



Westcliff High School
for Boys

The Westcliff Diary

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

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SPORTING SUCCESS**



FROM THE DESK OF THE HEADMASTER

WELCOME BACK FROM THE HEADMASTER

It is a great pleasure to welcome pupils back at the start of the Summer Term. This is a very busy School Term with our A Level and GCSE students commencing their examinations in May.

The School ended the Spring Term on a high note having enjoyed tremendous success in many areas, including Sport, Music, Drama, War Gaming, CCF, Chemistry (Top of the Bench Competition), Duke of Edinburgh Awards, to name but a few. The School's Charity Committee, under the leadership of Milo Challis, also ran a number of splendid fundraising activities. The quantity and diversity of extra-curricular activities at WHSB continues to be a distinctive strength of the School.

The level of participation in extra-curricular activities remains high and I wish to commend all those pupils who contribute so much to their School through their involvement in

School activities. There is no doubt that involvement in extra-curricular activities enables pupils to learn much about themselves and increases their self-confidence. As well as being fun and enjoyable, involvement in these activities helps to nurture a true sense of self-worth in pupils.

I would like to thank my many colleagues who contribute to our extra-curricular programme. We are fortunate to have so many enthusiastic, committed and talented staff at the School. I would also like to thank parents for supporting and encouraging their sons' and daughters' involvement in the School's extra-curricular life.

STAFF CHANGES DURING THE SPRING TERM 2019

There have been a small number of changes to staffing for the Spring and Summer Terms 2019.

Ms Bennet joined us in January 2019 to teach Science (Biology) following Mrs Barber's decision not to return to work following her maternity leave. Mrs Hadley was recruited in March 2019 as the new Science (Physics) Technician and it is envisaged that she will take up her post in April 2019, following the Easter holidays.

Ms Mann, Sixth Form Catering Manager, resigned in March 2019. We are delighted that the Sixth Form Catering Assistant, Mrs Brown, has taken over as Sixth Form Catering Manager and Mrs Andrews has been appointed to the position of Catering Assistant.

I would also like to congratulate Mr Farrell and Mr Bleakley on their promotion to the positions of Director of Middle School and Director of Lower School respectively. Both colleagues take on additional responsibilities as part of a wider reorganisation of the pastoral system to create additional capacity to manage the expansion of the School. My congratulations also to Ms McGowan who will take over as the Head of English in June 2019. My thanks to Mrs Williams who has done a superb job as Acting Head of English. Mrs Williams will return to her duties as the Senior Teacher: Staff Tutor.

I wish to congratulate Mrs Mumford on her appointment as Deputy Head;

her promotion is well deserved. She has been a superb Assistant Head and is well placed to serve the School as the Second Deputy. Mrs Mumford's appointment will now allow for the implementation of some planned reorganisation of Senior Team responsibilities.

FORTHCOMING PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

Staff in the Pastoral Offices and Subject Departments, my Senior Team, and myself, continue to meet with students to offer support and guidance to them in their preparation for the forthcoming GCSE and A Level examinations. Parents are welcome to contact the Middle School or Sixth Form Offices if they would like further advice and guidance in relation to supporting their son or daughter as they prepare for their examinations. Once again, we were pleased to deliver a broad range of Examination Revision Classes to our GCSE and L level students during the Easter holiday break this year.

The students have been briefed on



strategies for both acquiring and applying knowledge. It is important that the students possess well organized revision sources such as class notes, resources provided by teachers and supporting notes from their textbooks, and other recommended sources such as revision guides. The revision sources should be aligned with the format of the examination papers and the students should have a command of the structure and content of the examination papers for each subject. Once these fundamentals are in place, the students can revise and practise past questions under timed conditions effectively.

The forthcoming examinations are challenging and important to the students' future achievements, and staff at the School will continue to offer the high levels of support currently available both in the lead up to, and throughout, the examination period.

I wish all our GCSE and A Level students the very best of luck in their examinations this summer.

WHSB CENTENARY 1920-2020

The programme for the Centenary Year has been finalized and preparations are underway in relation to a number of key events such as the Official Launch, the concerts, drama and exhibitions. Dr White has made splendid progress with the commemorative book and we anticipate that the book will be ready for publication in early Spring 2020. He has also begun work on vignettes from the School's life across the past 100 years which will be used to create 45 display boards around the quadrangle corridors.

We are pleased to announce Paul Robinson Solicitors LLP as the Principal Sponsor for the School's Centenary Year.



Left-to-right: Sam Robinson, Headmaster, Mrs K Mumford, Natalie Pavelin, Lord Petre

The School has a long association with the firm and, thanks to their generous support, we have been able to plan an ambitious range of activities to celebrate the Centenary. We have also received generous support from Rickard Luckin Accountants and Cadman, the building firm which completed the excellent internal refurbishment of the Science Building.

We have also received some generous donations from private individuals in

support of the Centenary Year and I would like to record my sincere thanks to them. All surplus funds raised during the Centenary Year will go towards improving our sporting and recreational facilities. We appreciate that we live in challenging economic times, however if any parents (or their firms) wish to discuss making a donation towards the Centenary fund then please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mr Partridge, the Director of Resources and Support Services (partridge@whsb.essex.sch.uk).

Tickets for the Official Launch (Saturday 1 February 2020) at the Cliffs Pavilion, Westcliff on Sea, are now on sale. At the time of writing, nearly half of the tickets have already been sold so please book as early as possible. This promises to be a unique and wonderful event in the history of the School. The entertainment at this black-tie Dinner and Dance will be provided by the current pupils and alumni of the School. This will be an opportunity to celebrate the very best of WHSB and properly mark our 100th year. The tickets can be purchased via TicketSource at <https://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/>.

On Thursday 28 March, one of our Centenary Patrons, Lord Petre, former Lord Lieutenant of Essex, and Sam Robinson, managing partner of our Principal Sponsor, Paul Robinson Solicitors LLP, and his colleague, Ms Natalie Pavelin, visited the School to meet staff and pupils and to discuss our preparations for the Centenary celebrations. It was my great pleasure to introduce our visitors to our pupils and staff who engaged in the School's music, drama, CCF and sporting activities. Our guests also had a chance to discuss the

School with our Head Boy, Jonathan Travers, and his Deputies, Victor Popoola, Marcus Kelly and Callum Finnegan. It was a wonderful occasion and our pupils and staff represented their School superbly.

We are delighted that Cllr David Norman has accepted the invitation to be our Guest of Honour at our Centenary Speech Day 2020. Cllr Norman has been awarded

an MBE for his Service to Education, including his 20-year association with Ruskin College, Oxford, having piloted many adult educational initiatives and the central role he played in relocating the College to a new building. He is also a Governor of WHSB and President of the Old Westcliffian Association. We look forward to his reflections at this event during our special year.



YEAR 11: THE CHALLENGE AHEAD

Our Year 11 pupils return after the Easter Holiday to a challenging GCSE Public Examination period which runs from Monday 13 May until Monday 17 June. Pupils at this stage of their education in the Middle School should, after adhering to their revision programmes extensively over the break, feel in control of the situation and confident of entering the Examination Hall. There will be some, however, who are not so self-assured of their position and who are finding the situation rather daunting and stressful. The worry of this, of course, may be detrimental to their performance and so to their eventual outcomes.

To those pupils in this position, the first thing to realise is that you are not alone. Thousands of pupils across the country are all in a similar situation. If you are worried, and this may manifest itself in you not sleeping or eating properly, the worst thing that you can do is keep it to yourself. You should talk openly about your fears and concerns with others who have been through the examination system. This may be elder siblings, your parents or older pupils at Westcliff. My colleagues and I are also here to listen and to help. Your subject teachers are always available to deal with specific issues which may be worrying you and if your concerns are of a more general nature then do come and see Mr Williams or me and we will do our best to allay your fears. You must, however, communicate.

Study Leave commences from Monday 20 May and, in the week prior to that, pupils

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

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

Mr A Farrell
Director of Middle School

YEAR 12 AND THE FUTURE

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

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

to research their options at university and with apprenticeships. However the decision is made, students will need to have their application complete (including a one-side Personal Statement) by the October Half Term. Students applying for medical, dentistry, veterinary or Oxbridge courses have a tighter deadline, and should complete their side of the application by mid-September at the latest. For potential Apprentices the need for research is, if anything, more urgent as applications will need to be tailored to particular companies, and deadlines for applying can be as early as September of Year 13. Such students are advised to seek the advice and guidance of Mrs Weller, our Work-Related Learning Co-ordinator, as soon as possible. She is able to meet with students on Wednesdays and Thursdays in her office (E18).

WHSB provides particular events to assist students (and parents) with the decisions to be made. On Wednesday 3 July at 7.30pm, we hold our evening presentation at the School for Year 12 students and their parents. During the presentation, information will be given to help with decision-making and the application process will be explained. A comprehensive booklet containing further information will be provided. We expect all Year 12 students to be present at this event, accompanied by a family member to ensure that they can benefit from this information, most of which will be presented by our Higher Education Co-ordinator, Mr Stevens, whose knowledge is encyclopaedic and up-to-date.

Once students return from the May Half Term, extensive time will be made available to each student, in their Form Group, to discuss their thoughts with their Form Tutor, and work on their application. This will culminate in our Enrichment Day on Friday 5 July. Visiting speakers will provide advice on course selection and the writing of Personal Statements, and at least one former student will speak on the option of entering employment directly. Time will also be made available to use computers to amend applications and research courses.

It is essential that students find the time to speak to Mr Stevens, Mrs Weller, subject specialists, Form Tutors and myself to explore the options. If handled with a positive mind, this period of time can be one of the most rewarding of the Sixth Form – there is indeed something for everyone, and it never does harm to lift your eyes to the horizon to glimpse the myriad possibilities.

Dr A Machacek
Assistant Head

ENRICHMENT DAY

Friday 5 July 2019

Friday 5 July promises to be an exciting day for all Year groups. Year 7 pupils will be visiting Southend to complete Geography and Mathematics-related activities, whilst Year 8 put the finishing touches on their House Drama preparations. The vast majority of Year 9 will be visiting the Battlefields of Belgium and France with the History Department and the remainder will take part in a Computing activity. Those Year 9 pupils who have opted for GCSE Computing and are on the Battlefields trip will be offered an alternative Computing activity. Year 10 pupils have a day of Careers Skills to look forward to including mock interviews. Our Year 12 students will make real headway with their plans for life after WHSB with a Higher Education



LORD OF THE FLIES

Wednesday 8 – Friday 10 May 2019, 7.00pm

This term, younger actors at the School will be staging three performances of Sir William Golding's classic tale, *Lord of the Flies*. This gripping yet sombre story is set on an island paradise where a collection of small boys have been marooned. Starting with good intentions, they slowly descend into ritualism, savagery and murder, developing tribal behaviour and ritualism of the utmost primitive nature. Natural leader Ralph, Simon and the sensible Piggy are outmanoeuvred by the instinctive Jack, who is supported by goofy Maurice and the easily-bored Roger, spurred on by a choir of increasingly bloodthirsty hunters. At an allegorical level, the central theme is the conflicting human impulses toward civilisation and social organisation—living



Day to include UCAS applications as well as information about Higher Apprenticeships and Employment.

PARENTS' WORKSHOP ON SAFEGUARDING: COUNTY LINES AND KNIFE CRIME

Tuesday 21 May 2019, 7.30pm

It seems that barely a day goes by without a story in the news about young people becoming involved in criminal activity. As a School, we have been working closely with partner agencies to deliver workshops to pupils, as well as specific assemblies. We are also incorporating key messages into our PSHEE programme. We are very pleased that police officers in the Southend Youth Offending Team have offered to speak to our parents about the

warning signs of children being exploited and used by criminal gangs, as well as how to keep them safe in the current climate. There will also be a chance to speak to officers individually if you have any specific concerns or worries.

TRAVELLING TO AND FROM SCHOOL

Parents are asked to remind their sons and daughters to keep themselves safe on the way to and from School. When walking, pupils should ensure that they can hear what is going on around them, avoiding headphones. It is important to always be mindful of traffic and use crossings where they are provided.

When on the trains and buses, pupils should remain alert to and aware of vehicles as they approach the stop or station and be considerate of members of the public at all times.

When travelling to School by car, parents should avoid the yellow markings and please do not pull in across the School gate or onto the South Drive as this presents a hazard to our pupils.

Mrs K Mumford
Second Deputy Head

by rules, peacefully and in harmony—and toward the will to power. Themes include the tension between groupthink and individuality, between rational and emotional reactions, and between morality and immorality. The name *Lord of the Flies* is a literal translation of *Beelzebub*, the fallen angel and demon prince of Hell, whose role is to bring on war.

The original novel was written in 1954 by a man who had seen the rising horror of Nazi Germany and the consequences of British appeasement, and now faced another developing conflict in the Cold War. At the same time, Golding was working as a primary school teacher and came to believe that popular literature had misrepresented small boys as small cuddly, fluffy animals. In fact, as Golding reasoned (and most teachers already know), small boys could exhibit exactly the same primal savagery as one sees in great nations at war. Golding set out to demonstrate this in his own work of literature and the result was *Lord of the Flies*. The book was well received from the start, with readers choosing it as their 25th favourite novel on the Modern Library 100 Best Novels. It was then developed into a play by Nigel Williams (a playwright and novelist) who also scripted the BBC TV series *Elizabeth I* and *HR*.

Westcliff's own production will explore the text as a modern allegory, asking whether the story can still speak about the modern pressures on young people. We will perform in the West Quad from Wednesday 8 to Friday 10 May 2019, at 7.00pm. Tickets are available from TicketSource.

Mr B Jeffreys
Director of Drama



ONLINE UNIFORM SHOP

For our current pupils, uniform can be ordered and paid for via the School website. Pupils will receive notification in their register when orders are ready to collect from the Front Reception and this will, under normal circumstances, be within two School days following submission. The WHSB Online Uniform Shop can be accessed by visiting

www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/uniform or by selecting 'About Us, Practical Information, Uniform' on the School's website.

To purchase items, select the size and quantity required and click 'add to basket'. Payment for online purchases can be made by credit and debit card only. Whilst the majority of uniform orders can be made online, there will be circumstances whereby items are required urgently and the mail order system will continue to accommodate this. Payment for these purchases can be made by cash or cheque, and forms are available online or from the

School's Front Reception.

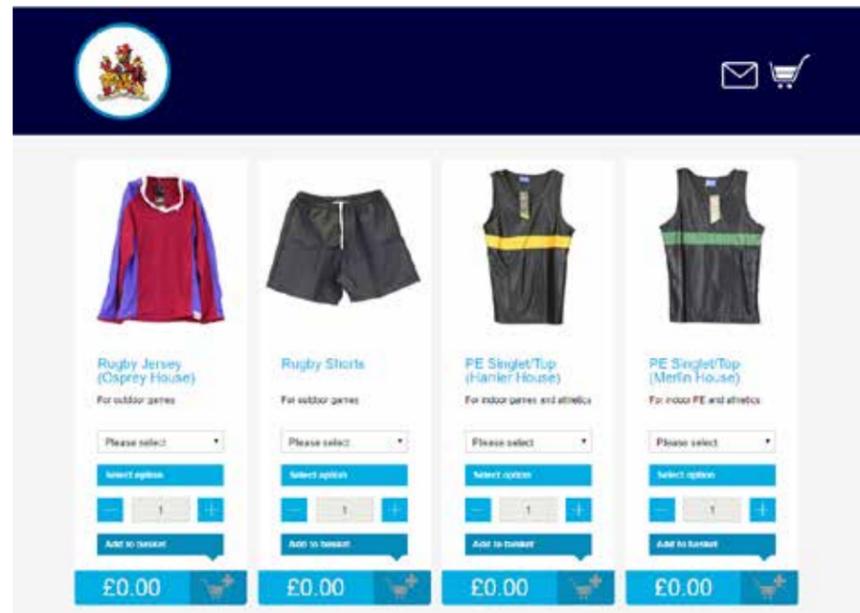
The School Uniform Shop is open between 3.45pm and 4.45pm on Mondays during Term Time, giving parents an opportunity to oversee fittings.

