, cadets will conduct activities instructed by serving officers and sailors from the Royal Navy, as well as qualified Cadet Force Adult Volunteers. Activities include Paddle Sports on the River Stour and sailing in small boats on Alton Water. In addition to these activities, our students will work with cadets from other CCF Royal Navy sections, having the opportunity to meet and make friends with other cadets from all over the United Kingdom.

*Sub-lieutenant Sell, Acting Officer Commanding, Royal Navy Section*



## CCF RAF SUMMER CAMP

25 May 2023: Range Day (RAF Honnington)

8 – 15 July 2023: RAF Summer Camp (RAF Valley)

During the upcoming Summer Term, the Royal Air Force (RAF) Section is excited to be attending our annual Camp at RAF Valley in Wales.

During the Camp, cadets will have the opportunity to interact with active RAF personnel, taking part in aviation activities and exercises, gaining insight into the roles and responsibilities of pilots and ground crew, as well as participating in various activities ranging from aircraft recognition, flight simulations, shooting, and leadership exercises.

As part of this visit, cadets will also be able to learn about the various aspects of life in the RAF for its personnel, from protecting the United Kingdom's airspace to carrying out humanitarian missions around the world.

Mr M North, Officer Commanding, Royal Air Force Section



## THE MOTHER TONGUE, OTHER TONGUE COMPETITION 2023

July 2023

The Modern Foreign Language Department organises a range of competitions for pupils throughout the year. As part of this programme, we are pleased to announce that the 'Mother Tongue, Other Tongue' Competition will be open for entries in the Summer Term.

The "Mother Tongue, Other Tongue" Poetry Competition is a multilingual poetry competition that celebrates cultural diversity and the many languages currently spoken in secondary schools in England. The Competition is organised every year by *Routes into Languages East* in partnership with Cambridge University's Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages, the Cambridge University Bilingualism Network and Murray Edwards College, Cambridge. *Routes into Languages* works to promote the take-up of languages through cooperation between universities, schools and colleges in England.

To enter, pupils are asked to submit an original poem in a language they have learnt at School, or an account of a story or poem they remember being told in their mother tongue if this is a language other than English. Westcliff High School for Boys celebrates and values its status as a richly diverse community, with many of our pupils being bilingual; this competition offers such pupils an opportunity to celebrate this fantastic gift. This year, we had eight finalists who were shortlisted for the Finals event in Cambridge on 22 March 2023. To be shortlisted for the finals was a fantastic achievement, and all pupils deserve our congratulations. Two of our pupils were selected as winners in their Mother Tongue categories, Sujay Surenthiran (Year 8, Tamil) and Michael Toubas (Year 11, Greek). In the Other Tongue competition, Quinn Williams (Year 11, German) won his category for the fourth consecutive year. Special congratulations go to our winners.

Mrs J Williams, Senior Teacher: Staff Tutor, French Teacher



## THE UNIFORM SHOP

### Opening Times during the Summer Holiday Break

During the summer holiday break, the School Shop will be open between Tuesday 29 August and Thursday 31 August from 10.00am to 3.30pm. This will allow for pupil fittings and purchase of School uniform for years 8-13. In addition, Sixth Form ties will be available for purchase from the School's Reception Desk on the days that GCSE and A level examination results are collected (17 August and 24 August).

Details of uniform fitting days for incoming Year 7 pupils can be found on the *Year 7 Entrants* section of the School website: [www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/lower-and-middle-school/year-7-entrants](http://www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/lower-and-middle-school/year-7-entrants)

### Purchasing School Uniform and Merchandise

Westcliff High School for Boys uniform is sold exclusively through the School Shop. Parental feedback indicates that parents find this convenient, and we believe that by selling uniform in-house, we are able to offer a more personal service and competitive pricing.

The School Shop, located in the East Basement, will normally open during term time on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10.30am to 1.30pm, as well as on specified dates/times at the end of the School's summer break and prior to the start of the new Academic Year. During the Shop opening times, items of uniform can be tried on for size, and purchases can be made. Cash, cheque and debit/credit card payments are accepted.

