



# The Westcliff Diary

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## ISSUE 103 / AUTUMN 2025



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#### ON THE COVER

GETTING INVOLVED: CLUBS, SOCIETIES, AND MORE

Pictured: Uno Club

*"When I joined the School, one of the things that I was immediately attracted to like a moth to light was the endless list of clubs. I attend several clubs - one each day." Corwin, Year 8*

#### INSIDE

CAREERS IN MEDICINE, DENTISTRY, AND VETERINARY MEDICINE: PREPARING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

SPORTING SUCCESS: SUMMER TERM 2025 UPDATE



# FROM THE DESK OF THE HEADMASTER

## Welcome Back

I offer a very warm welcome to our new Year 7 pupils and their families as they begin an exciting new chapter in their education, and to those who have joined our Sixth Form this term. I hope that your time with us will be both a memorable and enriching experience, and that you will enjoy and embrace the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead of you, as a member of the WHSB School Community.

It is 105 years or so since the School was founded in 1920, when members of the local community, specifically Southend's Councillors at the time, came together to drive the creation of a new school. On the first day our School opened its doors, it was under the name of The Commercial School, based in a converted building in Victoria Avenue, Southend. This was a co-educational school for the town's rapidly expanding population. After just two years, the School's name was changed to Westcliff High School and, by 1926, the boys had moved to our present site to become Westcliff High School for Boys (WHSB), whilst the girls (Westcliff High School for Girls) remained at Victoria Avenue until the 1930s when they moved next door to WHSB.

Mr Herbert Glynn Williams, the first Headmaster, wisely noted in a special

1926 edition of *The Gateway* (the title of the first School magazine and a predecessor to *The Westcliff Diary*), the early success of the School *"could not have been achieved without the cordial co-operation of all who make up a School community. Governors, parents, staff and pupils have all worked splendidly in that spirit of comradeship and ignoring of self that is so essential"* (to building a successful School community). These words remind us that it is our School's ethos which fuels our strong sense of community and, ultimately, our identity as a School. That ethos and identity continues and has helped shape the lives of generations of Westcliffians to date.

Today, our ethos and values are consciously and continually emphasised through every aspect of our School provision, and reflected through our School's Learner Profile – a concept with which our new pupils will become familiar as they settle into the School during these early weeks. For those pupils new to the School, they may be interested in visiting the School's Centenary Room, a resource established as part of our celebration of the School's Centenary in 2020. This resource has enabled us to develop the School Archive to safely store and display artefacts and documents from

the School's history, whilst also providing an educational resource for our pupils, and a facility for members of our alumni community and others to enjoy.

## *The Westcliff Diary for the Autumn Term 2025*

I am also delighted to welcome back those pupils returning to WHSB for a new academic year, and another exciting programme of events and activities. Many of those activities, clubs, societies, concerts, and trips are captured through these pages. I encourage parents to keep a copy of *The Westcliff Diary* close to hand at home and to regularly discuss with their son/daughter the many opportunities available, and to emphasise the importance of becoming involved in the wider life of the School. This is an excellent way to embrace every aspect of our Learner Profile, to broaden one's knowledge and experience, to increase one's confidence, and to make new friends.

We know through feedback from our pupils and their families that they also find *The Westcliff Diary* an enjoyable way to reflect on events and activities from the previous term through the wonderful photographs which record School life, and I hope you enjoy the moments we have captured from the Summer 2025 through this edition.

I am most proud of our talented pupils and their many impressive achievements, whether mastering and/or developing new skills, engaging and succeeding in the classroom, or competing at School, regional, or national level in competitions and sport. I would like to congratulate them all, and to thank our dedicated staff



Our Learner Profile



A personal best and victory for Skye Carter representing Great Britain in swimming

who inspire and support the pupils, giving so much of their time to ensure the very best opportunities are open to all. Many hours are volunteered towards our extra-curricular programme, beyond the School day, at weekends, and during School holidays. On that matter, I would like to thank those staff who accompanied our actors during their week at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival during August, and in particular to Mr Jeffreys who gave over

much of his summer holiday to rehearsals for the School's production of *Much Ado About Pirates*, performed at the Fringe Festival this year. I was fortunate to attend their production in Edinburgh on two occasions this time, both very well attended, and the pupils' performances were simply astonishing. Photographs of that wonderful production, which received excellent published reviews, are included in this edition.

On the matter of success and achievement, I would like to congratulate all those pupils who took their GCSE and A Level public examinations in the summer. We are delighted to be celebrating their superb results with them, and we wish them well in the next phase of their education.

Headmaster



Through to the Regional Final of the Association for Language Learning's 'Have Your Say' Competition



Treading the Boards at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival



Celebrating Success in Cricketing

## School Attendance

A pupil's full and sustained attendance at School each day is fundamental and the majority of our pupils maintain outstanding attendance records. Both they and their parents take pride in maintaining strong attendance records, and in the outcomes and attainment resulting from that discipline. If a pupil is to reach his/her full potential, continuity in his/her education is essential. I would like to thank parents for their ongoing support in ensuring their son/daughter maintains a strong attendance record.

## Facilities Improvements

The summer holiday has been a busy period for capital developments at the School. We are delighted to have concluded our roofing project, replacing all the pitched and flat roofs on the main School building. We have also completed our works to upgrade the cladding on both the Science and Sixth Form Buildings. Pupils returning to the School will notice improvements to the Dining Hall too, as well as some new external windows and doors in the main School building. There have also been significant repairs to the pavements running alongside the School's private drive. Most notably, the School Hall has been painted in the School colours and we intend to replace the windows and curtains in the Hall during this academic year.

We continue to invest available resources in improving facilities for our pupils, although this has become most challenging due to real term cuts in Government funding. Increasingly, our ability to develop and maintain our facilities will rely on donations from our community. The need for fundraising is covered later in this edition of *The Westcliff Diary*.

## Annual Speech Day

Once again, we shall have an opportunity to celebrate the remarkable achievements of pupils throughout the School during the past academic year through our annual Speech Day. The evening is a compulsory attendance for all students in Year 11, and the Lower and Upper Sixth, and we generally welcome more than 900 pupils, parents, staff and other guests to the School for this occasion.

Our Guest of Honour for this special evening this year will be Professor Tony Young OBE, and we are delighted that he has agreed to join us to support our celebration.

Professor Young is a practising frontline NHS consultant urological surgeon and



*Professor Tony Young OBE welcomed members of our MDV Society to The Big Pitch (NHS) event, Westminster (June 2025)*

Associate Medical Director at Mid and South Essex Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Director of Medical Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Anglia Ruskin University, and the founder of four Med-Tech start-ups.

In September 2014 Professor Young became the first National Clinical Lead for Innovation for the NHS. In this role he provides clinical leadership and support in delivering improved health outcomes in England. He drives the uptake of proven innovations across the NHS, promotes economic growth through innovation, and helps make the NHS the go-to place on the planet for medical innovation.

In 2015, Professor Young founded the NHS Clinical Entrepreneur Programme (CEP). This has become the world's largest entrepreneurial workforce development programme in healthcare and life sciences. The CEP has delivered over £1bn of inward investment into the UK and created over 500 life science companies. In the 2019 New Year's Honours list Professor Young was awarded the OBE for services to clinical leadership.

Professor Young's portfolio at NHS England covers the whole landscape of health and social care innovation. This currently includes leadership and oversight of programmes and policy areas including: The National Innovation Accelerator, the CEP, the patient entrepreneur programme, the dementia innovators programme, SBRI Healthcare and updating NHS IP policy, Tech transfer and investment capability.

We look forward to welcoming Professor Young to Westcliff High School for Boys in November, and to celebrating our pupils' outstanding achievements.

## Staff Changes

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

Mr Bowles is a splendid sportsman who has done much to inspire the success of our extra-curricular teams during the short time he has been with us. He is a highly experienced rugby coach and has done much to help our pupils understand the game. He moves on to the independent school sector where he will be developing a range of sporting programmes. We wish him well with this new challenge.

We also say farewell to Mr Sell our CCF Senior Staff Instructor. Students in the CCF will know Mr Sell well and know how hard he works to ensure our cadets are fully supported. He has also been a full participant in CCF activity and done much to support the splendid work of Lt Colonel Baggs and our superb CCF staff. I am pleased that Mr Sell will continue to support some of our CCF activities, such as field days and camps, as a volunteer. We wish him well in his new position in the independent school sector.

Miss Clayton has been with us for just one academic year, teaching mainly Science and Biology. Miss Clayton is an Old Westcliffian who knows the School well. She is a highly intelligent and capable teacher who hit the ground running when she returned to WHSB. She has enjoyed her time in teaching and now plans to undertake further postgraduate study. We wish her every success with her plans for the future.

Mr Norman is well known to pupils for his splendid Geography teaching

and the superb pastoral care he has provided for pupils in both the Sixth Form and, more recently, the Lower School. He has an exceptional knowledge of Geography as an academic subject and a great enthusiasm for it. He has given tremendous service to the School since he joined us in September 2019. As an Old Westcliffian he has been a firm advocate of the School's values and has contributed greatly to our extra-curricular programme, organising several overseas visits. Mr Norman moves to an independent school in the North West of England to take up a position as Head of Geography. We wish him every success.

We are pleased to welcome a number of new staff to the School in the Autumn Term.

We welcome Mr Northfield (an Old Westcliffian) who joins us as Teaching and Administrative Assistant. We also welcome Mr Hague (an Old Westcliffian) who joins us as our CCF Senior Staff Instructor (SSI) having served for a number of years in the Army. We are delighted to welcome Mr Tottman who joins the Physical Education Department as a Sports Coach having undertaken the same role in a number of independent schools.

We have two colleagues joining the Geography Department, Miss Blackman and Miss Young. Miss Young will also be taking on the position of Second in the Geography Department. We are pleased to welcome Mrs Bennett to the Modern Foreign Languages Department to teach German and French. We are also pleased that Mr Gilmour will join the Physical Education Department, and Mr Hawkins will join the Art Department whilst Mrs Allard is away on maternity leave. In addition, Mr A North and Mr Risk (Old

Westcliffian) will join the Mathematics Department. Mr A North will also teach Computer Science. We are also delighted to welcome back Mr Hunt (Old Westcliffian) to teach Science.

### **Farewell to our Two Longest Serving Members of Staff**

Mr Andy Farrell has served at WHSB for 42 years, and prior to that attended WHSB as a pupil. Throughout his career at WHSB Mr Farrell held numerous senior roles in the School. In more recent years and until 2020, he held the role of Director of Middle School, with responsibility for the pastoral care and academic progress of all pupils in Years 10 and 11. This is a role he carried out superbly and with notable success. Many Old Westcliffians will also remember Mr Farrell as a terrific Biology teacher. Indeed, he taught a number of our current Science teachers when they attended WHSB as pupils.

After he stepped down from his senior roles, Mr Farrell kindly agreed to continue to assist the Middle School with its intervention strategies to support pupils. Since 2020, Mr Farrell held the part-time role of Pastoral Adviser, providing support and guidance to GCSE pupils on how to improve their GCSE outcomes.

Mr Farrell has given outstanding service to the School and we wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Mr Nick Cooper has served as a teacher at WHSB for 46 years. Mr Cooper is an outstanding teacher of Geology and he also taught Geography with great success for many years. For much of his career, Mr Cooper specialised in teaching Geology, taking on the position of Head of Geology at the School. Geology is a subject for which Mr Cooper has great enthusiasm



*Mr Nick Cooper*

and passion.

I know that many Old Westcliffians working in the field of Geology, and related areas such as resource exploration, would be pleased and keen to acknowledge that they owe a debt of gratitude to Mr Cooper for his outstanding teaching and guidance. Talking to OWs, many remember his wonderful field visits to Dorset and Arran each year, and excellent lessons he delivered on those field trips.

During his long career at WHSB, Mr Cooper held other senior positions, including Head of Careers, and Director of Cricket. On deciding to step back from these positions several years ago, the School is most fortunate that he chose to continue to serve as a part-time teacher of Geology.

We give Mr Cooper our very best wishes on his retirement and wish him happiness and success in all his future endeavours.

It is simply impossible in the space available to fully quantify the scale of Mr Farrell's and Mr Cooper's contributions to the intellectual and personal development of generations of Old Westcliffians. Both colleagues have contributed enormously to the success and outstanding reputation of WHSB. The School has benefited greatly from their dedication, loyalty and commitment to serve our pupils and support their colleagues. They have a special place in our School's story – we thank them both.

*Headmaster*



*Mr Andy Farrell*

## PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS

2025 was another successful year for our A Level students with half of entries graded A\* or A. In addition, an impressive 78% of all entries were graded A\*, A or B. These superb results mean the overwhelming majority of the students will be undertaking courses at prestigious Russell Group Universities, including Oxbridge, and taking up degree apprenticeships with national and international corporations. The students will be taking a variety of courses including Medicine, Economics, Engineering, Computing Science, Music, and Law.

There were many outstanding individual performances, with 32% of students achieving A\* and A grades in all their subjects. Fourteen students achieved three or more A\* grades, including David Atunwa, Rafael Gamma, George Odina, Akshar Patel and Kobe Yogarajah, who secured 4 A\* grades. There were also many more delighted students who achieved the necessary grades for their first-choice university.

We were also delighted to celebrate our students' outstanding performance in the GCSE examinations in 2025. Having achieved 56% of all grades at 9-8 with 75% of all grades at 9-7, their results are amongst the School's best ever GCSE results. A remarkable 29% of all GCSE examinations received the top grade – grade 9. This is an exceptional performance, with students rising brilliantly to the challenge presented by GCSE Examinations.

Many pupils performed at an exceptionally high level, with 70% of pupils achieving 8 or more 9-7 grades, and 26% of pupils achieving 12 9-7 grades. A remarkable 46% of pupils achieved 8 or more 9-8 grades, and seven pupils achieved an astounding 12 grade 9s, including Muktadir Ahamed, Sai Shubam Ananthula, Logan Farrow, Elliot Marshak, Karmanya Panchal, Abdullah Raja, and Oliver Street.

We congratulate the students on their outstanding results which reflect their commitment and endeavour. I would also like to record my congratulations and thanks to our wonderful staff for the superb teaching and support they have provided for these students.

We wish our students every success in the next phase of their education.

*Headmaster*





## WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW SCHOOL CAPTAIN AND VICE-CAPTAINS

I am delighted to introduce our new School Captain, Gabriel Williams, and his Vice-Captains, Toby Dowling, Jenni Garwood, Ethan Wan and Daksh Yadav.

The competition for the positions of School Captain and Vice Captains remains extraordinarily competitive due to the high calibre of the Sixth Form students applying for these positions. Once again, we had many impressive applicants, making the selection process particularly challenging. I would like to commend all those who applied and thank them for putting themselves forward to serve in these responsible positions. I congratulate the new team who have demonstrated all the aspects of the School's Learner Profile through their extensive contributions to the School community. Their superb records of service make them excellent role models for their community.