The shop will also be open between 1.00pm and 4.00pm on Friday 30 August, Monday 2 and Tuesday 3 September 2019 for purchasing and online orders to be collected prior to the start of the Autumn Term. For further information please contact Miss Mayne, Uniform Shop Manager, by e-mail uniform@whsb.essex.sch.uk.

LOST PROPERTY

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

*Miss C Parkinson
School Bursar*



TECHNOLOGY AND MENTAL HEALTH EVENING

Tuesday 7 May 2019, 7.00pm

Following the success of last year's presentations on Mental Health and Technology, Mr Bleakley will be re-running an updated Technology and Mental Health session for parents and pupils.

In the session, we will consider how Information Communication Technology has revolutionised the way in which we interact and communicate, from something as simple as a telephone call or a text message, to online banking, applying for a passport or managing bills and taxes.

We will also look at how it has changed the way in which young people interact, and the consequent effects on the way in which their brain functions, including links to addiction and mental health difficulties.

The session will cover:

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

The feedback from pupils and parents on the previous evening was highly positive. Please note that entry to this event is free and tickets are available on TicketSource.

*Mr J Bleakley
Director of Lower School*



PERSONAL SOCIAL, HEALTH AND ECONOMIC EDUCATION PSHEE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

The PSHEE Department continues to forge links with the Pastoral System and provides a stimulating and enriching curriculum which is relevant to pupils today. There is an emphasis on current affairs and issues so that pupils can fully understand the world we live in. We have been focusing much of our attention on major national issues such as County Lines, Knife Crime, Gangs, Drugs, Radicalisation and Mental Health

PSHEE is delivered as a discrete subject once a week as well as through Form Periods, assemblies, enrichment days and bespoke off-timetable sessions.

This year, all pupils participated in lectures and workshops recommended by Essex Police and Southend-on-Sea Borough Council entitled 'See the Signs', where every pupil was educated on the dangers of knife crime. This is a topical issue as there has unfortunately been a big increase in knife-related crime in the UK in recent years. Pupils now understand how individuals can be lured into unsafe situations by manipulative adults that are experts in grooming younger children.

Pupils have also been trained on the issues surrounding County Lines. Outside speakers, who were former gang members, spoke to pupils to inform them about the dangers. Pupils were given the opportunity to ask questions. County Lines is where criminal gangs set up a drug dealing operation in a place outside their usual operating area. Gangs will move their drug dealing from cities, for example London, to towns such as Southend-on-Sea to make money. This can have an enormous impact on the community introducing serious criminal activity.

Here are some signs to look out for that can suggest that someone you know might be involved in County Lines activity:

- Are they always going missing from School or their home?
- Are they travelling alone to places far away from home?
- Do they suddenly have lots of money/lots of new clothes/new mobile phones?
- Are they receiving many more calls or texts than usual?
- Are they carrying or selling drugs?
- Are they carrying weapons or know people that have access to weapons?
- Are they in a relationship or spending time with someone/people that are

- older, and perhaps controlling?
- Do they have unexplained injuries?
- Do they seem very reserved or seem like they have something to hide?
- Do they seem scared?
- Are they self-harming?

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

Year 13 students are currently presenting their Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) dissertation research after writing a 7,000-word project on a topic of their choice. At the end of their 25 minute presentations, they are asked a series of questions. This year, the topics have been fascinating. Here are some of the titles below:

- Was chemosynthesis the most important factor for the origin of life?
- To what extent is dystopian literature realistic and applicable to modern day?
- Have improvements in materials and geometry lead to progression in mountain biking?
- An evaluation of different types of cancer treatments – past, present and future.
- How important were Anglo-Saxon legal principles to the development of the English legal system?
- Are public health campaigns effective in changing public attitudes and behaviour towards health?

Students have written a university-style dissertation with an abstract, introduction, literature review, discussion, conclusion, evaluation and extensions. They also complete other documents such as a Project Proposal Form and a Project Activity Log. The projects are graded A*, A, B etc. and are worth half the UCAS points of a full A Level, therefore an A* grade gains 28 UCAS points, an A grade 24 points, and a B grade 20 points.

The EPQ allows students to embark on largely self-directed projects. By taking responsibility for the choice and design of an individual project students:

- become more critical, reflective and independent learners;
- develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills;
- increase their planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills;
- demonstrate creativity and initiative.

The most able and conscientious Year 12 students will have the opportunity to formally start the EPQ in June 2019. This is aimed at highly academic individuals who wish to study competitive degrees at top Russell Group universities such as

Oxford, Cambridge, UCL, LSE, Imperial, Bristol and Southampton.

If you have any questions about this course, then please contact me.

*Mr R Barber
Head of Breadth Studies and PSHEE
Coordinator*

ECONOMICS NEWSLETTER

Year 12 Economics students have composed the first-ever WHSB Economics newsletter, which will be distributed to A Level Economics students. They hope to both inform and inspire their peer group, and encourage them to become more engaged with current affairs. They are already working on the next issue. Well done to all involved, especially our editor, Jun San Chakma.

*Mrs K Mason
Teacher of Economics*

DUKE OF EDINBURGH

26-28 April 2019 – Silver Practice
15-16 June 2019 – Bronze Practice
19-22 June 2019 – Silver Assessment

With a higher number of applications from Year 9 for the Bronze Award this year, the decision was made to take 42 participants, rather than the usual 30. These pupils are currently choosing their activities for the Skills, Volunteering and Physics sections which are completed outside of School. At the same time, in School they are working on their routes for their practice expedition around Danbury, which is due to take place on the weekend of 15-16 June. They will then move onto planning their assessment expedition which will be based around Skreens Park, Roxwell, from 20-21 September. They should therefore be able to finish the award before Christmas and progress to the Silver award.

We have also increased the number of Silver award participants from 24 to 30, due to a larger completion rate than usual. These pupils are planning their practice expedition in the South Downs, East Sussex, which is due to be completed 26-28 April, before moving onto the assessment in the Peak District from 19-22 June. They should also be in a position to finish well before Christmas, at which point they should be invited to an Awards evening at Southend Civic Centre. Last year's cohort of Silver award participants attended this event on Thursday 28 March.

*Mr H Tresidder
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator*

TRIPS & VISITS

LIVING UNDER COMMUNISM LECTURE

Tuesday 30 April 2019, 7.30pm

This year, we are approaching the 30th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall and of witnessing the implosion of one regime after another in Eastern Europe. A whole generation is now growing up for whom the division of Europe is just history, and even amongst those who lived at the time of these events, memories are fading. Names such as Gorbachev are even being confused with Khrushchev.

Yet, for nearly 45 years, Europe was divided into two halves, 'The West' and Eastern Europe, client states of the Soviet



Union which itself dissolved at the end of 1991. Beyond this 'Iron Curtain' lay Russia, Poland, the Baltic States, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, and - most uncomfortably of all - East Germany. Spy thrillers of the 1960s sent shivers down our spines. The aggressive rhetoric between the West and the Soviet Union gave us the impression a nuclear war really was possible. But what was life really like in these countries? Was it as bad as they said it was at the time? Was there anything positive about it? Could westerners go there? Could you go to church?

This session aims to answer these questions, at least in part. I travelled in the Eastern bloc in the 1970s and 80s and met enough people to have formed a deep impression of the lives of those who lived there. With the aid of some volunteers in the Sixth Form, we will certainly be offering some insights. Yes, there were problems, but not without humour and enjoyment.

The evening will take the form of an illustrated colloquium with time for questions. The focus will be not so much on political events, but how daily life was under Communism and in these members

of the Soviet club. All are welcome, and we will be delighted to hear of experiences that any in the audience have to relate.

Dr T Francis
Teacher of German

WARHAMMER WORLD GRAND TOURNAMENT

Thursday 27 June 2019

On Thursday 27 June 2019, 10 brave warriors from WHSB will venture North to compete for the honour of the School in the first ever Grand Tournament hosted by Games Workshop for their fantasy-themed game, *Age of Sigmar*. The School has been invited to take part in this inaugural event due to the success of previous teams and the team we have assembled, including boys from Year 7 to Year 12, are looking forward to representing WHSB in the spirit of the game - one of friendly competitiveness. We look forward to reporting back to the wider School community in the new academic year.

Mr A McGee
Teacher of Music/Year 13 Progress Leader

YEAR 12 GEOLOGY VISIT TO THE ISLE OF ARRAN

Saturday 22 - Friday 28 June 2019

A Level Geologists will visit the Isle of Arran between Saturday 22 and Friday 28 June 2019 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 and from this location Geologists are able to study the nature of the rock, record and how they 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 Scotland and Greenland were joined. Part of such work will include 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 team work are all developed within an area of outstanding natural beauty, characterised by mountainous glaciated terrain.

Mr N Cooper
Head of Geology



MUSIC TOUR TO NEW YORK

Thursday 25 - Tuesday 30 July 2019

The Music Department is looking forward to our forthcoming tour to New York, taking place at the beginning of the summer holiday. 41 students and staff will be heading to the 'Big Apple' to undertake a programme of musical performances and cultural visits. Whilst in the city, the ensemble, drawn from pupils from Years 8-13 will play in Washington Square Park, on the flight deck of USS Intrepid and in the foyer of the United Nations building. When not performing, visits have been arranged for the Empire State Building, Statue of Liberty, Ground Zero, Times Square and many more existing and culturally-significant destinations. Rehearsals are well underway and our repertoire will include music from composers and artists as diverse as Beethoven and The Beatles and Green Day to Great British Marches.

Follow WHSB on Facebook and Twitter for regular updates of the tour as it happens and live video of the performances.

Mr A McGee
Teacher of Music/Year 13 Progress Leader



GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIPS

Fieldwork and data collection form an important part of the Geography curriculum at both Key Stage 3 and GCSE levels, helping pupils to develop a range of enquiry skills. On Friday 5 July 2019, Year 7 pupils will have an opportunity to investigate aspects of both Human and Physical Geography when they visit Southend as part of that day's Enrichment activities. They will complete studies of coastal processes, Southend's urban geography and the town's relationship with the tourist industry.

Year 10 pupils will also enhance their practical skills through two studies in the Summer and Autumn Terms. For the human side of the course, they will investigate urban change in East London and evaluate the impacts of regeneration on the area. Their second investigation will examine how effective coastal management techniques have been at Walton-on-the-Naze, Essex. The results they collect will be used in class to prepare for their Geographical Applications GCSE paper.

Dr M Shepherd
Head of Geography



TRIPS & VISITS

YEAR 9 HISTORY VISIT TO GREAT WAR BATTLEFIELDS

5-8 July 2019

The School's 29th annual trip to the Great War Battlefields of Belgium and France this summer will see over 90 pupils visit a wide range of sites around the Ypres Salient and The Somme, where some of the most ferocious fighting took place on the Western Front between 1914 and 1918.

One full day will be spent around the Ypres Salient, where four major battles took place, including the notorious Battle of Passchendaele. Pupils will have the chance to visit a range of sites including Tyne Cot, the largest British and Commonwealth War Cemetery in the world, Zonnebeke Memorial Museum as well as Talbot House in Poperinge, which served as a retreat for soldiers of all ranks during the war. They will also have the chance to see the poignant Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate in Ypres, where buglers from the city pay their respects every evening at 8.00pm to the fallen soldiers of The Great War who died around the Ypres Salient but have no known grave.

Pupils will also spend another full day on sites around the Somme Battlefield, learning about the circumstances preceding 1 July 1916, which is the bloodiest day in British military history, with around 60,000 casualties suffered on that day. We are pleased that we will be joined by Mr Andrew Robertshaw for our day on the Somme. Mr Robertshaw is a well-known military historian who has frequently visited WHSB and his expertise will be invaluable throughout the day.

We look forward to giving pupils a valuable insight into the experience of soldiers in The Great War – perhaps it is more important than ever to learn lessons from this war, given that there are now no living veterans of this conflict. Planning is well underway for 2020 and current Year



8 pupils will receive information in due course.

*Mr S Neagus
Teacher of History*

HISTORY TRIP TO THE HISTORIC DOCKYARD, CHATHAM

Saturday 15 June 2019

On Saturday 15 June, pupils will be



embarking across the Thames and venturing into Kent on a visit to The Historic Dockyard, Chatham. With a range of Battleships and Submarines to explore, as well as the Victorian Ropery and exhibitions on over 400 years of British History, Chatham Dockyard is steeped in history and will provide an interactive and immersive learning environment for pupils.

Founded in the mid-16th century, as a result of the Reformation and the rise of tensions between England and Catholic Europe, Chatham Dockyard has contributed to the defence of Britain for over 400 years. Pupils will have the opportunity to consider the vitality of the dockyards, not only on the sovereignty of our island nation, but also on its expansion. The day promises to be informative, interesting and, above all else, fun!

*Miss R Williams
Teacher of History*

SKI TRIP 2019: A RETROSPECTIVE

After nearly 18 months of anticipation, the day of the Ski Trip had finally arrived. Thankfully we did not have a really early start on the Saturday and everyone arrived outside the School - passports and EHICs in hand, ready to board the coach. Racing to the back of the coach to claim the back seat turned out not to be the best idea; we soon found out our seats did not recline (a lesson learnt for next time!).

Following a 20-hour coach journey, including a 2-hour ferry crossing, we eventually arrived in Hochfügen, Austria. The scenery was phenomenal and we were all very excited. The first day was pretty much erased from my mind since I spent most of the day sleeping and eating as we were all so tired. The next day, Monday, was our first day of ski school, where everyone was sorted into different groups, with me being placed in one of the beginners' groups, as I had never skied before. The day was spent on the nursery slope learning the basics. Fortunately, I picked it up really well and soon moved up to the intermediate group the next day, where we travelled up to an altitude of 2,400 metres and skied down the mountain. This was an amazing experience that I will never forget. Our ski instructors, Angie and Tom, were really friendly, excellent skiers and taught us lots of cool skills such as skiing down a half-pipe.

The annoying thing about skiing is that you see a lovely view and it is great fun to actually ski down, but climbing back up to the hotel in your boots, or walking pretty



much anywhere in your boots, is torture!

Early in the holiday, we were introduced by Mr Despres and Mr Tresidder to 'Prat' and 'Prang'. The award of 'Prat' was for the most amusing action someone performed each day. 'Prang' was for the greatest and most impressive fall. If you won 'Prat' you'd be rewarded with one of Mr Tresidder's coveted Mars Bars and if you won 'Prang' of the day you got the 'Prang' hi-vis jacket saying 'Achtung' ('attention' in German) and then 'danger man' in English, to let other skiers know you should be given a wide berth (Lewis would later go on to win almost 3 times!). The first winner was Billy. Billy, somehow, during the top group's first day, managed to lose control of his skis and go flying towards a group of younger German children! (Apparently he also went head-first into a pole, but you are only allowed the Prang Award for one thing...).

The second and third days, Tuesday and Wednesday, were jam-packed with more mountain expeditions (Lewis managed to earn Prang for both of those days!) but still, through all of this, the hardest thing was walking up that treacherous hill in the ski boots. However, the heroic genius, Miss Dolan, discovered that if you loosen



your boots to the point where you can practically slip out of them then you can survive without having to take them off and walk home in soggy socks. As well as that, it was hilarious to stroll up the hill easily, passing my schoolmates who were laying down in the snow moaning in pain. Thank you Miss Dolan!