Full details of dates and opening times are available on the School website. For items of uniform required in a size that is not normally stocked by the shop, please email [uniform@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:uniform@whsb.essex.sch.uk).

Items of School uniform and merchandise can also be purchased online using the link provided in the Uniform section of the School website. Parents will be advised by email when their online order is ready for collection from the School Shop.

Details of the WHSB School Uniform Policy can be accessed via the School website: [www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/uniform](http://www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/uniform).



### Second Hand Uniform

We are pleased to advise parents that the School Shop has increased its provision of second-hand uniform. Please contact [uniform@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:uniform@whsb.essex.sch.uk) for further details should this should be of interest.

If you have any clean, unwanted uniform that you wish to donate to the School in order to assist other pupils, please bring it to the School's Reception. Thank you for your support.

### Lost Property Reclaim

**Thursday 20 July 2023**

Where named and unnamed clothes, bags and other items are found around the School, these are placed in the lost property area located in the East Basement.

Each term, we will empty the lost property area, and this provides pupils and parents with an opportunity to reclaim their items, and full details and timings are provided in advance of these occasions.

Any unclaimed items left at the end of each term are recycled locally.

*Ms I Gimbutiene, School Shop Manager*





## THE EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE

Friday 4 – Sunday 13 August 2023

The Edinburgh Festival Fringe is the single biggest celebration of arts and culture on the planet. Every August, the city of Edinburgh welcomes an explosion of creative energy from around the globe for three weeks of entertainment, presenting shows for every taste. Westcliff Drama first performed at the Fringe in the 2018 Festival Fringe, with our show *Waiting for Ofsted*, gaining 4-star reviews from three professional reviewers, including the prestigious *Broadway Baby*. It was our intention to revisit the Fringe in 2020 but Covid intervened and, like a Shakespearean summer plague, closed down the theatres (in Edinburgh rather than London). We are therefore delighted finally to be returning to Edinburgh this summer with our play *14-18 Cyrano de Bergerac*. This play will be specially written for the Fringe, and brings Rostand's classic French tale forward into the First World War, drawing on war poetry to tell its story. We will rehearse at School for a week before the trip and then travel north on Friday 4 August, ready for our first performance at the Space Upper Theatre venue at Niddry Street on Monday 7 August, the first of six before a paying public. Why not treat yourself to a whole new experience this summer, come up to Edinburgh, and join us and 250,000 other festival-goers at the 2023 Fringe?

Mr B Jeffreys, Director of Drama



WHSB Drama Company perform *Waiting for Ofsted*,  
The Edinburgh Fringe (2018)



## BRITISH SCIENCE WEEK 2023: POSTER COMPETITION

British Science Week, run by the British Science Association, is a ten-day celebration of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. This year, British Science Week ran from 10 to 19 March 2023. Every year there is a theme, with previous themes being 'Growth', 'Innovating for Our Future' and 'Our Diverse Planet'. The theme for 2023 was 'Connections'.

As part of the celebrations, British Science Week is ran a national poster competition for pupils in Years 7-9 in which pupils could be creative in designing a poster related to the theme of 'Connections'.

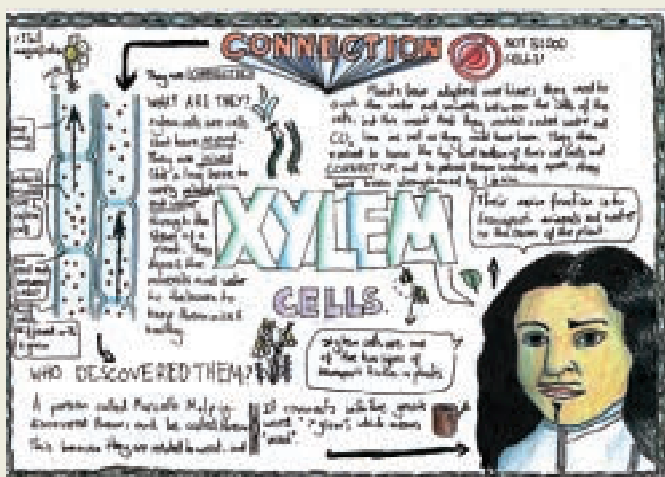
The theme allowed scope for a plethora of ideas and gave pupils opportunities to explore different connections such as the connection between animals and plants, how the parts of a bridge connect to form a strong structure, and our ability to connect through the internet. There are many other possibilities.

