



The Westcliff Diary

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WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS IS GRADED OUTSTANDING
FOLLOWING NOVEMBER OFSTED INSPECTION

"Pupils recognise that the school helps them to develop their character. They describe this as 'being the best versions of themselves'." (Ofsted, November 2023)



FROM THE DESK OF THE HEADMASTER

OFSTED INSPECTION: NOVEMBER 2023

At the start of this new term, I would like to take this opportunity to celebrate the efforts of our staff and pupils who worked so hard to reflect all that is *Outstanding* about Westcliff High School for Boys, through their interactions with Inspectors during our routine Ofsted Inspection in November 2023.

In recent years fewer than 20% of schools previously holding an *Outstanding* Ofsted rating have succeeded in retaining that top rating under Ofsted's current framework for inspecting schools. In these circumstances, the fact that our School has maintained its Outstanding status is a notable achievement indeed. The current framework has been widely reported as being particularly harsh on previously outstanding schools and therefore the achievement of an Outstanding rating in November is one in which our School community can be particularly proud.

During the two full days of the Inspection, I was so proud of our staff and pupils as, throughout the process, they set about to convey all that Westcliff High School for Boys has to offer its pupils. Their commitment and determination in joining myself and my Senior Team in leaving the Inspectors in no doubt that our School is truly Outstanding was second to none, and we were all delighted to learn of the well-deserved outcome on formal release of our Ofsted Report. The Report has now been made available to all parents and is available on the School website.

In particular, I would like to record my thanks to the outstanding staff at WHSB. An Ofsted Inspection can be stressful at the best of times, and we had been anticipating a routine inspection for more than two years. Aside from the delivery of the curriculum, our extra-curricular offer and other provision delivered by the staff (an offer I have always believed to be nothing less than Outstanding), there is a great deal of work involved in preparing to meet the demands of Ofsted's current

framework; for example to demonstrate the evidence necessary to support a particular rating. I am most grateful to my talented and supportive colleagues for their teamwork in pulling together to positively engage with the Inspection Team to ensure as many aspects of our provision as possible could be inspected and assessed.

I would also like to record my thanks to the pupils and parents for engaging so positively with the process and for sharing their views with the Inspectors through their respective Ofsted questionnaires. Those views too were most important and helped the Inspectors in assessing a range of provision at our School.

I am also most grateful to the School's Governing Board and my colleagues on the Senior Team. These colleagues provided superb support with our preparations for the Inspection and, of course, throughout the Inspection visit. Through this edition we celebrate the achievements of the wonderful staff and pupils at WHSB through photographs of many of those who have contributed so much towards this outcome, and who continue to do so as we now move forward. I hope you will enjoy those photographs.

The staff photographs include as many of my colleagues as possible, however you will understand that not all could be available at the time the photographs were taken. Where colleagues were unable to attend for the photograph, they are, of course, represented by their departmental colleagues.

SPRING TERM EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The publication of this edition of *The Westcliff Diary* was necessarily delayed as staff turned their attention to the Ofsted process during last term. Equally, this later publication has provided an opportunity for the School to share the outcome of the Inspection with the entire School community and, through

its pages, rightly recognise the enormous contributions of all involved. In view of this delay, a copy of the School's Calendar for the Spring Term has already been circulated to pupils and parents in order to provide earlier notification of the activities and events on offer during the Spring 2024.

As I have done through previous editions, I would like to remind pupils and parents of the tremendous value of positive engagement with the School's extra-curricular programme. With thanks to our staff and pupils, the School offers an enviable programme of activities and events, clubs and societies, trips and visits and much more, and I am delighted that so many of our pupils engage with that offer.

There is no doubt that participating in a wide variety of these activities, extending the pupils' skills, knowledge and experience (and often beyond their comfort zone) contributes much towards pupils' personal development and, ultimately, towards reaching their full potential, both academically and personally. Therefore, I urge pupils to continue to regularly review the School's extra-curricular offer and to also consider trying something new. We frequently remind pupils that the trying is important, even if they are to discover a chosen club or society is not for them. Often pupils are surprised that they come to enjoy clubs, societies or other activities they had not previously considered, and this also extends their friendship groups.

I would like to thank parents for supporting our calendar of events and activities, both through attendance at events, and by continuing to give encouragement to their son or daughter in this respect.

STAFF CHANGES FOR THE SPRING TERM

We are delighted to welcome back Mr Martin, Teacher of History, who joins us in January 2024. Mr Martin is a highly experienced teacher who has previously taught at WHSB. We say farewell to Mr Dex and we wish him well in his new position. We also say farewell to Mrs Wimsett who has made a significant contribution to our Mathematics teaching across the last decade. We wish her well as she moves to take up a promoted position. Mr Huntington, an experienced Mathematics teacher, will be joining us at the start of the Summer Term. The School is putting short term timetable arrangements in place to help ensure continuity of teaching for pupils

prior to Mr Huntington joining us. We also said farewell to Miss Such, our superb Art and Technology Technician, at the end of the Autumn Term. We wish Miss Such success in her new position in industry. As a member of our Premises Team, Mr Hammond has contributed much during his time with us. We wish

him well in his new position. Earlier in the term we said farewell to Mrs Begley (Sixth Form Assistant) and wished her well. We were delighted to welcome Mrs Ayshea May who has taken up the position of Sixth Form Assistant. Mrs Roberts also joined our LAMDA team in October to meet the increasing

demand for LAMDA places. We were also pleased to be joined by Ms Lambert, who is covering for Mrs Radford during her maternity leave. We also welcomed our new Modern Foreign Language Assistants in October: Mr Moss, Miss Gutierrez Medoza and Miss Liebinger.

Headmaster



"Trustees and governors bring a broad range of experience. They provide effective support and challenge to the school."



"Teachers are experts in their subject. The school's well-planned programme of staff development contributes to this expertise. As a result, the curriculum is taught exceptionally well."

OUR PUPILS NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Donating to the School's pupil Fund

The School should like to thank all those parents and others who have previously donated, or continue to donate, money to the School's **Pupil Fund**. To maintain curricular and extra-curricular provision to the present high-standards, it has become increasingly necessary for schools to seek alternative sources of income to relieve the impact of overstretched budgets, with Government funding reducing in real terms across recent years.

Donations to the WHSB Pupil Fund are used to support many activities for pupils, including the maintenance of a broad curriculum in circumstances where many schools have been forced to reduce or remove provision. At WHSB, in line with the *Learner Profile*, we consider it vitally important to support our pupils' development, both in terms of their curricular education and their wider, extra-curricular, interests. As a result, as well as funding equipment for classrooms and laboratories, and books for the Library, the Pupil Fund has supported activities and pursuits including Engineering, Computing, Sport, Music, Drama, and the School's Combined Cadet Force.

Our pupils need your support and, if you would like further information on donating to the Pupil Fund, please use the following link: www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/useful-information-for-all-parents/pupil-fund

Preferably, donations should be made by setting up a standing order via your online banking, using the account details below.

Lloyds Bank

Sort code: 30-97-84

Account number: 34480360

Account name: Westcliff High School for Boys

Alternatively, you can download a standing order form which can then be completed and submitted to your bank: www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/finance. Any questions regarding these arrangements may be sent to the School Bursar at darbyn@whsb.essex.sch.uk.

The School is also able to accept donations by cash, cheque, ParentPay or bank transfer directly, preferably accompanied by a Gift Aid form (if applicable).

Gift Aid enables the school to benefit by a further 25% of voluntary donations given, so do please remember to complete the Gift Aid Declaration form if you are an eligible UK taxpayer www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/finance.

It is important that parents understand that there is no obligation to make donations, and that all pupils can access our provision equally, regardless of whether or not their family choose to contribute.

Targeted Appeals

We understand that some parents, alumni, or other supporters of the School may prefer to donate a sum for a specific activity or project. There are a number of opportunities currently available, for example items or projects which may be of interest to you in relation to a specific donation and, with this in mind, we plan to initiate some targeted appeals in the Summer Term. Further details will follow in the next edition of *The Westcliff Diary*.

In the meantime, should you have a specific area of interest for which you might wish to make a donation, please do not hesitate to contact Mr S Rothon, Director of Finance and Accounting, or the Headmaster, through Mrs Holley, the Headmaster's Personal Assistant, to arrange a meeting or conversation to discuss your donation.

All donations and enquiries are treated in the strictest confidence. We are most grateful for any donation received.

Thank you for your support.



Corporate Sponsorship Opportunity: Production of *Les Misérables* at WHSB

Later this term, in anticipation of Westcliff High School for Boys' musical production of the popular musical, *Les Misérables*, from 20 to 22 March, the School is looking to partner with a local or associated organisation who would act as the principal sponsor. This production promises to be a popular and sold-out event.

Financing such extra-curricular activities is increasingly challenging for state funded schools and we look to seek alternative sources of income to relieve the impact of already stretched budgets. Your company or organisation would enjoy an

association with a School which features regularly in the top 100 state schools in the country.

If you would be interested in discussing this further, please contact Mr S Rothon, Director of Finance and Accounting, or the Headmaster through Mrs Holley, the Headmaster's Personal Assistant, to arrange a meeting or conversation to discuss this further.

Thank you for your support.

Mr S Rothon, Director of Finance and Accounting



CAPTAIN'S LOG

Since my last Captain's Log, I am proud to say that the school has started this academic year strong and fast with so many important traditions: Speech Day, Remembrance Day and Culture Day, to name but a few.

I attended this year's Autumn Chamber Recital, with wonderful performances from all the musicians there. It was one of my first opportunities to enjoy classical and jazz-style live music and, I have to say, I was blown away by the quality and range of the performances. I was helped to appreciate pieces of music that I had never thought to listen to before, gaining a new passion and learning about so many classical and historical pieces. It just goes to show how possible it is to quickly discover new hobbies and cultures, when you allow yourself to be open to wider or unfamiliar opportunities.

Culture Day was, as usual, a fantastic day of shared cultures from within our School community. We all enjoyed a wonderful amalgamation of vibrant costume colours and traditional dances. There was music from different groups, singing and even drum performances. The catwalk fashion show was a brilliant opportunity for people of different Year groups and cultures to show off aspects of their amazing heritages. We had numerous dance groups who took to the stage, and the event ended with a huge multicultural dance that represented our School's tremendous ethnic and cultural diversity. It filled me with great pride that our School celebrates this diversity with such enthusiasm and self-expression, as this is so important in modern society. Being Globally Aware, and able to appreciate many other

values and cultures, is something all pupils at Westcliff High School for Boys are encouraged to value and carry forward with them into the future.

I attended and gave a presentation at the Year 9 Combined Cadet Force Interest Evening, along with our School Vice-Captain, Jacob Mellor. The Year 9 taster sessions took place during November, and I am looking forward to seeing many younger pupils join all Sections of the Combined Cadet Force, although I am perhaps a little biased towards the Army Section! I am pleased that more than one hundred of the pupils in Year 9 have taken the opportunity to see how they can develop their leadership, teamwork and communication skills, as many others have done before them, myself included. Our extra-curricular lives at School are symbiotic with our academic success. We understand that it is commonly the case that pupils who involve themselves most in the wider life of the School, tend to also achieve higher academic results. I encourage all members of the School who are currently not taking part in one of our popular extra-curricular activities, to take the leap of faith, in the sure knowledge that they will reap rich rewards and enjoyment from such opportunities.

On 9 November, our annual Speech Day took place in the School Hall. It was great to see so many students collect their awards and prizes. This was a true display of the talent and achievements of our community, and it is important that we are proud of each other. The event also gave us a chance to reflect on and appreciate, not only each other, but the dedication and hard work that has come from all the staff over the past academic year. We were privileged in hosting the Right



Speech Day, November 2023: School Captain, Will Midwinter, receives The Norman Chew Champion Cadet Trophy, presented by Guest of Honour the Right Honourable Sir Graham Brady MP

Honourable Sir Graham Brady MP as our Guest of Honour. His words rang true as he reflected on the importance of schools like ours, which play such an important part in driving social mobility and transforming young people to achieve their full potential.

Finally, we all attended this year's Remembrance Day Service in our School Hall, Westcliff Theatre and Sixth Form Centre. This provided us with the opportunity to reflect on and remember the lives of those who fought for our freedoms, not only in the Great War, but in all other wars. We remembered the 96 Old Westcliffians who were part of those fallen heroes, and we pray for the lives of those who are in conflict in the present day. It is an important tradition of the School, and it is a value that is rightly instilled into us as Westcliffians.

Following the successful Autumn term, we must now look ahead towards the Spring term. This is when the lead up to the A-Level and GCSE examinations really begins. It will be a busy time for certain members of the School, and I wish them luck in their revision and increased hard work. I, myself, will be continuing to work towards my final examinations, and so I hope to enjoy my final full term, alongside plenty of revision. They say that our School years are the best years of our lives, and I aim to cherish the final few months I have here.

I wish you all the best of luck with your studies and wider activities, and I look forward to another busy and productive term alongside my fellow Westcliff pupils here at the School.

Will Midwinter, School Captain



School Captain and Vice Captains

"A significant number of pupils are part of the school's combined cadet force. Pupils are proud of this part of the school and the chance it gives them to develop wider attributes. This and other opportunities help pupils become effective leaders and communicators."

UPPER SIXTH TRIAL EXAMINATIONS

Thursday 4 January to Wednesday 17 January 2024



As we enter the last full term of studies for our Upper Sixth students, they will complete their Trial Examinations to assist with their preparation for the A Level Examinations in the summer. Students and their parents are reminded that the Progress Leaders and pastoral staff are available to assist with any queries or concerns, as are all subject teachers and Heads of Academic Department.

Effective revision techniques have been reviewed as part of the Upper Sixth Pastoral programme in recent weeks, and we wish all students in the Upper Sixth the very best of luck in the Trial Examinations.

Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form

YEAR 11 A LEVEL TASTER SESSIONS

Wednesday 10 January 2024

On Wednesday 10 January, pupils in Year 11 will spend the afternoon familiarising themselves with what life is like as a Sixth Form student at WHSB. Pupils will select four subjects that interest them most and attend short taster sessions to explore the differences between GCSE and Advanced Level study. The taster sessions serve to inform pupils in making the fittest choices for study in the Sixth Form. In addition, pupils will have the opportunity to explore subjects offered only at A Level, such as Politics and Psychology.

Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form



YEAR 11 PHASE TWO REPORT

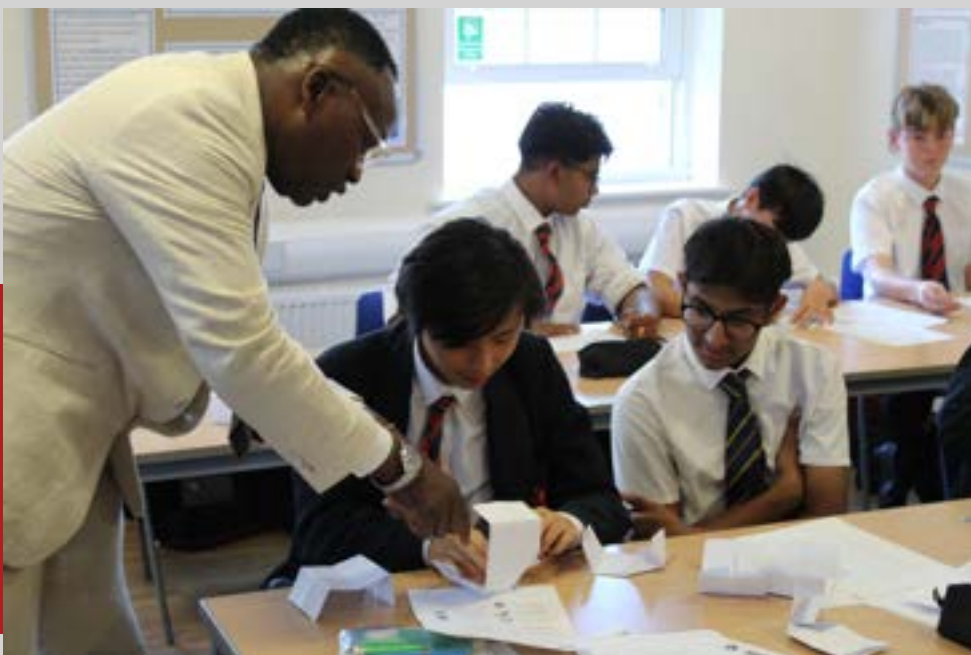
Friday 19 January 2024

On Friday 19 January 2024, a detailed Report will be issued to Year 11 pupils. This represents an important opportunity for these pupils to receive careful assessment of their performance in the Trial Examinations. This will be followed by the Post-16 Options Evening, held on Tuesday 23 January 2024 at 7:30pm, where we will expect to see all Year 11 pupils together with their parents, and where we hope to support all pupils into a position whereby they can make informed choices about their future. We will also circulate the link to our *Intentions After GCSE/Advanced Level Options* form at this time.

We find that some pupils are either uncertain about their future choices, or their particular needs require careful and further consideration. To accommodate these circumstances, we have set aside additional time from Wednesday 24 to Friday 26 January for such pupils to meet with senior teachers at the School and to discuss in depth their options and preferred choices. For example, pupils may wish to discuss a particular combination of Sixth Form subjects, or to know more about some subjects which are not available in the GCSE years and therefore less familiar. Senior Staff will be happy to discuss the concerns of individual pupils, and will provide

honest advice in circumstances where a pupil is considering options outside this School. Pupils may also wish to speak to a representative from the Careers Advisory Service, who will be in School for a part of that period, and with whom appointments may also be made.

Mr A Barnett, Director of Middle School



WESTCLIFF CENTRE FOR GIFTED CHILDREN GO FOR GRAMMAR! PROGRAMME

All Things Creative Day: Saturday 20 January 2024

It was exciting to restart the Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children *Go for Grammar!* Programme for local Year 5 pupils last term. Seventy-seven boys and girls attended the first session, which focused on Sport, Adventure and Leadership. These days all include English and Mathematics lessons designed to stretch pupils and to aid their familiarity with 11+ style work, together with four lessons on the theme of the day.

In the afternoon, parents are welcomed into the School for a seminar with the Director of Lower School, to discuss how parents can best support their child through the 11+ examinations. At our last session, Ambrose Nyamandi, an existing WHSB pupil in Year 7, spoke to parents with passion and honesty about his preparations for the 11+ examinations.

During these exciting sessions, the Year 5 pupils have the opportunity to engage with our Sixth Form students as they chaperone them around the School. These Sixth Form students also join their younger counterparts for some of their lessons.

This term, the School will welcome more Year 5 pupils onto the *Go for Grammar!* programme for the All Things Creative Day on Saturday 20 January. This day will see pupils engaging with Art, Music, Technology and Languages activities, in addition to the English and Mathematics lessons. A further Lively Laboratories Day will be offered during the Summer Term.

Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School



YEAR 11 ENTRY TO SIXTH FORM EVENING

Tuesday 23 January 2024, 7.30pm to 9:00pm

Following on from the Taster Sessions afternoon on 17 January, Year 11 pupils and their parents will be invited to listen to a series of talks detailing the Sixth Form offering at WHSB. The talks are designed to help pupils and their parents to make informed choices regarding post-16 study. Information will also be provided relating to the enrichment activities that form part of the curriculum in the Sixth Form, alongside opportunities to engage in the wider School life.

Mr A Dean, Senior Master of Sixth Form



SPRING CHAMBER RECITAL

Thursday 25 January 2024
7.30pm to 9.00pm

The Chamber Recitals are an excellent showcase of musical talent at WHSB, filled with soloists and small ensembles performing music from a wide range of styles and genres. This term will be no exception, featuring debut performances from pupils in the Lower School such as Year 8 pianists Francesco Fira and Stefan Petrusca. Vocalists will feature as well, with songs from Nifemi Femi-Sanni, Taran Raju, and a performance of a Dusty Springfield song by Edith Jefferson. We will also hear from Westcliff's resident showman, Jacob Guyler.

Both the String Ensemble and the Horn Group will be performing a couple of pieces each, with the former performing the theme from the popular *Mandalorian* television show, conducted by Upper Sixth student, Rory Keeble.



Tickets are available from *TicketSource* and are priced at £5.00 for adults and free for pupils

Mr T Derrick, Director of Music



CHEMISTRY TRIPS AND LECTURES

Lecture by Dr Alex Baker: Wednesday 24 January 2024
Trip to UEA: Thursday 25 January 2024

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chemistry Department routinely visited Bristol University each year with forty-five students for a three-day residential trip at Bristol ChemLabS. This was a fantastic opportunity which enabled students to work in University-standard laboratories and complete undergraduate level experiments in state-of-the-art facilities.

Many of our previous students have fond memories of the experience. By day, they had the opportunity to play with the spectroscopic machines, extract caffeine, make polymers and their own perfumes, and synthesise benzocaine (a local anaesthetic). By night, students would compete, with each other and their teachers, at laser tag and bowling, and then work together to overcome escape rooms. It was a much valued and greatly enjoyed trip.

However, continuing this trip proved impossible during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. In addition, we were deeply saddened to hear of the passing of our Bristol University outreach contact and lead, Mr Tim Harrison, in 2023. He will be missed, and I know that our former students and colleagues were most grateful for the opportunities and experiences that he facilitated. Bristol University has published a fitting tribute to Mr Harrison, which can be found in their news pages of May 2023.

Our experiences at Bristol demonstrated the enormous value that collaboration with leading academic institutions can bring to our pupils. We are therefore continuing to work to establish partnerships with Universities. In recent years, we have welcomed guest speakers and lecturers from the University of East Anglia (UEA) to speak to our Chemistry cohort. In addition, last year we welcomed back Old Westcliffian Dr Joe Willis (UCL),

who spoke about life as a researcher into materials such as improving substances used in photovoltaic cells. We are now very much looking forward to the return of Old Westcliffian Dr Alex Baker who will be speaking to our A Level Chemists on Wednesday 24 January 2024.

The connections that we have established with the University of East Anglia enabled us to take fifteen Chemistry students from the Lower Sixth to the School of Chemistry at UEA in January 2023. This allowed these students to participate in experiments and attend lectures.

We are pleased to announce that, this coming term, we are able to offer thirty places to Lower Sixth students for a one-day trip to UEA, which will take place on Thursday 25 January 2024. Students will once again be able to take part in practical activities, and we look forward to strengthening our connections and thus further expanding the opportunities we can provide in the future.

Mr D Wightman, Head of Chemistry

LOWER SIXTH PHASE 2 REPORT DISTRIBUTION

Monday 29 January 2024

On Monday 29 January 2024, students in the Lower Sixth will receive their Phase 2 report detailing both attitudinal and attainment data. This will provide a clear indication of what progress and attainment has been made in each of their A Level courses since September. In addition, a Target grade will be included for each subject based on expected progress.

Subject and Pastoral staff will speak with students to offer advice and support following the issuing of the Phase 2 report, and prior to the Parent Consultation Evening on Monday 4 March 2024.

Mrs K Revell, Director of Sixth Form



CAREERS IN MEDICINE AND THE NHS

Wednesday 31 January 2024, 7.00pm to 9.00pm

On Wednesday 31 January 2024, the School will be hosting its second Careers Evening of the academic year. I am pleased to announce that Dr Thuraia Nageh, Consultant Cardiologist and Clinical Cardiac Research Lead at Mid and South Essex NHS Trust (Southend Hospital), together with James Currell, Director of Operations, Care Group 4 at Mid and South Essex Foundation Trust, has agreed to join our panel of guests as we discuss Medicine and other careers within the NHS.

This year, we have altered the format of our Careers Evenings to ensure these events are even more interactive, in order to facilitate greater discussion.

Our Careers Evenings are open to WHSB pupils and parents, and pupils from other local secondary schools.

Mr M Atkinson, Careers Adviser



JACK PETCHEY: SPEAK OUT CHALLENGE

Wednesday 31 January and Thursday 1 February 2024

We are delighted to announce that every pupil in Year 10 will be taking part in one of the Jack Petchey Speak Out workshops that will take place in School on 31 January 2024 and 1 February 2024.

The Jack Petchey Speak Out Competition was set up by Sir Jack Petchey CBE to give young people good opportunities that he did not himself receive as a child. The event is a series of workshops and competitions aimed at encouraging people around Essex and London to find their voice on subjects that are important to them, and to gain confidence in the vital skill of public speaking. During the workshops, pupils will learn techniques in building critical communication skills, which will include how to develop their ideas on a topic that is important to them, how to structure their speech for maximum impact, and how to present a well-crafted speech, which is more technical than might first appear.

The impact of the workshops on our pupils is profound, from increasing their empathy with the views of others to improving their ability to work under pressure, while enabling them to find their voice. From each workshop, two pupils will be identified who will then take part in the School's global selection process to find the strongest speaker to represent the School at the Regional Final. There they will compete with pupils from other local schools for the opportunity to represent the wider region at the Grand Final.

Miss C Ives, Teacher of English

Jack Petchey's "SPEAK OUT" Challenge!



SPRING SOCIETIES PROGRAMME AT WHSB

Clubs and Societies at WHSB have continued to expand, and we now have 64 different activities to choose from. Most of these take place at lunchtime, being run by staff and pupils on a voluntary basis and free of charge to all our pupils.

Please have a look through the menu below and, if you are not already participating in some way, aim to do so in the forthcoming term. You are very welcome to join with a friend or go along on your own on a provisional basis to see whether the club or society is right for you. This does not necessarily have to be a long-term commitment, and if you decide to leave and join a different club, that is absolutely fine. At WHSB, we strongly believe that participation in the wider life of the school is just as important as the academic life.

Clubs are promoted on the House, Form Group, and other noticeboards around School. Please listen carefully to the most recent announcements in registers through the Daily Notices, as the dates and times of clubs and societies can sometimes change.