Tuesday also saw Mr Williamson earn Prang of the Day by colliding into Mr Tresidder, whilst attempting to shower him in snow, and continuing down the rest of the slope on his rear which everyone found to be a very entertaining story at dinner that night.

Evenings were spent completing a variety of activities, including bowling, riding the flumes at the swimming pool and watching the fire and ice show which was great fun. But skiing is very tiring, so we had no trouble sleeping when we finally returned to the hotel each evening.

By Friday, everyone was hit with the realisation that the holiday was almost over. Unluckily, there was a blizzard leaving around 10 metres of visibility in front of us. This left even Miss Isaac, who has been skiing since she was three years old, unable to go at speed since it was so dangerous. Finally, it was Saturday, the last day, so we went up to the top of the mountain for lunch and chocolate. We also gave our instructors chocolate as a thank you gift. It was a great day, but we were all dreading the long bus ride back.

Overall, this holiday was a great adventure which I will never forget. Austria was stunning and learning to ski was really good fun. I would like to say thank you to all the teachers who made it such a good experience. If you have a sense of adventure, I would definitely recommend signing up for the next ski trip.

*Will Midwinter
Year 8*



Painting by Aran Tanseli (Year 9).

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

JUNIOR HISTORY SOCIETY

The Junior History Society is an extra-curricular club that takes place every Thursday lunchtime and is overseen by Miss Williams. During the club, the Sixth Form History Prefects give a presentation that they have prepared. At the end, there is also a chance to ask questions and share ideas. So far we have covered many topics such as the Vikings, the Cold War, the Greco-Persian War, the Holocaust, the Tudors and the 1969 Moon Landings, to name but a few.

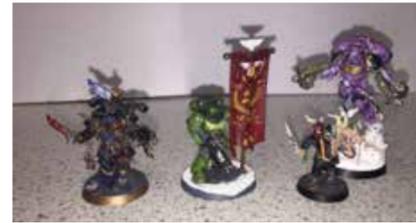
In my opinion, the Junior History Society is a very helpful and informative club that is, at the same time, fun! The Sixth Form students are also very helpful and know plenty of facts about the subject they have prepared so there is never a case where you leave without the answer to your question. I would recommend this club to everyone, especially those who find History interesting as it is a great opportunity to expand your knowledge beyond the curriculum.

*Nevin Nice
Year 7*

WARGAMING CLUB

Wargaming Club has continued to grow this academic year with active pupil participation across all Year groups, particularly with the enthusiasm of new Year 7s as they get to grips with the strategy, tactics and creativity associated with wargaming.

Last December, a House Yu-Gi-Oh competition took place in a knock-out tournament format. It was wonderful to see all of Year 7 and 8 pupils compete with a strong deck but Thomas Maynard (Year 13) of Osprey House, defended his title from last year to remain the champion. We are expecting to hold another House Yu-Gi-Oh tournament in the Summer Term, which will be the last chance for



Thomas to defend his title.

Also last December, the annual House Painting competition took place. The format of the competition this year was for pupils to select a model from the Wargaming Club's *Dark Imperium* box set. This allowed all pupils to take part, regardless of whether they had their own models or not. Mr Dowding expertly judged the fantastically-painted models on their skill and creativity. In joint third place were George Cooke (Year 7, Harrier) and Max Allsopp (Year 7, Osprey). In second place was Samuel Birdsall (Year 8, Merlin). The winner of the competition was Wargaming Club's student leader Alexander Fall (Year 12, Kestrel). A second House Painting competition will take place in the Summer Term using different criteria.

A House *Magic the Gathering* competition is currently underway, under the operation of Ellis Swindell (Year 12). This tournament involves pupils from

WESTCLIFF BIRDING CLUB

Saturday 2 March 2019 saw the second trip of the reformed Westcliff Birding Club. The venue was the internationally well-known RSPB reserve at Rainham Marshes. The recent balmy unseasonal weather experienced in the February Half Term unfortunately broke by the end of the month. There was even a named storm forecast for the weekend (Freya). However, in the end the weather held, and we ended with a lovely sunny, breezy afternoon. Star birds included a Cettis Warbler, Marsh Harriers, a lovely pair of Teals and pretty Pochards. Bearded Tits were there (we heard them pinging in the reeds), but they never gave us a clear view of their lovely marmalade plumage. It was my first visit to Rainham, and I was impressed by its layout and the futuristic Visitor Centre. Special thanks must go to Mr Cooper who drove the minibus and Mr David Walsh and his expert guiding. On our next trip, we hope to visit the Suffolk coast in migration time and pupils in any year group would be very welcome to join us.

*Dr J Theobald
Teacher of History*



Years 9 to 12 and it is expected to be highly competitive. In addition, a House *Warhammer 40k: Kill Team* competition will be starting soon.

Finally, the Wargaming Club is currently undergoing preparations to compete in the *Warhammer 40k: Kill Team* Schools' League semi-finals on Thursday 21 March and the *Warhammer: Age of Sigmar* Schools' League final on Thursday 27 June, under the guidance of Mr McGee, both of which will occur at Warhammer World, Nottingham.

I would like to congratulate all pupils on their success at Wargaming Club and I would also like to thank all those pupils and staff who have supported and helped develop Wargaming Club this year.

Wargaming Club takes place every Friday after school (3.35pm-5:00pm) in M2 and Yu-Gi-Oh Club is held every Tuesday and Friday lunchtimes in S3. All pupils are welcome to attend.

*Miss E Lo
Teacher of Chemistry*



WARHAMMER 40K: KILL TEAM SCHOOLS' LEAGUE QUALIFYING HEATS: A RETROSPECTIVE

After a successful year in last year's *Warhammer 40k* Schools' League, the WHSB team was looking forward to this academic year's competition. This time, Games Workshop had arranged a different format of *Warhammer 40k* called *Warhammer 40k: Kill Team*. This is similar to its predecessor but aims for a faster pace game requiring more strategic thought.

On Sunday 18 November 2018, the WHSB team consisting of Alexander Fall (Year 12), Max Allsopp, Samuel Hughes, Sean Wright and Charlie Wright (all Year 11), competed against Deanes School A Team in the qualifying heats at Games Workshop, Southend. Unfortunately, WHSB lost by 0.8 points.

After the close loss in the first qualifying heat, the WHSB team returned to Games

Workshop on Sunday 3 February 2019 for their second chance at qualifying for the semi-finals. Our opponents were the Deanes School B Team and Southend High School for Boys A Team. We entered the competition full of confidence, fully prepared and ready to win this time.

The day consisted of three rounds in which each player would compete against three different opponents with each round lasting 30 minutes. The short amount of time meant players had to think quickly on their feet and promote a fast pace of the game, which the WHSB team were used to from previous competitions. The WHSB team won over 50% of their matches in every round, with the others being a mixture of draws and losses. At the end of the tournament, we also had to cast our "favourite game" votes which counts towards the overall points total.

WHSB had won the "most sporting team" award for the highest number of "favourite game" votes, particularly with Charlie Wright being voted as "favourite game" by each of his opponents. In addition, Charlie won a "referee's point" award and a "most honourable" award for showing sporting prowess by helping his inexperienced opponent, rather than letting his competitive side take over. After the final tally, the WHSB team was successful in winning the qualifying heat and has now qualified for the semi-finals.

Our team has been making preparations for the semi-finals on Thursday 21 March 2019 and is hoping to repeat last year's achievement of reaching the finals.

*Alexander Fall
Year 12, Wargaming Club Student Leader*



CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES: AN UPDATE

Since my last article in the Westcliff Diary, I am pleased to inform the School community that the range of clubs and societies available at Westcliff now exceeds 54, not including all the sport and music options. Most of these societies have a considerable amount of pupil input

and, in most cases, have been proposed by students. At WHSB, we aim to run activities that are of interest to you as pupils, not us as teachers.

This Year, we have introduced the role of Clubs and Societies Subject Prefect and we have appointed a number of students to these positions. If you are interested in such a position and are in Year 10 or above then please come and speak to me.

The range of clubs, societies and activities on offer at the moment include:

Dungeons and Dragons Club
Design and Technology Breakfast Club
Manga Club
Anime Club
Heavy Metal Club
Healthcare Society
War Gaming Club
LGBTQ+ Forum
Bird Club
Choir
Table Tennis
Garfield Appreciation Society
Classic Film Society
Technology Club
Gospel Choir
Cinema Club
Jazz Band

Public Speaking
CCF Army
CCF Navy
Chess Club
Sixth Form Science Society
Engineering Society
Junior Concert Band
Yu-Gi-Oh Club
AI Club
Duke of Edinburgh
Action for Happiness
Treble Choir
The Social Issues/Action and Debate Society
Political Issues Society
Screenwriting Club
KS 3 Science Club
PE and Sport
Junior History Society

An updated list of the current clubs and societies can be found on the House noticeboards. Also listen carefully to announcements in the form registers, as days and times can change at short notice.

For details of the various Sport and Music options, please see the Physical Education and Music Department noticeboards respectively.

Mr R Barber
House System Coordinator

Senior History Society
Art After-School Club
Art Lunch Club
Drama
Marvel Club
Pokémon Club
Motorsport Society
Lego Club
Harry Potter Society
Problem Solving Club
Astronomy Club
Creative Writing and Reading Club
Rubik's Cube Club
Current Affairs Society
Law Society
Robotics Club
Origami Club
Countdown Club
Stitch Club

REGIONAL CHESS CHALLENGE CHAMPIONS!

On Tuesday 15 January 2019, the WHSB A and B Chess teams travelled to Greensward Academy to play in the Regional Chess Challenge Tournament. There were four other teams, all eager to qualify for the National Chess Challenge Finals at Imperial College by becoming Champions in this tournament.

The Greensward A team was formidable, taking points from everyone (including WHSB A); they played and looked set to becoming Champions. However, a brave performance from Ihsaan Abdoul-Azis (Year

8) in the WHSB B team (who stopped the Greensward A team) and luck falling to Sri Nivasan Loganathan in Year 10 (who was set to lose his final match if the opponent had not made an illegal move) rewarded WHSB A team with enough points to draw with Greensward A and share the spoils of being Champions.

We are delighted that the WHSB A team has now qualified for the National Finals. This entry is not just about WHSB A's superb success but it is also to highlight the excellent performance of the WHSB B team. Our B team were stoic when facing teams of higher ability and skill. Although this was not enough for them to qualify, it was instrumental in ensuring success for the WHSB A team.

This is the first time that WHSB has qualified for the National Finals and the boys representing the School hope to give a good account of themselves in this tournament.

Mr K James
Key Stage 3 Science Co-ordinator/Teacher of Biology



BRITISH BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

The Biology Department is proud to report success at the recent British Biology Olympiad (BBO) which ran in February.

The BBO challenges and stimulates students with an interest in Biology to expand and extend their talents. It enables students to demonstrate their knowledge and to be suitably rewarded with publicly-recognised certificates and medals.

In addition to encouraging and rewarding pupils in their studies, the BBO is the first stage in selecting a team to represent the UK at the International Biology Olympiad (IBO). The IBO seeks to challenge some of the top pre-university Biology students in the world using both theory and practical tests, with students from over 60 countries taking part.

This year, WHSB students Harry DeGrove and Victor Popoola achieved Gold awards and Joshua Smith achieved a Silver award. Six WHSB students achieved a Bronze award (Arrun Bawa, Jobin Geoson, Charles Lasplace, Luke Barnard, Kieran Williams and Wiktorija Lebioda), whilst four of our students were Highly Commended (Alex Small, Leon Dhadda, Cameron Heafield and Shiv Shenoy), and a further four were Commended (Marzouq Azad, Akash Vijai Shankar, Neil Patel and Callum Finnigan).

These students have shown the rewards of their intellectual curiosity and wider reading by achieving these awards as they have proven that they can answer a wide range of questions beyond the A Level specification.

The BBO will be back next year and we hope the new cohort of A Level students will continue succeeding at the highest levels in Biology.

Mr K James
Key Stage 3 Science Co-ordinator/
Teacher of Biology



RSC CHEMISTRY MASTERMIND 2018 AND TOP OF THE BENCH 2019 COMPETITIONS: A RETROSPECTIVE

Recently, WHSB has entered into the Chemistry Mastermind 2018 competition run by the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC), having shown potential last year. This year, the team was almost entirely different following the selection process with only one team member, Sri Nivasan Loganathan (Year 10), remaining from 2017. He was joined by Sri Haran Loganathan (Year 11), Ethan King (Year 9) and Bhavy Metakar (Year 9).

After qualifying in the postal round, the qualifying heat took place last November and involved Dr Alan Osborne from the Essex section of the RSC visiting the School and putting before us as wide a breadth of Chemistry questions as possible in the time given. We had to complete anagrams, dingbats and puzzles, as well as more traditional specification-based questions and practical problems. The entire team gave an excellent performance and, to our surprise, we not only passed the threshold score to qualify for the Essex semi-finals, but we achieved the second highest score in our region, second to Colchester Royal Grammar School. Thus, as you can imagine, Miss Lo and Mr Hill were enthused at the news and the real work began.

The semi-final took place on Thursday 6 December 2018 and it was a direct competition against Colchester Royal Grammar School, KEGS and Brentwood School, who also qualified in the Essex region. The day included a practical round, a head-to-head quiz and a teamwork-based challenge; this was all the information we received prior to the day, so the team agreed to put in additional time to help secure success by regularly meeting at lunchtimes to develop their chemical knowledge. This, evidently, could not be done alone so we were given the opportunity to work with members of the Lower Sixth to teach the team both aspects of the GCSE and A Level specifications. After many lunchtimes of intense theory and practical work, the day finally arrived.

The practical round was intense and required a deep and vast understanding of chemical testing and, after quite an average score, all of us knew we had to improve our game. And improve our game we did! We achieved highest score of the competition in the quiz round after some unbelievable efforts from Ethan and Bhavy and we were delighted. But this was to change. The team challenge was yet to come, and we were only half way there. The team challenge was a torturous combination of quantitative chemistry and general chemical knowledge, all at high speed; following this, we were apprehensive.

We all needed a break, including Miss Lo, so we spent our break talking and congratulating the other schools who were all just as nervous as our team. It was a fantastic opportunity, whether we won or not, to engage more in STEM subjects at a time of declining interest in this field.

Trepidation and suspense built when the results were announced from last to first. Brentwood School came fourth followed by KEGS in third. One by one the Schools collected their awards and when they eventually got to WHSB, it was announced that we had won the semi-final, becoming the Essex Champions and that we would progress to the National Final at the University of Birmingham.

This was wonderful news for me, and even more so for the Year 9s who, on their first attempt, had already become regional champions.

I would like to thank Bhavy, Ethan and Nivasan for going above and beyond the call of duty to learn GCSE and A Level material, as well as the Chemistry prefects Aman Dhanju, Harinhan Gowrethasan, Dhilan Patel, Athaven Sukunathan and Clarence Zwengunde (all Year 12) for giving up their time. Finally, I would like to thank Miss Lo and Mr Hill for masterminding the whole operation and making our time in the competition memorable, enjoyable and rewarding.

Sri Haran Loganathan
Year 11



ART, CRAFT & DESIGN

ART, CRAFT & DESIGN EXHIBITION 2019

Tuesday 16 July 2019, 7.00pm

This year has been an exciting and dynamic journey in the Art studios. A new dawn has brought a renaissance of explosive colour and exciting visual explorations. On show later this Term we have an array of work from Years 7-13, together side-by-side to demonstrate that all students across the learning pathways are inclusively important. The foundations laid at the start of their journey in Year 7 are the key to endless possibilities in Year 13. We, the teachers, are the facilitators – we make visual dreams come true, whether in drawing, painting, printing, multimedia work, photography, computer graphics, film or sculpture. All our work has been focused on developing the idea behind the visual narrative – we teach the skills which blossom here before you.