The School was only able to submit five entries for the national Poster Competition and therefore the Science Department ran a House Competition in order to decide which pupils' entries were to be submitted. In the light of its success, these opportunities will extend into the summer term, and further details are available from myself.



During British Science Week, Year 7 and Year 8 Science Teachers ran lessons to explore the theme of 'Connections' and we now encourage all pupils to design a poster for the House competition. Year 9 pupils will also be encouraged to enter through posters advertised in the Science Block.

I will provide updates on the outcome of the House Competition and the National Competition in the next edition of *The Westcliff Diary*.



Poster by Simeon

## CONNECTIONS BETWEEN FOOD AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Did you know that food production contributes 30% of all greenhouse gas emissions, and the production of different foods cause very different amounts of emissions? For example, a portion of beef causes 10 times more emissions than a portion of baked beans, on average. This means our food choices can make a difference!



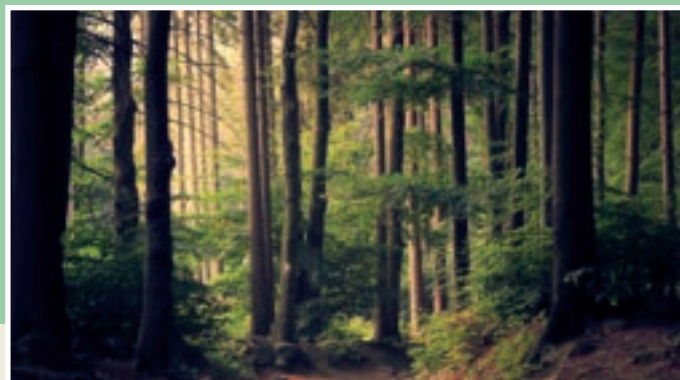
## ECOSYSTEM CONNECTIONS

Ecosystems are communities of living and non-living things in an environment. Around 1 in 10 animals rely on freshwater ecosystems, but they are under threat from climate change, unsustainable farming practises, pollution and water demand. Everything is interdependent and the loss of one connection has knock-on effects.