Mr R Barber, House Coordinator and PSHEE Coordinator



Society/Club	Day	Time	Location	Years
Animation Society	Monday	Lunch	W11	All
Arkwright Scholarship	TBA	Lunch	Tech Block	Year 10
Art Support	TBA	Lunch	Art Rooms	Year 10 and 11
Art Club Key Stage 3	Tuesday	Lunch	E28	Key Stage 3
Art TOCs Higher Learning	TBC	Lunch	E28	Key Stage 3
Astronomy Society	Wednesday	Lunch	S15	All
Big Band	Tuesday	3:45pm-5:00pm	Music Department M18	Grade 5 students
Brass Ensemble	Thursday	1:00pm	M18	All
Board Games	Friday	Lunch	E8	All
CAD Club (Computer Aided Design)	Any Day	Lunch	T3	Year 8
CCF Army	Thursday	3:45pm	South Drive	9, 10, 11, 12 and 13
CCF Navy	Thursday	3:45pm	South Drive	9, 10, 11, 12 and 13
CCF RAF	Thursday	3:45pm	South Drive	9, 10, 11, 12 and 13
Chess Club Lower School	Monday	Lunch	S14	Key Stage 3
Chess Club Key Stage 4 and 5	Tuesday	Lunch	S14	Years 10-13

Society/Club	Day	Time	Location	Years
Crochet Club	Tuesday	1:05pm-1:35pm	Library	All
Creative Writing Club	Tuesday	1:05pm-1:35pm	Library	All
Concert Band	Tuesday	1:00pm	M18	Grade 4 students
Countdown Club	Monday	Lunch	M6	All
Debating Society	Wednesday	Lunch	SF14	Year 10 and 11
D and D Campaigns	Thursday	Lunch	E8	All
Dungeons and Dragons	Tuesday	Lunch	SF12	By appointment only
Economics Help Club	Thursday	Lunch	W2	Year 10 and 11
Economics Society	Thursday	Lunch	SF15	Year 12 and 13
English Clubs (various)	Various	Lunch	English Rooms	All
Engineering Society	Thursday	Lunch	S17	10, 11, 12 & 13
Ethical Food Society	Tuesday	Lunch	Food Room, Tech Block	Year 8
Etymology Society	Wednesday A	Lunch	WA	W8
Geography Society	Tues A and Weds B	1:00pm	E4	All
Horn Group	Wednesday	1:00pm	Westcliff Theatre	All
History Society	Thursday	1:00pm	W24	All
Investment and Personal Finance Society	Friday	1:00pm	E4	All
Jazz Band	Monday	13:10	M18	All
Japanese Language Club	Thursday	1:05pm-1:35pm	Library and other venues TBC	All
Jurassic Society	Monday and Friday	Lunch	W23	Year 7, 8 and 9
Latin for Beginners	Wednesday	Lunch	W21	7 and 8
Law Society	Friday	Lunch	SF14	Year 12 and 13
Lego Club	Wednesday	Lunch	W28	All
Library Clubs (various)	Various (date of start TBC)	Lunch	Library	All
Maths Help Club KS 3 and 4	Monday and Thursday	Lunch	M2	Year 7-11
Maths Help Club KS 5	Tuesday and Friday	Lunch	M3	Year 12 and 13
Medical, Dentistry and Vet Society (MDV)	Tuesdays	Lunch	W31	Year 12 and 13
MDV Society Junior (Medics, Vets, Dentists)	Date of start to TBA	Lunch	S3	Key Stage 3 and 4
Music Technology Club	Thursdays	3:40pm to 5:00pm	Music Department	Key Stage 4
Model UN Society	Wednesdays (not all year)	Lunch	S14	All
Multicultural Global History Society (all welcome)	Tuesday	Lunch	W13	All
Oxbridge and Medics	Monday	Lunch	Westcliff Theatre	Year 12 and 13
Philosophy Club	Thursdays	Lunch	W22	Year 9-13
Pokémon	Friday	Lunch	E8/E4	All
Psychology Society	Thursdays Week A	Lunch	SF13	10, 11, 12,13
Puzzler Club	Tuesday	1:05-1:35pm	Library	All
RS Dept Multifaith Discussion Society (all welcome)	Wednesday	Lunch	W23	Open to all
Robotics Challenge	Thursday	Lunch	T1	Year 10
Rubik's Cube	Tuesday	1:05-1:35pm	Library	All
Salvage Crew	Tuesday	Lunch	T1	Year 7, 8 and 9
Screenwriting Club	Tuesday	Lunch	E24	All
Star Wars Society	Monday	Lunch	E8	All
String Ensemble	Wednesday	1:00pm	M18	All
Technology Club Key Stage 3	By Appointment	Various Lunchtimes	Technology Block	Key Stage 3
Treble Choir	Wednesday	1:00pm	M12	Year 7 and 8
Wargaming Club	Friday	3:35pm	M2	All
Westcliff Choir	Friday	1:00pm	M18	All
Westcliff Economist	Various Lunchtimes	Lunch	Economics Department	By invitation only
Westcliff Sinfonia	Wednesday	3:45pm-5:00pm	M18	Grade 5 students
Yu-Gi-Oh	Friday	Lunch	E8	All

YEAR 11 PARENTS CONSULTATION EVENING

Monday 5 February 2024

On Monday 5 February 2024, the Year 11 Consultation Evening will take place to help parents support their son's learning. These consultations will continue to be online, with parents invited to discuss their son's Report and to consider how best their son might prepare for examinations in each subject this summer. Parents will also be able to ask questions relating to Non-Examination Assessment (NEA) and to consider their son's suitability for Sixth Form work in particular subjects, as well as discussing his future intentions.

This is an important time for Year 11 pupils to reflect carefully, not just on the advice given regarding their future choices, but also on what their teachers have advised regarding how best to improve academically. Having a clear sense of purpose, setting achievable targets, and working towards them will all help to maintain pupil focus on achieving the best possible outcomes for themselves. This is an invaluable opportunity for pupils to set themselves on the right course for their future.

Mr A Barnett, Director of Middle School

WEST END TRIP: WICKED

Tuesday 6 February 2024



This term, pupils in the Middle School have an opportunity to see the spellbinding, award-winning production of Wicked in the West End. This reimagining of *The Wizard of Oz* focuses on the friendship and rivalry of two young witches – Glenda and Elphaba. Following a period of study at Shiz University and an encounter with the celebrated Wizard of Oz, the two heroines reach a personal crossroads in their friendship, with their lives taking very different paths.

This hit London and Broadway musical, with music and lyrics by Stephen Schwartz and book by Winnie Holzman, has wowed audiences for many years, and it is a must-see for pupils studying GCSE Music in particular, whose set works feature a song from this show.

Tickets for this evening event should be booked via *TicketSource* and are priced at £42.50, including travel to and from the London venue.

Mr A Wood, Teacher of Music



UPPER SIXTH PHASE 2 REPORT DISTRIBUTION

Friday 9 February 2024

On Friday 9 February, a detailed report will be issued to all students in the Upper Sixth and their parents. Following the Trial Examinations, this report will provide attainment and Trial Examination grades, together with attitudinal indicators from each of their subjects. The report will also contain a written comment from each subject teacher, which will identify strengths and areas for development. Over the course of the term, staff will offer support and revision guidance to help students fulfil their potential in the Public Examinations held in the Summer Term.

Mrs K Revell, Director of Sixth Form

CHARITY EVENTS

Friday 9 February 2024

This has been a fantastic year for the Charities Committee, raising over £3,000 for the local branch of the MND Society and Golden Geese. In addition, we have supported St Vincent's Food Bank Drive in the lead-up to Christmas. In June, six runners joined staff in the HARP24 event, running 100 miles and raising over £1,000 for this local homeless charity. Finally, another £300 was raised as part of October's MacMillan coffee morning.

We are now in the process of recruiting our new Committee for 2024, and we will then canvass the School community concerning which charities we will support. There are charity events planned for Friday 9 February and Friday 22 March, and we are confident that the new Committee will entertain us with exciting ideas, details of which will be circulated nearer the time.

We look forward to this new programme of events and pass our thanks to Will Midwinter, Maximilian Rowe, Sophie Miller, Samuel Bakre Taiwo, Max Pitkin and Jordan Omotayo for their commitment and energy over the past twelve months.

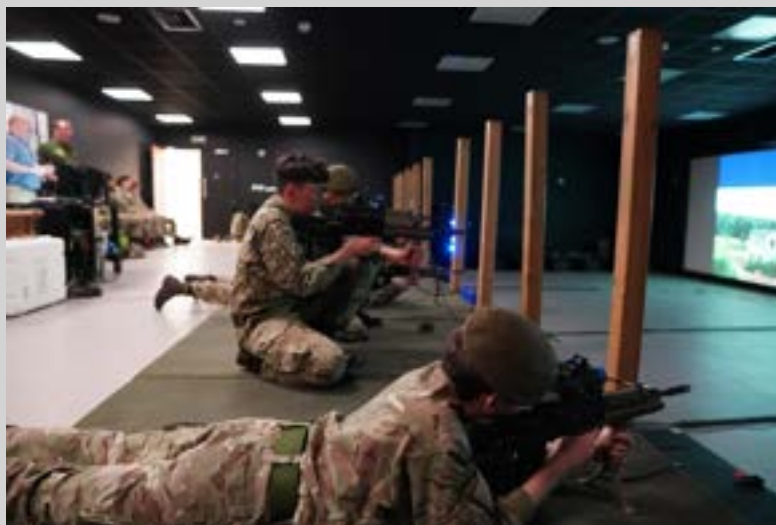
Mrs K Revell, Director of Sixth Form



Our thanks to the Charity Committee 2023

YEAR 10 ARMY FIELD DAY: COLCHESTER BARRACKS

Thursday 15 February 2024



On 15 February, the Combined Cadet Force will be organising a trip for cadets in Year 10 and the Lower Sixth to Merville Barracks in Colchester. In the past, this has been a fantastic day of activities, including a challenging obstacle course and Dismounted Close Combat Trainer (DCCT) range firing, and we expect this forthcoming trip to be just as engaging. Imagine a simulated firing range where you can use the Cadet Rifle to fire from lying, sitting, kneeling or standing, at targets hundreds of meters down a range, and then receive instant feedback to improve your aim, accuracy and technique. This is the nature of the DCCT range, which enables Cadets to fine-tune their shooting for live ranges.

The obstacle course develops our Cadets' ability to complete physical challenges while working as a team. Each obstacle provides a varying level of difficulty, requires different degrees of skill, and tests Cadets' ability to problem-solve. This always proves a popular trip and encourages teamwork, leadership and competition amongst our Cadets.

Captain Allard, Officer Commanding, Combined Cadet Force



LOST PROPERTY RECLAIM

Friday 16 February 2024 and Friday 22 March

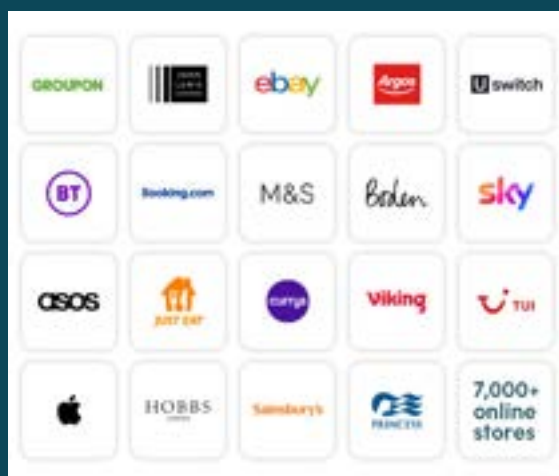
Where named and unnamed clothes, bags and other items are found around the School, these are placed in the Lost Property Area located in the East Basement.

Each term, we will display items stored in the Lost Property Area in the School Hall, and this provides pupils and parents with an opportunity to reclaim their items. Full details and timings are provided in advance of these occasions. Any unclaimed items left at the end of each term are recycled locally.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION COOKIES AND SWEET SALE

Friday 16 February 2024

This fundraiser will take place on Friday 16 February 2024 at morning break. Quality bakes and delicious seasonal treats will be on sale. Cash and card payments will be taken on the day.



Easyfundraising: Easyfundraising is a shopping directory listing some of the UK's favourite online stores including Amazon, John Lewis, Marks & Spencer, Debenhams, and over 2,000 others. Just use the links on the easyfundraising site whenever you shop online and, at no extra cost to you, the Parents' Association (PA) will receive a free donation of up to 15% from every purchase you make. It really is that simple and it is completely FREE to register. You will not pay a penny more for your shopping when you

use the easyfundraising site. In fact, you can even SAVE MONEY as many retailers offer discounts, special offers, and even 'e-vouchers' exclusive to easyfundraising. If you shop online anyway, then why not raise valuable extra funds for us by using this fantastic scheme. All you need to do is visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk and, when you register, select Westcliff High School for Boys as the organisation you wish to support. Our thanks in anticipation!

Mrs J Clarke, Parents' Association

SKI TRIP TO FOLGARIA

Friday 16 - Saturday 24 February 2024

In February, eighty pupils will travel to Folgaria in Italy to participate in a week of skiing. This year, we shall be staying at the Hotel Monte Maggio which is next to the slopes and close enough to the town for pupils to have an opportunity to explore in the evening.

The Annual WHSB Ski Trip is an opportunity for pupils to travel and to explore a sport in which there are limited opportunities to participate in the United Kingdom. Pupils participating in past trips have gained the most out of the experience by showing the resilience to (literally) pick themselves up and try again, with lots of minor falls in the first couple of days. Hopefully, the pupils taking part in 2024 will do the same, as they are at the prime age for quick absorption of information and skills. Most pupils are able to tackle a red-slope by the end of the week, with some even getting themselves down the black runs.

The 2025 Ski trip was advertised in November and, due to its popularity, all places were booked within two days. Please note this carefully, for when the 2026 trip is advertised this Autumn, as I am sure it will be just as popular!

*Mr H Tresidder,
Teacher of Physics*



SPANISH DEPARTMENT TRIP TO ALMERÍA, GRANADA AND CÓRDOBA

Saturday 17 - Friday 23 February 2024



We are delighted to return to Andalusia in February, this time with 28 Middle School pupils and 10 Sixth Form students. Our inaugural trip to Almería in February 2023 was a great success for all involved. Our Spanish hosts were delighted with our engagement during the day we spent at IES Albaída, the school which we have partnered with over recent years; friendships were made both in school and during trips to Mini Hollywood in the Tabernas desert, to Cabo de Gata, to the Alcazaba in Almería, and to Granada; and the hotel staff were pleased with the behaviour and respectfulness of the entire party. We were lucky enough to attend a La Liga match against Real Betis, fresh off our early morning flight from Gatwick; sadly, Almería are playing away from home during our stay in the city, so this time we will not be able to go to a game.

This year's trip has a new city on the itinerary; Córdoba. We will travel there by coach and, following four nights in Almería, staying at the same hotel as last year, we will say goodbye to our friends from IES Albaída in Granada, after visiting the Alhambra, and then spend two further nights in Córdoba. We have an excellent guide for this city, which I have never visited; Mr Madrid's maternal side of the family hails from the city famed for its Mezquita-Catedral, and he looks forward to showing us the old town, the roman bridge, and other jewels of this World Heritage site. There will be chocolate con churros, treasure hunts, basketball games, and lots of time spent with our friends in Almería to practise Spanish.

Mr Lilley, Mr Madrid, Miss Lo and I also look forward to seeing María Luisa and her colleagues again; they made us all feel so welcome during previous visits, and we hope that, next year, a group of teachers and students from IES Albaída will be able to visit us in Southend-on-Sea so that we can repay their hospitality.

Ms J McKeown, Head of MFL and Spanish



PHYSICS TRIP TO CERN

Monday 19 - Wednesday 21 February 2024

In February, during half-term, ten of our Upper Sixth Physics students will be visiting Geneva in Switzerland to see the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN.

The LHC is the largest particle accelerator in the world, and it has been the site of almost every major development in our understanding of particle physics since 2008. The visit will involve a tour of some of the facilities at the LHC, and other facilities at CERN.