Quality art must embrace the taking of chances and acknowledge the good practice of real artists – it must not be restrictive; it must demonstrate passion and commitment. You will see sketch books that are filled with meaningful insights and academic annotations. Here is where an idea is born, explored, and then refined to the point when the student has the confidence to break free and create on a larger stage. We have made installations combined with film and sound, carved, and painted in new and old ways.

I would like to thank the Headmaster

for his encouragement and support, Ms Price for her expertise and fortitude in never accepting second best, and our very own *DIY SOS* character, Mr Beshoori, for making things possible, but most importantly to the students for letting us share in their success.

We hope you like the show and hope we pass the audition!

Mr T Sinnott
Head of Art

It has been an exciting year for the Design & Technology Department. Moving back into the newly-refurbished facility has certainly provoked much excitement amongst the students and this has been reflected in the creative and ambitious approaches that we have seen from pupils across all Years of the School, the results of which will be on display at the Art, Craft and Design Exhibition.

From the Lower School, we will be exhibiting work that incorporates technical skills used in woodworking, pewter casting, sewing and electronics. GCSE candidates were tasked with providing solutions to contextual challenges, such as addressing the needs of people with disabilities, supporting developing countries, and encouraging healthy lifestyles. It has been a delight to see our pupils respond to this with such innovation and individuality. Our A Level students were given the opportunity to provide their own context and have stretched the boundaries of possibilities with projects including wood lamination, concrete and resin casts, to name but a

few processes we shall be showcasing.

In this year's Engineering Education Scheme, we have enjoyed unprecedented success as we have been able to field two strong teams. Our first team has been working on an anti-interference turret, whilst our second team has been building a remote-controlled tank to carry medical supplies across wastelands. Both teams' prototypes will also be on display for the evening.

Once again, I would like to offer my thanks to Mr A Moore, Mrs K Mumford, Mr L Farine and Mr N Beshoori for their support and dedication.

Mr C Wright
Head of Design & Technology



Oliver Turner (Year 13)



Abigail Owolabi (Year 12)



Wiktorija Lebioda (Year 12)



Lizzie Irwin (Year 12)



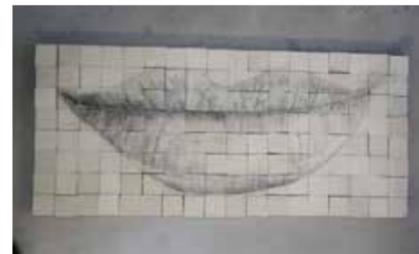
Alice Robinson (Year 13)



Guy Chesher (Year 13)



Charles Lasplace (Year 13)



Dominic Morris (Year 12)



Litika Navti (Year 12)



Matilda Owens-True (Year 13)



Litika Navti (Year 12)



Lizzie Irwin (Year 12)



Josiah Maggs (Year 12)



Isobel Taylor (Year 13)

SLICES OF PI: MATHEMATICS AT WHSB

INTERMEDIATE MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE

On Thursday 7 February 2019, all pupils in Year 11 took part in the Intermediate Mathematics Challenge. Much like the Senior Mathematics Challenge, in which our Sixth Form students took part in November last year, this is a national competition designed to test the problem-solving skills of pupils and it promotes more creative thinking in Mathematics.

This year, the following 20 pupils got through to the Pink Kangaroo follow-on round; George Jefferson, Marcus Siu, Ryan Ellis, Sammy Joujou, Adam Lunniss, Jake Pilkington, William Brown, Finlay Cameron, Archie Traynor, Umer Qureshi, Thilakshan Nanthagiri, Bragusthan Duhindan, Viraj Khagram, Niall Ivie, Jonathan Huggett, Samson Main, Jack Turrell, Samuel Belay, Joseph James and Drew Johnson.

In addition, 25 pupils achieved a Gold certificate, 40 a Silver and 33 a Bronze. We would like to congratulate these pupils and all who took part. The questions posed in these challenges can be difficult but they allow pupils to showcase their mathematical abilities and delve into areas of Mathematics beyond their normal curriculum.

Mr M Dowding
Head of Mathematics

YEAR 10 TEAM CHALLENGE (MATHEMATICS FEAST)

On Wednesday 27 February, four Year 10 pupils took part in the Advanced Mathematics Support Programme (AMSP) Year 10 Maths Feast. The pupils had to demonstrate their understanding of a number of topics across the breadth of Mathematics. The key aim of the event was to have fun through Mathematics and to develop great teamwork, and the team were tested through a series of rounds which relied on good problem solving skills and effective communication.

The team won a certificate for the best score in the comprehension round, in which they scored full marks. In this round they were provided with information on a new area of Mathematics to study before answering a series of questions. The Year 10 pupils involved were Amir Grant, Sri

Nivisan Loganathan, Cho Man, and Alfie Risk. We hope these pupils will have the opportunity to share one of the rounds with their classes in the near future.

Miss C Dole
Year 9 Progress Leader

YEAR 8 TEAM CHALLENGE

On Tuesday 5 March 2019, WHSB competed in the regional finals of the UKMT Team Challenge. The team was made up of two Year 9 pupils, Rudra Patel and Bhavy Metakar, and two Year 8 pupils, Fritz Frederick and Chrisan Kanagalingam. Preparations had been taking place during Friday lunchtimes and the team felt confident in their knowledge and mathematics skills. The rounds required the team to work individually, in pairs and as a foursome to solve mathematical problems beyond those normally met in lessons.

On the day of the competition they showed themselves to be a dynamic and enthusiastic team with mathematical knowledge beyond the syllabus. They represented the School admirably, being placed a good 10th out of 21 teams, with the judges commending them on a number of aspects of their work. We congratulate the students on their excellent performance.

Mrs L Hammond
Key Stage 3 Mathematics Co-ordinator

JUNIOR MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE

Tuesday 30 April 2019

The Junior Mathematics Challenge runs on Tuesday 30 April 2019 this year. All Year 8 pupils will be able to participate in this national competition that will test their problem solving abilities. Previously we have experienced a great deal of success in this competition, and we wish to highlight specifically that this success has come from pupils across the whole ability range. Due to the nature of this competition, we have many pupils who are challenged in their normal academic studies but who succeed in the JMC because they are able to showcase their problem-solving ability.

You are welcome to ask your teachers for some additional problems, or you can search for the papers yourself by visiting the UKMT's website and following the links. Last year's paper, with extended

solutions, is available for you to use by way of preparation.

STUDENT MENTORING

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

We can accommodate pupils from Year 7 to Year 13 in both Mathematics and Further Mathematics, so if you are having any difficulties with any aspect of your work please ask for help. The sessions with your mentor are designed to run across the academic year but the scheme is flexible to suit your needs, so if you are having a tough time with some of your work this term as there is a great deal of work on Algebra, then we can arrange for a mentor to support you for a short period of time instead.

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

Mr M Dowding
Head of Mathematics

SIXTH TERM EXAMINATIONS PAPERS (STEP) SUPPORT

STEP (Sixth Term Examination Papers) is a set of extra examinations completed by pupils who wish to study either Mathematics, Computer Science or Engineering at the top universities, namely Warwick, Cambridge and Imperial Universities. It consists of three 3-hour papers, STEP I, II and III. Each paper consists of 8 pure mathematics questions and 5 applied questions (Mechanics and Statistics). Only your best 6 questions are marked. For pupils who want to study Engineering, STEP I only is required, but since I have aspirations to study Mathematics at Cambridge I must take STEP II and III only. The first STEP paper is challenging, but only knowledge of A Level Mathematics is needed; for STEP II and III you will require knowledge of the Further Mathematics A Level course.

Although additional content is not actually needed to complete the paper,

the problems are much more challenging than those found in A Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics. Each question is worth 20 marks and may take between 30 minutes to one hour to solve, compared to A Level questions which take up to 15 minutes. However, it is very rewarding when you complete a STEP question because of the pure difficulty of the question, and often the solutions are very elegant in themselves.

Every Wednesday at lunchtime, a few other students and I review the STEP question(s) we have been working on during the previous week with Mr Tsang, who explains the solutions in depth. I have found that with STEP, the only way to improve is by completing lots of problems because you have to get a feel for the types of questions asked. I have felt that my mathematical problem-solving abilities have been significantly improved

by completing STEP questions, and I recommend that any Year 12 students who wish to study the mentioned subjects at the top universities focus on STEP questions to ensure they can fulfil the offer of their chosen university.

Zach Ward
Year 12

STANDARD STEP QUESTION

This is a typical STEP I question set for the first part:

Show that

$$\int \ln(2-x) dx = -(2-x)\ln(2-x) + (2-x) + c$$

where $x < 2$

What would you choose to do? What is the most efficient and effective method to tackle this opening part of an integration question in STEP?

The answer is that it is much easier if you differentiate both sides rather than trying to use integration by part, as is the standard process for integrating a natural log.

Readers may be interested in differentiating

$$\frac{d}{dx} [-(2-x)\ln(2-x) + (2-x) + c]$$

where c is a constant, to check the required result.

Mr E Tsang
Teacher of Mathematics

MATHEMATICIAN SPOTLIGHT: NICCOLÒ FONTANA TARTAGLIA (1499-1557)

Tartaglia was a mathematician and an engineer most famous for his solution to a general cubic equation, referred to as the "Cardano-Tartaglia formula".

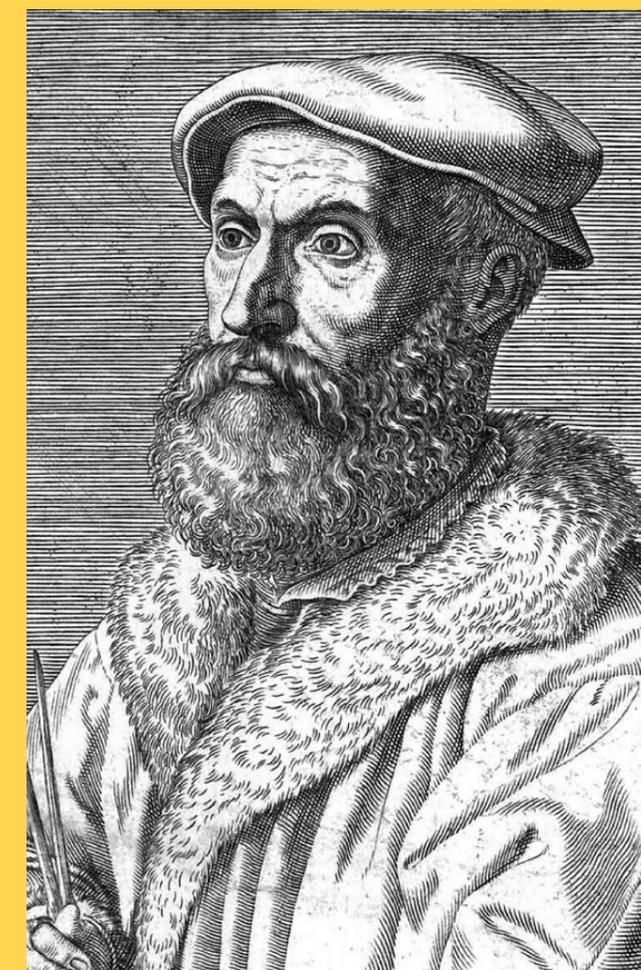
Niccolò Fontana was the son of Michele Fontana, a dispatch rider who travelled to neighbouring towns to deliver mail. In 1506, Michele was murdered by robbers, and Niccolò, his two siblings, and his mother were left impoverished. Niccolò experienced further tragedy in 1512 when King Louis XII's troops invaded Brescia during the War of the League of Cambrai against Venice. The militia of Brescia defended their city for seven days. When the French finally broke through, they took their revenge by massacring the inhabitants of Brescia. By the end of battle, over 45,000 residents were killed. During the massacre, Niccolò and his family sought sanctuary in the local cathedral, but the French entered and a soldier sliced Niccolò's jaw and palate with a saber and left him for dead. His mother nursed him back to health but the young boy was left with a speech impediment, prompting the nickname "Tartaglia" ("stammerer"). After this he would never shave, and grew a beard to camouflage his scars.

There is a story that Tartaglia learned only half the alphabet from a private tutor before funds ran out, and he had to learn the rest by himself. Be that as it may, he was essentially self-taught. He and his contemporaries, working outside the academies, were responsible for the spread of classical works in modern languages among the educated middle class.

Tartaglia is perhaps best known today for his conflicts with Gerolamo Cardano. Cardano cajoled Tartaglia into revealing his solution to the cubic equations by promising not to publish them. Tartaglia divulged the secrets of the solutions of three different forms of the cubic equation in verse. Several years later, Cardano happened to see unpublished work by Scipione del Ferro who independently came up with the same solution as Tartaglia. As the unpublished work was dated before Tartaglia's, Cardano decided his promise could be broken and included Tartaglia's solution in his next publication. Even though Cardano credited his discovery, Tartaglia was extremely upset and a famous public challenge match resulted between himself and Cardano's student, Ludovico Ferrari. Widespread stories that Tartaglia

devoted the rest of his life to ruining Cardano, however, appear to be completely fabricated and Mathematical historians now credit both Cardano and Tartaglia with the formula to solve cubic equations.

Mr M Dowding
Head of Mathematics



SLICES OF PI: MATHEMATICS AT WHSB

A LEVEL MATHEMATICS COVERED IN KEY STAGE 3

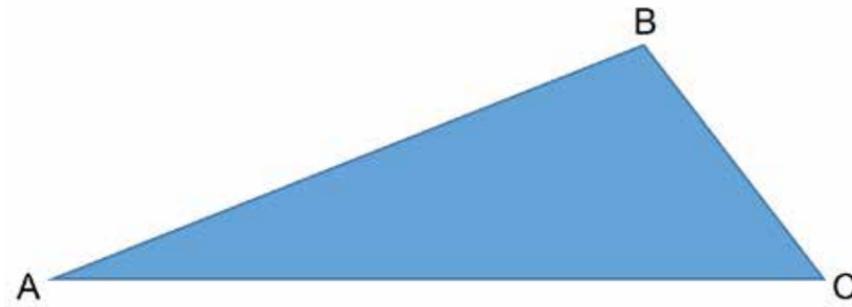
Readers of the Westcliff Diary may be interested to know what is so special about the new Linear A Level Mathematics and how it is different from the modular system. Please consider the problem below.

In triangle ABC, $AB = 4$ cm, $BC = (x+2)$ cm and $AC = 7$ cm. See diagram on the right.

Explain how you know that $1 < x < 9$.

Students should know something about the lengths of a triangle in Key Stage 3 or 4 by practical drawings before any generalisation of result. The emphasis of the new linear A Level Mathematics syllabus is about using and applying a candidate's knowledge and understanding to solve unfamiliar problems.

Most of the old-style questions in



the modular syllabus were simply regurgitations of information. Some questions were quite predictable, especially in old C1 module. Students knew what to expect when they practised several past C1 exam papers.

The new linear examination system is challenging in the sense that it expects students to have a deeper understanding of the contents.

Readers may be interested in working out

the answer to the triangle problem. I shall provide the solution in the next issue.

Alternatively, our current Year 8 pupils are completing work on loci and constructing shapes. They should be aware of under what conditions it is possible to construct a triangle.