## CONNECT WITH NATURE

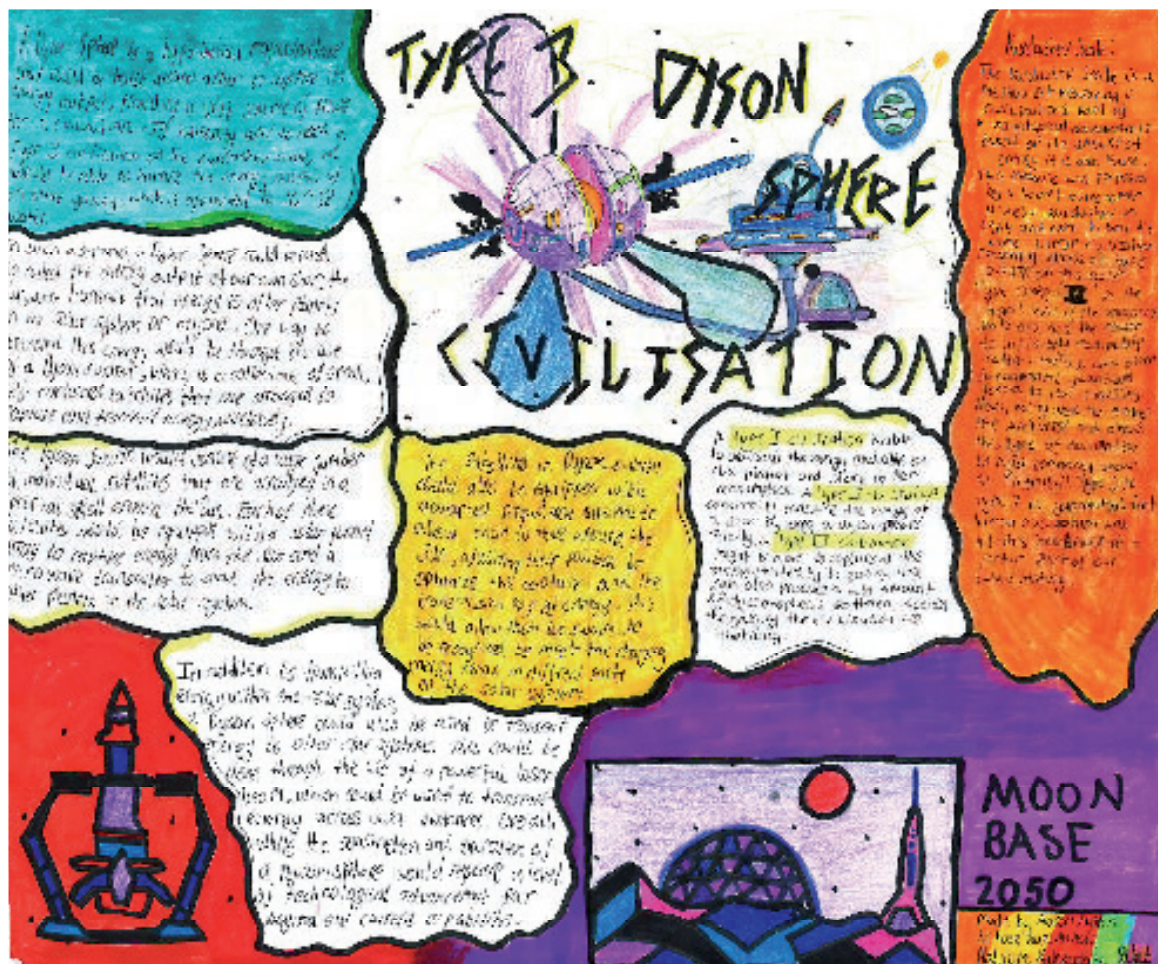
Our towns and cities are full of connected life. In urban areas a single tree often provides habitat for thousands of other species. Ecosystems in urban areas can be particularly impacted by human actions in different ways. Checking the health of our local trees can help urban biodiversity flourish.



Miss E Lo, Lower School Science Co-ordinator



Science Poster by  
Aaron, Srihaas,  
Abhiram



### Ionic Bonds

In ionic bond is when a metal reacts with a non-metal, by transfer of valence electrons from one atom to another forms an ionic bond. The bond forms by the complete transfer of one or more electrons from the valence shell of one atom to another. The resulting cations and anions are held together by electrostatic attraction and are called ionic compounds. The transfer of electrons and the resulting ionic compounds are held together by the electrostatic force. The bond formation is also a driving force for the formation of ionic compounds.

### BONDS

Bonds are the forces that hold atoms together in a molecule. They are formed by the sharing of electrons between atoms. The most common type of bond is the covalent bond, where two atoms share a pair of electrons. Other types of bonds include ionic bonds, where one atom transfers an electron to another, and metallic bonds, where electrons are shared among a lattice of metal atoms.

### Covalent Bonds

Covalent bonds are formed when two atoms share a pair of electrons. This type of bond is common in molecules of non-metals. The sharing of electrons allows each atom to achieve a stable electron configuration, similar to that of a noble gas. Covalent bonds are strong and directional, meaning they only form between specific atoms in a specific orientation.

### Atomic Bonds

Atomic bonds are the forces that hold atoms together in a solid or liquid. They are formed by the attraction between the positively charged nuclei of the atoms and the negatively charged electrons. The most common type of atomic bond is the ionic bond, where one atom transfers an electron to another, resulting in a cation and an anion that are held together by electrostatic attraction. Other types of atomic bonds include covalent bonds, where atoms share electrons, and metallic bonds, where electrons are shared among a lattice of metal atoms.

### CONNECTIONS

Connections are the forces that hold molecules together in a liquid or solid. They are formed by the attraction between the positively charged nuclei of the molecules and the negatively charged electrons. The most common type of connection is the hydrogen bond, which is a weak attraction between a hydrogen atom bonded to a highly electronegative atom (such as oxygen or nitrogen) and another highly electronegative atom. Other types of connections include van der Waals forces, which are weak attractions between all molecules, and dipole-dipole interactions, which are attractions between polar molecules.