Students will also have the opportunity to visit other places in Geneva, such as the History of Science Museum and the United Nations Headquarters. The *Geneva by Night* walking tour is another highlight of the trip; students will also, and very excitingly, get to visit the world's longest bench!

This visit will be particularly informative because it will be the School's first visit to the newly opened Visitors' Centre, and students will experience a particle physics masterclass delivered by experts in the field, with hands-on experience in analysing real data from the LHC experiments.

Looking further ahead, I can confirm that if you are in the Lower Sixth and studying Physics this year, this trip will be open to you next academic year. Please speak with your Physics teacher for further information.

Mr K Dalby, Head of Physics



HISTORY TRIP TO NORMANDY

Monday 19 - Thursday 22 February 2024

In February, the History Department will be delighted to take thirty pupils from Years 9 and 10 to explore Normandy's role in both Mediaeval and Modern History. We will leave at the start of the half term week, travelling down to Rouen and Caen to start our exploration of this fascinating Franco-Viking Duchy. On the way, we will be picking up military historian Andy Robertshaw, the historical adviser on films such as 1917 and War Horse. Mr Robertshaw has very successfully accompanied many of our Battlefields trips, and this trip draws on his considerable knowledge of the D Day landings. We are already excited by the prospect of his guided tour around Normandy beaches such as Omaha, and the opportunity to learn all about the Allied European counter offensive in the Second World War. The trip will also help us to find out much more about Mediaeval Normandy, with trips to Mont-St-Michel



and the Bayeux Tapestry, as well as a look at William's imposing castle at Falaise.

Our return to England promises to be no less inspiring. We will return by ferry, getting a taste of William's own voyage perhaps, and spend the night in the South Downs before meeting with Dr Marc Morris to explore Pevensey, the Hastings battleground, and Norman buildings at Tonbridge and Rochester. Dr Morris is another old friend of the History Department, and he has demonstrated before his considerable ability to engage people of all ages with the story of Britain's Norman past.

Alongside all the History, there will be an opportunity for our tourists to visit the

Norman town of Bayeux on market day and to test out their French as they haggle for a good deal.

This is the first time for some years that the History Department has run a Normandy trip and we hope it will not be the last. The trip promises to be a 'bon voyage' with a tapestry of sights and the history of two invasions, along with a taste of Norman France. As President Obama might say, Yes We Caen!

Mr B Jeffreys,
Head of History



LONDON MATHS FEST

Tuesday 27 February 2024

Mathematicians in the Lower Sixth have been invited to celebrate a day of Mathematics in London this February. Hand-crafted by stand-up mathematician Matt Parker, together with Mathematics author Rob Eastaway, Maths Fest is an all-day extravaganza for Sixth Form students (and Mathematics-keen pupils studying at Key Stage 4) to celebrate and to be inspired by this wonderful subject.

Maths Fest 2024 will feature some of the best Mathematics speakers in the UK, talking about their favourite topics within our subject, and will celebrate Mathematics as an exciting, useful and rewarding subject. We anticipate a fantastic day out for our Lower Sixth Mathematics students, which is certain to leave them motivated and excited to learn more... Mathematics!

Ms L Hammond, Teacher of Mathematics



LIBRARY NEWS

Spring term is always a fun time in our vibrant, atmospheric Library space. Reading and independent study is promoted throughout the year through our Library lessons, and through the Library providing new books and clubs to guide self-directed learning of new topics and skills. We look forward to marking the following events in the Library during the coming term:

- ▶ Holocaust Memorial Day on Saturday 27 January 2024;
- ▶ National Storytelling Week from 30 January to 6 February 2024;
- ▶ Children's Mental Health Week from 5 to 11 February 2024;
- ▶ Chinese New Year (of the Dragon) from Saturday 10 February 2024;
- ▶ International Day of Women and Girls in Science on 11 February 2024;
- ▶ Shortlist announced for Yoto Carnegie Medal for Writing (including a book group) on 13 February 2024;
- ▶ International Mother Tongue Day on 21 February 2024;
- ▶ World Book Day on Thursday 7 March 2024;
- ▶ International Womens Day on 8 March 2024;
- ▶ British Science Week from 8 to 17 March 2024.

The Westcliff Library continues to thrive as a spacious and relaxing venue for reading and individual study throughout the School day (8.00am to 5.30pm, with a 4.30pm finish on Fridays).

Our team of Pupil Library Ambassadors has recently expanded to include several pupils new to the School, and we welcome to the team: Benjamin Mangion, Sanchit Shedbale, and Zach Waters (all pupils in Year 7), Ben Pickup (Year 8), and Teni Funsho (Lower Sixth). We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Founder Ambassadors, who are the backbone of our break and lunchtime desk; they also help to train our new intake.



Library Clubs are there to bring together pupils of different Year groups in the pursuit of new skills, whether they be crocheting stars for bunting for the Library, or writing Japanese; helping each other solve a sudoku or a logic problem, or have a friendly game of Scrabble or chess. We hope to run another Poetry Open Mic event next term, based around our Creative Writing Club.

Library lessons are an opportunity for quiet, relaxing reading. The Autumn Term's Year Group Read was 'Northern Lights', and we now move on to 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time' which many parents may have read or seen in play form in the theatre. Summer Term brings 'I am Malala' which will appeal to non-fiction fans in Year 7. We shall also continue to promote public speaking skills, opinion-forming, and the sharing of good reads during reading review sessions in Library lessons this term.

Mrs M Schofield, School Librarian



SPRING SPORTS PROGRAMME AND IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY

Table Tennis

Having won the Essex Schools Championships in October, our Table Tennis team now progress to the Area Final in Nottingham during the weekend of 3 - 4 February. Last year, our School team reached this stage of the competition in Bristol, and their collective experience of this increased competitive challenge should hold them in good stead for this year. We wish these talented pupils the very best of luck in the competition this term.

Basketball

National Cup and Essex Cup competitions continue this year, and we are confident that all teams can progress successfully through their groups. The National and Essex Cup competitions will move from the group stages into the knockout matches, heading towards the finals in March. All our teams will have some tough games ahead, but a committed approach to training and a positive, collaborative and supportive work ethic will help the team achieve success. Last year, we reached a number of semi-finals; this year, we hope to go even further. Borough Cup finals are also a realistic target for the majority of WHSB teams this year and, here, the finals are also set for March. We wish our committed and talented basketball players well as they prepare for these challenges ahead.

Cross Country

Essex Schools Cross Country Championships will be taking place for Junior Boys (Years 8 and 9), and Inter Boys (Years 10 and 11) on Saturday 20 January 2024. The Essex Schools Year 7 and Year 8 separate age group Championship will be taking place on 15 February in Writtle. We wish those pupils participating well with their training and preparation.

Swimming Gala

The Southend Borough Swimming competition will take place at Garons Leisure and Tennis Centre on 6 March. The Physical Education Department wishes the very best of luck to all those pupils taking part in this exciting event.



Rugby Union

The National and Essex Cup competitions continue through January, February and into March. We hope to see our teams, still in their respective draws, continuing on a successful and exciting Cup run. March will see the Rosslyn Park Sevens return, which is the premier national Sevens event for schools. WHSB always performs well in this popular event; we are once again looking forward to participating this year and we wish our teams well.

Football

The National and Essex Cup competitions in Football also continue through January into March and we encourage those teams remaining in their respective draws to set their sights on a successful Cup run. The Borough Cup and South East Essex Cups also continue with some WHSB teams still involved, and we wish them the very best of luck as they progress through the competitions. The Finals are scheduled for the following dates:

- Borough Cup: Saturday 23 March 2024
- South East Essex Cup – Wednesday 27 March 2024

Mr M Fletcher, Director of Sport





House Football, Years 7 and 8



Year 7 Basketball Team



Year 10B Football Team

CCF ADVANCED OVERNIGHT EXERCISE

Friday 1 March 2024

The Advanced Overnight Exercise is an essential part of our Cadet training for pupils in Year 11, offering opportunities for promotions and advanced training. Cadets in Year 11 and the Sixth Form will receive orders and embark on night patrols across a military training area, using all of the skills learnt in field craft lessons.

Cadets will need to navigate, communicate, and make tactical decisions while avoiding being spotted by enemy patrolling the

area. There will be blank firing scenarios and Cadets will need to work both as a section and as a platoon throughout this overnight exercise. This field training is invaluable to those Cadets looking to progress to be Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs).

On the Saturday evening, we plan to offer an advanced level NCO cadre for our senior cadets. This gives us a fantastic opportunity to observe the Lower Sixth NCOs in consideration for future senior promotions, including the coveted rank of Regimental Sergeant Major.

Captain Allard, Officer Commanding, Combined Cadet Force



YEAR 9 PHASE TWO REPORT

Monday 4 March 2024

On Monday 4 March, pupils in Year 9 will receive their Phase 2 Reports. These will inform parents about how their sons have progressed so far through this academic year. Their timing enables these reports to be a significant factor when pupils are finalising their GCSE Option Choices, the process for which concludes shortly after the issuing of this feedback. Parents will receive a current attainment indicator in the form of a grade from each of their son's teachers, using the School's internal grading system.

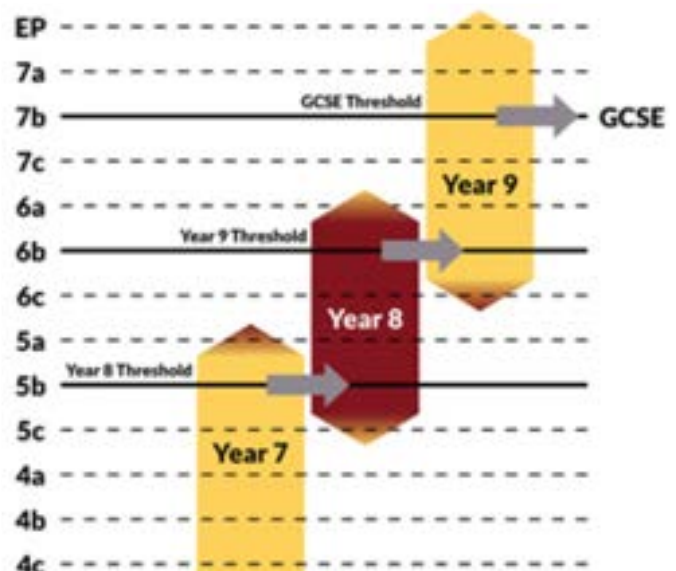
It is expected that pupils will achieve a grade 7c in each subject; attainment grades differing from this will indicate that pupils are performing above or below the expected level. The report also contains pupils' Lower School target grade. The average target grade is 7b, to be attained in the Phase 3 Report towards the end of the year. At this stage, the School would expect the Phase 2 Report grade to be one fine grade (a number followed by a, b or c) below the target grade. If a pupil has a target grade of, for example, 7a, the School would anticipate that a pupil's current attainment would therefore be 7b. If their target grade is, for example, 7c, then a current attainment score of 6a means that they are on course to achieve their Lower School target grade. This helps parents, pupils and teachers to understand a pupil's current level of performance, and to identify areas of strength and areas for development.

The report also contains attitudinal indicators; these are awarded on a scale of 1 (Exceptional) to 4 (Unacceptable). The expected minimum indicator grade is a 2 (Good). Grades of 3 or 4 require a change in attitude by the pupil, and a Grade of 1 is awarded when a pupil has exceeded the already high expectations of this School. Parents should consider the indicators received against the explanatory table on the back of the report.

Following the distribution of the Report, Form Tutors will dedicate time for pupils to reflect on their grades, and to develop goals for the rest of the year. Form Tutors will also discuss strategies to help pupils to improve their grades where a foundation performance has been recorded.

Parents should discuss the report with their son and discuss the goals set by the pupils, which will be recorded in their planner. Should there be any further concerns, parents should contact their son's Form Tutor via the School Office. There are many mechanisms in place to support pupils, including Pastoral Support, Subject Support, and Mentoring.

Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School



LOWER SIXTH PARENTS CONSULTATION EVENING

Monday 4 March, 4.00pm to 6.00pm

On Monday 4 March 2024, the School will hold a Consultation Evening for parents of students in the Lower Sixth. The event is online, with parents making bookings through the *SchoolBooking* App. Parents are invited to meet with subject teachers following the Phase 2 Report issued earlier in the term.

This is an excellent opportunity for parents and pupils to assess strengths, identify areas for consolidation, and to plan for the Lower Sixth Examinations. Preparing thoroughly for these examinations is essential as they form the basis of UCAS predicted grades. Support to all Lower Sixth students will be offered through the Lower Sixth Assemblies and Form Time programme, as well as through the Pastoral Office.

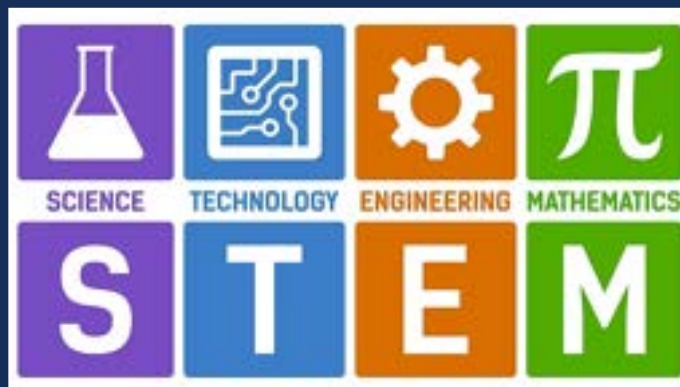
Mrs K Revell, Director of Sixth Form

CAREERS EVENING: STEM

Wednesday 6 March 2024, 7.00pm-9.00pm

On Wednesday 6 March 2024, our Careers Evening in STEM will encompass a variety of sectors from the worlds of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. We will endeavour to provide a panel that brings together highly experienced workers from these fields, alongside younger individuals who have more recently embarked on their chosen career in a STEM-related industry. Therefore, the panel is expected to be able to give insights into these professions, both from the perspective of an experienced 'old hand' and also from the perspective of those facing the challenges of new entrance. This will provide some further direction to pupils regarding qualifications and routes for those interested in pursuing a career in STEM.