Gabriel will be known to many in our community for his outstanding contribution to School drama. He is a highly talented performer and has taken on a variety of challenging and diverse roles during his time with School's Drama Company. His talent was recognised at the National Theatre Awards in 2024 when he was presented with an award for his superb performance in the School's remarkable production of *Les Misérables*. Gabriel's contribution to WHSB stretches far beyond drama. He is a senior cadet in the CCF (RAF Section), has performed in Chamber Concerts, provided academic mentoring to younger pupils, and the list goes on. Despite his many academic and personal

achievements, Gabriel remains a humble person with a strong sense of service to others.

Gabriel is supported by four Vice Captains.

Toby has shown outstanding leadership in his role as Chair of the School's Charity Committee. A natural leader, he has also contributed in multiple fields such as the CCF, and academic mentoring. Equally, Toby has already done much to promote the active participation of others within the School community. Jenni hit the ground running when she joined WHSB in the Sixth Form. She has played leading roles in School drama productions and is also a talented singer. In addition, she has been promoted to the responsible role of Cadet Flight Sergeant within the CCF. Ethan is a talented musician who has performed at a variety of School concerts and events. He has also shown great organisation skills and attention to detail in his role as a senior CCF cadet. He is a keen student of Economics, contributing articles to *The Westcliff Economist* as well as representing the School in Economics Debating competitions. Daksh has made a superb contribution to the wider life of the School, taking on numerous leadership positions including Year 7 Form Captain, and academic mentor. Daksh too has given outstanding service in his role as a senior CCF cadet. He looks forward to supporting Gabriel to encourage a strong sense of community at WHSB.






We congratulate Gabriel, Toby, Jenni, Ethan and Daksh and wish them every success in their new positions.

*Headmaster*



*The School Captain Team 2025 - 2026*

## Our New School Captain and Vice-Captains

					
	<b>Gabriel Williams</b> School Captain	<b>Toby Dowling</b> School Vice-Captain	<b>Jenni Garwood</b> School Vice-Captain	<b>Ethan Wan</b> School Vice-Captain	<b>Daksh Yadav</b> School Vice-Captain
<b>Primary School</b>	Alleyn Court Preparatory School, Southend on Sea Biology, Chemistry,	Alleyn Court Preparatory School, Southend on Sea English	Blenheim Primary School, Leigh on Sea	Lincewood Primary School, Langdon Hills	Glebe Primary School, Rayleigh
<b>Subjects at A Level</b>	Mathematics, Further Mathematics	Literature, French, Geography, History	Biology, Chemistry, History Mathematics	Economics, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Music	Biology, Chemistry, English Literature Mathematics
<b>The most positive aspect of being a student at WHSB</b>	The huge range of extra-curricular opportunities	The quality and depth of teaching and curriculum	The support from fellow students, especially from girls in the Year Group above	The support from the teachers and their dedication and commitment is fantastic	I enjoy the strong sense of community and the pastoral support available if needed community To be a positive role model for pupils.
<b>What I would most like to achieve in my new position at WHSB</b>	Support others to develop and unlock their potential	Encourage pupils to take the many opportunities available at the School to fully develop themselves	Helping to organise events and ensure the School continues to provide a top-quality provision for pupils	Encourage pupils to participate more in the community life of the School	To be as approachable as possible to provide support for pupils in the younger Year Groups
<b>My message to our new Year 7 pupils</b>	You can do it – be ambitious for yourself and believe in yourself	Do not be afraid to step out of your comfort zone. Make an effort to make new friends	Get involved in extra-curricular activities even if you are afraid you lack the skills – you will learn	Do not be afraid to ask for support and do not be afraid to ask questions as that is how you learn	The prefects are here to support you so you should never be afraid to approach prefects for support

## CAPTAIN'S LOG



It is an absolute privilege to be appointed the 105th School Captain here at Westcliff High School for Boys, a role where I will be supported by my Vice Captains Ethan Wan, Toby Dowling, Jenni Garwood, and Daksh Yadav, all of whom have fully earned their prestigious titles. We all have big shoes to fill thanks to the

outstanding work of the previous Senior Prefect Team - efforts that have firmly established Rafael Gamma and his own Vice Captains as true stalwarts of our school. They will be greatly missed as we wish them the best of luck with their future endeavours. We hope to build on their legacy not only by embodying our School's virtues, but also by ensuring that every pupil maximises their potential and enjoyment over the course of the next year at WHSB. My team has already supported the School at last term's Open Day and WCGC Day, and we look forward to helping with even more upcoming events.

In OFSTED's most recent evaluation of the School, we were aptly given the rating "Outstanding", a recognition which reflects both our teachers' and all our pupils' hard work to present the School at its very best. I felt great pride in knowing that our community was given the highest grade that we could have attained and I am sure that many other Westcliffians felt the same. It is not rare for our School to be praised publicly, and yet it still never ceases to amaze me how often I see our pupils' achievements appear in the local newspapers. However, I would still like to challenge every single pupil to take this success further. What I mean by this is that you should take full advantage of the support offered to you and unlock your potential both academically and outside of the curriculum. This may seem like broad advice but I can assure you that it will have more application to your endeavours than you may think. Whether it be aiming for higher scores in Mathematics tests or trying to win an essay competition, our community (through teachers, mentors, and friends) is here to nurture your development and ensure that you leave WHSB on the best footing possible. So do not forget to make the most of the constant support we offer.



*Performing in The Madness of George III, March 2025*

Of course, while striving for success, it is important to acknowledge that the school year will inevitably bring its own challenges that can affect your learning and wellbeing. Many pupils may face obstacles and issues that will either impact their learning or diminish their enjoyment - this is not ideal when aiming to achieve your best self, especially within a competitive academic environment. Therefore, I and the rest of the Senior Prefect Team aspire to further promote and develop our School's mental health support programme, so that all pupils continue to feel comfortable asking for help with any problem, no matter how big or small.

Alongside these crucial support systems, it is equally vital to find enjoyable, positive outlets within School to boost your well-being and to keep you open to opportunities. Whilst some pupils may wistfully long for the joys of the summer holidays to return, I am proud to promote the plethora of clubs and societies which we offer as exciting and fulfilling ways to continue the fun into the school term. With over 60 clubs and societies, both during and after school, there will certainly be some which suit you. Even if you are not looking to blow off some steam or socialise, many clubs will help you develop your key skills and, most importantly, enrich your time here. For me, the CCF has progressed my leadership and team-working skills, Drama has helped me develop my confidence and my public speaking ability, and the MDV Society has allowed me to stay curious and be supportive of my peers - all skills which are desirable for later life. Even if a club does not immediately intrigue you, I urge you to challenge yourself and try it out. You never know when you might strike gold and start a life-long interest around a topic you never knew you enjoyed.

I am excited to see how many pupils take on board my advice and see themselves develop as the year goes on. Remember to remain resilient and to always strive for excellence in all that you do. I wish you the best of luck with the year and the opportunities that are ahead of you.

*Gabriel Williams, School Captain*



*Winning 'Best Musical Song' at the National School Theatre Awards, June 2024*

## WELCOME TO YEAR 7

### KEY INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF PUPILS NEW TO THE LOWER SCHOOL

With the Autumn term now underway, we sincerely hope that your sons are settling into Secondary School life here at Westcliff High School for Boys.

As a School, we work hard to ensure that the transition from Primary School is as smooth as possible, and we have several mechanisms in place to facilitate this:

- A playground dedicated to Year 7, where they can socialise, play and make new friends in their Year Group;
- A two-week grace period at the start of the term where no Conduct Card signatures are given for forgotten equipment, for example;
- A fortnightly Tutorial period with their Form Tutor;
- A fortnightly Enrichment period which is, for the most part, led by me; and
- A bespoke Year 7 PSHEE programme including modules on managing change, puberty and body development, politics and parliament, staying safe online and offline, celebrating difference, and self and relationships (family and friends).

There are also several key dates this term for both Year 7 pupils and their parents.

*Miss G Fairfax, Deputy Head*

## YEAR 7 HELPING PARENTS TO HELP THEIR SONS

*Monday 15 September 2025, 7.00pm – 8.30pm*

This event is an evening dedicated to all parents of new Year 7 pupils.

Not only can the transition from Primary School to Secondary School be daunting for pupils, but also for their parents. There are so many new things to grapple with such as different routines, a different environment, different expectations, all coupled with a level of independence which might not have been expected previously at Primary School.

The focus of this evening is to support you as the parents of a new Year 7 pupil, so that we may work together to ensure the smoothest start possible for your son. The presentations will cover a number of themes including:

- Healthy routine building;
- Day-to-day organisation;
- Managing homework;
- Maximising academic progress;
- Knowing what to do when things go wrong;
- Support systems both within and outside of School;
- Online safety and safeguarding mental health through sensible use of technology; and
- How you can support the School's Careers programme at home.

As Year 7 pupils are given information, advice and guidance during their Enrichment periods, they are not required to attend the evening.

We warmly invite all parents to join us and the Parents' Association for refreshments prior to the presentations, between 6.30pm and 7.00pm.



## YEAR 7 ACTIVITY DAY TO THRIFTWOOD SCOUT CAMP

Friday 19 September 2025

This first Enrichment Day at Westcliff High School for Boys gives Year 7 pupils the opportunity to get out in the fresh air, meet new friends and take part in fun and exciting activities based at Thriftwood Scout Camp.

When the Headmaster meets with the Year 7 pupils for their Birthday Celebrations on a Thursday lunchtime, with Miss Fairfax (Deputy Head with responsibility for Lower School) and Mr Baggs (Director of Lower School), this day is regularly mentioned as being a highlight of their first year.

A chance to mix with and meet other members of the Year Group as well as the opportunity to try new things, means that this is a popular and enjoyable event which is integral to transition into Year 7.



## YEAR 7 PHASE 1 (BASELINE) REPORTS

Friday 17 October

On Friday 17 October, Year 7 pupils will receive their Phase 1 (Baseline) Reports. This is an important milestone, as it provides the first insight into how well they have adapted to academic life at Westcliff High School for Boys. The report will feature a grade from each of their teachers, based on the School's internal grading system.

As illustrated in the diagram, most pupils will be graded as follows:

- 4a (developed performance)
- 4b (secure performance)
- 4c (foundation performance)

These grades offer valuable feedback to both parents and pupils, highlighting current levels of understanding and identifying areas of strength as well as areas for improvement.

After receiving the report, Form Tutors will dedicate time for pupils to reflect on their grades and set goals for the remainder of the academic year. They will also guide pupils as to how to improve their grades, particularly for those with a foundation performance in certain subjects.

We encourage parents to discuss the report with their sons and review the goals set, which will be recorded in their Student Planner. Should there be any concerns, parents are invited to contact their son's Form Tutor via the School Office.

The school offers various support mechanisms to help pupils, including Pastoral Support, Subject Support, and Mentoring, ensuring that each pupil receives the guidance they need to succeed.



## YEAR 7 PARENTS CONSULTATION EVENING

Monday 17 November 2025, 4.00pm – 6.00pm

This term, we will be holding our Year 7 Parents' Consultation Evening on Monday 17 November. This first consultation is an invaluable opportunity for parents to discuss their son's progress with the teachers who have been working with him since his arrival at Westcliff High School for Boys in September.

The event will be held remotely using the online platform *SchoolBooking*. This system allows parents to schedule appointments with the teachers they wish to meet, while teachers can also invite parents for discussions.

Full instructions on how to use the platform will be sent closer to the event. As we have limited time for meetings, we kindly ask parents to select the subjects for which they believe a conversation would be most beneficial. The instructions will include the total number of appointments parents can book, which will also account for any teacher-initiated requests. Please note, overbooking may result in the cancellation of some appointments.

*Miss G Fairfax, Deputy Head*



## HOMWORK AT WHSB

Homework in the Lower and Middle Schools at WHSB is set according to the Homework Timetable which is published at the start of the academic year in September. The Homework Timetable is designed to spread the workload for pupils across the School week so that each evening pupils complete three or four homework tasks. In Year 7, each task should take approximately 25 minutes, 30 minutes for Years 8 and 9, and 35 minutes for Years 10 and 11.

The Homework timetable indicates the evening on which the homework for each subject should be completed in order to balance the pupil's workload throughout the week, but this does not mean the homework will be set that day. For example, a pupil may be set Geography homework in a lesson on a Monday, the scheduled evening for completion of the task is Tuesday, and the deadline for submission is Friday. On occasions, it may not be possible for a pupil to complete a piece of homework on the prescribed evening, in which case the pupil will need to manage the time in order to complete the task by the submission date. The School's Library is open at 8.00am before School starts, at Lunchtime, and after School until 4.30pm, and pupils are welcome to work quietly on their homework in the Library without the distraction of electronic devices. Pupils should not be leaving homework until the last minute and attempting to complete or copy homework in their Form Room before School, especially since the Library is available for them to use.

The tasks set for homework are likely to include revision for class tests and End of Year Examinations, ongoing revision for public examination, creating or completing notes, wider reading or research, or other independent tasks. The purpose of the tasks set is not only to ensure that pupils increase their knowledge and skills, but also to inspire interest in the subject.

For the Sixth Form, it is impractical to provide a homework timetable, as the range of subject combinations is extensive. However, the School's expectation is that students should be studying for at least 16 hours per week out of School. This time

can be used to complete practice questions that have been set, for ongoing consolidation of material covered, looking over notes from a previous month, wider reading relevant to the subject, and ensuring that notes and other learning material is complete and relevant for revision.

For those students in the Sixth Form who discontinue one of their subjects, dropping from four to three A Levels, additional private studies lessons are added to their timetables - either in the Sixth Form Study Area (SF1), the Humanities Forum (E31), or the School Library - which can be used to supplement time spent studying outside School. In addition to the study activities mentioned above, a student may wish to complete the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

In summary, homework is a vital part of successful study, and it is highly unlikely that pupils will fulfil their academic potential without investing sufficient time in studying outside School. Equally, for a fully rounded education, this needs to be balanced with a range of other activities and interests, such as those highlighted through this edition of *The Westcliff Diary*.

*Mr M Manning, Deputy Head*



## LOWER SIXTH EDUCATION EVENING

Thursday 11 September 2025, 7.30pm - 9.00pm

We are excited to welcome Lower Sixth students, together with their parents and carers, for an enlightening evening focused on the Sixth Form's aims, expectations, and successes. This event provides an excellent opportunity to put faces to the names behind School communications and gain valuable insights.