### Polar Covalent Bonds

Polar covalent bonds are formed when two atoms share a pair of electrons, but the electrons are not shared equally. This is because one atom is more electronegative than the other, meaning it has a stronger attraction for the shared electrons. As a result, the shared electrons are pulled closer to the more electronegative atom, creating a partial negative charge on that atom and a partial positive charge on the other atom. This type of bond is common in molecules of polar covalent compounds, such as water.

Science Poster by Gregory



## THE SPRING TERM IN PICTURES



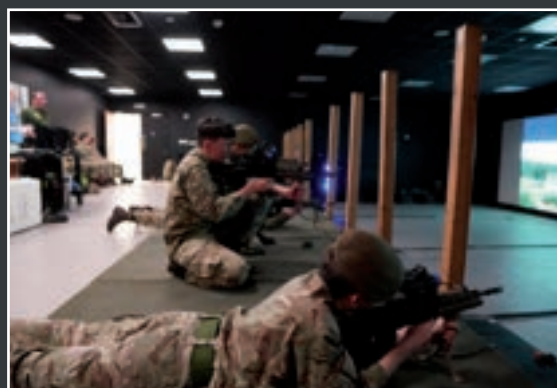
*Amigos and friends on Spanish trip (half term)*



*An expectant crowd for WHSB Teachers' Five-a-Side Football*



*British Film Institute Spanish online event (Middle School)*



*CCF on the rifle range*



*Commonwealth Day Service*



*Parents' Association  
Valentine Day Cookie Sale*



*Reading in the  
School Library*





Holocaust Memorial Day



House University Challenge Final



Jack Petchy Workshop



House Lego Competition



Lunchtime in the Library



Mathematics Pi and Pie Day



Mother Tongue Other Tongue Competition



Playing Chess



Spanish cowboys on a half term trip to Spain



World Book Day



## WESTCLIFF DRAMA COMPANY PERFORMING RICHARD II



Conor Lynch-Wyatt



Gabriel Williams



Lewis Seal and  
Oliver Street



Joe Galvin



William Bambrick





*Maxi Rowe as Richard II*



*Maxi Rowe*



*The Cast of Richard II*

## HISTORY TRIP TO GERMANY



*At Checkpoint Charlie, Berlin*



*At the Reichstag*



*Mrs Cook making new friends in Berlin*



*Ashwin and Emmanuel at BMW Welt*



*Courtroom 600, Nuremberg*





*The Wintergarten Berlin*

*The Brandenburg Gate, Berlin*



*The bFlat Jazz Bar, Berlin*

Tickets for all Westcliff Diary events can be purchased via TicketSource at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/westcliff-on-sea/westcliff-high-school-for-boys/>