Mr M Atkinson, Careers Adviser



YEAR 9 OPTIONS CAROUSEL

Thursday 7 March 2024

Pupils in Year 9 are now approaching the point at which they will make decisions on the subjects they will pursue for the GCSE Examinations. There are several stages to this process to allow the School to support pupils fully in making an informed choice. In the Spring Term, pupils in Year 9 will receive a series of Assemblies from lead teachers in optional subjects, including presentations on Economics and Geology, subjects that are not part of the Lower School curriculum.

On Thursday 7 March, Year 9 pupils will spend an afternoon taking part in an Options Carousel, during which they can visit subject stands, view work, and talk to current and former GCSE pupils. There will also be a presentation from the School's Careers Adviser.

Miss C Ives, Year 9 Progress Leader



SPRING SINFONIA CONCERT

Thursday 7 March 2024, 7.30pm-9.30pm

This term, Upper Sixth student Rory Keeble will conduct the Sinfonia for the first time, leading a programme featuring a series of contrasting marches: The stately *Triumphal March* from Verdi's opera *Aida* showcases a range of well-known melodies depicting a victorious general and army returning from battle. Strauss' *Radetsky March*, meanwhile, has a similar military theme, being dedicated to Field Marshall Joseph Radetsky von Radetz. Its popularity has led this march to become the unofficial national anthem of Austria. The creeping, slow escalation of Grieg's *In the Hall of the Mountain King* has many traits one might expect of a march, but here the composer was depicting legions of trolls and demons chasing the folk hero, Peer Gynt, through tunnels far under the Norwegian hills.

The Sinfonia will perform Schubert's *Symphony No. 3 in D Major* in the second half, a lesser-known work from one of the great early Romantic composers. The music lacks the tragic drama of Schubert's later and more famous *Unfinished Symphony*, a style inspired by his hero, Beethoven. Instead, Schubert leans more towards Mozart, presenting a work of playful elegance full of charm, grace and humour. This is an engaging and high-spirited work, with a pace and dynamism that matches the energy of the Westcliff Sinfonia.

Tickets are available through [TicketSource](#) and are priced at £5.00 for adults and free for pupils.

Mr T Derrick, Director of Music



INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Friday 8 March 2024

As is the custom every year, International Women's Day takes place this term on Friday 8 March. This represents an important date in our calendar, when the whole world celebrates women's achievements and their increasing visibility, as well as inspiring people to call out shameful inequality where that is still ongoing.

The theme for this year is **#InspireInclusion**. The United Nations Organisation states: "When we inspire others to understand and value women's inclusion, we forge a better world for everyone".

The International Women's Day website points out that, for inclusion to happen, we must be committed to it, and act when we see poor practice. Organisations, groups, and individuals worldwide all play a part. On an individual basis, it is important to understand, value and seek out the inclusion of women and girls everywhere. Additionally, sharing this knowledge, support and encouragement with others is of paramount importance if we are going to have a balanced and well-functioning global society.

As a School, WHSB is committed to inclusion and equality in all areas. Here in School, we also celebrate this particular day with a dedicated School Assembly, with readings and presentations given by members of staff and by Sixth Form students, and we run relevant activities in lessons. This year, the School Captain and School Vice-Captain will give speeches together. Mrs Niedziela will also speak, pointing to areas where work is still to be done and setting out what we as individuals can all do to make inclusion happen.

Mrs M Niedziela, Head of German



International
**Women's
Day**

HISTORY DAYS OUT: BLETCHLEY PARK

Saturday 9 March 2024

Next term, the History Department looks forward to joining forces with the Mathematics Department in a one-day History/Mathematics Days Out trip to Bletchley Park and the National Museum of Computing.

In May 1938, Bletchley Park went from being a little-known and somewhat curious English country home to being one of the most important centres of British intelligence during the Second World War. Under Sir Richard Gambier-Perry, Bletchley Park mansion and 38 acres of land was transformed into the headquarters for MI6's communications operation in preparation and anticipation of the outbreak of war with Germany. Throughout the Second World War, Bletchley Park was the location of British military intelligence and code-breaking, the most influential example being the cracking of the German Enigma code and the building of the Colossus computer in 1943 to decrypt the Lorenz cipher used by the Nazi high command. MI6 and the GC&CS (Government Code and Cypher School) collected staff from various backgrounds to join the code-breaking efforts at Bletchley Park. The most famous of the 'Code-breakers' were cryptanalyst Dilly Knox and mathematicians Alan Turing and Peter Twinn.



The work of the Code-breakers who toiled at Bletchley Park during the Second World War was considered 'Ultra' secret, even more secret than the 'Most Secret' operations, and as such all workers were sworn to absolute secrecy, a command some Bletchley workers have obeyed right up to this day. A chain of wireless intercept stations around the country collected

messages sent by various enemy armies and sent them on to Bletchley Park to be deciphered, translated and fed back to the British Army in intelligence reports that were used by commanders in the field. Winston Churchill famously described the code-breakers who worked at Bletchley Park as "the geese that laid the golden eggs and never cackled".

This is the second time that this trip has run, and our previous experience confirms that a day out at Bletchley Park and the National Museum of Computing will truly be a special day out, and a wonderful opportunity to learn more about these wartime British experiences, alongside the development of computing and mathematical knowledge.

Mr B Jeffreys, Head of History



YEAR 7 CHARITY WEEK

Monday 11 - Monday 18 March 2024

Following their enthusiastic participation in the School's non-uniform Culture Day last term, Year 7 pupils now look forward to further supporting the School's fundraising endeavours with a Charity Week of their own. This will comprise a number of events, including a Sponsored Silence, Silly Tie Day, and cake sales, all of which take place across the week.

Year 7 Form groups will also be invited to arrange any additional fundraising activities that they may wish to run, in addition to these whole-Year events. This important Charity Week brings the Year group together in charitable pursuit, helping pupils to appreciate the role and importance of charities in our society. Pupils with suggestions regarding the charities to which proceeds should be donated can make recommendation through their Form Tutor.

Mr L Norman, Year 7 Progress Leader



YEAR 10 PHASE 2 REPORT

Tuesday 12 March 2024

On Tuesday 12 March, pupils in Year 10 will receive their Phase 2 Report. This Report will allow them to assess what progress has been made since their Phase 1 report, refine their personal targets, and reflect on their relative strengths and weaknesses. This is an invaluable opportunity to inform dialogue with their teachers concerning how they can further improve ahead of the End of Year Examinations, which take place during the Summer Term.

This report, when used effectively, can help to form the basis of how pupils structure their approach to revision, allow pupils to see how their effort and application is being perceived, and how it could be improved, as well as reinforcing the excellent work that many will have already undertaken.

Mr A Barnett, Director of Middle School



YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING

Thursday 14 March 2024, 7.30pm-9.00pm

On Thursday 14 March, Westcliff High School for Boys will host an Options Evening for pupils in Year 9 and their parents. This event will provide an opportunity to discuss the process of making option choices, as well as receiving advice on the making of sensible and informed decisions.

We will ask pupils to make a final choice from the GCSE options towards the end of the Spring Term, and details of how to complete the online GCSE Options form will be given during the GCSE Options Evening.

Option choices made by every pupil will be carefully reviewed by the School before they are confirmed, so that the School can be satisfied that the choices which have been made are sensible and in the best interests of the pupil concerned.

There will be plenty of opportunity for pupils to speak to teachers and Senior Staff throughout the process, and pupils are strongly encouraged to do so if they have any questions.

Miss C Ives,
Year 9 Progress Leader



YEAR 11 PHASE THREE TARGETED REPORT

Friday 15 March 2024

For those pupils whose position was less secure after the Trial Examinations, there will be a final, short comment report, which will be issued on Friday 15 March 2024. This will be for all pupils who achieved a grade 5 or lower in that subject in the Trial Examinations, and the report will focus on what steps need to be taken to address any outstanding weaknesses, as well as highlighting progress made since the Trial Examinations. This represents another opportunity for those pupils to ensure they take all steps needed to become best placed to realise their potential.

This is an important term for Year 11 pupils, and all pupils should feel encouraged to take any questions or concerns to the Middle School Pastoral Office at any time.

Mr A Barnett, Director of Middle School

CCF ARMY SECTION: THORNDON SURVIVAL SKILLS DAY

Friday 15 March 2024

The Thorndon Survival Skills Day represents the first CCF Field Day for our Basic level Army Cadets. This event will be held at Thorndon Country Park, Brentwood on Friday 15 March, which is a superb venue to support our activities. The aim of the Survival Skills Day event is to deliver training on Geocaching, and to introduce our Cadets to Survival Skills that can be implemented on future overnight expeditions. Training will be delivered by the Essex Rangers, who represent a part of Essex Outdoors, and the Cadets will also be supervised by CCF Staff and Senior Cadets from Westcliff High School for Boys.

Captain Allard, Officer Commanding,
WHSB Combined Cadet Force



YEAR 10 GEOLOGY TRIP TO DORSET

Saturday 16 - Wednesday 20 March 2024

Investigating Geology in the field is a compulsory requirement of the GCSE course. Later this academic year, between Saturday 16 and Wednesday 20 March 2024, 25 Geologists in Year 10 will be visiting famous locations such as Lulworth Cove, Durdle Door, Durlston Head and the Isle of Portland in Dorset in order to study this fascinating subject. Much of the Dorset coastline has UNESCO World Heritage status, and a wide range of topics can be investigated, including minerals, rocks and fossils. It is also possible to make larger-scale studies related to plate tectonics and the geological history of the area.

Man's impact on the environment from mining and quarrying will also be considered from our base in Swanage. This part of Dorset is a world-renowned area for geological studies, and Westcliff students will have the opportunity to build their knowledge and understanding of field Geology throughout the week. All this can be done whilst gaining an enjoyment and appreciation of being within a beautiful landscape, itself governed by the geology of Dorset.

Mr P Marlow, Head of Geology



YEAR 9 PARENTS CONSULTATION EVENING

Monday 18 March 2024, 4:00pm-6:00pm

This term, we have our Parents Consultation Evenings for Year 9 taking place on Monday 18 March. Parents Consultations are particularly valuable evenings as these give parents the opportunity to discuss their son's progress with some of his teachers. These evenings are held remotely, using the online programme *SchoolBooking*. This programme allows parents to book meetings with teachers they wish to see, and teachers to book appointments with specific parents where these are judged to be particularly important. Further and full instructions will be distributed nearer the time.



Time constraints make it simply impossible for all teachers to meet with all parents, and parents are therefore requested to prioritise those subjects for which a discussion is considered to be most beneficial. As this evening is timed to take place following the distribution of the Phase 2 Reports, and before the final GCSE Options choices are due, this represents an ideal opportunity for a discussion around suitability and readiness for GCSE, with these factors being important criteria in making choices concerning the best areas for discussion. Instructions for the evening will detail the total number of appointments parents are able to attend; this number will include requests made by teachers, who are also seeking to use time carefully in delivering important discussions and the best possible provision of support.

Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School

LES MISÉRABLES

Wednesday 20 – Friday 22 March 2024, 7.00pm – 10.00pm

A story about the wretched and the desperate, told with plenty of singing. No, it is not one of my History lessons but the School Musical *Les Misérables*, which will be performed from 20 -22 March 2024 in the School Hall, with rehearsals already in full swing.

The original story of *Les Misérables* came from the pen of French great Victor Hugo, as a written work. The overarching story, set at a succession of revolutions in France throughout the 19th century, was that of former prisoner Jean Valjean, who is pursued for decades by his policeman nemesis, Javert. Their epic cat-and-mouse journey take them from the galleys of the French fleet to the gritty Parisian sewers, amidst an enthralling tale of broken dreams, unrequited love, passion, sacrifice and redemption – a timeless testament to the survival of the human spirit. Along the way, we meet the villainous Thenardier and his wife, scoundrels who seek to exploit every position they can, as well as the tragic Fantine, whose desperation to pay for her fostered daughter leads her into a downward spiral of misery.

The text was first published in 1862, vast in its scope and spread across 5 volumes, 48 books, 365 chapters and 655,478 words in its original French. Its purpose was to raise social awareness of the problems suffered by France's underclass in their daily lives. Hugo himself set this out in his introduction to the novel, saying "so long as ignorance and misery remain on earth, books like this cannot be useless", going on to describe his tale as "a progress from evil to good, from injustice to justice, from falsehood to truth, from night to day, from appetite to conscience, from corruption to life; from bestiality to duty, from hell to heaven, from nothingness to God. The hydra at the beginning, the angel at the end." Hugo built many of his characters around those whose plight he saw for himself on Parisian streets. His hero Jean Valjean, however, replicated the story of Eugene-Francois Vedocq, a convicted criminal turned criminologist who founded the Sûreté Nationale.

In 1973, composer Claude-Michel Schönberg and lyricist/librettists Alain Boublil and Jean-Marc Natel came together to create a concept album called *La Revolution Française*. The success of this prompted them to hunt about for a further work to develop into a similar album, and they soon latched onto Hugo's masterwork. The idea came to Alain Boublil while he was watching a London production of *Oliver!*, with very comparable setting and characters. By 1982, the two creatives had finalized this new album, which then came to the attention of Hungarian director Peter Farago. Farago was excited by the concept and persuaded legendary West End producer Cameron Macintosh to take an interest. Macintosh was rather reluctant at first but finally thought it might be something for Royal Shakespeare Company director Trevor Nunn to direct, which he agreed to do so alongside John Caird. The two had recently been working together on the seminal RSC production of *The Life and Times of Nicholas Nickleby*, and brought in the creative team from this, such as designer John Napier, to work on the creation of a musical version of *Les Misérables*.