Mr E Tsang
Teacher of Mathematics

THE LITERATI: ENGLISH AT WHSB

ENGLISH SPEAKING UNION – SOUTH ESSEX FINAL

Following our immense success in qualifying for the South Essex Heat, the Westcliff ESU Team worked incredibly hard in advance of the next competition. The team rehearsed almost every lunchtime, making thoughtful edits to the Speaker's speech and improving upon the prepared materials of the Questioner and Chairman. The entire Team pulled together and were clearly driven to achieve further success in the next round.

Held at Anglia Ruskin University, the South Essex Heat was as competitive as we had hoped and we had the privilege of listening to some extremely powerful speeches. Delivering, once again, his speech on "Does mental health in schools get the attention it deserves?" Ethan Locke was ever the professional and delivered his speech with gravitas. This being a controversial topic, Ethan had been well-prepared by his team mates to handle questions from the audience with grace and wit, seemingly having them all on his side by the end of his speech.

Attached to another Speaker, as per the structure of the ESU competitions, our Questioner (Louis Connor) and Chairman (James Pearson) also had an air of professionalism about them and worked graciously with their new speaker in order to help them give the best speech possible. This is an element of the ESU that truly aligns with our ethos at Westcliff in terms of being collaborative and supportive, as whilst Schools compete against one another, they must also work together and champion one another in order to gain maximum points; this makes for a very moving atmosphere when you bear witness to young people working together with such maturity and etiquette.

Sadly, our Team was narrowly beaten to first place and therefore did not qualify for the Regional Heats. However, this is the furthest Westcliff has reached in the ESU for many years and I was overwhelmed with pride watching the Team perform. We did, however, manage to win the coveted accolade of Best Speaker, which Ethan won for a second time, further proving his talent for public speaking.

The following article details Year 10 pupil Louis Connor's experience of taking part in the ESU competition.

Miss C Bailey
Teacher of English

ENGLISH SPEAKING UNION – LOCAL ROUND: A RETROSPECTIVE

Nothing was as satisfying as the night of the local heat round of this competition.

Despite some of us not competing in the ESU (English Speaking Union) in previous years, all of us were reasonably comfortable as it was hosted at our School, Westcliff High School for Boys. In Team 1, were Louis Connor (Year 10 - Questioner), James Pearson (Year 10 - Chairman) and Ethan Locke (Year 11 - Speaker). In Team 2, were Haran Loganathan (Year 11 - Questioner),

Sinmiloluwa Omotayo (Year 10 - Chairman) and Toby Linsell (Year 10 - Speaker).

Once the programme began, the Chairman and Questioner of one team would be grouped with a Speaker from a different school, and the Speaker who was no longer in that group would be grouped with another Chairman and Questioner from a different school. The Chairman would give an introduction for approximately two minutes, highlighting key points for the audience. Subsequently, the Speaker would propose their perspective on a topic chosen from a range of different and unique topics, team one's topic being "In the 21st century, anyone's war is everyone's war" and team two's topic being "Does mental illness in school children get the attention it deserves?". Whilst delivering their ideas for five minutes, the Questioner prepares a series of questions for the Speaker to answer over a period of four minutes, following which the Chairman allows time for any questions from the audience, finishing with a short summary.

Eventually, after hours of anticipation, the top-scoring team was announced, consisting of Ethan Locke, James Pearson and Louis Connor.

After taking part, I can say that the ESU competition has broadened my perspective on opportunities within the School, and especially within the English Department as the ESU has sparked an interest for me in speaking publicly, and in the power and responsibility that a Speaker holds. This includes how one is able to move, influence and emotionally connect with an audience in order to speak on important matters, or to propose an idea. The ESU competition has demonstrated this perfectly and encouraged me to learn more in this area.

Louis Connor
Year 10

THE PICTURE OF DORIAN GRAY: A RETROSPECTIVE

On Wednesday 13 March 2019, 30 students in Years 9 to 12 saw *The Picture of Dorian Gray* at the Palace Theatre in Westcliff-on-Sea. The play provided them the opportunity to gather more of an understanding of Gothic Fiction, which they are studying as part of their GCSE and A Level studies.

The play presented the decision made by one man to keep his looks forever, and the risks and reactions to this decision. In a world where society emphasises beauty,

Gray had to decide whether to take the opportunity to stay as he currently is, or to age gracefully.

Whilst a portrait is being painted of Gray, he thinks about the possibility of keeping the looks that are painted on the canvas. He is granted that opportunity, and, having sold his soul, he is able to keep the looks he appreciates at the current moment.

That decision would, however, turn against him, as his poor decisions going forward would become something he would regret, and he would age as a result of these choices. Whilst he does not seem guilty to begin with, his thoughts take over, and we see the culmination of the poor decisions he makes through the play...

All in all, this was a well-presented classic piece of theatre which the students enjoyed and they were able to identify the Gothic tropes and themes which continued throughout.

THE HOUSE ON COLD HILL: A RETROSPECTIVE

On Monday 1 April 2019, 30 students in Years 9 to 12 saw *The House on Cold Hill* at the Palace Theatre in Westcliff-on-Sea. The play afforded the students the opportunity to engage in literature in a dynamic way.

The play revolved around the difficulties of moving house... a trial which occasionally throws up some unpleasant surprises! A rundown Georgian mansion was the choice of the Harcourt family, and it appears that there are strange happenings in and around the area. The local villagers appear too familiar with the unusual events, and seem to be hiding some crucial information.

Whilst ghost stories have been around for a long time, this story takes a more modern twist, one which features 21st Century inventions at the heart of the story. The story itself, written by Peter

James, is a new interpretation of the genre, and is able to engage audiences with its links to modern-day life in Britain.

Overall, the play was a thrilling watch, and everyone was treated to a shocking and engaging experience!

Mr S Lilley
Teacher of English

WORLD BOOK DAY

Thursday 7 March 2019 saw WHSB engage in an array of World Book Day activities as pupils participated in activities to raise awareness of the importance of reading. Pupils engaged in a book character treasure hunt, seeking out members of staff wearing stickers depicting famous and unique literary characters. Staff were invited to recommend and discuss their favourite or most inspirational book and to make mock-up book cover posters listing inspirational titles to display on their classroom doors for pupils to see.

By and large, the importance of World Book Day is now met with scepticism and a mild concern about rehashing last year's fancy dress costume, but World Book Day is important. You should not be fooled; it is not a day about fancy dress - that is just a marketing ploy to get people talking about what they have read, instilling in the very young excitement and the pride of reading. World Book Day's mission is yet more important than that, and because of this, it recognised in over 100 countries worldwide. It is UNESCO-supported and the focus is to reawaken reading as something to enjoy, rather than simply as a study tool, no matter what you enjoy reading. To remember how to enjoy imagining and how social progress is only truly limited by our own imagination.

As CEO of the Reading Agency, Miranda McKearney, said: "Currently, the debate about the value of reading in people's lives has become very narrow, focussing

Continued overleaf



obsessively on the role of schools and literacy skills. Instead we need a frame which embraces reading's role in people's growth, creativity and well-being in the widest possible sense, where getting people reading is the business of a whole range of agencies, not just schools. If different people, including young professionals, understand the wider role of reading in people's lives we will build a new, much more effective and holistic approach."

In short, we need to be reminded of how wonderful a gift it is to read for pleasure, and you are the future young professionals of whom McKearney is speaking.

And this returns us to the moral obligation we have to read. Several teachers at WHSB have worked in countries where children have walked (literally) miles to learn to read, to be able to better their understanding of the world in which they live so that they may better effect change in that world. But children do not learn to read from text books and instruction manuals – they learn to read through story books. Their understanding of language and syntax and rhetoric, and the weight and power of words, comes from the literature they read and the stories that inspire them. Those books and those words, through the development of understanding, inspire new sciences, new politics and new philosophies as those children grow into adulthood.

And so the cycle begins again, and we look to the future through the eyes of our youth.

We, as a community at WHSB, are blessed. We live and work in what the education specialist, Jeff Barton, calls 'a word-rich culture'. And not just a word-rich culture in English, but in an array of languages. We are surrounded, daily, with opportunity to expand our minds... and it is our moral duty to ensure that we continue to do that. It is what people have campaigned for, what they have died for, what children around the world right now, this second, are trudging arduously towards, and to what some children, even in the country in which we live, will remain alien. Indeed, the Reading Agency



suggests that, in the UK, over 700,000 young people age 16 and under do not have access to a book at home. That is any book – not an academic one or an 'important' one – literally, any book. It is little wonder, then, that the average reader of the most popular newspaper in the UK, The Sun, has a reading age of 9.

It only serves to further highlight the point our School is making... reading is important. But it is not just important in a general, lofty, 'not-applicable-to-me' sense, but in a 'we are privileged and have opportunity before us' sense.

As we look back on the success of World Book Day at WHSB, we would ask you all to remember the importance of reading and to take the time tonight, before you flick on your various 'do the imagining for me machines', to reflect on the importance of World Book Day and, perhaps, pick up that book you love to read just one more time.

Our thanks to all staff and students who participated and helped make World Book Day the success it was, and particular congratulations to our competition winners who have been gifted a £20 Waterstones voucher.

Miss S McGowan
Key Stage 4 English Co-ordinator

TEACHING NEW DOGS OLD TRICKS

Pedagogy is the theory, science or technique of teaching or learning. There are many ways to teach and instruct and one method is the academic lecture style. Year 11 experienced this style when they received a whole week of lectures based on the classic text *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens.

Led by Mr Frank Keenan OBE and Mr T Keenan, Year 11 were given an incisive and academic experience to help them prepare for the Literature Paper 1 examinations. Mr Keenan Snr led with authority, given that he has lectured the text at university previously, and Mr Keenan Jnr was able to use his passion and subject knowledge regarding the novel to connect the story, not just to the methods of the writer but to higher level comparative contextual ideas, such as the clear links to Dickens' perspectives, the democratisation of the novel, Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* and Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. The pupils received a detailed accompanying booklet and were

brilliantly engaged for proved to be a different challenge to those with which they are familiar.

This series will undoubtedly help the pupils when they reach higher levels of education and a lecture series for *Romeo and Juliet*, as well as *The History Boys*, will be led by Miss McGowan and Miss Bailey respectively in due course.

Mr T Keenan
Key Stage 3 English Co-ordinator

BIBLIOPHILES

Bibliophiles unite in E29 every half term to vociferously debate the various literary merits of a book we have all read. Not prepared to shy away, Year 12 students dived straight in and elected Nabokov's classic *Lolita* as their first text. A highly divisive and challenging text, students and staff alike discussed both the social message, the depiction of moral decay and the grotesque likeability of Humbert Humbert and the horror he evokes in the reader.

Eventually, after many intellectual, friendly and heated exchanges, conversations turned to Nabokov's ability to write with such fluidity and aplomb in several languages and, swiftly, discussion developed into discussing the ability of other canonical writers to translate, transmute and create across language barriers.

Further to this, Book Club turned its attention to *The Catcher in the Rye*. Discussions were again heated and centred around the central protagonist, but interesting ideas were shared, interrogating a Marxist reading and where we can see elements of this culture in contemporary society. We closely interrogated Holden's catchphrase 'phony' and ascertained the degree to which we are all, in some ways at least, 'phony'.

Of interest, also, was the semiautobiographical nature of the text and Salinger's refusal to allow *Catcher* to be turned into a film, as well as the myth surrounding it as the novel that prompted the assassination of Beatles legend John Lennon and the attempted assassination of President Ronald Reagan.

We look forward to seeing you at our next book club meeting, on Wednesday 22 May at 3.45pm in E29, to discuss *Carry on Jeeves*.

Miss S McGowan
Key Stage 4 English Co-ordinator

RSME BOAT SCHOOL: A RETROSPECTIVE

On Thursday 21 March 2019, some of the Year 9 Army and Royal Navy cadets took part in the CCF Field Day to RSME Boat School and RE Museum. We had to be on the coach by 8.30am, and when we arrived we were told that the group was to be split into two by the register. The first group had the opportunity to go on the boats first, while the second group was shown equipment used on the boats.

The equipment we viewed included flares, different varieties of lifejackets, safety dinghies, as well as other items. At the end of his talk, the instructor set off one of the flares so we could see what a flare looks like when being set off. Afterwards, we changed into the kit required for the boats. This included lifejackets, helmets, gloves and water-tight clothing.

There were two boats – the CSB and the Rigid Raider. The first boat that I went on was the slower of the two, the CSB. The pilots sailed around at high speed, with us on board, and we sailed right behind another boat causing our boat to rock about before hitting the water and getting us soaked. When we returned, we got into the faster of the two boats. On this boat, they showed us high-speed manoeuvring which tipped the boat, getting us wet as we sat facing the front with our feet either side. I was on the left side so when there were high-speed left turns my left foot got soaked.

We then got back onto the coach and headed to the Royal Engineers Museum. When we got to the museum, we looked around the outside displays, which included a range of tanks and armoured support vehicles. Once inside, the



museum covered many interesting battles including the battles in Afghanistan, the World Wars and Rorke's Drift, with the exhibitions dating back to the formation of the regiment in 1717. The Museum is Kent's largest military museum with highlights including Wellington's map of Waterloo, Zulu War weapons, amazing bridge-laying tanks, a Harrier Jump Jet, a large section of the Berlin Wall and an enormous V2 Rocket. The museum also houses the largest collection of Victoria Cross (VC) Medals in the world. The VC is the highest and most prestigious award of the British honours system, awarded for gallantry in the face of the enemy. As well as the collection of VC medals, each recipient generally had a collection of other prestigious awards, the attached stories from which showed just how

personal war becomes. It was a very interesting experience and I had a great time while I was there.

Thomas Palmer
Year 9



COMBINED CADET FORCE

BIENNIAL INSPECTION AND ANNUAL CCF MESS DINNER

Friday 26 April 2019

WHSB CCF will be hosting regular Royal Navy Officer, Captain Ian Cull, to inspect the CCF during the Biennial Review of the Contingent on 26 April 2019. The inspection is part of the Biennial Programme and will include demonstrations of the CCF at training, static displays, a formal parade and the CCF's Annual Mess Dinner.

There will be a series of demonstrations for parents who wish to come and visit from 2.00pm and a formal parade at 4.00pm for all CCF cadets and any guests who wish to attend.

We will also be holding our Annual CCF

Mess Dinner that evening, commencing at 6.00pm for 6.30pm. This is a formal military tradition and is an excellent opportunity for cadets to take part in a formal event showing a different side of the Armed Forces, and for parents to recognise and be a part of the celebration of the CCF's achievements during the year.

Tickets are available on TicketSource at the price of £35 per person including soft drinks and we invite as many as would like to attend.



CCF PASS OFF PARADE

Friday 28 June 2019, 4.00pm

The CCF will hold its annual Pass Off Parade on Friday 28 June at 4.00pm. It will be an opportunity to award promotions and prizes in advance of Summer Camps and to celebrate the achievements of the cadets across the year. Tickets are available via TicketSource.

ARMED FORCES DAY PARADE

Saturday 29 June 2019, 10.45am

The CCF will be sending a group of cadets to the Southend Armed Forces Day Parade to acknowledge and pay tribute to the work of our Armed Forces. The Contingent will join other uniformed units, marching into Victoria Circus in Southend at 10.45am on Saturday 29 June for those who wish to watch.

VISIT TO QINETIQ: A RETROSPECTIVE

On Thursday 21 February, WHSB CCF cadets visited QinetiQ Shoeburyness on Foulness Island. Both Army and Navy cadets left before the start of the School day in a minibus to travel to the base. When we arrived at the base, we were led to a conference room by our guide and were introduced to the nature of the QinetiQ site. After the presentation, we were shown some of the technology available at the facility. In particular, we were able to use high-speed cameras to measure the velocity of gun shells. In addition, all of the cadets kicked a ball into a net, while the rest of the cadets recorded the results taken using the software of the facility. This was a thoroughly enjoyable experience for all cadets.