Facebook:  
/WHSforBoys



Twitter:  
@WHSforBoys



LinkedIn:  
Westcliff High School  
for Boys

## CALENDAR FOR SUMMER TERM 2023

Monday 17 April	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
Tuesday 18 April	SUMMER TERM BEGINS, 8.40am
Wednesday 19 April	GCE PE Moderation
Thursday 20 April	Visiting A Level Music Examiner
20 - 21 April	Year 11 GCSE French Speaking Examinations
Friday 21 April	Visiting A Level German Examiner
Monday 24 April	Year 9 HPV Immunisations, 9.30am-3.30pm Year 10 Parents Consultation Evening, 4.00pm-6.00pm
24 - 25 April	Year 11 GCSE Spanish Speaking Examinations
24 April – 5 May	WHSB Art Exhibition at Metal, Chalkwell Park
Wednesday 26 April	Junior Mathematics Challenge
Thursday 27 April	Year 7 Careers Enrichment Event (period 5); and Year 8 Careers Enrichment Event (period 6) Visiting A Level French Examiner GCSE Physical Education Moderation Day Summer Chamber Recital, 7.30pm-9.00pm
Friday 28 April	GCSE Art Moderation Day (1 of 2)
28 – 29 April	Year 9 and Year 12 CCF Army at Mereworth
Saturday 29 April	WCGC Go for Grammar Multi Sports Day
Monday 1 May	BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday 2 May	GCSE Art Moderation Day (2 of 2)
3 - 4 May	GCSE German Speaking Examinations
4 - 5 May	A Level Art Moderation (1&2 of 3)
4 – 15 May	Lower Sixth Internal Examinations
Monday 8 May	BANK HOLIDAY: THE CORONATION OF KING CHARLES III
Wednesday 10 May	A Level Spanish Speaking Examinations
11 - 13 May	Duke of Edinburgh Silver Practice
Monday 15 May	Public Examinations begin
Tuesday 16 May	A Level Art Moderation (3 of 3)
Thursday 18 May	Stravinsky's Firebird, Royal Festival Hall
19 – 20 May	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Practice
22 – 24 May	Lower Sixth Geography Trip, Flatford Mill
Tuesday 23 May	Year 8 HPV Immunisations, 9.30am-3.30pm
Thursday 25 May	Charity Events RAF Range Day
29 May – 2 June	SUMMER HALF TERM
Friday 2 June	Lower Sixth Medics at Earls Colne Airbase
5 – 8 June	Years 7-10 Internal Examinations
Friday 9 June	Lower Sixth Internal Examination Report Issued
Saturday 10 June	Year 10 CCF Army at Mersea

Wednesday 14 June	Lower Sixth to UCAS Discovery Exhibition, University of Colchester
14 – 17 June	Duke of Edinburgh Silver Assessment
Friday 16 June	Warhammer Tournament, Nottingham Bollywood Evening, WHSB Parents' Association, 7.00pm
Monday 19 June	Year 10 Citizenship 'Off Timetable' Day
21 - 23 June	Peter Pan Drama Performance, The Westcliff Theatre, 7.30pm-9.00pm
Tuesday 27 June	SCHOOL FINISHES AT 12.50pm Open Evening, 5.00pm-9.00pm
Thursday 29 June	Sixth Form Induction Day
29 June – 4 July	CCF Army Summer Camp, Years 10-13
Friday 30 June	Lower Sixth Phase 3 Report Issued Old Westcliffian Association Dinner, 6.00pm-10.00pm
Tuesday 4 July	Higher Education Evening, 7.30pm-9.00pm
Wednesday 5 July	Lower Sixth Meducators Event, 8.45am-12.50pm Lower Sixth AMSP Problem Solving, Southend Summer Sinfonia Concert
Thursday 6 July	Years 8 and 9 Immunisation Catch-up, 9.30am-3.30pm New Year 7 Parents Meeting, 7.30pm – 9.00pm
Friday 7 July	Enrichment Day New Year 7 Induction Day Mid-Year Entrance Examinations Years 9 and 10 Phase 3 Report Issued CCF Pass Off Parade (5.00pm) & Dinner (7.00pm)
8 – 14 July	Lower Sixth Geology in Isle of Arran
8 – 15 July	CCF RAF Summer Camp
Tuesday 11 July	Sports Day
Wednesday 12 July	Year 10 AMSP Problem Solving, Southend Art and Design Exhibition, 4.00pm-7.00pm
Thursday 13 July	House Drama Competition, 7.30pm-9.00pm
Friday 14 July	Years 7 and 8 Phase 3 Report Issued Summer Big Band and BBQ, 7.00pm-10.00pm
Saturday 15 July	School Uniform Shop open for New Year 7 Pupils, 10.00am-3.30pm
15 – 21 July	CCF Navy Section Summer Camp
Thursday 20 July	Lost Property Reclaim
Friday 21 July	SUMMER TERM ENDS, 2.45pm
22, 24, 25, 27 - 29 July	School Uniform Shop open for New Year 7 Pupils, 10.00am-3.30pm
4 – 13 August	Edinburgh Fringe Festival (WHSB Drama Company)
29 – 31 August	School Uniform Shop Open for Years 8 to Upper Sixth, 10.00am – 3.30pm
Friday 1 September	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
Monday 4 September	AUTUMN TERM BEGINS, 8.40am