When the production first opened for reviews on 28 September 1985, it was panned by the critics. Macintosh said the reviews were like "a dagger in my heart", with Jack Tinker in the Mail calling it 'The Glums'. Michael Ratcliffe in The Observer said it was "a witless and synthetic entertainment". However, when Macintosh checked with the box office, he was astonished to discover that audiences were pouring in to buy tickets. The popularity of *Les Misérables* with audiences was confirmed then and has never wavered. The show has now been seen by more

than 120 million people worldwide, in 52 countries and in 22 languages. The first production ran on until July 2019, playing more than 13,000 performances. There have been concert versions in 1995 and 2010, and a film version was made in 2012. Its musical numbers have become legendary, such as *Stars and On My Own*, and who can forget Susan Boyle's tearjerking audition performance of *I Dreamed A Dream*? And now it is our turn! We look forward to seeing you for own production in March and hope we can do justice to this fine and much-loved West End classic.

Mr B Jeffreys, Director of Drama

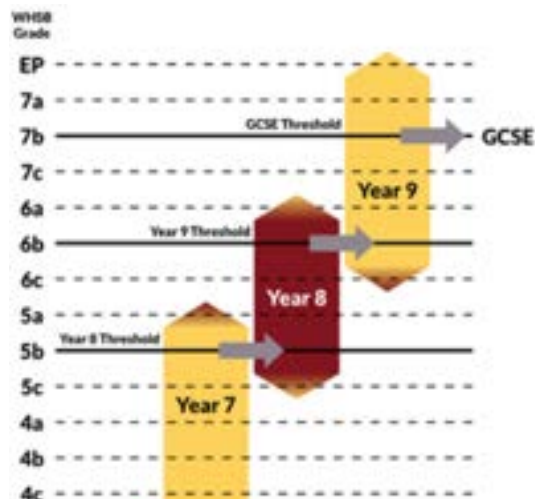


YEAR 7 PHASE 2 REPORT

Friday 22 March 2024

On Friday 22 March, Year 7 pupils will receive their Phase 2 Report. This represents an important report as it is the first full written report received by pupils in this Year group, comprising detailed feedback from all of their teachers, and providing parents with a detailed insight into their son's progress.

Pupils will be given an attainment grade from each of their son's teachers, using the School's internal system. This helps parents, pupils and teachers to understand a pupil's current level of understanding, and to identify areas of strength along with areas for development. The expected grade at this stage is a 5c. Pupils will also be given four attitudinal indicators to reflect their efforts in and out of class, adherence to deadlines, and presentation of work.



The indicators range from 1 (Exceptional) to 4 (Unacceptable). The expected indicator is 2 (Good), which represents a pupil demonstrating the anticipated attitude. A full explanation of the indicators can be found on the final page of the report.

Following the distribution of the report, Form Tutors will dedicate time in Form periods for pupils to reflect on their grades, and to develop goals for the rest of the year. Form Tutors will also discuss strategies to help pupils to improve their grades where a less secure performance has been recorded.

Parents should discuss the report with their son and consider the goals which they have set, which will have been recorded in their planner. Should there be any further concerns, parents should contact their son's Form Tutor via the School Office. There are many mechanisms in place to support pupils, including Pastoral Support, Subject Support, and Mentoring.

Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School

CHARITY EVENTS

Friday 22 March 2024

Students in the Sixth Form are presented with an opportunity to lead through their participation in the Charities Committee. At the time of writing, there is something of a *sede vacante*, with last year's Charities Committee stepping back and a new Committee on the cusp of election. However, we anticipate that the new Committee, once finalised, will be bursting with energy and full of exciting ideas with which to entertain us all and raise funds.

Friday 22 March has been set aside as a Charity Event Day, and we look forward very much to seeing what the new Committee will do with this opportunity. Once confirmed and nearer the time, further details will be circulated.

Mrs K Revell, Director of Sixth Form



GCSE MUSIC RECORDING

Tuesday 26 March 2024

This represents the final opportunity for pupils studying Music to GCSE to record their performance non-examined assessment. Last term they will have recorded a solo or ensemble performance of at least one minute in length. This term's performance will be either as a soloist or part of an ensemble (depending on December's recording), and the full recording will need to add up to four minutes when combined with their previously recorded work.

Pupils should already be practising for their performance and be prepared for the recording. Any pupils unsure as to what they will be playing must please speak to their Music teacher as soon as possible.

Mr T Derrick, Director of Music



YEAR 8 PHASE 2 REPORT

Wednesday 27 March 2024

On Wednesday 27 March, pupils in Year 8 will receive their Phase 2 Report.

This Report is an important document, providing parents with an update on their son's attainment, and feedback concerning his attitude towards his studies. Parents will receive an attainment grade in the form of a letter and number from each of their son's teachers, using the School's internal grading system, together with attitudinal indicators.

It is expected that pupils will achieve a grade 6c in each subject; attainment grades differing from this will indicate that pupils are performing above or below the expected level. The report also contains pupils' Lower School target grade. The average target grade is 7b, to be attained in the Phase 3 report towards the end of Year 9. At this stage, the School would expect the Phase 2 Report grade to be four fine grades (a number followed by a, b or c) below the target grade. If a pupil has a target grade of, for example, 7a, the School would anticipate that a pupil's current attainment would therefore be 6b. If their target grade is, for example, 7c, then a current attainment score of 5a means that they are on course to achieve their Lower School target grade. This helps parents, pupils and teachers to understand a pupil's

current level of performance, and to identify areas of strength and areas for development.

The report also contains attitudinal indicators; these are awarded on a scale of 1 (Exceptional) to 4 (Unacceptable). The expected indicator grade is a 2 (Good). Grades of 3 or 4 require a change in attitude by the pupil, and a Grade of 1 is awarded when a pupil has exceeded the already high expectations of this School. Parents should consider the indicators received against the explanatory table on the back of the report.

As with all Reports, Form Tutors will dedicate time for pupils to reflect on their grades, and to develop goals for the rest of the year, discussing strategies to help pupils to improve their grades where a foundation performance has been recorded.

We encourage parents to discuss the Report with their son, including the goals set by the pupils, which will be recorded in their planner. Should there be any further concerns, parents should contact their son's Form Tutor via the School Office, as there are many mechanisms in place to support our pupils.

Please also reference the diagram on page 32 which we hope will assist in providing further clarification.

Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School



UPPER SIXTH PHASE 3 (TARGETED) REPORTS

Wednesday 27 March 2024

Following the Trial Examinations in January, the Senior Master (Sixth Form) will identify those students who are assessed as needing to accelerate their rate of progress in order to do their abilities full justice and provide themselves with the best possible choices for the future. Such students will attend an additional mentoring session with a senior staff member, during which targets will be set and tracked. A Phase 3 Report will be issued to provide an update on progress since the issuing of the Phase 2 Report.

Mr A Dean, Senior Master (Sixth Form)

YEAR 9 TRIP TO MADRID

Tuesday 2 - Friday 5 April 2024

The pandemic interrupted much of our extra-curricular provision, including opportunities for School trips, and our provision of residential sports trips was no exception. The Physical Education Department at WHSB has been looking forward for some time to a return to these trips. We are delighted, therefore, that it has been possible to work alongside the Art Department to plan this exciting, cross-curricular trip to Madrid, Spain.

The trip has been arranged in partnership with Halsbury Travel, who have long been providing school sports tours. A Sports and Art Tour, such as this, represents a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to broaden their horizons and to develop both as performers or creatives, and as independent individuals. Equally, with our Learner Profile in mind, such trips provide further opportunities for the pupils to develop their Global Awareness. Our trip to Madrid is an opportunity for pupils to appreciate its rich sporting culture, as well as the artistic environment within this beautiful city.

Our focus on Sport will include the chance for pupils from WHSB to compete against club sides in Madrid, in both Football and Basketball. Thirty-four sporting pupils from our School will make up three Football teams and three Basketball teams. They will be able to enjoy competitive fixtures against a range of opponents who will play with a different style; something that will create its own challenges. Playing in a new environment should enable our pupils to further develop their sporting skills throughout their time in Madrid. The pupils will also have the opportunity to be coached by Real Madrid Basketball coaches, which will add to and enhance the training already provided by the School.

Pupils will also have the chance to extend their love of Art by visiting various galleries around Madrid, whilst taking in the beautiful city landscape. These pupils will visit Reina Sofia, Ikano, the Prado Museum and Thyssen-Bornemisza Museum. Such visits will provide our pupils with an exciting and different experience of artistic culture, including an introduction to Spanish Art and the artwork popular in Madrid.

We look forward to Madrid 2024 in anticipation of a wonderful experience not to be forgotten.

Mr J Sexton, Teacher of Sport



OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

Welcome from our Secretary

Your Steering Group has reviewed the results of the Members' Survey. As you will recall, we sought the opinion of both Old Westcliffians and students in the Upper Sixth. The survey was designed to understand if the views of potential future members and the younger generation of members were markedly different to those of the older members.

Very pleasingly the views of all were broadly aligned, albeit the views of current pupils and younger members concerning the aims of the OWA offered a different perspective from those of the older members. This was anticipated by your Steering Group.

The highlights are as follows:

- Current pupils see the OWA as a fantastic resource for careers advice, an opportunity for work experience and an ability to contact OWs currently at their chosen or prospective University.
- Younger members also see the OWA as a fantastic resource for career focused networking opportunities. They are keen to offer advice to current pupils as to university life.
- Older members see themselves as being a font of knowledge as to careers advice, and are keen to offer their experience to the School with careers seminars.
- OWs, regardless of age, are keen to keep in touch with what is happening at School, news of their Cohort and the teaching staff.

Whilst these were the answers your Steering Group was anticipating, it does now provide a clear focus which helps to inform the School on how to develop appropriate formats of communication with alumni, methods of encouraging them to interact and, where possible, to facilitate contact between current pupils and alumni.

The School is devoting resources to allow the OWA to evolve and to be a driving force to meet the needs of existing and future members.

On the topic of surveys, generations of pupils have expressed a similar view as to the awfulness of the East Toilets! These facilities were largely unchanged from when the School was built in the mid 1920's and, most certainly, were grim when I first used them nearly 50 years ago. The School has very recently developed a state-of-the-art internal toilet facility by converting a classroom and I am pleased to report that the original East Toilets are NOW decommissioned. Hurrah!

Mr J Gershinson, Secretary to the OWA

On behalf of the School, I would like to offer our sincere thanks to Mr Jon Gershinson for his kind donation of musical instruments to the Music Department.

The pupils and staff have benefited greatly from Mr Gershinson's generosity over the years and his recent donation of two oboes opens further opportunities for pupils at WHSB.

Headmaster

Martin Everett, Old Westcliffian (1958-1966)

It was a delight to receive a letter from Mr Martin Everett in September, accompanied by this wonderful photograph. Martin is grandfather of our current Year 7 pupil, James Everett, and they are both pictured here.

Martin, an Old Westcliffian, left WHSB in 1966, and has kindly shared this photograph of him alongside James, both sporting WHSB blazers. I was most impressed to learn that Martin's blazer is an original from 1966, and was in fact the one he wore as a student at the School. He is evidently and rightly proud of his time at the School, and delighted that James is now following in his footsteps.

Martin suggests that in his early years at the School, he was by no means outstanding as he fell in with a group of boys who were not as motivated as they might be in pursuing their studies. However, he recalls that the Headmaster, Mr Cloke, gave him inspiration and confidence and, as a result, he joined the Sixth Form at WHSB and studied A levels in Physics, Chemistry and Biology, which he passed with good grades. Martin went on to study dentistry at the London Hospital Dental School. He was in practice in Thorpe Bay for over 30 years, and was also appointed as a Magistrate on the Southend Bench where he served for over 32 years. His interests include Astronomy, in which he gained a qualification from the Open University, and he was later made a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. Martin's other hobbies have included flying light aircraft, sailing and amateur dramatics.

Evidently, Martin has many fond memories of his time at WHSB.



We are pleased to hear that Martin is most impressed by the improvements at the School and the dedication of our wonderful staff. He is, of course, closely following James' path at WHSB, and we wish James well as he settles into his second term at the School.

Headmaster

Remembrance Service and Parade at Southend's Cenotaph

Those who follow our Facebook posts will know that, once again, around 100 of our CCF Cadets took part in the Remembrance Parade at the city's Cenotaph on Sunday 12 November. We were so proud of the Cadets who supported this important occasion; they were a credit to their School.

Many Old Westcliffians attend this annual service and Mr Terry Birdseye, president of the OWA, laid a wreath on behalf of Old Westcliffians. During the service, our School Captain, Will Midwinter, also laid a wreath on behalf of the School. We remember and pay our respects to all those Old Westcliffians who paid the ultimate price during WWI, WWII and other conflicts to secure our own relative peace and safety.

I am always pleased to see some of our former CCF Cadets returning to the city each year to also pay their respects and to support our current Cadets.

I would like to record my thanks to Mr Bleakley and other CCF staff who continue to train and support our thriving Combined Cadet Force. Our Cadets support a number of Remembrance

Services, including our own at the School, those in the local community and in local primary schools.

Headmaster



Pictured: Headmaster with Old Westcliffians and former CCF Cadets, Jonathan Travers (left) and Jack Morris





Tony left *HMS Worcester* as a Cadet Captain in December 1952, passing out with First Class Extra Certificates in both Seamanship and Scholastic Studies, and took an apprenticeship with P&O, and formally joined the Merchant Service in January 1953. In 1957, Tony joined the RN Reserve as Sub Lieutenant RNR and, following his training, the Submarine Service, serving on *HMS Sea Scout*.

From December 1962, Tony was employed by the Port of London Authority (PLA) as Master Mariner, and was promoted as the PLA's Assistant Marine Staff and Training Officer. He later became Staff Officer to Capt Peter Leighton, a role in which he also oversaw the maintenance and crew of the *Royal Nore* - used whenever members of the Royal Family, the Prime Minister or other VIPs were taken up and down the River Thames, to and from important events - also acting as host aboard. Following a state visit, during which he clearly impressed Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, Tony was made *Ridder* - a Knight - of the Order of Orange-Nassau, a Dutch order of chivalry similar to the Order of the British Empire.