Following this we were shown around the base where we gained a greater insight into the work of QinetiQ. Later in the day, all cadets participated in the Trebuchet Challenge. The Challenge involved the use of makeshift trebuchets in order to knock down targets. Everyone had to make sure they applied the correct counterweights and angles in order to knock down the targets. Overall, the trip was thoroughly enjoyable and presented a great opportunity for pupils to be intellectually curious.

*William Wadeson
Year 10*



CCF EXERCISE PHOENIX CADET CONCENTRATION EVENT AT RSME BOAT SCHOOL, CHATHAM

Wednesday 15 May 2019

The CCF will once again enter the Cadet Concentration event at the Royal School Military Engineering Boat School in Chatham, during which they will compete with other Contingents in a series of engineering and leadership tasks. They will also have the opportunity to experience some of the Royal Engineer's boats.

*Major JJ Bleakley
Contingent Commander*



FIELD DAYS TO HMS BITER

Monday 13 - Tuesday 14 May 2019

The WHSB Royal Navy CCF Section has an exciting itinerary planned for the Summer Term. The first field days will take place on 13 and 14 May in Portsmouth to undertake training on a P2000, HMS Biter - an Archer Class patrol and training vessel in service with the Royal Navy. These are fast training boats, and our cadets will undergo a number of activities on the Solent, learning how to manoeuvre, skipper and man such a vessel.

ROYAL NAVY SUMMER CAMP

11-15 June 2019

The second trip will constitute our annual RN Summer Camp. Once again, we will be heading to Portsmouth, staying on HMS Bristol from 11-15 June. The activities planned include a range of shore-based leadership tasks and physical drills at HMS Excellent, finishing the week with an overnight sail to Cowes, Isle of Wight, on RN Swans and yachts. Whilst we cannot promise the digs will be comfortable, it will be an experience on which our cadets will reminisce in years to come.



ARMY SECTION SUMMER CAMP

13-20 July 2019

The annual CCF Summer Camp will be held at Barrybudden near Dundee in Scotland from Saturday 13 July to Saturday 20 July 2019. This will be the Contingent's first visit to a Summer Camp outside of England since our inauguration in 2012. The camp is run by regular army soldiers, mainly drawn from the Cadet Training Teams that specialise in training cadets, together with the School's CCF staff, and it provides a varied week of activities with a military theme. The training packages on offer include military skills (patrolling, ambush drills, close quarter battle, fighting in built-

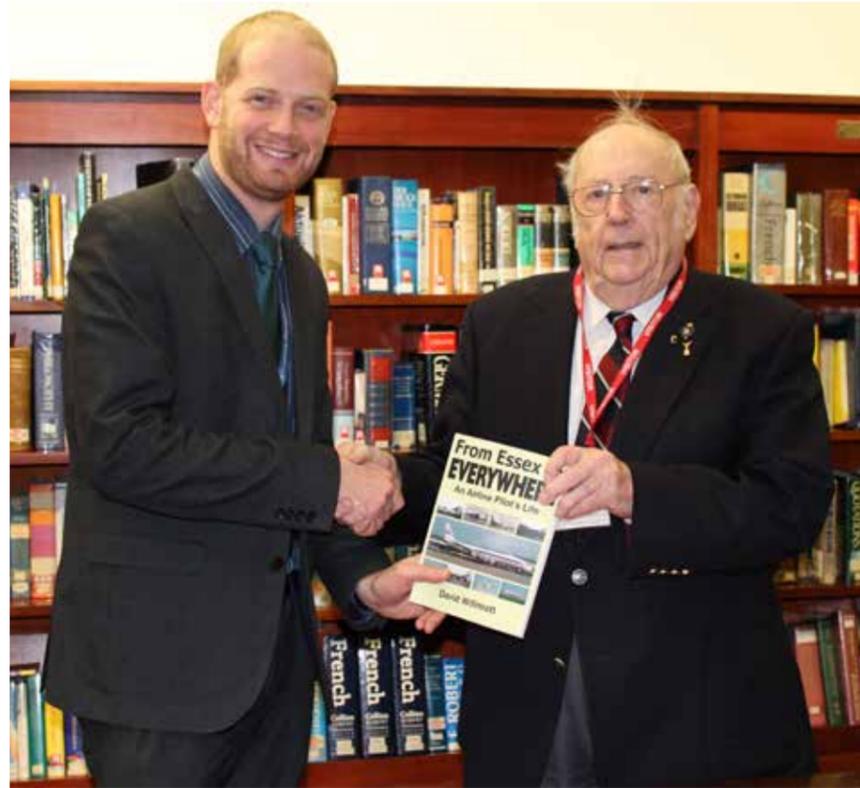


up areas, tactics in woods and forests, section attacks and platoon attacks), shooting, a Contingent field exercise, and competitions against the other schools on camp.

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

*Major JJ Bleakley
Contingent Commander*





ALUMNI VISITS AND DONATIONS TO THE SCHOOL

We were delighted to welcome Old Westcliffian, David Willmott (1945-1952) back to the School recently. David visited with his wife, Lorraine, to donate a copy of his autobiography *From Essex to Everywhere* to the School Library. His autobiography details his life as an Airline Pilot flying all over the world and it promises to be a fascinating read.

ALUMNI OUTREACH: WELCOME TO YEAR 13 LEAVERS 2019!

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

knowledge, experience and skills that you may like to share with pupils still at school.

This year's Leavers are invited to attend the OWA Annual Reunion Dinner on Friday 6 September 2019. Taking place in the School Hall, tickets for the three course dinner are priced very reasonably at £17.50 for Year 13 Leavers and can be booked online at <https://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/>.

A further reunion event will be arranged in December for this summer's Year 13 Leavers. This will be an informal get-together in the Sixth Form Centre taking place towards the end of the Autumn term, date to be advised, and an opportunity to collect examination certificates and meet up with members of staff and contemporaries. Complimentary refreshments will be available.

All former students are encouraged to join the Westcliff High School for Boys Alumni Network and Old Westcliffian Association (OWA) which are free for Year 13 Leavers. All we need is a non-School email address for you and your permission to be contacted by us after you have left the School. Sign up forms will be distributed at the start of the Summer Term and should be completed and returned to the CDO Team as soon as possible. For further information please come and see us in the Community Development

Office (E18) or email us at community@whsb.essex.sch.uk. We look forward to welcoming you to the WHSB Alumni Community and keeping in touch!

LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOL OUTREACH: SCIENCE ROADSHOWS

Each year, a new team of Year 12 students take all the fun of science to local Year 5 children in their primary schools, encouraging them to enjoy this key core subject. This year, the team welcomed back students now in Year 13, who had specifically requested to continue assisting in delivering this highly-rewarding Outreach Programme, introducing Physics, Chemistry and Biology to young and enquiring minds.

With the retirement of Mr Despres last summer, the Science Roadshow legacy has been restored with a new figurehead, Dr Machacek, Director of Sixth Form, who has enthusiastically delivered the sessions within our wider community. The waiting list has been as long as ever but primary schools including Fairways, Chalkwell Hall Juniors, Earls Hall, Rayleigh Primary, West Leigh Junior, Bournes Green, Edwards Hall and Darlington were all delighted to have secured these sought-after experiences.

'THANK YOU' FROM THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Finally, the Community Development Office would like to recognise all of the invaluable contributions from our Alumni, Old Westcliffian Association, staff, pupils and our wider local community. The events we organise and initiatives we implement in relation to the School's Careers Advisory, Alumni and Local Primary School Outreach programmes would not be possible without the help of those volunteers who assist and respond to our calls for help. If you feel you would like to offer your services in any capacity, please email community@whsb.essex.sch.uk.

*Mrs J Clarke and Mrs N Weller
Community Development Office*

OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

This year's Annual Reunion Dinner will be on Friday 6 September 2019 in the School Hall. Our guest speaker will be Roger Buxton. Roger has had a distinguished career in broadcasting, retiring as sports commentator on BBC Radio Essex. Roger is a popular after dinner speaker and is in great demand, which will, no doubt, augur well for another successful Dinner. This Dinner is the highlight of the OW year. If you have not been before, why not come along with some friends, or even make up a table? Details will be in the next newsletter, which is due to be published at the end of May. It should be



CAREERS EVENINGS AT WHSB

As ever, the Spring Term is one of our most exciting times of the year, when we welcome a number of guests to speak at our well-known careers evenings. Both the School community and the wider local community are invited and frequently attend in their hundreds. We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of time that people have given to us; speakers have included past pupils, professionals and experts in their field, two people having received OBEs this year.



Left-to-right: Ben Williams OBE, Stuart McCarthy OBE, Henry Madell, Headmaster

OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

noted that attendance is not restricted to members of the OWA but that all OWs are welcome. The booking form will be in the newsletter or places may be secured online via TicketSource. Tickets are priced at £29.50, or £17.50 if in full time education. I should add that there will be a raffle in aid of OWA funds. There will also be a cash bar at which cards will be accepted.

2020 is getting ever closer and we look forward to the launch of the School's Centenary celebrations on Saturday 1 February 2020 with a Gala Dinner at the Cliffs Pavilion. It would be great if the

OWA had a sizeable number supporting this headline event. Places may be booked via TicketSource. Please do not hesitate to contact me or the School if you require further information.

We have decided to change our subscription rates and to further categorize them. Those in full time education from Year 13 will be offered free membership. Those aged 30 and below will remain at £10, whilst those over 30 will increase to £20. This is, of course, a life fee, and is the first change to our fee structure for 15 years.

Our AGM is on Monday 15 July 2019 at the School, commencing at 7.00pm, and I would encourage members of the OWA to attend.

Lastly, I offer my thanks to our Chairman, the Headmaster, for his continuing invaluable support and to my fellow committee members.

*Terry Birdseye.
terry.birdseye@gmail.com*

CAREERS

become more environmentally-friendly. It was wonderful to be so supported by many female members of the audience, excited by a career within STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).

During National Science Week in March 2019, we once again hosted a Careers in STEM/Apprenticeships evening with speakers covering a variety of industry sectors, as well as offering up to date information on the ever evolving world of apprenticeships. All Year groups, their family, and friends are warmly invited to attend any of these events and, as the appetite for these events grows year upon year, we will continue to offer this service. Anyone that would like to participate and contribute to our programme should contact weltern@whsb.essex.sch.uk.



Left-to-right: Andrew Fraser, Steve Houghton, Jon Leong, David Ginn

CAREERS

CAREER PATHWAYS AT WHSB

The career pathways of choice at WHSB tend to fall into three key categories: Banking/Finance, Medicine and Engineering. With the increasingly swift evolution of technology within the majority of business sectors, however, some of our students are exploring other directions, becoming more aware of how the job market may look when they conclude their studies and Higher Education. Following an internal School survey of Year 10 pupils in 2018, it emerged that many diverse industries are now of interest, in addition to the core fields. These include Art, Design, Technology, Law, Government (M15, M16 & GCHQ), Armed Forces and Entrepreneurs. Within the Medical sector, our pupils are also changing their focus, specifically towards Cardiology, Paediatrics, Dentistry, Physiotherapy, Anaesthesiology, Neurology, Psychiatry and General Practice.

Such diversity is so refreshing and shows a maturity and clarity with which our young people are now carefully considering their options, and how they can make a positive impact in our society. It remains

an absolute privilege and pleasure to work with and support such enquiring minds.

WORK EXPERIENCE AT WHSB

The Summer Term always brings not only imminent examinations, but also the exciting world of work experience for our Year 11 pupils. Once their GCSEs are finalised and the last paper has been completed, the pupils look to attend one or more work placements during the summer, kindly offered by local businesses, contacts further afield, and former students wishing to support the School. Positions in the City are always rare but in huge demand. If your workplace would be happy to accommodate our students from both Years 11 and 12, I would be pleased to hear from you – any industry sector would be appreciated. Please email wellern@whsb.essex.sch.uk if you may be able to offer this opportunity to one or more of our students, and we would be delighted to provide you with further details.

AND FINALLY...

For the third consecutive year, the Year 10 Enrichment Day in July will be careers focused. The feedback from the previous two years has been

overwhelmingly successful and positive, so we are therefore facilitating more guests and volunteers than ever, to enrich our pupil's minds. Mock interviews are consistently popular with the boys and volunteers alike, and this year we will be introducing the 'Ones to Watch' awards, for which our guests will vote. Five pupils will be identified who have impressed and made the most positive impact during their 'interviews', not only with their academic abilities, but also their attitude, preparation and overall conduct. We are delighted to welcome business professionals, former students, STEM Ambassadors and local Industry Champions, without whom we would be unable to arrange these days of enlightenment, fun and interaction. If you feel you would like to be part of this annual tradition and are available for the full school day on Friday 5 July 2019, please email me on wellern@whsb.essex.sch.uk.

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

SOUTHEND UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL MEDICAL SEMINAR: A RETROSPECTIVE

February 2019 saw the return of the Southend University Hospital Careers in Medicine seminar and WHSB was pleased to be selected to attend, taking 22 aspiring medical students. The goal of the presentation was to give students a realistic and informative idea of what an application to medicine entails and also what they should expect during and after University. The event was filled by local pupils (aged 16-17) from a range of schools and backgrounds in the local area.

Ten medical professionals spoke from experience, all representing different stages and pathways within the medical industry. An introduction was given by Michael Salter and then a speech by Jack Johnstone (fifth year student at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry) who was succeeded by a multitude of different expert speakers, including Duncan Powrie and Emma Gray from SUH. There were a range of views from Junior Doctors to GPs and resident Consultants at the Hospital. The range of their skill set allowed for an informative and engaging experience and much was learned.

Additionally, pathways to medicine which potentially are not as well-known were elaborated upon and investigated. Options were also discussed for any person keen on studying medicine but unfortunately failing to gain the necessary and predicted grades. This was helpful, as some alternatives were discussed which acknowledged the significant competition for University places to study Medicine and it provided some solutions. The

new Anglia Ruskin University School of Medicine in Chelmsford – which pledges to give 25% of places to local inhabitants – was also discussed and advertised.

Jason Thomas Antwi-Dicson (Year 12), said "The SUH medical day was a great event and set clear any doubts that may have been formerly held by participants. I would strongly advise any Year 11 or 12 students who are interested in medicine to consider attending the event next year".

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



PA SUPPORT FOR DRAMA AT WHSB

The Parents' Association was delighted to be able to support the Drama Department at WHSB at the School's recent production of *Guys and Dolls*. Running a Prosecco Bar and selling ice cream on each performance night raised over £650 for the School. Thank you to everyone who supported us.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL RACE NIGHT 2019

A great crowd gathered in the Sixth Form Building in March for the Parents' Association's Annual Race Night. A good time was had by all, with many lucky race-goers walking away with handsome winnings and luxury raffle prizes after an extremely successful 'Night at the Races'! We would like to thank all those members of our School Community, their family and friends who attended for their generosity – over £300 was raised for the School. The Race Night is always an extremely popular event so please come and join us next year for what always proves to be a fun-packed and highly competitive evening for the entire family!

WAITROSE COMMUNITY MATTERS LEIGH-ON-SEA STORE

Each month, every Waitrose & Partners branch donates £1,000 (£500 in Convenience shops) between three local good causes that the community chooses. Since its launch in 2008, the scheme has donated over £30 million to good causes in store and online. WHSB Parents'



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Association has been chosen as one of the local charitable causes to benefit from the Waitrose Community Matters Scheme for April 2019 in the Leigh-on-Sea branch. When shopping in the Leigh branch, remember to collect a token to place in WHSB Parents' Association's box. The more tokens a cause gets, the bigger the donation they receive.