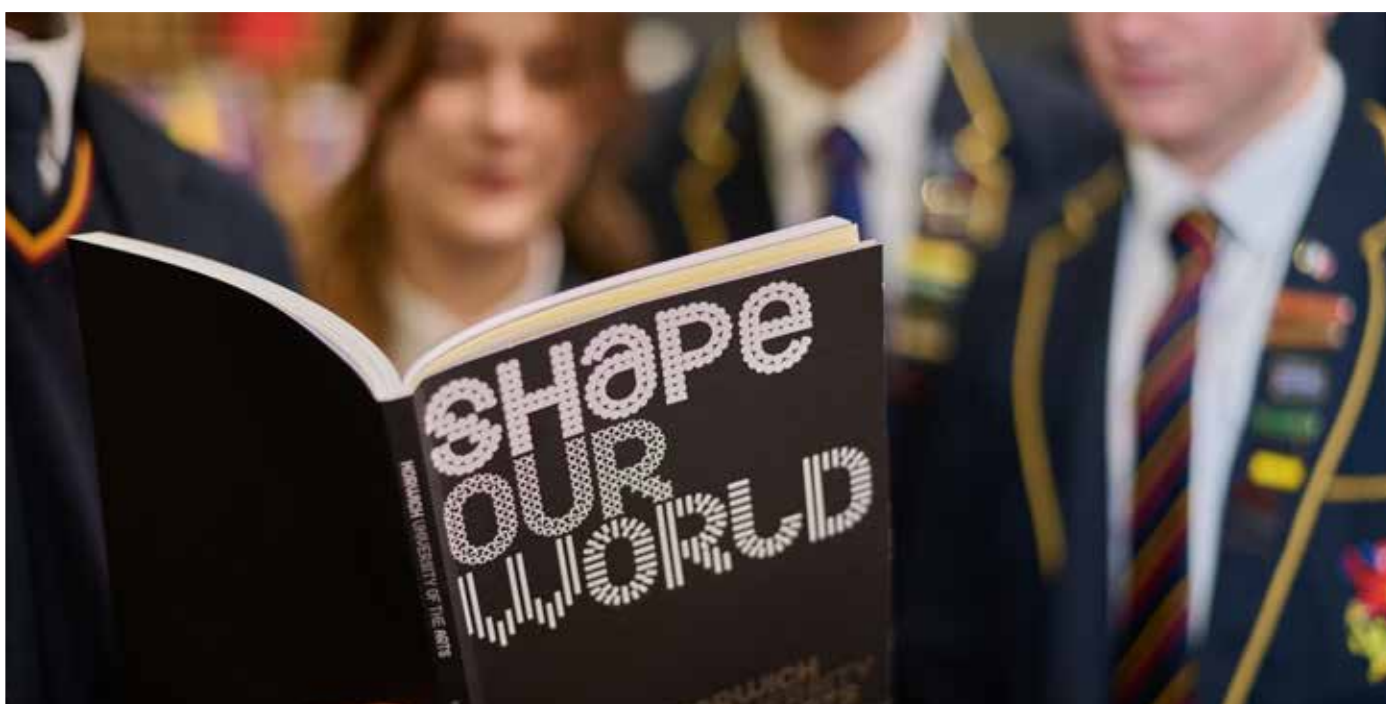
The event will cover several important topics:

- Attributes of a Successful Learner: Discover key attributes contributing to academic excellence and personal growth. Students will learn how to cultivate these skills throughout their Sixth Form journey.
- Preparing for the Future of Work: Explore strategies for success in the ever-evolving job market and gain insights into planning for face-to-face work experience during the Summer Term.
- Research-Based Study Routines: Uncover effective study habits backed by research and enhance your learning experience through evidence-based approaches.

Additionally, we will provide critical dates and essential information to ensure your success in the Sixth Form. Attendance is mandatory for all students, accompanied by their parents and carers.

We look forward to welcoming you to this important evening.

Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form



## THE WHSB PARENTS' ASSOCIATION: YEAR 7 WELCOME TO WESTCLIFF EVENING

Monday 15 September 2025, 6.30pm - 7.00pm

On Monday 15 September, the Parents' Association will be hosting its Annual "Welcome to Westcliff" Evening for all those parents and carers who are new to Westcliff High School for Boys. This will take place immediately prior to the School's "Helping Parents to Help Their Sons" (Year 7) Education Evening.

Existing Parents' Association members will be serving refreshments in the Screens area, adjacent to the Main School Hall. This will be an informal and enjoyable evening where you can meet the Headmaster and members of staff. In previous years, this Welcome Evening has proven particularly useful in helping to answer practical questions that may have come to light after pupils have joined the School. Contact can be made both with other parents whose children are in the same Form Group and with those who live in the same locality. The evening is free of charge to attend, and we look forward to meeting you.

Please RSVP via [TicketSource](#).

Mrs S Ghauri, Chair of The Parents' Association.



## THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION AGM

Monday 15 September 2025, 7.00pm – 8.00pm

The Parents' Association AGM will be held on Monday 15 September at 7.00pm in the School. A summary of our fundraising efforts over the previous year will be set out for those attending, together with a presentation of our annual accounts. The meeting is open to all members of our School Parent Community, and we look forward to welcoming you.

Please confirm your attendance via [TicketSource](#).

*Mrs S Ghauri, Chair of the Parents' Association*

# AGM

Annual General Meeting

**Everyone is welcome.**  
Stay informed and get involved.

## LOWER SIXTH GEOLOGY TRIP TO FOLKESTONE

Wednesday 17 September 2025

Geology staff will lead a Lower Sixth field day to study the geology of the coastline in and near Folkestone. The aim of the trip is to introduce AS geologists to field techniques with a view to describing and identifying the Folkestone Beds, Gault Clay, and Chalk. From such studies, the rocks can be interpreted in terms of their origins, not least from their rich fossil content such as ammonites. The three rocks represent a marine sequence in the region of 100 million years old, which has since been uplifted to form land by the Alpine Orogeny (still going on as Africa collides with Europe). The Mediterranean Sea is being eradicated but not for a few million years yet! The Chalk at the Warren, near Folkestone, will also be investigated with respect to engineering geology techniques related to slope stabilisation so that the infamous collapse of the Dover to Folkestone railway line in 1915 will not be repeated.

*Mr P Marlow, Head of Geology*



## ENRICHMENT DAY

Friday 19 September 2025

Enrichment Days provide pupils with an opportunity to step away from ordinary lessons and pursue other educational activities, which are often invaluable alternative learning experiences that traditional classroom schedules cannot accommodate. These dedicated days allow pupils to dive deeply into subjects, explore interdisciplinary connections, and engage with learning in ways that standard timetables rarely permit. During Enrichment Days, pupils might participate in extended science experiments, creative writing workshops, trips to exciting destinations, or collaborative problem-solving challenges. Without the constraints of bell schedules and curriculum pacing, pupils can follow their curiosity, ask deeper questions, and fully immerse themselves in topics that capture their interest. The variety of activities across the years ensures every pupil finds something that resonates with their learning style and interests.

Enrichment days also develop crucial life skills that regular lessons may not emphasize. Pupils learn to manage extended projects, collaborate intensively with peers, and think creatively about complex problems. These experiences build independence, confidence, and the kind of sustained focus that modern education often struggles to cultivate. By temporarily abandoning ordinary lessons in favour of enriching academic pursuits, we can demonstrate to pupils that learning should include textbooks and tests, yes, but so much more besides, nurturing the intellectual curiosity and deep-thinking skills pupils need for lifelong learning and success.

This September's programme continues to offer extended levels of diversity and interest. There is an opportunity for new Year 7 pupils to build new friendship teams on an activity day, while Year 8 pupils can enrich and further their love of Science. Pupils in Year 9 will be heading out to explore History and Engineering at Duxford, while those in Year 10 will learn more about what it is like to be a journalist. Our Lower Sixth students will learn more about positive mindset for learning, and those in Year 11 can choose between a day of Puzzles and Problems, or joining Upper Sixth pupils on a muddy day out at Nuclear Races. Those Upper Sixth students, that is, who are not visiting a nuclear power plant or making ceramics. It is another wonderful programme of Enrichment and we would like to thank both those activity leaders who put in so much time and effort to bring these events together, as well as those multi-talented colleagues whose versatility and flexibility brings this alternative approach to learning so productively alive.

*Mr B Jeffreys, Associate Assistant Head*

## YEAR 7 TRIP TO THRIFTWOOD

On Friday 19 September, Year 7 will have an Activity Day, which takes place at Thriftwood Scout Camp Activity Centre in Brentwood. This activity day is an important and enjoyable element of helping Year 7 pupils to settle into the School and meet other members of the year group. Please see Page 12 for further details of Year 7 transition arrangements.

*Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School*



## YEAR 8 SCIENCE DAY

On Friday 19th September 2025, Year 8 will be taking part in a Science Day as part of Enrichment Day. The aim of the day is to allow pupils in Year 8 to develop their scientific thinking and practical skills. These are vital skills for any young scientist, which equip pupils for greater success within their wider scientific studies at School.

Activities for the day will include understanding the Scientific Method, engaging in practical tasks, and conducting research tasks.

In the practical tasks, pupils will aim to:

- Handle practical equipment safely and correctly;
- Work safely in the laboratory;
- Work collaboratively with other young scientists;
- Learn new areas of Science beyond the scope of the examination curriculum;
- Apply their knowledge to the wider world; and
- Be more confident in conducting practical experiments.

The ability to conduct research is an important transferable skill, whether that be for a project or for one's own personal interests. Within this activity, pupils will aim to:

- Be more computer literate, including using basic software such as Microsoft Word;
- Understand how to research effectively;
- Understand how we determine which sources of information are reliable and which less so; and
- Use sources to influence their own work, rather than adopting a passive 'copy and paste' approach

*Miss B Negus, Key Stage Three Coordinator for Science*



## YEAR 9 VISIT TO THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM

On this year's Enrichment Day, pupils in our Year 9 cohort will once again have the opportunity to visit the airfield and aircraft collection at Duxford, near Cambridge, part of the Imperial War Museum. This is a world-class collection of aircraft, mostly military, along with part of the Royal Anglian Regiment Museum and the new Airborne Assault exhibition, at a WWII airfield that still retains several of its original features. This visit will provide the new Year 9 pupils with an opportunity to put into perspective their studies of WWII in History by seeing some of the technological developments leading up to, and during, the Second World War, and to examine the technological progress from the early days of flight up to supersonic transport and high-altitude reconnaissance. A number of ground-breaking aircraft are represented, including:

- Concorde pre-production MSN 101 with its flight-test equipment still installed;
- Several Spitfires, some of which are air-worthy, alongside its nemesis the Messerschmitt Bf-109, and the stories of some of the people involved in crucial roles and events of the World War II;
- More modern aircraft and helicopters: Avro Vulcan and York, Shorts Sunderland, English Electric Lightning, Hawker Hunter, Westland Wessex, and Sea King;
- American aircraft, including A10 strike aircraft and SR71 Blackbird, alongside a B-52 bomber.

In previous years, we have been treated to flying displays by Spitfires and a Yakovlev display team, and take-offs by multiple fighter aircraft simultaneously; we would hope to see other aircraft movements, along with aircraft maintenance and restoration projects in progress.

We are grateful to the Imperial War Museum who make available this type of opportunity to school groups free of charge.

*Mr S Hudson, Teacher of Physics*



## YEAR 10 HUMANITIES ENRICHMENT DAY

This year we return to the crucible of journalism that is the Humanities Enrichment Day. Diverging slightly from previous years and our WHSBBC News Channel, this year we have the fantastic opportunity to hear from real-life journalists from The Echo as part of their Schools Takeover project launched in the Summer Term.

We shall focus more keenly on issues a little closer to home, taking into account the importance of our community and how it is essential we see the changing shape of society as not just something that happens in Westminster. Pupils will be encouraged to think and write about a range of topics centering around their local area, and how small acts can have profound impact.



Following their Key Stage 3 education containing stimulating political and rhetorical works, pupils in Year 10 will now have the chance to put their own non-fiction skills to the test in order to persuade and inform their audience. Pupils will rotate between activities that centre around current affairs, philosophical debate, and masterclasses in how to craft the written word. At the end of the day, pupils will have the chance to 'report' on their findings and benefit from the input of experienced journalists.

The day will offer Year 10 pupils an opportunity to practice their GCSE Language skills, as well as encouraging them to read non-fiction and journalism fastidiously, perhaps even considering their own future in journalism so that they go on to report on matters of great importance, both globally and locally.

*Miss C Bailey, Head of English*



*Humanities Enrichment Day, September 2024*

## YEAR 11 VISIT TO NUCLEAR RACES, BRENTWOOD

Year 11 pupils are invited to take part in an exciting activity day at the Nuclear Races site in Brentwood. Throughout the day, they will take on a variety of physical challenges – expect some mud, water, and plenty of teamwork.

One of the highlights of the day will be the famous Death Slide challenge, which is sure to make a splash! Once back at school, students will explore the mathematics behind the fun, including analysing the physics of their motion during the activities.



Enrichment Day, September 2024

## LOWER SIXTH INDUCTION ACTIVITIES

The Lower Sixth enrichment activities this year will provide another stage in the induction process for the Sixth Form. Students will spend the morning developing their own vision for success through discussions and writing letters to their future selves, plus working in teams to complete a mystery challenge! The afternoon will include an inter-house sports competition.

*Mrs K Revell, Director of Sixth Form*



## UPPER SIXTH VISIT TO NUCLEAR RACES AND POTTERY PAINTING

This Autumn, our Upper Sixth students will be invited to select from two off-site activities: Either joining our Year 11 students for a visit to the Nuclear Races site, or Pottery Painting. Both activities offer the students a chance to test their resilience and nurture their friendships as they expand their range of experiences.

### POTTERY PAINTING



We are delighted to open up another new opportunity for our Sixth Form students, with the organisation of our new Enrichment Day trip to Peacock Pottery Barn at Barleylands Craft Village in Billericay. In the 'Learn & Lunch' sessions, students will be introduced to a new design technique (cobblestone glazing, see the exemplar photograph) and there will be a choice of pottery items and designs to decorate. These will be fired at the kilns and students will be able to collect these from School in the following weeks.

Refreshments and a freshly prepared hot buffet lunch will be provided and are included in the cost of the trip; students with any dietary requirements are asked to make me aware of these in advance. Students learn about mindfulness and mental wellness in the PSHEE curriculum and this will provide a chance for them to put those lessons into action. We imagine this will be a popular option with our Upper Sixth students so we ask that any students who are interested confirm their place as soon as possible.

*Mr A Lo, Teacher of Mathematics*

### UPPER SIXTH TRIP TO SIZEWELL

On Friday 19 September, Upper Sixth students, together with others, will be treated to an opportunity to visit an active nuclear power station, Sizewell B in Suffolk.

Sizewell B is the only commercial Pressurised Water Reactor, with around 20 m<sup>3</sup> of water passing through the core per second at a temperature of around 300 °C. To keep the water liquid at that temperature, it is kept at a pressure 160 times greater than atmospheric pressure. The power station delivers nearly 1.2 trillion watts of power to the National Grid, which is enough to power approximately 2.3 million homes. Approximately 3% of

the UK's energy requirements are met by the Sizewell B nuclear power station alone. All the nuclear waste it has ever produced is still on site, and by the end of its lifetime (2035) it is predicted to include just 1500 tonnes of spent fuel.