Continuing his career with the PLA, Tony went on to become Upper Harbour Master, and later Harbour Master responsible for the River Thames. Shortly before his retirement, in the Queen's Birthday honours of June 1995, Tony was appointed as a Member of the Royal Victorian Order (MVO) in recognition of his service.

A Mariner's Tale, Tony's memoirs, includes his reflections on his life and career, as well as his service in voluntary roles such as Commander in the RNR, Officer-in-Charge of the Naval Communication Training Centre (CTC) in Southend and Vice-Chairman of the RNLI Southend. The book also includes a detailed account of what Tony describes as the lowest point of his career, overseeing many aspects of the response to the sinking of the pleasure steamer, the *Marchioness*, in the Summer 1989, in which 51 lives were lost.

Tony's son Andrew, his late wife's nephew, Charles Owen, and his nephew's son, Tom Butt, are also Old Westcliffians. Andrew completed his A Level studies and subsequently entered the RN College Dartmouth.

Tony would be pleased to share his book with anyone interested. There is no charge, but he suggests a suitable donation to the School Fund, and enquires can be made through the Headmaster's Personal Assistant.

Headmaster

Anthony (Tony) Bull, Old Westcliffian (1945-1951)

In October, we welcomed Tony Bull, Old Westcliffian, back to the School, following his kind donation of a copy of his book *A Mariner's Tale*, which we are proud to display in our Centenary Room.

Tony was born in Leigh-on-Sea in 1935. Following the declaration of World War II, Tony (aged 4) lived with his great-aunt in Witham, Essex, and then later in Somerset with his grandparents. In 1942, Tony (aged 6) returned to Southend, attending Thorpe Primary School, then Chalkwell Primary School. He recalls time spent in an underground bomb shelter in Chalkwell during daytime air raids.

Tony joined WHSB in 1945. Among his School Masters, he recalls Mr Morrison 'The Moke' (Geography) and 'Black Harry' (Chemistry) who ran the School's Gardening Club. Despite encouragement from Form Master, Mr Thake, Tony's father insisted Tony leave School early to take up a trade. Mr Thake attempted, unsuccessfully, to change his father's mind and Tony left the School in 1951, aged 15, without taking his matric (the equivalent of GCSEs). With encouragement from Mr Thake, Tony applied to join the Merchant Navy, gaining 'matric exemption' and sitting *HMS Worcester's* entrance examination (mainly mathematics and technical papers) in the Headmaster's Study. He passed with flying colours. He thrived as a cadet, gaining a reputation as one of "the brains" and recalls his training experiences with fondness. The photograph on the cover of his book was published in the *Stratford Chronicle* newspaper, and shows him coxing a boat taking elderly sailors, including one of the *Cutty Sark's* sailmakers (aged 94), out into the Thames.

Our Thanks to Professor Alan Read, Old Westcliffian (1968 to 1975)

On Monday 11 December, we were pleased to welcome Professor Alan Read, Old Westcliffian, back to the School, following his most generous donation of some wonderful books for our School Library.

Alan Read is Professor of Theatre and Director of the Performance Foundation, King's College London. He is a regular contributor to the media, writing essays for broadcast on BBC Radio 4, contributing as a commentator to current theatre debates in the Independent newspaper, and offering pieces on pandemic politics and performance. His work over four decades has operated at the interface between urban communities and the potential for cultural practice and political recognition.

Professor Read's grandson, Luca, has joined the current generation of Westcliffians, and is pictured here with his grandfather. Professor Read, returning to WHSB for the first time since he left, has fond memories of his time at the School; his tour of the School Building included time in our recently opened Centenary Room, in which he was able to locate a copy of an article he had written for the School journal while he was a pupil at the School.

We were delighted to receive his kind donation of copies of his books on Theatre and Performance. The books now have pride of place in the School's Library, and are there to be enjoyed by current and future Westcliffians in years to come.

I would like to record our sincere thanks to Professor Read on behalf of the pupils and staff at the School, and we wish Luca well, as he follows in his grandfather's footsteps as a pupil at the School.

Headmaster



Christmas Tree Donation Launches Festive Celebrations

On Friday 1 December, we welcomed Mr Terry Birdseye, President of the Old Westcliffian Association, back to the School for the formal presentation of the School's Christmas tree, a beautiful Norwegian fir. The donation of a tree by members of the School's alumni community first took place during the Pandemic and is now a well-established tradition that marks the beginning of the festive season. The tree, placed on the stage in the School for all to see, was decorated by students and provided a magnificent backdrop for the multitude of seasonal activities taking place.

Headmaster

An Annual visit to Cambridge

I was delighted to make what has become an annual visit organised by Mr Jeffreys each December to catch up with Old Westcliffians who are currently pursuing studies at The University of Cambridge. It is always wonderful to hear about their experiences of settling into University life, balancing hard work with an exciting social scene in Cambridge, and learning to survive on a student grant!

Chatting over an enjoyable meal is inevitably on the agenda, and pictured here with Mr Jeffreys and myself are Old Westcliffians Lewis Seal, Joshua Seal, James Quigley and Haran Loganathan.

James Quigley is in his sixth year studying Medicine at Pembroke College, Cambridge. He is a former President of the Medics Revue, which he has steered through Covid, and he spent last summer working in hospitals in Johannesburg for eight weeks. Joshua Seal is in his third year studying History at Pembroke

College. He has pursued interests in theatre and boxing, and is now considering careers in the Civil or Diplomatic Service.

Sri Haran Loganathan is in his third year studying Medicine at Pembroke College. He is current President of the Medics Revue and has performed lead roles at the ADC, including in Amadeus and The Drowsy Chaperone. Lewis Seal is in his first year at Clare College studying Veterinary Medicine. He has joined the Medics Revue and has taken up boxing. James and Haran plan to become doctors, and Lewis plans to become a vet.

I am so pleased that these, and many other, current university students keep in touch with us at WHSB, support our evening events when they are in town and, importantly, are so keen to offer their support to our current pupils in guiding them through the university application and/or selection process, and indeed are already doing so.

Headmaster



Summer 2023 Leavers Return to WHSB

Last summer, we were delighted to welcome to the School's Alumni community a further cohort of students who left the Upper Sixth following their A Level Examinations.

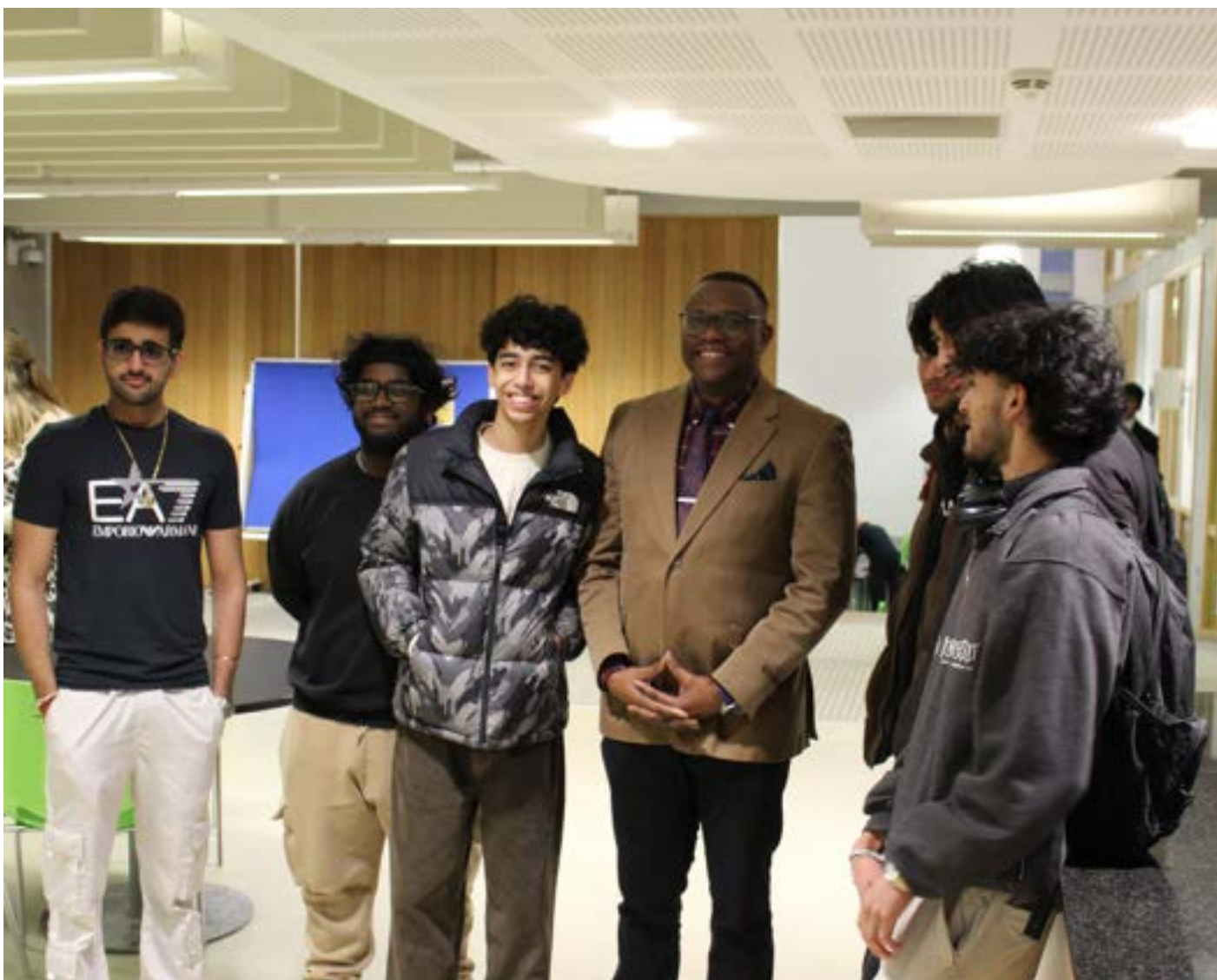
An informal get-together for this newest cohort of Old Westcliffians was arranged for 18 December as an opportunity for them to collect their A Level Certificates whilst meeting up with their contemporaries and members of staff. It was wonderful to see so many of our Summer 2023 Leavers returning to the School and to hear how they were settling into life post-WHSB. For many, this coincided with the end of their first term at university.

Those former students who have yet to collect their Examination Certificates, may collect them from Reception during term time by prior arrangement with Mrs Economou, Examinations Officer. Please contact her by emailing economoua@whsb.essex.sch.uk.

Mrs J Clarke, Community Development Assistant







Summer 2023 Leavers

Professor Tim Gocher OBE DL, Old Westcliffian (1982 to 1987)

It was both an honour and pleasure to welcome Professor Tim Gocher, Old Westcliffian back to WHSB, along with his wife, Pooja Gurung, on 19 December as they joined us to celebrate the festive season through our Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols.

Professor Gocher is the founder and CEO of Dolma Fund Management, an impact investor for Nepal, and is also founder and Chairman of Dolma Foundation, a charity educating underprivileged children in Nepal. Previously, Professor Gocher worked at Deloitte in London, J.P. Morgan in New York and E.On. As an entrepreneur, he has started and sold two successful technology businesses.

Tim is Hon. Professor of Sustainable Business at The University of Nottingham and Guest Lecturer at London Business School where he gained his MBA. He is Deputy Lead Governor at the Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust, a Patron of Essex-based charity The Music Man Project, and a Liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers. He was awarded the OBE for services to

British investment and economic development in Nepal. For our special Service in December, we were pleased to welcome Professor Gocher in his official role as Deputy Lieutenant of Essex.



Joining the OWA Community

In 1926, former students set up the Old Westcliffian Association (OWA) to enable them to keep in touch with both the continuing development of the School and each other. As we look ahead to 2024, a key objective is for the School to continue to develop a strong, diverse and active Alumni community for all our former students and staff (past and present) to join.

The Old Westcliffian Association is the focus and means by which all former students can maintain their link with the School and with each other in the UK and around the world. This community of former students is integral to the School and its members work to ensure the continuing success of WHSB through support to our current pupils and wider School provision.

If you, or someone you know, would like to join the School's Alumni Community, this can be done by registering your details via the School website <https://www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/owa>. Select 'Community' from the Main Menu, followed by 'Old Westcliffian Association' and then complete the online Old Westcliffian Association Sign-up Form. For further information, please contact Mrs Clarke, Community Development Assistant on 01702 475443 or via email community@whsb.essex.sch.uk. The Old Westcliffian Association is free to join, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Mrs J Clarke, Community Development Assistant

Alumni Visits and Donations to the School

We are always delighted to welcome members of our Alumni community back to visit us at the School, and you are welcome to contact Mrs J Clarke, Community Development Assistant community@whsb.essex.sch.uk in the first instance, and she will liaise with me concerning your visit.

Equally, we value the support our Alumni can offer to our current pupils, and this is becoming increasingly important as school budgets have become more stretched year on year. We are an Outstanding School and this is in no small measure due to the wide range of provision and superb teaching we are able to offer to our pupils and, to remain so, that offer must be maintained. Should you wish to discuss making a donation to the School, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Holley (my Personal Assistant) or Mr Stephen Rotheron (Director of Finance and Accounting) as we would be delighted to meet with you. Alternatively, if you would like to make a monthly or annual donation to the School, through our Pupil Fund, further details can be found on pages 4 and 5 of this edition of *The Westcliff Diary*. Thank you for your support.

Headmaster

THE AUTUMN TERM IN PICTURES

The School would like to congratulate all pupils on the Outstanding Ofsted result in November 2023

"There are high expectations for what pupils can achieve. Pupils consistently rise to meet these and achieve exceptionally well. They produce high-quality work across the curriculum. Pupils are proud of the school and feel privileged to attend here."

"Service to others is incredibly important to pupils. This is reflected in the extensive range of leadership roles available to pupils. They take leading roles in organising and running charity events."