PIMM'S STALL AT THE SUMMER BIG BAND AND BBQ

We will be selling Pimm's, soft drinks and ice cream at the School's Summer Big Band and BBQ event on Friday 12 July 2019. During the evening, we will be holding our summer raffle in support of the School, with a seasonally-relevant grand prize. If any members of our School Community would be interested in sponsoring the prize or donating bottles of Pimm's in order to maximise the amount of money that can be raised for the School, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please e-mail the PA at pa@whsb.essex.sch.uk.



SCHOOL SPORTS DAY

The Parents' Association will be supporting the School and its Physical Education Department again this year at WHSB's Sports Day on Tuesday 9 July, serving refreshments and complimentary fruit. Ice creams and freshly-baked cookies will also be on sale. All proceeds will go to the School.

VILLAGE GREEN FESTIVAL 2019

This year, Metal Culture, the organisers of Southend's family festival, *Village Green*, are offering to donate £1 for every ticket sold to members of our School Community. Tickets need to be booked



using a specific link for Westcliff High School for Boys:

<https://www.skiddle.com/festivals/village-green/?skcampaign=whsboys>

The buying process is simple: using WHSB's link, customers select their tickets, choose their payment plan and place their order. Metal Culture will then transfer the total money raised from ticket sale donations to WHSB's Parents' Association after the event has taken place. Please note that this offer ends with the Early Bird discount which expires at midnight on 31 May 2019 so tickets must be purchased before then. Donations only apply to Adult and Teen tickets, as children go free! Don't miss out on the tenth year of Southend's best-loved arts and music festival, celebrating home-grown stars and international acts, with surprises and spectacles for every generation. For further information visit www.villagegreenfestival.com.

YOUR PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEEDS YOU!

In addition to the School's Sports Day and Summer Big Band and BBQ events, the Parents' Association will be serving refreshments at the performances of *Lord of the Flies* in May, the Year 5 Open Evening in June, and the House Drama Competition and Art, Craft and Design Exhibition in July. If you can spare some time to help on any of these occasions, please email us with your details (pa@whsb.essex.sch.uk) and we will be in touch. We look forward to hearing from you.

Mrs J Clarke
Chair of Parents' Association

MUSIC AT WHSB

SUMMER CHAMBER RECITAL

Thursday 2 May 2019, 7.30pm

The first concert of the term will feature the talent of the School's solo and small ensemble musicians. Pupils from all Year groups will take to the stage to perform in a range of styles and combinations of instruments. The concert will feature small ensembles such as the Saxophone Quartet and Vivace String Quartet, as well as soloists such as pianist Lenny Breeds and tenor Ben Dixon. The Chorale Scholars will be performing their own rendition of Bastille's hit *Pompeii*, and pianists George Jefferson and Edoardo Chidichimo look forward to playing an exciting arrangement for two pianos.

Tickets are free of charge for pupils and cost £5.00 for adults.

SUMMER SINFONIA CONCERT

Thursday 4 July 2019, 7.30pm

This term's orchestral concert starts with a bang: Rossini's *Overture to The Barber of Seville* is known around the world, due in no small part to Bugs Bunny and friends commandeering its cheeky melodies for various *Looney Tunes* cartoons. There is a levity to this music, as to be expected from a comic opera, but that does not mean Rossini tempers his flair for the dramatic. The piece's closing moments are a masterclass in thrilling composition, leading musicologists to coin the term 'Rossini Crescendo.' This will be followed by Alex Usher performing Weber's *Clarinet Concerto No. 2*, accompanied by the Sinfonia. This will be Alex's final performance as a soloist whilst a student at WHSB and is not to be missed.

The concert's second half will feature more extravagant programmatic music,



beginning with Smetana's *Vltava*. This music tells the story of the river Moldau (named Vltava in the Czech composer's tongue) as it winds through the countryside, passing farmer's fields, mermaid's dancing and proud castles. Rimsky-Korsakov's lively *Capriccio Espagnol* will close the concert, featuring various energetic dances from the varied landscapes and styles of Spain.

Tickets are free of charge for pupils and cost £5.00 for adults.

CENTENARY COMPOSITION COMPETITION

With the School's Centenary Celebrations commencing at the start of 2020 the WHSB Music Department is pleased to announce the Centenary Composition Competition. All members of the student body are invited to create a piece of music to commemorate the School's 100th birthday. The winning compositions will be performed by musicians of the School over the course of the Centenary Year, and will be preserved by the School to be performed at future celebrations. Details of the competition are as follows:

SUMMER BAND AND BBQ

Friday 12 July 2019, 7.00pm

An annual treat, this year's Summer Band and BBQ promises to be even more exciting than the last. Guests will be invited to sit outdoors to listen to bands and ensembles such as the Westcliff Choir and Sax Quartet performing popular and Jazz classics, ranging from Toto's *Africa* to Gershwin's *Summertime*, with burgers and sausages flipping on the grill all the while.

When the sun goes down, the audience will move to the Hall to enjoy the main event: This year, the Big Band have expanded their repertoire to include music by artists as diverse as The Blues Brothers, Bruno Mars and Miles Davis. Whatever your musical tastes, you can expect the Westcliff Big Band to provide you with a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Tickets are available on TicketSource at the cost of £14 for adults with food, £10 for pupils with food, £7 for adults without food and £4 for pupils without food.



- Entries can be written for any instrument or ensemble
- Entries can be any length, although entrants should be wary of padding a piece through repetition
- Entries can be in any style or genre
- Entries must in some way relate to the Centenary, the School and/or its history.

The following examples would qualify:

- A celebratory mood
- Programme music about a time in the School's history (such as old boys fighting in the Second World War)
- A song whose lyrics relate to the School in some way

The above rules mean that a 5-minute pop song about the School's founding, written for piano and voice, is just as eligible as a short celebratory fanfare for brass.

The composition is open to all current students from Year 7 to Year 13. The deadline for the competition is Friday 22 November 2019. Entries should be emailed to Mr Derrick at derrickt@whsb.essex.sch.uk. Budding composers needing advice should seek out Mr Derrick or Mr McGee, who will be happy to help or provide ideas.

A GUIDE TO PRODUCTIVE PRACTICE: REHEARSAL SEMINAR

Tuesday 21 May 2019, 3.45pm

As principal bass clarinetist for the National Youth Orchestra and recipient of the Southend Rotary Club's Young Musician of the Year Award, Alex Usher

(Year 13) has plenty of experience performing as an ensemble musician and as a soloist. Preparing for a performance is a key part of being a musician and, in this session, Alex will offer his experience and expertise to the musicians of WHSB. This workshop is aimed at woodwind and brass musicians, and will focus on improving aspects of performance, such as air support, tone quality and articulation.

MUSICOLOGY SEMINAR: THE COLOURS OF FILM MUSIC

Thursday 20 June 2019, 3.45pm

This term's Musicology Seminar will be presented by Edoardo Chidichimo in Year 12. Edoardo is fascinated by the emotive

effect of film music, and has spent time exploring and analysing the style. This research has led him to focus on the use of tonality and scales by composers such as John Williams in order to create specific moods and melodies that match the action on screen.

This seminar will be an exciting and in-depth journey through film composers' use of scales and modes, with particular focus on themes from films and television such as *Lord of the Rings*, *E.T.* and *The Simpsons*. This seminar should be of particular interest to students studying Music at GCSE and A Level, but all are welcome.

Mr T Derrick
Director of Music



VISIT TO THE CLIFFS PAVILION

Wednesday 8 May 2019, 7.30pm

On Wednesday 8 May there will be a local concert trip to the Cliffs Pavilion to hear the Band of Her Majesty's Royal Marines Collingwood perform.



The development of music in the Royal Marines is inextricably linked with the evolution of British military bands. Lively airs and the beat of the drum enabled columns of marching men to keep a regular step. The drum was the normal method of giving signals on the battlefield or in camp. As long ago as the days of Drake and Hawkins the drummer's rhythm would advertise the changing watches or beat the men to quarters. Royal Marine Drummers were first mentioned in the 1664 Convening Order, at the formation of Corps and so pride themselves as being the oldest Branch in the Corps.

Today, their uniform will be familiar to many of our students from their annual contribution to the National Service of Remembrance and they represent the pinnacle of military music in the UK.

Tickets are priced at £34 and are available through TicketSource.

Mr A McGee
Sixth Form Pastoral Tutor/Teacher of Music



THE HOUSE SYSTEM

HOUSE SYSTEM

It has been a busy start to 2019 for the House System with a huge range of events on offer to the pupils. New activities such as House Pokémon, Dungeons and Dragons, Countdown, Mathematics, Percy Jackson and Marvel have been very successful alongside more established events such as Geography, Photography, Harry Potter and Basketball, for example.

Year 8 pupils will become involved in House Drama in the Summer Term, which has become an annual tradition and involves the whole Year Group in some way. Each House will prepare a short play. Whether you are interested in acting, singing, playing an instrument, directing, producing, making props, lighting, designing a programme, then there will be a job for you. This will culminate in a Drama Festival extravaganza on the evening of Thursday 11 July 2019 from 7.00pm until 9.00pm where parents will be able to come and see the result. The performances will be judged by a panel and prizes will be given in the end of year House assembly. House points will be on offer for participation as well as for the final ranking.

Sports Day will take place on Tuesday 9 July for Years 7 to 10 and Year 12. Events, as always, will include 100m, 200m, 300m, 400m, 1,500m, relay, shotput, discus, hammer, javelin, long jump, high jump and triple jump. Again, House points will be awarded for the final rankings, as well as for participation. Please ensure that you sign up as soon as possible. Your Head of House will have a team sheet.

This is also a reminder that upcoming House events are promoted on the House notice board along with the most recent House Points totals. Thank you very much to everyone who has been involved



in House events this year and to those of you who have helped set up and run an activity. If you help run an event then your House will receive extra points.

*Mr R Barber
House System Coordinator*

HOUSE GOLF COMPETITION

Friday 7 June 2019, 4.30pm

The House Golf Event is a Lads and Dads tournament, where twosomes compete in Texas Scramble or Golfer Putter Pairs, as well as a staff competition played over 9 holes at Garon Park Golf Complex. Even though the headline is Dads and Lads, it could just as easily be Mums and Sons, Mums and Daughters, Grandads, Uncles or Aunts, or a family friend.

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

The event will take place at Garon Park Golf Complex on Friday 7 June. Tee-off times will be from 4.30pm.

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

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

Both competitions will be determined using the Stableford Points system, with

the lower golfer's handicap being used to calculate the points.

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

Bonus Competition: There will also be bonus points for 'Nearest the Pin' and 'Longest Drive', which played a crucial part in the overall standings last year.

We will be joined, once again, by Leigh Professional Golfer, Martin Foreman, and friends of the School, and members of the Old Westcliffians are also welcome to join the event and represent their House. The staff competition promises to be exciting this year, with Director of Sport, Mr Morrish, former 4 handicapper, joining forces once again with Mrs Mumford representing Harrier House. The competition is set to be tense in the Physical Education Department, with the dream team of Mr White and Mr Wright pairing up, whilst Mr Sexton also steps up to the tee as the leader of Merlin House.

Traditionally a close competition, participation is crucial to success in this activity and the cup tends to move around each year.

The cost of this event is £14.50 per head and will include tea/coffee/squash and biscuits at the end of the round. Please use TicketSource to indicate your participation. We look forward to seeing you there.

*Mrs K Mumford
Second Deputy Head*



SPORTING REVIEW

This term has seen the conclusion of the Rugby, Basketball and Football seasons. All three sports have enjoyed incredibly successful seasons. There were 137 competitive fixtures for sport at WHSB during the first two terms. When combined with the Autumn Term, the total number of fixtures for the year so far is 308, which demonstrates a superb attitude towards sport from our community. The outcomes are pleasing for the Department for a number of reasons. Ironically the actual outcomes, although fantastic, are not the aspects of performance that have most impressed the Department. We have witnessed the core values of WHSB continue to strengthen in our pupils' sport over the last term. It is important that pupils realise that the process of development in sport is constant, where incremental and sustained improvement is far more powerful than short term successes that are built on individual brilliance.

When there are strong foundations based on attitudes, values and behaviours, and then add individual brilliance, the results that can be achieved are special. WHSB has many truly gifted pupils across the entire spectrum of different School activities and subjects, from academic to expressive arts and sport. The pupils involved in sport at WHSB know that they are developing and realising their talent. They are encouraged to maximise this talent on a daily basis, both within lessons

and through extra-curricular pursuits. The pupils also experience their behaviour and attitude are developing on a weekly basis. I sense that they are excited and proud of what they have achieved, but also of what they are capable of achieving.

When reflecting on all areas of WHSB's sporting programme, we have improved on our performance last year in every sport. In Football, we have gone further in both the Borough and the South East Essex Cup across all Year Groups. This has been achieved through a combination of training and familiarity of both personnel within the team and the tactics that have been implemented. Our Rugby programme has seen several successes: Year 7 Essex Cup Runners Up, Year 8 County Champions, Year 8 County 7s Champions, and Year 9 Essex 7s Plate Winners. WHSB Basketball has reached the semi-finals in five out of six County Competitions with three teams making County Finals. These achievements are in addition to securing places in three Borough Finals and winning the Year 7 competition.

These successes are down to the attitude and behaviours of WHSB pupils. Pupils experience the clear correlation between attitude, work ethic and outcome in sport. As a Department, our aim is to give all pupils the opportunity to experience sport. This means that other sporting pursuits such as Table Tennis and Badminton at WHSB have also enjoyed entries in both inter and intra school competitions. It is excellent to see the



SCHOOL SPORT

increased and wider participation of WHSB pupils in physical activity.

The Department has been impressed with the degree to which the Saturday programme has continued to grow, not just in size but in the pride and attitude of WHSB pupils in representing their School on Saturdays when competing against other Schools across Essex. Based on the improvements this season, we look forward to further developments to the Saturday programme next year, with more pupils representing WHSB in Saturday sport. I would like to extend a thank you from the WHSB pupils to the Headmaster, Mr Williams and Mrs Mumford for supporting the sporting programme at WHSB in a multitude of ways, from facilitating pupils entering competitions to supporting our community both Home and Away, come rain or shine! It is something for which the pupils are most grateful, and which is very much appreciated by members of the Physical Education Department.

All of our successes would not be possible without the superb work of Mr White, Mr Sexton, Mr Atkinson Mr Morrish and Mrs Burden. With so many fixtures being played, both mid-week and on Saturdays, it is a very busy term; these are in addition to a Practice Timetable that provides opportunities across a multitude of sports every morning before School, at lunchtime and after School. Organising the transport and officials required for all of these fixtures is a vast task that falls to Mrs Burden, who is absolutely vital in ensuring that we can provide so many wonderful opportunities for pupils.

As the Summer Term begins, the sporting focus of the School changes to Athletics, Cricket and Tennis. As with all sports, the rewards for a sustained, consistent attitude to practise are clear. The more that you train, the more sustained the performance. There are a variety of fixtures already in the diary, not including the cup fixtures that will be arranged during the term. For sport at WHSB to be continually successful across both winter and summer pursuits, it is vital that the attitudes shown in the first two terms are maintained and the desire to improve and maximise talent continues to be present into our final term. If we do so, we can reflect positively and learn from that experience to go on to achieve greater sporting success in future years

*Mr T Morrish
Director of Sport*

SCHOOL SPORT

TABLE TENNIS BOROUGH CUP

The WHSB Key Stage 3 Table Tennis team recently competed in the annually-held Borough Cup and gave a good performance. They competed against players from St Thomas More, Belfairs, Chase High, SHSB and Eastwood Schools. The pupils representing WHSB (from left to right) were Joseph Hankey (Year 8), Aidan Riglin, Henry Man and Devan Chauhan (all Year

9). A particular commendation goes to Aidan who secured a place in the semi-finals.