Those students taking up this opportunity will be further treated to a tour of the facility. They will walk around the building containing the spent fuel pool, see where water from the North Sea is filtered to prevent wildlife entering the power station water circuit systems, and even walk through the colossal turbine building, which houses four enormous turbines spinning at 3000 rpm.

Nuclear power stations feature on the Upper Sixth Physics curriculum, so this tour will be a worthwhile experience for the students, who will be able to link what they learn in the classroom in the Upper Sixth to a facility they have themselves seen.

*Mr K Dalby, Head of Physics*



### UPPER SIXTH MEDICINE, DENTISTRY, AND VETERINARY MEDICINE MOCK INTERVIEWS

**Friday 19 September and Wednesday 12 November 2025**

Medicine, Dentistry, and Veterinary Medicine (MDV) continue to be among the most popular university course choices for our Sixth Form students. Given the highly competitive nature of admissions to these courses, the School offers a comprehensive support programme for all aspiring MDV students, mainly delivered through weekly lunchtime sessions within the MDV Society.

Feedback from our recent Upper Sixth leavers strongly implies that current students will benefit greatly from attending meetings of the MDV Society. Many students credit the School's MDV programme as being instrumental in supporting their applications.

A key part of the MDV programme is the mock interview experience, designed to prepare students for the rigorous university interview process. This year, the mock interviews will take place on Friday 19 September 2025, as part of Enrichment Day, and on Wednesday 12 November 2025.

**What our recent Upper Sixth leavers say:**

*"MDV [Society] was great for my application. I don't think I would have made it nearly as far as I did with my application without the help of the Society and from Mrs Lo-Whitford."*

*"MDV [Society] has an amazing support system, which has helped me get ready for interviews and personal statements alike."*

*"[MDV Society] developed me as an individual, equipping me with many skills such as public speaking."*

These interviews are conducted by a range of professionals, including doctors, current MDV university students, and other

healthcare practitioners. Students not only gain valuable practice in interview settings but also benefit from insightful conversations with professionals about careers in healthcare.

**A recent Upper Sixth Leaver reflected on the experience:**

*"The most helpful aspects of MDV were the mock interviews we did, where we spent the whole day doing interviews or preparing for them. I think that is what helped with my application the most, as it gave me realistic preparation for what an actual interview would be like, and the confidence I gained from those interviews carried over very well into the interviews I did."*

Current Upper Sixth MDV applicants must check the MDV Society Teams page for further information about this year's mock interviews.

*Mrs E Lo-Whitford, Higher Education Adviser (Medicine)*



Members of our MDV Society attending The Big Pitch (NHS) event, Westminster (June 2025)

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Friday 19 - 20 September 2025

WHSB's Duke of Edinburgh's Award programme continues to thrive with our Silver Award cohort having completed their expeditions in the Summer Term, and our Bronze Award pupils completing theirs in a few weeks' time.

Our current Year 10 pupils, who began their Bronze Award in Year 9, have already completed their training day and are now preparing for their assessment expedition, which takes place on 19-20 September around Hatfield Peverel and Danbury. During this expedition, pupils will navigate independently (under appropriate staff supervision) for approximately six hours, before arriving at camp where they must demonstrate self-sufficiency for the remainder of their time.

Participants are encouraged to complete all sections of the Bronze Award – Physical, Skills, Volunteering – before the Christmas break, particularly if they are considering progressing to the Silver Award.

While the Expedition section is often the highlight for many pupils, the true strength of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award lies in its breadth. The commitment required across the three other sections offers pupils the chance to grow, contribute to their communities, and develop a wide range of skills beyond the classroom.

Applications for the Bronze Award will open to current Year 9 pupils in January. Interested pupils should give careful thought to the demands of the full programme before applying.

*Mr H Tresidder, Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator*

<b>BRONZE</b>		
<b>Volunteering 3 months</b>		<i>PLUS a further 3 months in the Volunteering, Physical or Skills section.</i>
<b>Physical 3 months</b>		
<b>Skills 3 months</b>		
<b>Expedition 2 days 1 night</b>		
		
<b>SILVER</b>		
<b>Volunteering 6 months</b>		<i>Plus an extra 6 months in the Volunteering, or the longer of the Physical or Skills sections if you haven't got Bronze.</i>
<b>Physical</b>	one section for 6 months, the other for 3 months	
<b>Skills</b>		
<b>Expedition 3 days 2 nights</b>		
		



## 11+ MAIN TEST DAY

Saturday 20 September 2025

This year, our 11+ Main Test Day will take place on Saturday 20 September. As always, we would like to extend our thanks in advance to all members of our staff who are involved in this key event for the School, in addition to our Prefect Team, who will be integral to the smooth running of this day, and to our Invigilators and Markers.

The Alternative Testing Day will be on Tuesday 30 September, but the School will remain open as normal. Year 9 pupils will be engaged in the 'Take Your Child to Work Day' on that day, or involved in career-related learning activities within School.

Miss G Fairfax, Deputy Head



## UPPER SIXTH FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT TESTS

Monday 22 September – Friday 26 September 2025

In-class Formative Assessment Tests will include a variety of formats and topics. These assessments allow students to reflect on their progress since the Lower Sixth Examinations. They also help students evaluate how effective their revision strategies have been.

One key aspect of these tests is the concept of "spaced practice". Initially developed by Ebbinghaus in the 19th century through his study on "forgetting", spaced practice aids in creating long-term memory, an essential factor for success throughout the two-year A Level Programme. Research data indicates that students who effectively manage their learning are more likely to achieve strong outcomes in their A Level results.



Should any student have concerns about these assessments or any other aspect of School life, we encourage them to contact the Sixth Form Pastoral Office. Our dedicated staff members are available to offer guidance and support.

Mr A Dean, Senior Master  
Sixth Form

## FLU VACCINATIONS

Tuesday 23 September and Tuesday 7 October



Following recent changes in the delivery of School-Aged vaccinations, this service will be delivered to pupils at this School by Vaccination UK. This organisation has supported Hertfordshire Community Trust for many years, and has now expanded to cover

Essex. Vaccination UK will be supporting the trust in delivering the flu programme to pupils at WHSB this year, offering the flu vaccine to all Year Groups from Years 7 to 11.

The School acts as a venue only for the vaccinations, and is not involved in the arrangements, provision of information, or requesting of consent regarding the vaccinations. This is managed entirely by the Immunisations Team (although the School may distribute information on Vaccination UK's behalf), and therefore the School is unable to answer any associated questions.

Any queries or concerns can be addressed directly to Vaccination UK using the contact details that will be distributed nearer the time.

*Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School*

## YEAR 9 HELPING PARENTS TO HELP THEIR SONS

Thursday 25 September 2025, 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Year 9 is a pivotal year in a pupil's journey at Westcliff High School for Boys. As the final year of Lower School, it serves as essential preparation for the transition to GCSE courses. This year is also crucial for making GCSE options choices, which will be made during the Spring Term. The performance of pupils during Year 9 can have a significant long-term impact, as it can either limit or open up GCSE options. Additionally, if effective study habits are not firmly established by the end of Year 9, pupils may struggle when they begin their GCSE studies in Year 10.

To support both students and parents during this important year, we are inviting parents to attend the Year 9 Helping Parents to Help Their Sons event. During this session, the Progress Leader for Year 9, representatives from various academic departments and I will provide key insights into the following topics:

- Effective routines for success;
- Managing organisation and homework effectively;
- Helpful study habits and techniques;
- Re-establishing academic and behavioural expectations;
- Specific strategies for maximising progress in each subject;
- How to support your son when things go wrong;
- Available support mechanisms, both in and out of school; and
- How you can support the School's Careers programme at home.

This event is a vital opportunity for parents to gain valuable information on how best to support their son's academic journey. All Year 9 pupils are expected to attend, and we strongly encourage all parents to join us for this informative session.

*Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School*



## ROYAL NAVY CADET TRIP TO GRANGEWATERS

*Saturday 27 September 2025*

This September, the Royal Navy cadets will participate in a highly anticipated field day at Grangewaters, marking the first major outdoor training opportunity of the academic year. The event will include a range of adventurous and skill-building activities such as stand-up paddleboarding, dinghy sailing, and climbing.

Climbing has recently been introduced as an official Royal Navy activity, thanks in part to the installation of climbing walls aboard larger naval vessels like aircraft carriers. Cadets had a first-hand look at this innovation during their recent visit to HMS Queen Elizabeth, where they observed how such facilities are integrated into shipboard training environments.

This Field Day offers an invaluable experience for all cadets, and especially for the new Year 9 recruits who will be engaging in their first full training exercise alongside the wider Royal Navy section. Open to all cadets, the day aims to foster essential naval values and skills including teamwork, leadership, communication, confidence, and ropework.

These practical, water- and land-based activities serve not only as an exciting start to the year but also as a key developmental milestone in the cadet training calendar.

*Mr C Hadley, CCF Royal Navy Section Officer*



## YEAR 9 'TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK' DAY

*Tuesday 30 September 2025*

As part of our extensive Careers Provision, once again our Year 9 pupils will have the opportunity to accompany their parents, carers, or trusted friends to their workplace on Tuesday 30 September.

Pupils can look forward to experiencing a day in a professional working environment, to enable them to consider more closely where their future career interests lie. Furthermore, it enables pupils to begin to appreciate the importance of transferrable soft skills such as time management, networking, teamwork, creative thinking, and conflict resolution, skills we are nurturing through our Careers Across the Curriculum Project in conjunction with Mr Adam Berry of HSBC who is the School's Enterprise Adviser. Our experience has suggested that pupils find this day extremely enlightening and a springboard into mapping out their career aspirations, together with routes into subsequent education and/or training. Those who are unable to secure a day's placement will remain at School to participate in a carousel of career-related learning activities.

With the Government's renewed focus on the importance of work experience, WHSB will continue to support our pupils most actively through our extensive careers provision.

*Mr M Atkinson, Careers Adviser*



## YEAR 11 FORMATIVE EXAMINATIONS

*Monday 29 September - Friday 3 October 2025*

In the week beginning Monday 29 September, pupils in Year 11 will complete their Formative Examinations in many of their subjects. These informal, low-risk assessments are an opportunity to build confidence in the content covered during the Summer Term, as well as an opportunity to demonstrate improvement where required. Such examinations have acted as a springboard moment for many pupils in the past, and should also give further encouragement to pupils in the current Year Group.

*Mr A Barnett, Director of Middle School*



*Careers Events at Westcliff High School for Boys, 2025*

## THE SCHOOL COUNCIL AT WHSB

One of the School's greatest strengths is its commitment to change and constant support for students' everyday experiences. At the heart of this progress is our respected and influential School Council, a cornerstone of our community. As most of you are aware, the School Council is a body of student representatives from all Year Groups and all Forms who frequently meet to discuss how to improve the School in efforts to create a more enjoyable and academic environment for everyone. Once a half-term, a small group of these representatives meet with the Headmaster to discuss issues raised in meetings and what they think the best approach would be to combat them. Its success in recent years, from introducing picnic benches in the Year 7 playground to creating a second till in the Sixth Form Café, has already left its impression on WHSB and its pupils. These examples, to name a few, go to show that even small changes can make a big difference to the environment in which we spend so much of our daily lives.

However, the Council does much more than solely benefit the wider school community. Anas Hafez (10E's Form representative during the last academic year) has said that his time with the Council has allowed him "to grow personally", because sharing ideas with his Form combined with working together with his Council peers has developed several key skills such as communication and teamwork. One concern that Anas and many others frequently raised was the state of the old toilet facilities in the East Block of the School. As a result of their dedication and persistence, the brand new, spotless East Corridor toilet facilities were introduced – a change that I am certain most Westcliffians would agree was necessary.

Anas thinks that every student should "give it a shot" and apply to be a part of this prestigious committee because the Council is a great way for your voice and ideas to be heard. I specifically urge new Year 7 students and new Sixth Form students to get involved with this student consortium, since you will be seeing the School with a fresh pair of eyes, and, with your help, we will be able to maintain a better environment for years to come.

*Gabriel Williams, School Captain*



*Gabriel (School Captain) with Anas (Year 11)*

## JOINING CLUBS AND SOCIETIES AT WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

Clubs and Societies continue to be a highly valued and significant aspect of life at WHSB. We have an hour-long lunchbreak, which is becoming increasingly rare in secondary school settings. This allows pupils the time to participate in a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities during the School day. These Clubs are often organised and run by the pupils themselves, overseen by a member of staff, and most are free of charge. They give individuals the opportunity to make friends, try new things and enjoy themselves! Many develop leadership and communication skills and pupils are encouraged to be collaborative, supportive, intellectually curious and have personal integrity. These are all key elements of our Learner Profile at WHSB.

The activities are diverse, and some may run for a Term while others continue all year round. The range and nature of the clubs are determined by student interest and new clubs and societies are being set up all the time; our most recent list boasts in excess of 60 clubs and societies. These will be amended and updated throughout the Autumn Term. Pupils are encouraged to listen carefully to announcements in Daily Registers and look on Form and House noticeboards each day for details, as some can change at short notice.

Learners are expected to join at least one club or society. If pupils have any ideas for a new activity, then they are very welcome to speak with me to discuss their suggestion.

*Mr Barber, House Coordinator*



My name is Corwin Sam Vinosh (Year 8, Osprey House) and I am a proud pupil at Westcliff High School for Boys. When I joined the School, one of the things that I was immediately attracted to like a moth to light was the endless list of clubs. I attend several clubs – one each day.

On Mondays I attend Tamil Club. Tamil is my mother tongue and to see so many people who speak the same language is amazing. On Tuesdays I attend Philosophy Society, where students of different ages create presentations, and we also have debates and give our opinions. On Wednesday, I attend Astronomy Club with Mr Dalby where we discuss different topics about Astronomy and have fun games about the cosmos. On Thursdays I go to Treble Choir, where I learn tone and improve my voice. We also go to many performances; one I attended was at the Royal Festival Hall, and another was at a 5 Star Hotel in London. On Fridays I attend the main School choir. We have many types of singers, and we undertake many performances throughout the year.

Overall, I think there is a club for everyone, and the clubs are a big part of what makes a Westcliffian.