Welcome to our New Year 7s



The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition



Certificates in the Senior Mathematics Challenge



Katherine (Lower Sixth) is through to the British Maths Olympiad



Medical Interview Training



Charity Culture Day





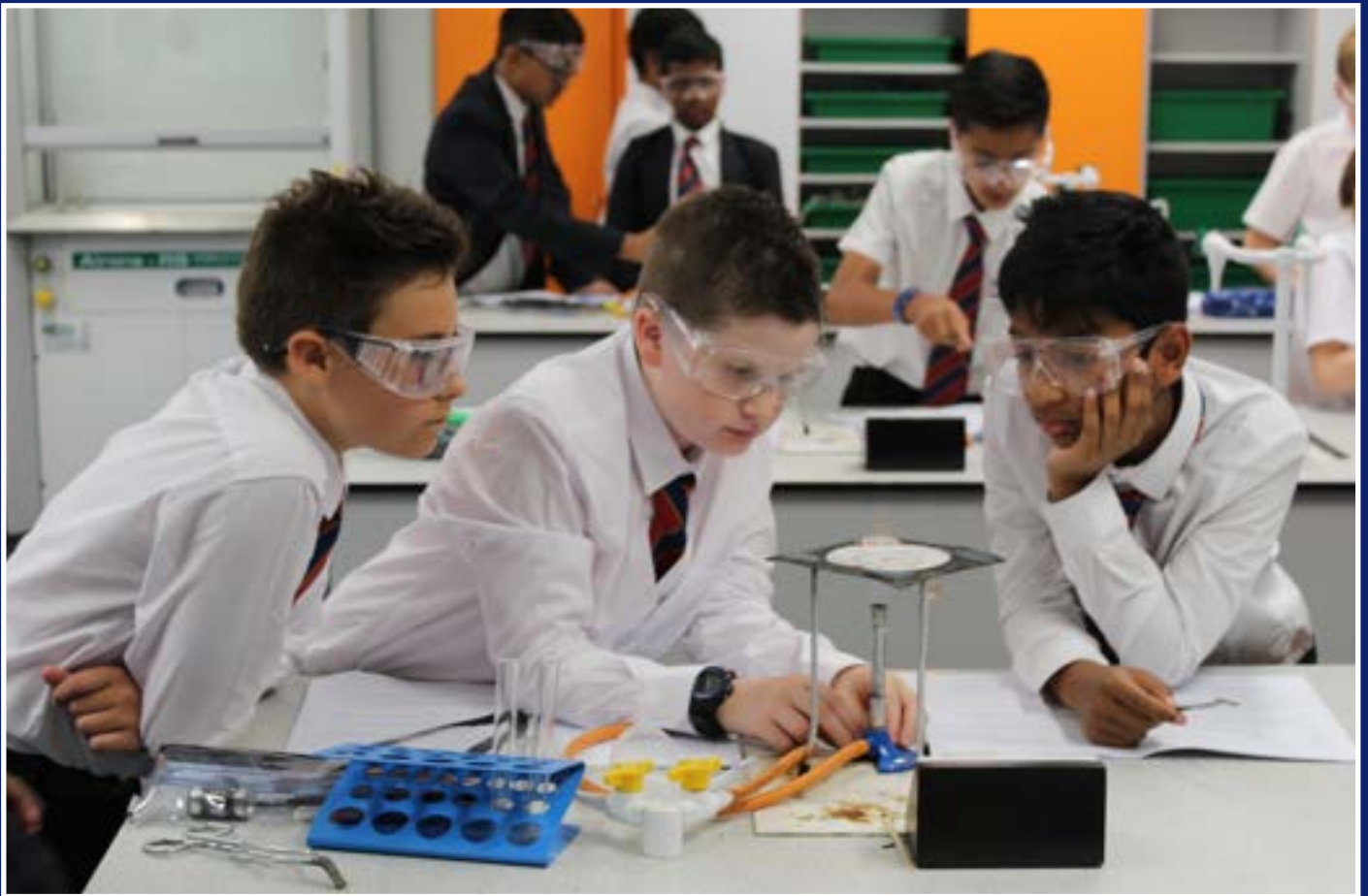
Chemistry Mastermind Essex Regional Finals



Duke of Edinburgh Expedition



Drawing from Observation Classes





Enrichment Day Sports



LAMDA Awards and School Colours



History Battlefields Trip



History Battlefields Trip



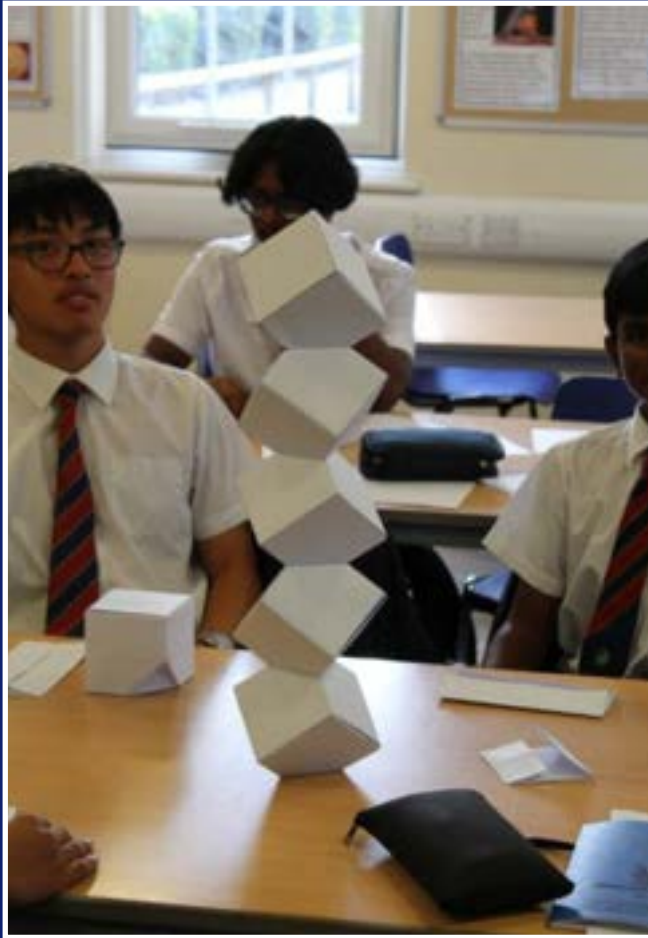
GCHQ's National Language Competition



Nuclear Races



Nuclear Races



Puzzles and Problems



Imperial War Museum, RAF Duxford



Remembrance Service at Southend's Cenotaph



Remembrance Service at Southend's Cenotaph



Report Journalism on
Humanities Enrichment Day



Rory (Upper Sixth) wins Cambridge University Economics Essay Competition



Sixth Form Coffee Morning



Royal Navy and Royal Air Force Day, Grangewaters Outdoor Education Centre



Samuel
(Upper Sixth)
awarded
Army Officer
Sixth Form
Scholarship





Annual Speech Day, November 2023





Annual Speech Day November 2023



Visit to Sizewell B Nuclear Power Station



Festival of Lessons and Carols



Festival of Lessons and Carols



Festival of Lessons and Carols



Festival of Lessons and Carols



Christmas Jumpers for Charity



Christmas Jumpers for Charity



Christmas Jumpers for Charity



School Captain Coffee Morning



School Captain, Will, is awarded Master Cadet status







*Audiences were treated
to three short plays by
Agatha Christie*



Butter in a Lordly Dish

Personal Call

The Patient





Westcliff Drama Performs Agatha Christie Plays



The Music Department

The School would like to thank all the staff at WHSB for their outstanding contributions towards the Ofsted result in Autumn 2023



The English Department



Our wonderful Librarians

"The school wants pupils to become lifelong readers. This starts from the moment pupils join the school. They have regular opportunities to read challenging texts across the curriculum and during tutorial periods. The school gives pupils time to reflect on their reading and to discuss key themes from the books they read. This contributes to a strongly shared love of reading."



The Biology Department



The Mathematics Department

"Teachers plan and teach challenging, yet well pitched, lessons. They ask well selected questions to help pupils connect what they are learning to what they already know. Pupils are regularly encouraged to debate and discuss their ideas. They do this respectfully and consider the views of others."



The Modern Foreign Languages Department



The History Department

"Pupils demonstrate high levels of conduct and extremely positive learning attitudes in lessons. They work together to support each other across a range of situations. These high levels of behaviour prevail outside of the classroom and across other activities."



Pastoral and Teaching Support Staff



The Religious Studies Department

"The school encourages pupils to take responsibility for their own learning. For instance, many attend lunchtime sessions to receive help with their homework or to improve pieces of practical work. Under the guidance of their teachers, pupils develop the habits they need to help with future study."



*The Geography and
Geology Department*



Head of Psychology

"The sixth form typifies the strengths seen elsewhere. The sixth form is integral to the main school. Students in the Sixth Form help pupils in younger years with their studies and to support their well-being for example through tutoring and peer mentoring. This creates a strong sense of community."



The Physics Department



The Art Department

"The school has designed a highly ambitious and well thought out curriculum. It is academically rigorous and goes far beyond the requirements of the national curriculum and examination courses. All pupils learn rich and important knowledge that prepares them well for their next steps. Many go on to study at university."





Our House Captains and Vice Captains

“There is a wide and enriching co-curriculum programme including a range of teams, clubs and societies. These build on pupils’ interests or help to broaden their horizons. This includes the chance to learn about astronomy, practice Latin or to debate current affairs. Pupils value these extensive opportunities and high numbers take part in this exceptional offer. Many of these activities have been initiated and are led by pupils.”



The House Team



The Physical Education Department

"Pupils recognise that the school helps them to develop their character. They describe this as 'being the best versions of themselves'. This happens through assemblies, tutorials and personal, social, health and economic education lessons."



The Finance, Resources and Administration Team



The ICT and Reprographics Team



Our Learner Profile

"The school has incredibly high expectations for what pupils can achieve. Sitting at the heart of these expectations is the school's 'learner profile'. This outlines the attributes that pupils will need to develop their mind, character and individuality. It is well integrated in all aspects of the school's work. As a result, pupils consistently demonstrate positive attitudes and dispositions to their studies and to each other."



The LAMDA Team



The Chemistry Department



The Senior Team

“Leadership across the school is inspirational. Leaders are proud of the school’s history but continually look for ways to improve it. This helps everyone realise highly ambitious goals.”

CALENDAR FOR SPRING TERM 2024

Thursday 4 January	SPRING TERM BEGINS, 8.40am	Monday 26 February	Teaching Staff INSET Day (non pupil day)
Thursday 4 January	Year 13 Trial Examinations begin	Tuesday 27 February	School restarts after HALF TERM (8.40am)
Wednesday 10 January	Year 11 Taster Lessons	Tuesday 27 February	Lower Sixth London Maths Fest
Friday 12 January	Year 10 and Lower Sixth Debating Workshop	Friday 1 March	CCF Advanced Overnight Exercise
Friday 12 January	Team Chess Challenge, St Thomas More	Monday 4 March	Year 9 Phase 2 Report Issued
Tuesday 16 January	Lower Sixth Engineering Visit to Canterbury University departs	Monday 4 March	Lower Sixth Parents Evening
Friday 19 January	Year 11 Phase 2 Report Issued	Wednesday 6 March	Careers Evening: STEM
Saturday 20 January	WCGC Go for Grammar! All Things Creative Day	Thursday 7 March	Year 9 Options Carousel
Tuesday 23 January	Year 12 Palace of Westminster Tour	Thursday 7 March	Spring Sinfonia Concert
Tuesday 23 January	Year 11 Entry to Sixth Form Evening	Friday 8 March	International Women's Day
Thursday 25 January	Sixth Form Chemistry Trip to UEA	Saturday 9 March	History/Mathematics Trip to Bletchley Park
Thursday 25 January	Spring Chamber Recital	Monday 11 March	Year 7 Charity Week begins
Saturday 27 January	Cambridge Schools Debating, Cambridge Union	Tuesday 12 March	Year 10 Phase 2 Report Issued
Monday 29 January	Lower Sixth Phase 2 Report Issued	Thursday 14 March	Year 9 Options Evening
Monday 29 January	Oxford Union Debating Competition, Sevenoaks	Friday 15 March	CCF Army Section: Survival Skills Day, Thorndon
Wednesday 31 January	Careers Evening: Medicine and the NHS	Friday 15 March	Year 11 Phase 3 Report Issued (Targeted)
Wednesday 31 January	Year 10 Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge begins	Saturday 16 March	Year 10 Geology Trip to Dorset Departs
Monday 5 February	Year 11 Parents Evening	Monday 18 March	Year 9 Parents Evening
Tuesday 6 February	Music Trip to Wicked, London	Wednesday 20 March	Performances of <i>Les Misérables</i> open, Main Hall
Friday 9 February	Upper Sixth Phase 2 Report Issued	Friday 22 March	Year 7 Phase 2 Report Issued
Friday 9 February	Charity Events	Friday 22 March	Lost Property Reclaim
Monday 12 February	Year 9 Immunisations begin	Friday 22 March	Charity Events
Thursday 15 February	Year 10 Army Field Day, Colchester Barracks	Tuesday 26 March	GCSE Music Recording Day
Friday 16 February	PA Cookies and Sweet Sale, Main Hall	Wednesday 27 March	Year 8 Phase 2 Report Issued
Friday 16 February	Lost Property Reclaim	Wednesday 27 March	Upper Sixth Phase 3 Report Issued (Targeted)
Friday 16 February	HALF TERM begins, 3.35pm	Thursday 28 March	SPRING TERM ends, 2.45pm
Friday 16 February	Ski Trip to Folgaria departs	Tuesday 2 April	Year 9 Sport and Art Trip to Madrid departs
Saturday 17 February	Spanish Trip to Almeria and Cordoba departs	Saturday 6 April	Army Section Biennial Battle Camp
Monday 19 February	Physics Trip to CERN departs	Monday 15 April	Teaching Staff INSET Day (non pupil day)
Monday 19 February	Year 9 and 10 History Trip to Normandy departs	Tuesday 16 April	SUMMER TERM BEGINS, 8.40am

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



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Boys