Our Key Stage 4 Table Tennis team also competed in the Borough Cup, which was held at St Thomas More High School. Our team played against students from SHSB, Belfairs, Shoeburyness, Chase High and St Thomas More Schools. Even though all our players are in Year 10, they held their own in a very strong field of principally Year 11 pupils. Three of our team (Justus, Alex and Cho) secured a

place in the quarter finals. Our team (from left to right) was Justus Genthe, Todd Popplewell, Alex Stewart, Max Samuels, Peter Eriksson and Cho Man. Well done to both teams!

Table Tennis club is held each week on Fridays from 3.45pm to 5.00pm. All pupils from Years 7 to 11 are welcome.

*Mrs T Genthe
Teacher of German*



REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS

WHSB is fortunate to be a community that has seen some very talented pupils pass through its doors over the years. Currently, we are extremely lucky to have such talented sportsmen at WHSB and we are proud to be a part of their sporting journey so far. The boys will have heard Mr Morrish's favourite quote a great deal: "Hard work beats talent if talent does not work hard". This is a true testament to how our Department approaches sport and how the pupils have responded to this ethos.

Our performance in Basketball has been most positive this academic year and this has been due to a great sense of teamwork, mixed with some outstanding individual performances. Noah Louis (Year 8), Thomas Gribbon (Year 9) and Nathaniel Familusi (Year 10) have all represented the South East Region in Basketball. Additionally, Demi Adeyeye represented England superbly throughout the year and, as a result, has been selected to represent Great Britain this coming summer.

Jake Bausor and Hamza Termezi (Year 9) have both been selected to represent Essex in Rugby. Dylan Spink (Year 7) ran brilliantly at the Essex Schools' Cross-

Country Competition to earn a place in the Essex team for the upcoming English Schools' Cross-Country Competition. Daniel Atkinson (Year 12) has, yet again, been selected to represent England and Great Britain in Water Polo.

All of these are outstanding achievements and, as a School community, we are very proud to see how hard all of our pupils are striving to achieve excellence and look forward to similar performances during the Summer Term.

*Mr J Sexton
Teacher of PE*

BOROUGH SWIMMING GALA SUCCESS

On Wednesday 6 March, WHSB took part in the Borough Swimming Gala at Southend Leisure & Tennis Centre at Garon Park.

The day saw outstanding performances from all of our boys, in particular, Sam Miller and Jack Turrell, who won individual Gold medals in the Year 11 Backstroke and Freestyle, and Denzel Achi who achieved an individual Gold medal for the Year 9 Freestyle.

In the relay events, WHSB secured two Gold medals in the Year 10/11 Medley Relay, as well as the Year 10/11 Freestyle Relay.

WHSB finished the event in second place overall and came away with medals in 14 different events.

In addition, our swimming team competed at a regional level, with our senior team made up of Year 11 pupils, competing in a competition for Years 11,12 and 13. They achieved a place in the top 25, which stands them in good stead for future years and we are hopeful of another national final from the team.

Our Inters and Juniors all performed well, with some excellent performances, which were so much the better as some were experiencing the regional competition for the first time.

Director of Sport, Tom Morrish, said, "This is a fantastic achievement which shows the hard work and dedication of the pupils at WHSB. I am extremely proud."

*Mrs C Burden/Mr M Atkinson
TAA Supervisor/Sports Coach*



SCHOOL SPORT

RUGBY

WHSB has had another largely successful Rugby season. In Years 7 and 8, the commitment to the sport has been outstanding and this has been reflected in the results. The older teams have so much potential which we hope to fulfil during the next few years.

The Sixth Form took part in the Essex Merit League, which provides a programme of fixtures against a number of competitive schools. This programme facilitated regular games for our Sixth Form students and ensured that Rugby holds a great importance in the Upper School. The students have had to cope with a season where a number of members of the team have suffered injuries and this has impacted the continuity of the team. It has been pleasing to see the desire and commitment of the team during the games, and a shame to see some of the older boys play their last games for the School.

Year 9 has had a mixed year, and maybe has not quite fulfilled the undoubted potential the players have. This has been due to a slightly lethargic attitude to attendance at training, and the results have reflected that. As a Year Group they have great talent and, if that can be harnessed, then they will be extremely successful. A snapshot of this ability is their victory in the Essex Plate 7s competition, which demonstrated how talented they can be.

Year 8 pupils have followed on from their most impressive first year in School and remain undefeated, recently achieving the

title of Essex Champions. Their commitment to training has been outstanding and this has been reflected in the development of their skills. They have beaten some outstanding opponents over the course of the year, including notorious Rugby schools such as Trinity, Judd and Champion. The Physical Education Department are extremely proud of how the pupils have represented the School, not only in performance, but in character over the course of their first two years.

Year 7 has enjoyed a superb start to their time at WHSB, and have already achieved some excellent victories. The most pleasing aspect is their desire to improve and their commitment to School sport. They have also beaten some strong Rugby schools in the form of Champion, Gravesend Grammar, Colchester Royal Grammar School and KEGS. They reached the final of the Essex 7s competition, being narrowly beaten in the final with the last play of the match. Our Year 7 is now the second best School Rugby Team in Essex – an excellent achievement in their first year at WHSB.

Overall, Rugby at the School is improving greatly due to the excellent attitude and work ethic of pupils and the support of the staff. We must ensure, however, that all pupils continue to show the levels of determination and commitment of the current Year 7 and 8 pupils. If, as a School community, we do that, with the undoubted talent that pupils at WHSB have, then the positive performances and results will continue.

*Mr J White
Second in PE*



BASKETBALL

WHSB Basketball has had a thoroughly impressive season. At the time of printing, our Basketball season at WHSB was just coming to its crunch period where Borough Finals and County semi-finals were being played. WHSB reached three Borough Finals, beating Southend High School for Boys in the Year 7 Final. WHSB entered more teams than any other school in the finals. In the remaining two finals, WHSB narrowly lost to defending County Champions in both Year Groups

In our Essex Cup campaign, we have had our most successful year in history. We reached the knock-out stages in all Year Groups and reached the semi-finals in five out of six. WHSB is one of the top four schools in five categories for Basketball across Essex. It shows the strength and breadth of WHSB Basketball, as no other school in the County had more than three teams reaching a semi-final. These outcomes are as a consequence of the outstanding work ethic and desire to constantly improve personal and team performance. It is an incredible achievement.

Unfortunately, our previous Year 10 County Champions (now our current Year 11 team), narrowly lost in their semi-final to Shoebury. Missing the influential Nathaniel Familusi was always going to be tough, but the attitude of the pupils could not be faulted as they gave their all and only narrowly lost. This excellent performance is an example for all WHSB Basketball teams. An unexpected loss meant that WHSB qualified in second place in the group and consequently played the winners of another group, instead of a runner up in the same group. This is evidence of just how important a consistent attitude can be in sport and in life when the desire is to be successful.

Year 7 narrowly lost their County Final to King John School. This was a close match in which the pressures of playing in a County Final were felt by both teams. Until the final two minutes, WHSB leading by a point, however, a surge in momentum and some excellent play by King John School resulted in them scoring on three occasions, giving a total of seven points and this score proved unassailable. When the pupils reflect on this final, they will look back and acknowledge that, on this particular occasion, the pressure of playing in a Final got the better of them. This is one example of where reflection in sport is so valuable. The pupils will be able to use their reflections on this

set-back to motivate themselves to even greater heights.

Year 7 pupils should reflect on the season with nothing other than pride. Many team members had never played Basketball before September. They are now the best Year 7 team in the Borough and the second best team in Essex, which is an impressive achievement. They most certainly demonstrated that they are 'open to opportunity' and took that opportunity with both hands to practise and play Basketball for WHSB. They have had a fantastic debut season and I am sure they are looking forward to what they can achieve next season, with that same excellent work ethic and desire to improve that they have illustrated this season.

Year 8 has enjoyed a season of great success, achieving the title of Essex Cup Champions after defeating Beckett Keys 86-74 in the final. The team earned their way to the final after beating SHSB 69-40 in the semi-final. This showed great character and was a barometer of their progress from last year, as the team narrowly lost to SHSB in the semi-final of the Essex Cup when they were in Year 7. They have shown a fantastic attitude towards training, coupled with a commitment to the team and our School through their regular practise as a team. They have succeeded in remaining



undefeated in their Essex Cup campaign and are looking forward to entering the National Competition next season. This team enjoy their basketball immensely and that can be seen each of the matches that they play. We wish to acknowledge, in particular, Noah Louis who scored 52 points in the final. This was a truly remarkable achievement by a pupil who thrives on competitive challenges and leads the group by example.

Year 9 continues to have an excellent season. Unfortunately, the team lost in the Borough Final and the County semi-final to the same, very good, team. However, they have improved their performances as a group and came so close to winning in the County semi-final, narrowly losing by four points. That team then went on to win the County Final by 26 points! I am confident that the pupils will regroup for next season and look to further closing the gap on their rivals, and to winning. The Year 9 team has performed brilliantly in the National Cup Competition and, when the Westcliff Diary went to print, we were in the last 16 in the Country. This is an impressive achievement that reflects the pupils' talent and, more importantly, their determination.

Our Sixth Form team achieved the title of Essex Cup Champions in their first year

of entering the competition. The squad showed great commitment throughout the season and saved their best two performances for the semi-final and final. It was encouraging to see such positive energy and an absolute desire to do their best for our community. The team played brilliantly, beating FitzWimarc 83-32 in the semi-final, before repeating that performance by winning 86-78 against King John School in the County Final. The whole team played fantastically well across the season, but two, in particular, stand out: Demi Adeyeye and Joe Dunbar, who offered offensive threats from all areas of the court and defended with great awareness and athleticism. It was an absolute pleasure to be able to witness how much unity and team spirit this group of pupils have developed. I look forward to this team defending their title in next years' campaign.

The Physical Education Department has been most impressed with the focus that the pupils have shown in their training and the team cohesion that has developed across all Year Groups throughout the season as a result of consistently striving towards the expected standards that we set.

The journey that Basketball has made during the last three years at our School is truly remarkable. Four seasons ago,

only the Borough Basketball events were reached by Years 7 through to 11. Three seasons ago, Year 7 and 8 teams were entered into the Essex Cup. Neither team qualified from the group or reached a Borough Final. Last season, five teams entered into the Essex Cup, reaching four County semi-finals, with one County Champion; our Year 10 team. We also reached four Borough Finals, with our Year 7 team winning. This season, six teams entered the Essex Cup, with all six progressing to the knock-out stages, five out of six reaching a semi-final, and three making a County Final. This journey perfectly illustrates the sporting talent we have within our community. It also shows how successful we can be at sport when our community applies that talent. It has been a fantastic journey so far and one which is yet in its infancy and in which our entire School community feels involved.

Although the Basketball season is coming to its conclusion, it is most important that we begin next season from where we left the last. By starting from this level, we give ourselves the best opportunity of greater success for WHSB in the Basketball season next year.

Mr T Morrish
Director of Sport





CALENDAR FOR SUMMER TERM 2019

Tue 23 April	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY	15 - 16 June	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Practice Weekend
Wed 24 April	SUMMER TERM BEGINS, 8.45am	19 - 22 June	Silver Duke of Edinburgh Assessment
Thu 25 April	Dr Gould Lecture, 4.00pm	Thu 20 June	Musicology Seminar, 3.45pm
Fri 26 April	CCF Biennial Inspection	22 - 28 June	Year 12 Geology Visit to the Isle of Arran
26 - 28 April	Silver Duke of Edinburgh Practice Weekend	Tue 25 June	SCHOOL FINISHES AT 12.50PM
Mon 29 April	Year 10 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm		Open Evening for Year 5 pupils, 5.00pm
Tue 30 April	Junior Mathematics Challenge	Wed 26 June	Battlefields trip Parents' Briefing, 7.30pm
	Parents' Association Meeting, 7.30pm		Year 13 Leavers' Dinner, 7.00pm
	Living Under Communism Lecture, 7.30pm	27 - 28 June	Sixth Form Induction Course
Wed 1 May	Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge	Thu 27 June	Warhammer World Grand Tournament
Thu 2 May	Summer Chamber Recital, 7.30pm		New Year 7 Parents' Meeting, 7.30pm
Fri 3 May	Year 8 Phase 2 Reports issued	Fri 28 June	Year 12 Phase 3 Reports issued
Mon 6 May	BANK HOLIDAY		CCF Pass Off Parade, 4.00pm
Tue 7 May	Technology and Mental Health, 7.00pm	Sat 29 June	Armed Forces Day Parade, 10.45am
Wed 8 May	Salters' Institute Festival of Chemistry	Tue 2 July	11+ Information for Parents, 7.00pm
	Visit to Cliffs Pavilion, 7.30pm	Wed 3 July	Higher Education Evening, 7.30pm
8 - 10 May	Lord of the Flies, 7.00pm	Thu 4 July	Tennis visit to Wimbledon
9 - 17 May	Year 12 Internal Examinators		Summer Sinfonia Concert, 7.30pm
Sat 11 May	WCGC: Sport Day, 8.30am	Fri 5 July	Enrichment Day
13 - 14 May	Field Days to HMS Biter		New Year 7 Induction Day
Wed 15 May	CCF Exercise Phoenix Cadet Concentration	5 - 8 July	Year 10 Art visit to National Portrait Gallery
Mon 20 May	Year 7 Trip to Science Museum	Tue 9 July	Year 9 Visit to Great War Battlefields
21 - 24 May	Year 12 Geography visit to Barcelona	Thu 11 July	Sports Day
Tue 21 May	A Guide to Productive Practice, 3.45pm	Fri 12 July	House Drama Competition, 7.30pm
	County Lines & Knife Crime, 7.30pm		Year 8 Phase 3 Reports issued
Wed 22 May	KS5 and Staff Book Club: <i>Carry on Jeeves</i> , 3.45pm		Year 10 Phase 3 Reports issued
25 May - 2 June	France Outdoor Adventure		Summer Band and BBQ, 7.00pm
27 - 31 May	SUMMER HALF TERM	13 - 20 July	CCF Army Section Summer Camp
2 - 4 June	Year 12 Chemistry visit to Bristol	Mon 15 July	Old Westcliffian Association AGM, 7.00pm
Mon 3 June	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY	Tue 16 July	Art & Design Exhibition, 7.00pm
4 - 10 June	Years 7-10 Internal Examinations	Wed 17 July	KS5 and Staff Book Club: <i>The Psychopath Test</i> , 3.45pm
Fri 7 June	Year 12 Internal Examination Reports issued	Fri 19 July	Year 7 Phase 3 Reports issued
	House Golf Competition, 4.30pm		Year 9 Phase 3 Reports issued
Tue 11 June	Year 12 Art visit to Tate Britain	22 - 23 July	Year 8 Enrichment Visit to Cambridge
	Parents' Association Meeting, 7.30pm	Wed 24 July	SUMMER TERM ENDS, 2.45pm
11 - 15 June	CCF Royal Navy Section Summer Camp	25 - 30 July	Music Tour to New York
Sat 15 June	History Trip to Chatham Dockyard	30 Aug, 2-3 Sep	Uniform Shop open, 1.00pm-4.00pm
	Sports Hog Roast Awards	Tue 3 Sep	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
		Wed 4 Sep	AUTUMN TERM BEGINS, 8.45am

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



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