*Corwin Sam Vinosh, Year 8*

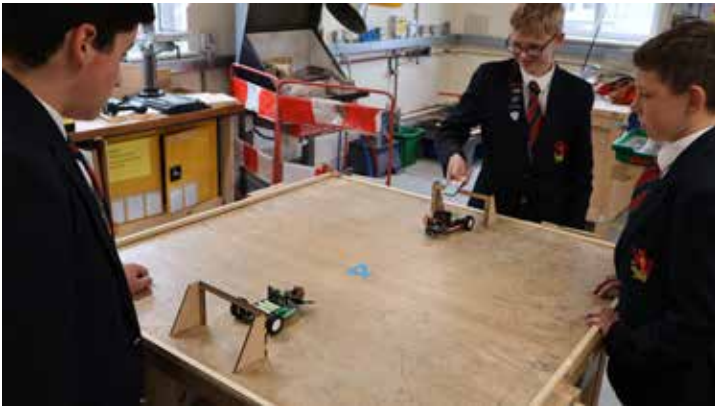


My name is Harry Hasler (Year 10, Osprey House). At the beginning of the 2024-2025 academic year a new club formed called Mock Parliament which teaches debating, parliamentary knowledge, and global awareness. My schedule for extra-curricular clubs has

always been busy. From Puzzles Club on Wednesday to Philosophy Society on Tuesdays, but Mock Parliament has undeniably helped me grow the most, not just as a Parliamentarian but as a person in the widest sense. Taking place each Monday in E27, Mock Parliament is a Club that is split relatively evenly between debates and lectures. From Prime Minister's Questions to Point of Order debates, these activities allow members to become increasingly globally aware and knowledgeable about current affairs. Debating also allows one to become calmer under pressure, in situations where mistakes are permitted. The sessions consist of teaching parliamentary speech, how to debate, and the pros and cons of each political ideology. This club supports my learning in school itself, allowing for a fairer view on society, better evaluative skills, and an increased understanding of how and why leaders come to power. These skills also help me in other clubs, such as understanding in Philosophy Society to evaluative thinking for Puzzles Club. Mock Parliament may sound daunting, but it is in fact incredibly easy to join; you simply turn up, watch a debate, and join in, that's it! In summary, Mock Parliament teaches you skills for life, such as evaluating and debating skills, as well as an understanding of what is affecting young people now. So, turn up and see how far your voice can take you!

*Harry Hasler, Year 10*





*Technology Club and Robotics Contest*



*Jurassic Society*

## WARGAMING CLUB: AN INVITATION TO PUPILS IN YEAR 7

Wargaming Club is one of the largest and oldest clubs at the School. It is a fantastic opportunity to meet new people who share a common interest in wargames. Wargaming is a hobby where you have the freedom to explore a multitude of areas from building and painting to reading lore, as well as developing yourself as a person, to be more strategic or more creative.

### Wargaming Club Frequently Asked Questions

#### What is Wargaming Club?

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

Wargaming Club has expanded to also include roleplaying games (such as Dungeons and Dragons), card games (such as Magic the Gathering), and board games.

#### What is Warhammer?

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



#### Who can attend?

Anyone from any Year Group is welcome to attend. No prior experience or equipment is needed. I would recommend that you attend at least one session to see what is on offer and to learn more about wargames.

#### When does Wargaming Club take place?

Wargaming Club runs every Friday after school from 3.35pm to 5.00pm in the Mathematics classrooms (M1 to M6).

#### Do I have to bring my own equipment?

You do not need to buy or bring any models or equipment. The club has many models which you can use to try and learn the game, to decide whether you want to pursue this further.

Many pupils go on to buy and make their own models which they use to play. The biggest advantage to getting your own models is that you can create a backstory for them and design them to suit you.

#### What games are played at Wargaming Club?

Currently the wargames available are Warhammer 40k, Warhammer Age of Sigmar, Magic the Gathering, Dungeons and Dragons, and many more. New wargames are more than welcome.

If you have any further questions, please contact Mrs Lo-Whitford for more details.

#### What do participating pupils say about Wargaming Club?

"I enjoy the creativity of building and painting models."

"I enjoy the strategising in Wargaming the most."

"I enjoy meeting new people in the club and at the tournaments."

"There is a sense of community."

"It has helped me improve my social skills."

"There is a variety of games to play."

"Because there are pupils from every Year Group in the club, it makes it very accommodating."

Mrs E Lo-Whitford, Head of Wargaming Club





Warhammer: Representing WHSB in National Schools Tournaments

## THE NATIONAL SCHOOL THEATRE AWARDS

As a new member of WHSB's Drama Company, I had the privilege to attend the National School Theatre Awards, along with many other members of the cast of our most recent productions. While we received many a strange look walking through Covent Garden and dining in McDonalds dressed in full black tie, it was absolutely worth the embarrassment, as it was truly a night to remember.

The National School Theatre Awards (NSTAs) is a prestigious and highly competitive ceremony, in which schools from across the country submit their productions for consideration for categories such as *Best Male Musical Solo* and *Best Actor in a Musical* (both won by WHSB pupils last year). This year, the event was hosted at the Gillian Lynne Theatre, home to the magical West End Production of *My Neighbour Totoro*, and again hosted by *Game of Thrones* and *Harry Potter* star, David Bradley.

Against national competition from many schools, WHSB again took home not one, but two NSTAs, winning both *Best Supporting Actor*, for Ronnie Hardy's (Upper Sixth) 'side-splitting' comic portrayal of Sir George Baker in our production of *The Madness of George III*, and *Best Play*, again won for *Madness*. The Westcliff Drama Company was praised for our performance of *The Madness of George III* as 'real greatness in school theatre', showing 'the importance of every individual person's role in our world'. Westcliff High School for Boys is now the only School in the country to have won multiple awards at this event for two years running.

While our individual actors were so key to this production, I have been lucky to experience how much of a team our company is. From Gabriel and Sebastian in the current Upper Sixth to Clark and Ted in Year 8, every pupil supports one another both on and off stage. The professionalism and talent exhibited by every member of the cast could rival that of professional actors. I am so



proud of the talented, lifelong friends I have made here. I think our NSTA review sums it up best: 'Today you might cast Benedict Cumberbatch or Andrew Scott as ideal leads, but in twenty years' time, it could be any of these phenomenally talented young actors'.

Of course, putting together this show at such a high standard would have been impossible without the hard work of the teachers in our company. Whether it be Ms Cleave crafting the most brilliant set pieces and costumes, Miss Milner setting a dance to 'Let's Get Physical', or Mr Jeffreys pushing us to understand more deeply our characters and their motivations, their combined talent and commitment to theatre inspires us all.

I would sincerely recommend that any new (or returning!) WHSB pupils get involved in Westcliff Drama. Whether you are interested in costumes, technical aspects, or performing on stage, there is a place for anyone with a passion for theatre in our company. And who knows – next year we could even take home a Best Musical Award!

Jennifer Garwood, School Vice-Captain



## COMBINED CADET FORCE YEAR 9 INTEREST EVENING

Thursday 2 October 2025, 7.30pm - 8.30pm

Through our tri-service (Army, Royal Navy, and Royal Air Force) Combined Cadet Force, we provide a range of opportunities and experiences from military themed activities to adventurous training. These include Sailing, Expeditions, Fieldcraft, Flying, Shooting, Camps, and Competitions – all of which provide cadets with enhanced skills such as Leadership, Discipline, Teamwork, Communication, and Problem Solving. There are opportunities to gather qualifications, gain resilience, improve self-efficacy, and even travel abroad through courses and international exchanges. The CCF continues this term with an exciting programme of activities for all three sections, Royal Navy, Army, and Royal Air Force, encompassing military skills, personal development, and community engagement. These take place on our weekly parade nights (Thursdays 3:45pm to 5:45pm), field days, and residential camps.

Pupils in Years 9 to the Upper Sixth may apply to join the CCF, and it is strongly encouraged that anyone in those Year Groups wishing to enrol do so early in September. Pupils in Year 9 wishing to become a member of the CCF will have the opportunity to attend an interest evening with their parents on Thursday 2 October at 7:00pm. This will provide background information on the aims and ideals of the CCF, details on the three Services, and an opportunity to ask questions. Interested pupils will then be able to sign up for a series of taster sessions, during which they can experience a typical CCF parade night. This will help pupils to decide which Service they would like to join.

*Lieutenant Colonel A Baggs, Contingent Commander*



## YEAR 10 EDUCATION EVENING

Thursday 2 October 2025, 7.30pm – 9.00pm

On Thursday 2 October, pupils in Year 10, together with their parents, will attend an event which outlines our expectations over the next two years. This compulsory event provides an opportunity for the School to explain how it will work with the pupils, what the pupils will need to do to ensure a successful journey through the Middle School, and how parents can best support both the School and their son. You will hear from Senior Staff and pupils about the GCSE experience, including effective strategies on revision, participation, and time management, as well as meeting the new Pastoral Team and hearing about the positive correlation we see in those pupils who have exemplary attendance, engage beyond the academic curriculum, and enjoy academic success.

*Mr A Barnett, Director of Middle School*



## LOWER SIXTH PHASE 1 REPORTS

Friday 3 October 2025

The Lower Sixth Phase 1 Report provides valuable insights into each student's adjustment to their A Level studies. This report consists of a single numerical grade, serving as an attitudinal indicator. We would ask parents and students to take note of the following:

Grade 1: Indicates an excellent start and a highly suitable choice of subjects;

Grade 2: Indicates that a good start has been made;

Grade 3: Suggests early concerns at this choice of subject;

Grade 4: Suggests a poor start and potentially unsuitable subject choice.

Should any student require further guidance or support, they can engage in discussions with subject teachers and visit the Sixth Form Pastoral Office. The issuance of the Phase 1 Report represents the final opportunity for subject changes, ensuring that all students have a combination of subjects aligned with their interests and potential.

*Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form*



## REACH FOR THE STARS: JOIN THE ASTRONOMY SOCIETY

Thursday 9 October 2025

For those with a passion for the cosmos and a keen eye for scientific enquiry, the Astronomy Society offers a unique opportunity to deepen your understanding of the universe. Whether you are thinking of studying GCSE Astronomy or simply fascinated by the stars, planets, and celestial phenomena, this Society is your gateway to the wonders of the night sky.

We meet every Wednesday lunchtime in SF12, where we explore topics from the GCSE Astronomy curriculum and beyond. These range from the life cycle of stars to the mechanics of planetary motion. Such sessions are both intellectually rigorous and deeply engaging, designed to challenge curious minds and encourage analytical thinking.

In addition to our weekly meetings, we gather on the second Thursday of each month (during term time) from 7pm to 9pm for practical observational sessions. Weather and visibility permitting, we make use of telescopes to observe the Moon, planets, and deep-sky objects. These evenings provide an extraordinary chance to apply theoretical knowledge in a real-world setting and to experience, first-hand, the grandeur of the universe.

The dates of these evening meetings are below:

- Thursday 11 September;
- Thursday 9 October;
- Thursday 11 December.

Astronomy is a discipline that demands precision, patience, and imagination. It is a science that not only informs us about the cosmos but also compels us to ask profound questions about our place within it. If you are intellectually curious, enjoy scientific exploration, and would relish the chance to observe the heavens with like-minded peers, the Astronomy Society warmly invites you to join us.

*Mr K Dalby, Head of Physics*



*Astronomy Society*

## MENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION EVENING

Thursday 9 October, 7.30pm - 9.00pm



We invite all pupils and parents to attend our Mental Health Information Evening, led by Mr Dean, our Mental Health Lead. The evening will focus on:

- Recognising signs of mental health issues in young people;
- Understanding harmful practices such as self-harm, disordered eating, and excessive screen time;
- Promoting good mental health through healthy routines, communication, and self-care;
- Exploring self-help strategies and when to seek support;
- Learning about the School's mental health provision and curriculum support.

This event is an opportunity to strengthen the partnership between home and the School in supporting pupil well-being. We will share practical advice, highlight available resources, and encourage open dialogue to help WHSB pupils thrive emotionally, socially, and academically.

*Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form*

## COMBINED CADET FORCE FIELD DAYS

13 - 17 October 2025

This October, Combined Cadet Force cadets will once again embark on a range of field days designed with the APC syllabus in mind. Year 10 Army and RAF cadets will be conducting their Skill at Arms training. This is a highlight for all cadets, enabling them to use the L98A2 cadet GP rifle on both blank and live firing activities. This intense, two-day course, taught by qualified weapons handling staff, is delivered with attention to safety being of the utmost importance. Cadets will need to pass a test at the end of the two days to be qualified to use this weapon system safely and effectively. Once this has been completed, cadets will have the opportunity to test out their shooting skills.

Adventurous Training (AT) is also a key element of the CCF, and during this field week we will be planning a day of AT which will be open to cadets in Years 11, 12, and 13. These days offer a great range of team building and competitive activities, taking cadets out of their comfort zones and encouraging them to take on new challenges, such as rock climbing, high ropes, and water sport activities.

*Captain K Allard, OC Army*



## UPPER SIXTH PHASE 1 REPORTS

Friday 10 October 2025

The Upper Sixth Phase 1 Report will include attainment and attitudinal grades for each subject studied. Students must compare these results with those in the Lower Sixth Phase 3 Report. By doing so, they can identify any changes or trends, and reflect upon their academic progress.

Should any issues arise, the Sixth Form Pastoral Office is available to offer support. Additionally, strategies to address challenges will be provided to ensure students are well-prepared before the January 2026 Trial Examinations.

*Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form*

## GO FOR GRAMMAR! PROGRAMME: WORKSHOPS FOR YEAR 5 PUPILS

*Session One: Saturday 11 October*

Our *Go for Grammar!* programme offers a series of themed workshop events for Year 5 pupils, held on Saturdays throughout the academic year.

Each workshop has a unique theme and includes Mathematics and English tutorial sessions delivered by Westcliff High School for Boys' teaching staff. These sessions are designed to cover material relevant to the 11 Plus Examination, providing valuable preparation for the pupils.

The workshops are supported by our Sixth Form students, who assist in running the day. Any Sixth Form students interested in helping out should contact me directly.

This term, the workshop theme is *Get Up and Go!* an action-packed selection of outdoor sporting opportunities in addition



to exciting activities run by cadets from our WHSB Combined Cadet Force (CCF) Army, Navy and RAF sections, that are fun and inclusive for pupils of all abilities.

*Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School*

## AUTUMN CHAMBER RECITAL

*Thursday 16 October 2025, 7.30pm - 9.00pm*

The Autumn Chamber Recital will feature Westcliff's most talented solo musicians across the School community. The concert will showcase pupils from the youngest in the Lower School all the way through to those in their final year, and promises to include performances of music from a range of different styles: Rock, Pop, Classical, Musical Theatre, Film Scores, and many more, performed by singers, pianists, and other instrumentalists.

Small ensembles such as the Horn Group and String Ensemble will return to the stage, as well as regular soloists including Music Scholars Jack Carver (tenor), Alexander Miller (tenor), and oboist Reuben Fuller. Virtuoso piano performances from Sixth Form pianists Ethan Wan and Bartholomew Ray-Smith will delight audiences of this first concert of the academic year.

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

*Mr T Derrick, Director of Music*





## YEAR 9 PHASE 1 REPORT

Thursday 23 October 2025

On Thursday 23 October, Year 9 students will receive their Phase 1 Reports.

This report is an important indicator of how pupils have started the academic year and will play a crucial role in shaping their GCSE Option choices, which will begin in January 2026. Parents will receive a current attainment grade from each of their son's teachers, based on the School's internal grading system. At this stage in Year 9, it is expected that pupils will achieve a grade 6a. Grades above or below this level will indicate whether a pupil is performing at, above, or below expectations.

The report will also include the pupil's Lower School target grade. The average target grade is 7b; therefore, if a pupil has a target grade above this, the School expects them to be performing at a level higher than 6a. If the target is below 7b, then a grade of 6a is considered a strong result. This information helps parents, pupils, and teachers better understand a pupil's current level of understanding, while also highlighting areas of strength and areas for development.

Additionally, the report includes attitudinal indicators, which are graded on a scale from 1 (Exceptional) to 4 (Unacceptable). The expected indicator grade is 2 (Good). A grade of 3 or 4 indicates that the pupil needs to improve their attitude, while a grade of 1 reflects that the pupil has exceeded the already high expectations of the School. Parents should refer to the explanatory table on the back of the report for further context on these indicators.

After receiving the report, Form Tutors will allocate time for pupils to reflect on their grades and set goals for the remainder of the academic year. Tutors will also work with pupils to develop strategies to improve their grades, particularly if there has been underperformance.

Parents are encouraged to discuss the report with their sons and review the goals they have set, which will be recorded in their Student Planner. Should there be any concerns, parents should contact their son's Form Tutor via the School Office. The School offers various support systems, including Pastoral Support, Subject Support, and Mentoring, to assist pupils on their academic journey.

Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School



## YEAR 11 PHASE 1 REPORT

Friday 17 October 2025

Influenced by the Formative Examinations, the Year 11 Phase 1 Report is shared on Friday 17 October and should be a catalyst for pupils to focus their energies towards the Trial Examinations. This feedback will be essential for pupils to review how effective their preparation thus far has been. It will also allow them to produce a tailored plan of revision which will, in conjunction with conversations with their subject teachers, allow them to create an excellent foundation ahead of their Trial and actual GCSE Examinations.

Mr A Barnett, Director of Middle School

## CHARITY EVENTS: CULTURE DAY

Friday 17 October 2025

The Charity Committee has arranged to continue to celebrate cultural diversity within our WHSB community by organising our traditional and colourful Culture Day Festivities. Pupils will be given the opportunity to celebrate cultural diversity through dress and entertainment, along with enjoying the popular tuck shop. Alongside this celebration of cultural diversity, the Charity Committee intends to use the event to raise money for this year's three School charities: St Vincent's Food Bank, Little Havens, and Age Concern Southend.

Mrs K Revell, Director of Sixth Form



St Vincent  
de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action



## LOWER SIXTH PHYSICS TRIP TO CERN

*Monday 27 October 2025*

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

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

We do not have a particle collider in our labs at WHSB. This trip gives our A Level students an opportunity to see the experiments being performed. As participants on this trip, you will get to see where the Higg's Boson was discovered, and indeed where almost every major breakthrough in particle physics happened.

We also spend some time exploring the world-famous History of Science Museum and the UN headquarters. Students also get some time to explore Geneva by themselves, and will be treated to my popular 'Geneva By Night' walking tour. The fun students have on this trip cannot be overstated.

If you are a Lower Sixth Physics student, and you are interested in attending next year's trip, please see me to collect a letter containing further information.

*Mr K Dalby, Head of Physics*



**NATIONAL ENGLISH SCHOOLS' ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION'S TRACK & FIELD CUP: JULY 2025**

















## SPORTING COLOURS ASSEMBLY AND CELEBRATIONS





## CELEBRATING HOUSE COMPETITION IN 2024-2025

Last academic year was extremely busy and productive for the House System at Westcliff High School for Boys. The four Houses Harrier, Kestrel, Merlin, and Osprey participated in a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities. Notable events have included House Drama, where Harrier House took the award for 'Best Play', and Sports Day, where Osprey House were there overall winners.

On Friday 18 July 2025, the House Phoenix Cup Assembly took place. The four new House Captains sat on the stage in front of the whole School and delivered a presentation, introducing themselves. The Headmaster and House Coordinator also gave a speech and then cups and trophies were awarded to each House. The overall winner of the House competition was Harrier House with 12,722 points, and they were awarded the Phoenix Cup. They were followed by Osprey in second place with 12,645 points; Merlin took a close third place with 12,594 points, and Kestrel was in fourth place with 12,451 points.

We congratulate all our pupils for their participation in House events this year, for their commitment, teamwork, and resilience. We look forward to our extensive programme of House activities this academic year.



*Presentation of the Phoenix Cup and other Awards to House Captains*





House Captains and Vice Captains celebrate presentation of House Prizes

New and exciting House events have recently taken place, and these include the Robotics competition and House Uno, while more established events such as House Capital Cities, and Pokémon have continued to thrive. Other events of note last academic year included the House VE Day 80th Anniversary research (pictured), House Charades, House Higher and Lower, House Basketball, and House cricket.

This Term we have many events planned which include: House Football, House Lego Masters, House Mock Parliament, House Cross County, House 'World of Wonder Research Project', House University Challenge, House Festivals and Culture Bonfire Night Research, House Halloween, House Remembrance Poetry, House Remembrance Art, House Harry Potter, House Lego Masters, House German Spelling Bee, House French Spelling Bee, House Spanish Spelling Bee, House Translation Bee, House Festive or Christmas Cards, House Badminton, House Cartography, House Christmas Quiz, House Winter Art, House Up and Down, House Yu-Gi-Oh and House Cartography.

If any pupil has a new idea for a House event or would like to support running or organising an activity, then they are encouraged to speak to a member of the House team. The House System at WHSB is all about getting involved, trying something new and, most importantly, having fun!

Mr R Barber, House Coordinator



Harrier House wins The Phoenix Cup, July 2025



House VE Day 80th Anniversary Research Project



## REMEMBRANCE EVENTS

*Sunday 9 November 2025*

Remembrance is an important part of the Annual Programme for the School and the CCF; often the Cadet Forces are the visible representation of the Armed Forces at local events, and WHSB's CCF supports a number of Remembrance events including the Orpheus Singers' Remembrance Concert on Saturday 8 November, both the Southend-on-Sea Civic Remembrance Parade and the Remembrance Service at Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome on Sunday 9 November, and the School Remembrance Service on Tuesday 11 November. In addition, as in previous years, Cadets will assist with the Remembrance events held by local Primary Schools.

*Lieutenant Colonel A Baggs, Contingent Commander*



## YEAR 8 PHASE 1 REPORT

*Monday 10 November 2025*

On Monday 10 November, Year 8 students will receive their Phase 1 Report.

This report is a key milestone, offering parents insight into how their sons have started the academic year. It includes a current attainment grade from each of their teachers, based on the School's internal grading system. The expected grade is 5a; grades above or below this will indicate whether a pupil is performing above or below this standard.

In addition to the attainment grade, the report will also feature the pupil's Lower School target grade. The average target grade for the end of Year 9 is 7b. If a pupil has a target grade above this, it would be expected that they are performing at a level above 5a. Conversely, a target grade below 7b means that achieving a 5a is considered a strong result. This information helps parents, pupils, and teachers to assess a pupil's current level of understanding, as well as identify areas of strength and areas that may need further development.

The report also includes attitudinal indicators on a scale from 1 (Exceptional) to 4 (Unacceptable). The expected grade is 2 (Good). A 3 or 4 grade would indicate that the pupil needs to improve his attitude, while a 1 grade reflects that the pupil has exceeded the School's already high expectations. Parents should refer to the explanatory table on the back of the report for further context on these indicators.

Following the release of the report, Form Tutors will set aside time for pupils to reflect on their grades and set goals for the rest of the academic year. Tutors will also work with pupils to develop strategies for improvement, especially where there has been any underperformance.

We encourage parents to discuss the report with their sons, including the goals set by the pupils, which will be recorded in their Student Planner. Should there be any further concerns, parents are welcome to contact their son's Form Tutor through the School Office. A variety of support mechanisms are available to assist pupils, including Pastoral Support, Subject Support, and Mentoring.

*Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School*



## ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

*Tuesday 11 November 2025, 8.45am - 9.30am*

Our Annual Service of Remembrance for the whole School is a most important occasion in the School calendar. On Tuesday 11 November at 8.45am the pupils and staff will gather in the School Hall to reflect on the sacrifices made by those who died in service during both World Wars and other conflicts.

During this time together, our School community will share hymns, readings, prayers and music to remember the fallen. Our School Captain, Gabriel Williams, will lay a wreath in memory of those former pupils from WHSB who gave their lives in the service of their country, and for the relative peace we enjoy today.

The School's Combined Cadet Force (CCF) will also participate in the arrangements for our Service.

Parents are warmly invited to join us for this occasion, and for coffee in the Centenary Room following the Service. Seating should be reserved in advance via [TicketSource](#).

*Headmaster*



## SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Thursday 13 November 6.30pm – 9.00pm

Year 11 pupils and their parents are cordially invited to explore the diverse opportunities available within the WHSB Sixth Form during this Open Evening. The event will feature a series of introductory talks, from speakers including the Headmaster, Mr Dean (Senior Master Sixth Form), and existing Sixth Form students. These talks will take place in the Main Hall.

During the presentation, attendees will gain insights into several crucial aspects:

- Our A Level curriculum offering at WHSB: Learn about the breadth and depth of the A Level subjects available;
- Our application process: Understand the steps in applying to the Sixth Form;
- Enrichment opportunities at WHSB: Discover the extensive range of extra-curricular activities and enrichment programmes on offer;
- Pastoral support: Explore the support systems for students' well-being.

Additionally, attendees can visit subject departments to engage with staff and current students. This interaction provides valuable information about the transition from GCSE to A Level studies.

The evening also provides an excellent opportunity to discover subjects unique to the Sixth Form, such as Politics and Psychology. We strongly encourage Year 11 pupils and their parents to attend this important event, ensuring they are well-informed for the critical decision-making process ahead.

*Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form*



## YEAR 10 PHASE ONE REPORT

Friday 14 November 2025

On Friday 14 November, pupils in Year 10, together with their parents, will receive the Phase 1 Report. It is vital that pupils reflect on the work they have completed in the Form Period Programme regarding organisation and study habits, alongside the advice offered during the Year 10 Education Evening. Choosing to make positive changes at this stage will help ensure future success.

*Mr A Barnett, Director of Middle School*



*Biology Challenge  
Gold Award Winners*

## YEAR 11 TRIAL EXAMINATIONS

*Monday 17 November – Tuesday 25 November 2025*

On Monday 17 November, pupils in Year 11 will begin their Trial Examinations, this being their first formal examination experience at the School. This is an invaluable opportunity to learn how best to prepare, how to acclimatise to the conditions, and how to understand the necessary routines for peak performance. This series of examinations replicates what pupils will face in their actual GCSE Examinations during the summer of 2026. This is an integral part of their preparation and allows pupils to measure how successfully they have revised so far.

It also highlights what, if any, changes need to be made. Pupils should remember that these examinations are a practice for their actual GCSE Examinations and, as such, they should undertake appropriate revision to ensure they give a true reflection of their potential in each of their subjects. Effective preparation also equips pupils well for the ongoing programme of revision and retrieval practice required throughout the academic year.

*Mr A Barnett, Director of Middle School*



## UPPER SIXTH PARENTS CONSULTATION EVENING

*Monday 24 November 2025, 4.00pm – 6.00pm*

The Upper Sixth Consultation Evening provides a valuable opportunity for parents to engage directly with teachers via the School's virtual conference platform. The evening serves the purpose of updating parents and carers on their child's progress since the beginning of the academic year and the sharing of the Phase 1 Report. During these consultations, teachers can offer subject-specific advice to help students prepare effectively for the upcoming Trial Examinations in January 2026. Additionally, teachers will be available to address any queries or concerns parents may raise.

Further details regarding the event will be communicated to Upper Sixth parents later in the term.

*Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form*



*Fieldwork for Geography A Level Students, June 2025*

## CAREERS EVENING

Wednesday 26 November 2025,  
7.00pm - 8.30pm

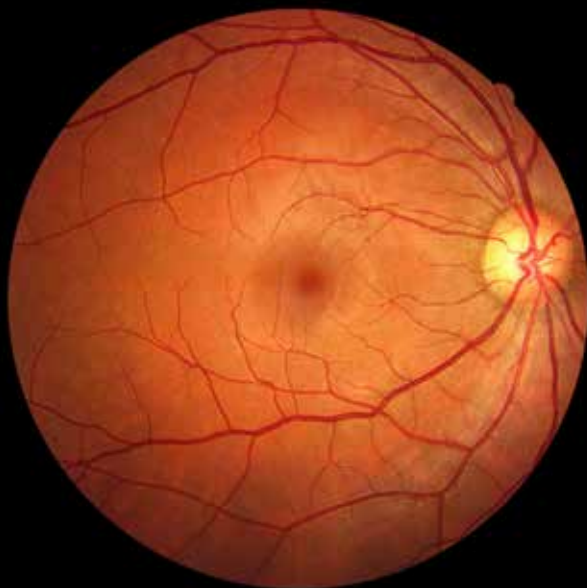
After successfully launching a new format for our popular Careers Evenings, our 'Audience with Industry Experts' will continue this year.

These evenings consist of interviews and a panel discussion followed by a Q&A session for the audience, making the evenings more interactive. On Wednesday 26 November, the first of these Careers Evenings this academic year will centre around the ever-popular area of Medicine.

This year we are seeking to expand the range of careers covered within this evening, and are delighted that Dr Ivan Shanley, MBBS MSc MRCPsych, Consultant Psychiatrist in Old Age Psychiatry, and Clinical Director for Older Adult Services (Mid and South Essex Partnership University) has agreed to join us. In addition, Mr Paul Sayer, Optometrist and Director at Broadway Opticians will also be in attendance, as well as several other professionals within the sector of medicine.

We look forward to welcoming Dr Shanley and Mr Sayer (both Old Westcliffians) and other experienced guests to this evening.

Mr M Atkinson, Careers Adviser



Mr Paul Sayer (Old Westcliffian)



Dr Ivan Shanley (Old Westcliffian) with students from WHSB

## AUTUMN SINFONIA CONCERT

Thursday 27 November 2025, 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Following on from last autumn's performance of Haydn's Symphony No. 104, this term's concert will feature a slightly earlier composition by the same composer: No. 101. While the later symphony is often given the subtitle 'London', it was actually the ninth symphony Haydn wrote on his visit to the English capital; Symphony No. 101 was completed there a year earlier in 1894.

However, while 104's subtitle reflected the grand scale of the city of its composition, 101's subtitle captures the cheeky sense of humour of its composer: 'The Clock' refers to the second movement's steady alternating pulse and strong, almost sarcastically elegant, on-beat melody. In this, like all his late symphonies, Haydn was at the top of his game, and it is not inappropriate to compare his tight structural, harmonic and motivic writing to intricate clockwork. Haydn's jokes extend beyond this second movement; the first features another elegant melody, interrupted every few seconds by an ascending scale as if the orchestra need a run-up to begin each phrase.

Full of bombastic, explosive musical moments, this challenging symphony is sure to put the Sinfonia through its paces, as well as fulfilling its original purpose - entertaining an enraptured audience.

Tickets are available via [TicketSource](#) at a price of £5.00 for adults and free for pupils.

Mr T Derrick, Director of Music



## NEWS FROM THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

The 2025-26 academic year sees Mrs Oats appointed to the role of Librarian, and she will be ably assisted by Oliver Northfield (Old Westcliffian, 2014-2021), and her team of Library Ambassadors (pupil librarians).

The new opening hours for the Westcliff Library will be from 8.00am to 4.30pm daily, so if pupils need a quiet space to work, without the distraction of electronic devices, both before and after School, they are welcome to come along to the School Library.

As one would expect from a library, WHSB's Library is filled with a wide range of books of varying genres, as well as the usual stock of reference books, of which there are between 6000 and 7000 in total. This means that those with a voracious appetite for reading will not be disappointed, and are welcome to visit our Library to borrow books at break time or lunchtime, as well as before and after School. Pupils can borrow up to six books for three weeks at a time, but are welcome to renew them if needed. However, they must take responsibility in returning or renewing books in a timely fashion so that others can also enjoy reading them.

Each year, the School takes part in the BookBuzz scheme run by the Book Trust, through which each new Year 7 pupil gets to choose a free book from 16 titles, which is something they really enjoy.

All Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils have fortnightly library lessons in their English classes, and Year 7 pupils read their Lifelong Readers titles. Year 7 pupils all receive a book of the same title per term - *The Northern Lights*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*, and *I am Malala*. If they have finished the set text, they can bring their own book to read, either from home or chosen from the Library. Year

8 and Year 9 pupils also receive a set text to read and, like the Year 7s, they are expected to bring this along to read during their library lessons. The majority of the lesson time is spent reading, and all pupils are encouraged to either have their own dictionary or to use one of the library dictionaries to assist with any unfamiliar words.

Our Library also celebrates and participates in other literary events during the year such as World Book Day, and the Carnegie Book Awards. Look out for articles on these events in future editions of *The Westcliff Diary*, as well as book reviews and recommendations from pupils and Library Ambassadors.

Mr M Manning, Deputy Head

### **Using the Library and Serving as a Library Ambassador: What our Pupils Say**

Jonathan Arockia Anthony (Year 9) and Sai Sathish Kumar (Year 9) joined WHSB in September 2023 as fresh-faced Year 7 pupils and are now keen Library Ambassadors. Here is their testimony as users of the Library in Year 7 and, now in Year 9, as those who assist Mrs Oats in the smooth running of the School's Library.



**Jonathan writes:**

*"My experience of the Westcliff Library as a pupil has always been very good. It is easy to borrow books and there are lots of interesting books to read. Mrs Oats and the Library Ambassadors are always eager to recommend books and have an excellent knowledge of what books are on the Library System and*

*whether they are still available to borrow. The library contains books on almost every subject, which are interesting and,*



in some cases, entertaining. The Library Ambassadors can always be asked to help find a book if its location is unknown, and the length of time you are allowed to borrow it for is sufficient time in which to finish reading it."



**Sai writes:**

*"Arguably, I think that my experience as a Library Ambassador throughout Year 8 was an enhanced experience compared to when I was a Year 7 pupil, browsing the library with the help of a Library Ambassador. This is because I like to understand the layout of the library, and I made new friends*

*with other Library Ambassadors. Also, not every School has a considerate and helpful librarian, and we are lucky to have one, especially one who is willing to share the necessary skills of being a Library Ambassador. Being a Library Ambassador not only changes your understanding of books and a library itself, but it also changes you as a person. One who is always willing to help any other pupil within or outside the library, one who is suddenly more interested than ever in reading books, and one who will always be organised, just like he organises books in the library. Like many things, being a Library Ambassador nurtures many skills other than those mentioned above. Being a Library Ambassador gives you confidence in your teamwork and leadership skills, as you work in groups more often than not. Being a Library Ambassador improves your communication skills, as you often have to interact with pupils you do not know. These are just the roots of what being a Library Ambassador can offer you. The tree itself is much bigger."*

## **Lifelong Readers Initiative**

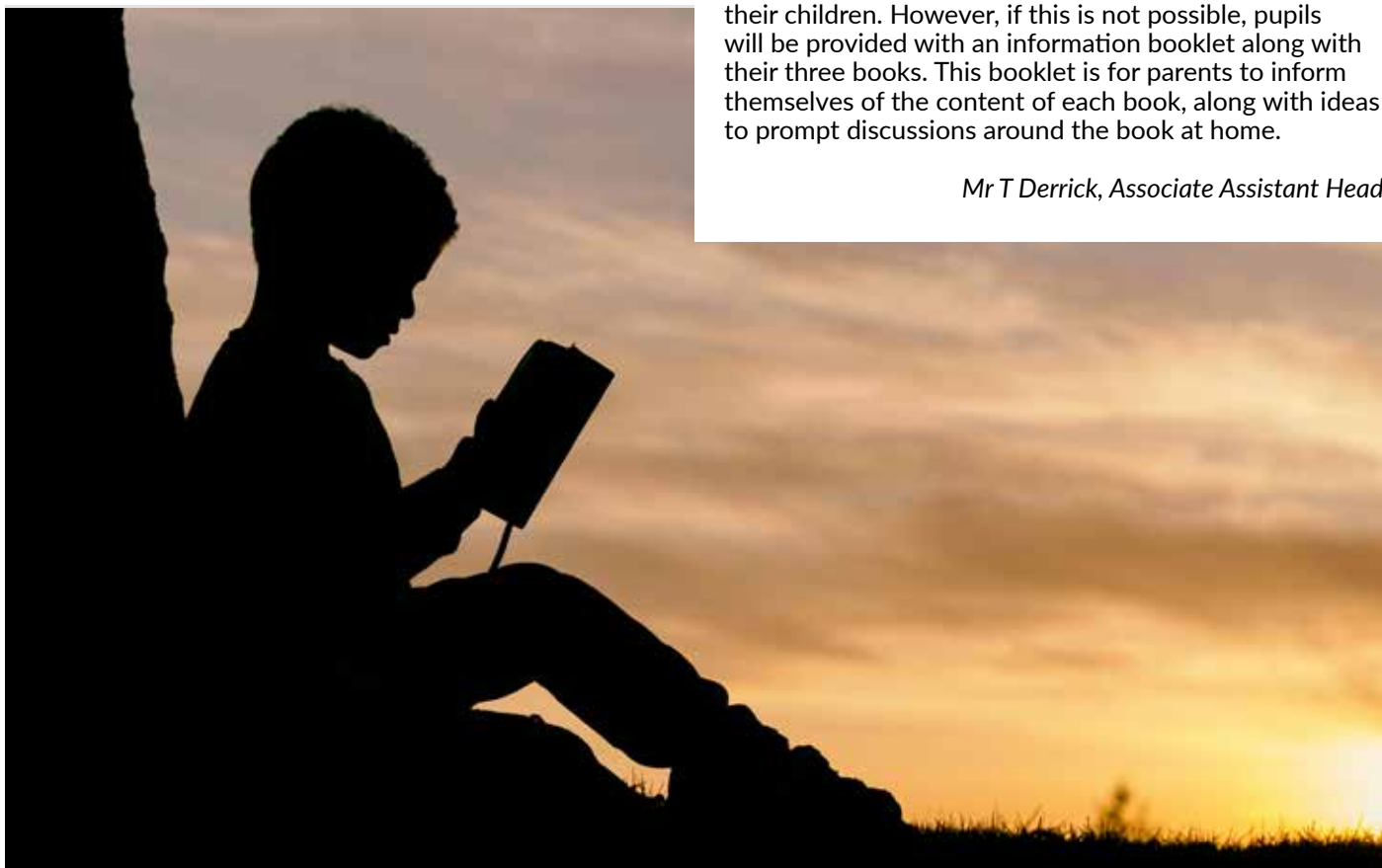
Pupils join Westcliff High School for Boys with the aim of unlocking their potential. They want to develop their intellectual curiosity and global awareness, to become lifelong learners and effective communicators. They want to prepare themselves for a happy and successful future.

There is no better way for them to achieve these aims than by becoming a lifelong reader. Extensive research has shown that reading provides a host of benefits: It improves skills of writing and comprehension, general knowledge, empathy, and develops a better understanding of other cultures. Being a lifelong reader grants you important cultural capital, and being a good reader makes you a good learner. But these are not the reasons a lifelong reader reads.

Reading is one of the most enjoyable and enriching hobbies a person can have. There is nothing like picking up a page-turner or finding an amazing new series of books to steam through. Lifelong readers read because they love it. The aim of the Lifelong Readers initiative is to instil a love of reading within the pupils of WHSB. Each term, every pupil in Years 7, 8, and 9 will be lent a book. The books chosen are from the literary canon and have been picked for their variety of themes and topics, and because they are challenging. The books will introduce pupils to new vocabulary and develop their confidence as readers. This term's Year 7 book is *Northern Lights* by Phillip Pullman. The term's Year 8 book is *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins, and the Year 9 book is H.G Well's sci-fi classic *The War of the Worlds*.

It is recommended that parents involve themselves with this initiative by reading the books along with their children. However, if this is not possible, pupils will be provided with an information booklet along with their three books. This booklet is for parents to inform themselves of the content of each book, along with ideas to prompt discussions around the book at home.

*Mr T Derrick, Associate Assistant Head*



**WHSB'S COMBINED CADET FORCE  
ANNUAL PASS OFF PARADE AND  
DINNER: JULY 2025**















## GCSE MUSIC RECORDING

Monday 1 December and Tuesday 2 December 2025

On Monday 1 and Tuesday 2 December, those pupils in Year 11 who are studying Music will record one of their final NEA performances, forming half of their requirements for Component 1.

This performance will be either an ensemble or solo performance. Pupils must ensure that this performance lasts at least one minute, and that the combined total of their solo and ensemble performances lasts at least four minutes.

Pupils should already know what they intend to perform and should be practising regularly in preparation for this important recording. Those who have yet to finalise their decision can and should seek further support from their music teacher at their earliest convenience.

*Mr T Derrick, Director of Music*



## CHRISTMAS WITH THE BIG BAND

Friday 5 December 2025, 7.30pm – 10.00pm

As we enter the festive season, the School Hall twinkles with festive lights and tinsel and our Big Band takes the stage for this annual Christmas show. This popular and hotly anticipated event features the Westcliff Jazz Band and other groups, and is headlined by the Westcliff Big Band.

Our programme of hits will cover a variety of styles, from Herbie Hancock to Marvin Gaye, from The White Stripes to Carly-Rae Jepsen – this is an eclectic evening of funky music and Christmas crackers that should not be missed!

Seating for the evening is arranged in cabaret style so our audience have access to tables and are welcome to bring their own drinks and snacks to enjoy during the evening's entertainment. The Parents' Association also kindly provides a Bar for this event, selling a range of alcoholic and soft drinks.

We look forward to welcoming you to the School for this wonderful festive treat, and tickets can be reserved via [TicketSource](#) at a price of £8.00 for adults and £5.00 for pupils.

*Mr T Derrick, Director of Music*



## LOWER SIXTH FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS

Monday 8 December - Wednesday 17 December 2025

The primary purpose of our Formative Assessments is twofold:

1. **Current Attainment Levels:** Assessments such as these give students and their parents insights into their academic performance. By gauging their understanding and skills, students can identify areas for improvement;
2. **Application of A Level Mindset:** The assessments allow students to apply the principles of the A Level Mindset, as developed by Steve Oakes and Martin Griffin in 2016. This mindset emphasises effective study strategies, resilience, and a growth mindset—essential qualities for success in the A Level programme.

Students have already been exposed to different revision strategies, and the Formative Assessments offer an opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness of these strategies before the Lower Sixth Examinations. Data indicates that students who excel in Formative Assessments tend to achieve strong outcomes in their final A Level Examinations.

The Sixth Form Pastoral Team is available to provide support and advice in relation to any concerns regarding these assessments or other aspects of School life. We extend our best wishes to all students as they prepare for their Formative Assessments.

*Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form*

## YEAR 8 PARENTS CONSULTATION EVENING

Monday 8 December 2025, 4.00pm - 6.00pm

Our Year 8 Parents Consultation Evening will take place on Monday 8 December. These consultations are especially valuable as they give parents the opportunity to discuss their son's progress with his teachers. This is particularly important as the transition from Year 7 to Year 8 often brings an increased level of challenge and expectation across different subjects.

The event will be held remotely using the *SchoolBooking* system, allowing parents to book meetings with the teachers they wish to see. Likewise, teachers can also schedule appointments with parents.

Full instructions on how to use the platform will be shared closer to the date. Due to time constraints, we ask that parents select the subjects for which they believe a conversation may be most beneficial. The instructions will specify how many appointments parents are able to book, including any appointments initiated by teachers. Please be aware that overbooking may lead to cancellations.

*Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School*



## CHRISTMAS THEATRE PRODUCTION

Wednesday 10 December, Thursday 11 December, and  
Friday 12 December 2025, 7.30pm – 9.00pm

### Christmas Productions

What could be better than one chocolate orange on Christmas Day? Two chocolate oranges? And what could be better than a three-pack of Christmassy socks? Two three-packs? That would be half the Days of Christmas covered, footwise. So, get doubly ready for the good news that this term's Christmas production will be a 2-for-1, double bill, holly-AND-ivy, bow-AND-ribbons, turkey-AND-goose sort of affair, with Westcliff Drama back in rehearsals aiming to delight audiences anew.

### The Dumb Waiter

First up is Harold Pinter's one-act play *The Dumb Waiter*. Pinter is one of England's finest writers, evidence for which is that a London theatre has been named after him, and this play represents one of his most popular works. *The Dumb Waiter* follows two hitmen, Ben and Gus, waiting in a basement room for instructions about their next job. Gus is anxious and asks constant questions, while Ben tries to maintain control by reading newspapers and following routines. A dumbwaiter in their room begins sending down food orders from an upstairs restaurant, creating confusion and tension as they try to respond with their meagre supplies of tea and biscuits. The mysterious orders become increasingly elaborate and impossible to fulfil. As the two wait, their conversation reveals the psychological strain of their profession. Gus questions their methods, their boss Wilson, and the morality of their work, while Ben becomes increasingly irritated and defensive. The power dynamic between them shifts as Gus's doubts grow stronger and things move towards a shocking climax.

Pinter uses this particular exercise in absurdism to explore themes of power, loyalty, communication breakdown, and the dehumanizing effects of institutional authority. It is characteristic of his wider work. Analysis by the Swedish Academy suggests that Pinter restored theatre to its basic elements: an enclosed space and unpredictable dialogue, where people are at the mercy of each other and pretence crumbles. With a minimum of plot, drama emerges from the power struggle and hide-and-seek of interlocation. Pinter's drama was first perceived as a variation of absurdist theatre, but has later more aptly been characterised

as 'comedy of menace', a genre where the writer allows us to eavesdrop on the play of domination and submission hidden in the most mundane of conversations. In a typical Pinter play, we meet people defending themselves against intrusion or their own impulses by entrenching themselves in a reduced and controlled existence. So expect plenty of 'Pinter pauses' and a few twists and turns as this most Pinteresque of stories unfolds.

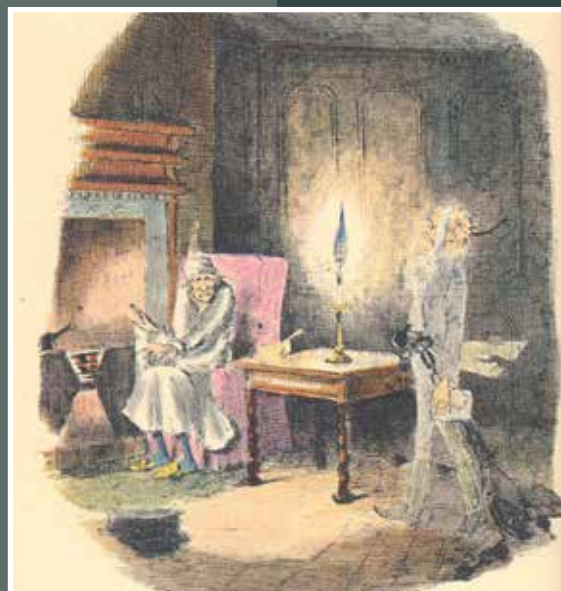
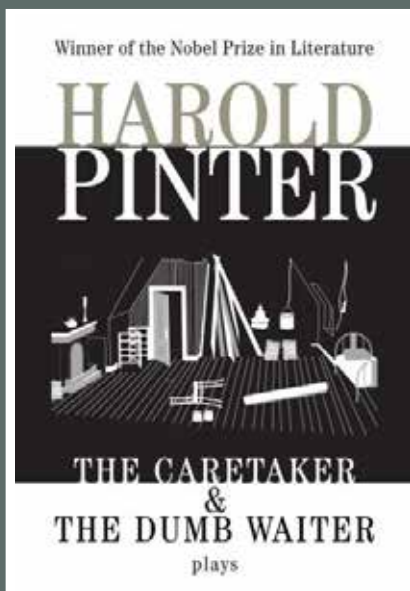
### AI Christmas Carol

Is this not the Christmas story that everyone knows? It centres around Ebenezer Scrooge, a miserly Victorian businessman who hates Christmas and treats everyone coldly. On Christmas Eve, his dead partner Jacob Marley's ghost warns him to change or face eternal punishment.

Three spirits visit Scrooge that night. The Ghost of Christmas Past shows his lonely childhood and lost love. The Ghost of Christmas Present reveals the joy Scrooge is missing, including his clerk Bob Cratchit's poor but happy family and their sickly son Tiny Tim. The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come shows Scrooge's lonely death and Tiny Tim's death from poverty. Terrified and remorseful, Scrooge awakens on Christmas morning completely transformed. He becomes generous and kind, secretly helps the Cratchit family, and embraces the Christmas spirit. The story was used by Dickens to advocate for compassion and social responsibility during the Industrial Revolution.

But whose story have you actually been hearing? After all, there are dozens of adaptations, all exploiting the fact that the original work is out of copyright to put their own interpretive stamp on the story. Is the original writer's voice now buried under all these translations? This experimental version therefore tries something both new and original. Dickens' original story has been fed into an AI generator (the same one that wrote the summaries above) as a prompt, together with an instruction to write a play as tight to the original story as possible. What the Dickens will the resulting AI version be like? Can AI help us cut out the adapting middleman and bring original voices onto the stage as the story their first author actually intended, while maintaining emotional depth and storytelling? Or does AI itself make decisions in an adaptation that chooses where to focus attention and how to narrate the story on stage? This production will explore how far AI can go in adapting the most Christmassy of stories.

*Mr B Jeffreys, Director of Drama*



## CHARITY EVENTS

Friday 12 December 2025

As the final event for the 2025 Charity Committee, students have organised a staff basketball game. Come and see if Mr Madrid has learnt to dunk... There will also be another opportunity to purchase food and drink whilst being entertained by members of staff. All money raised will be shared between the School's charities: St Vincent's, Little Havens, and Age Concern Southend.

*Mrs K Revell, Director of Sixth Form*

## GEOLOGY CONFERENCE

Friday 12 December 2025



The Geology Conference is an annual event and speakers will be invited to speak to our Year 10, 11, and Sixth Form students studying Geology, on a wide range of geology issues. Previous topics have revolved around *Mining Methods and Hazards*; *Resources and Exploration*; *Natural Hazards and Volcanology*; and *'the Permian Mass Extinction*.

Our speakers often pick up on strands of learning from KS4, and especially KS5, and stretch and challenge the pupils, whilst also giving them ideas about careers in geology. The speakers are Leicester University lecturers or geologists working in industry and can discuss the latest ideas and research. Old Westcliffians are invited back to share their university experiences with the students and provide information on university courses and university life. The afternoon session on interesting aspects of geology will be given up to Year 9 pupils, helping them to consider GCSE Geology as an option. An Old Westcliffian and Manchester university geologist, Finley Amner, is looking forward to talking about his university degree and fieldwork at this event.

*Mr P Marlow, Head of Geology*

## YEAR 11 PHASE TWO REPORTS

Friday 12 December 2025

The outcomes of the Trial Examinations are published on Friday 12 December. These provide a very clear indication of how successful pupil preparation has been thus far and what, if any, further attention will be required as Year 11 pupils look ahead to their final full term this year. For many the Trial Examination results will be a cause for celebration, but should there be disappointment, there will be a very clear signpost of what needs to be done to ensure the pupil's full potential is reached.

*Mr A Barnett, Director of Middle School*

## YEAR 11 NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM GEOLOGY TRIP

Monday 15 December 2025

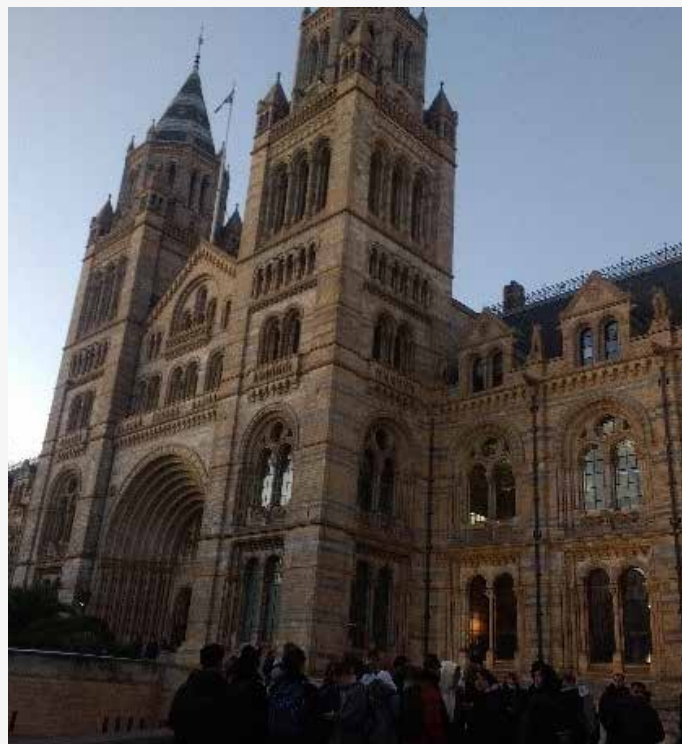
In December, Geology staff will lead a group of Year 11 Geology pupils to the Natural History Museum.

The Earth Galleries have several exhibitions of interest to GCSE pupils, including *Visions of Earth*, *Volcanoes and Earthquakes*, *Restless Surface*, *From the Beginning*, *Earth's Treasury*, and *Hominid Evolution*.

During the visit, pupils will undertake written work related to their GCSE studies that will include describing and identifying minerals and rocks, investigating the evidence for plate tectonics, analysing surface processes in relation to the formation of sedimentary rocks, logging recent volcanic and earthquake activity, and evaluating the importance of geological materials to a modern industrialised world.

The Earth Galleries do, in fact, cover all major units of study within the GCSE specification and much more besides. Also, within the adjacent Natural History Museum, pupils will be able to trace the history of the dinosaurs and investigate the origin of meteorites. It promises to be a most instructive and interesting visit.

*Mr P Marlow, Head of Geology*



## LEAVERS' CERTIFICATE COLLECTION

Monday 15 December 2025, 3.45pm – 5.00pm

To coincide with the end of their first term at university, our Summer 2025 Leavers are warmly invited to visit the School to collect their A Level certificates from the Sixth Form Forum. This informal event offers our newest cohort of Old Westcliffians, and the most recent cohort of School Leavers, an opportunity to share, with their peers and former teachers, stories about their new adventures.

Members of staff will attend and are always keen to hear how their former students have settled into life after WHSB. Refreshments are served during the event, and the leavers are also most welcome to join us in the evening for our annual Festival of Lessons and Carols.

Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form



Leavers'  
Certificate  
Collection,  
December 2024



## FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Monday 15 December 2025, 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Our Festival of Lessons and Carols is the School's final evening event of the Autumn Term each year, and it remains a wonderful tradition at Westcliff High School for Boys. We are always delighted to hear through feedback from previous concerts, that for so many of our families, friends, and Old Westcliffians this occasion represents the start of their Christmas celebrations.

Our pupils, together with friends and families, gather in the School Hall for this event to celebrate the festive season together, and to hear from our superb Westcliff Choir who perform both traditional and modern carols, all illuminated by the warm glow of our Christmas tree.

Our Service is modelled on the annual *Carols from King's* service broadcast by the BBC, and features readings, and hymns sung by the congregation.

Pupils, parents, staff, Old Westcliffians, and friends of the School are warmly invited to join us for this joyful occasion, and also to share in some mulled wine, mince pies, and coffee.

Seating should be reserved in advance via [TicketSource](#).

Headmaster



# SPORTS DAY 2025























## THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



Easyfundraising is a shopping directory listing some of the UK's favourite online stores including Amazon, John Lewis, Marks & Spencer, 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 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](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and, when you register, select Westcliff High School for Boys as the organisation you wish to support.

[easyfundraising.org.uk/causeswestcliffhighschoolforboys/](http://easyfundraising.org.uk/causeswestcliffhighschoolforboys/)

The more members of our School Community who choose to support us in this way, the more money we can raise for the School. Our thanks in anticipation.

*Mrs S Ghauri, Chair of The Parents' Association.*

On behalf of the School Community, I would like to record our thanks to the members of the Parents' Association for their tireless efforts in raising much needed funding to help enhance provision for pupils at WHSB. They have provided outstanding support during the past academic year, in terms of time devoted towards supporting our events, and in giving generous donations which offer our pupils access to more extensive materials and equipment.

As Mr Rothern (Director of Finance and Accounting) has noted within these pages, the funding situation in schools is challenging indeed, with many schools having to reduce or even cut activities which are not considered core to the school curriculum. We are grateful indeed to have such wonderful support from the Parents' Association in helping the School to access additional resources.

If you are a parent who can offer some time towards supporting the Parents' Association, please contact Mrs Ghauri, Chair of the Parents' Association, via the School. Parents new to WHSB this year may wish to consider offering a little time towards volunteering with the Parents' Association, as this is a fantastic way to meet others and become more closely involved with the School community. Thank you for your support.

*Headmaster*



*Countdown Club*

## DEVELOPING OUR RESOURCES THROUGH FUNDRAISING

WHSB pupils participate in a wide range of deeply enriching activities, both curricular and extra-curricular. The School considers these activities core to its mission of developing both intellect and character in each of our young people. This mission is represented by our Learner Profile, which underpins everything the School delivers. Financing such activities, in particular extra-curricular provision, presents an increasing challenge to State Schools, and WHSB is no different; our budget is under significant pressure and, inevitably, it will be in the areas of extra-curricular activity that the pressure is most felt, and therefore it is important that we can access alternative sources of income to relieve the impact of already stretched budgets.

The following are ways in which our parents, alumni, friends of the School, and local companies may be able to assist. Thank you for any support you are able to offer.

### **Donating to the Pupil Fund**

The School should like to thank all those parents and others who have previously donated or continue to donate to the School's Pupil Fund. 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. Donating to the Pupil Fund is a straightforward way of making a one-off, or a regular, general contribution towards these enriching activities. Further information can be found at: [www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/useful-information-for-all-parents/pupil-fund](http://www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/useful-information-for-all-parents/pupil-fund)

The easiest way to make a regular donation is by setting up a standing order via your online banking, using the account details below. Alternatively, you can download a standing order form which can then be completed and submitted to your bank: [www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/finance](http://www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/finance). Should you have any questions regarding these arrangements please do not hesitate to contact the School Bursar at [darbyn@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:darbyn@whsb.essex.sch.uk).

Lloyds Bank  
Sort code: 30-97-84  
Account number: 34480360  
Account name: Westcliff High School for Boys

The School is also able to accept donations by cash, cheque, ParentPay, or bank transfer directly, and it is most helpful if this is 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](http://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.

### **New Parent Pay Item: Voluntary Donation towards Trips and Travel**

There is now a simple way in which we can facilitate voluntary donations towards the cost of providing travel to School activities, such as sports fixtures, extra-curricular competitions, or indeed to simply recognise and appreciate the School's efforts towards providing such extra-curricular opportunities to our pupils. Parents will see this item listed in the ParentPay system, along with existing items, when you log in as normal.

### **Targeted Appeal**

Twelve months ago, in *the Westcliff Diary*, we launched two targeted appeals, to enable parents, alumni, or other supporters of the School to donate towards the projects outlined below. Funding for schools has been in serious decline over the past 10 years, with many schools now in a budget deficit position. At WHSB we continue to manage our finances carefully, but without your help, delivery of these projects will be delayed at best, and may not prove to be possible at all. In the year since Autumn 2025, the pressing need to raise funds for these projects, in particular the Athletics facility, has only grown. Disappointingly, response to these appeals has been muted, and we are most grateful to those few who have made donations thus far.

### **Appeal for Athletics Facilities & Equipment**

The tartan facility is not merely a 'nice to have' resource providing a specialist training surface for long-jump, high-jump, hurdles, and other athletics pursuits by our competitive athletes; it also effectively serves as an outdoor classroom for use by all our students, acting as a general-purpose facility for Physical Education lessons, thus contributing to students' general fitness and wellbeing. Furthermore, in order to maintain the School's outstanding record of achievement in regional and national athletics competitions, our pupils must have access to outstanding athletics facilities.

The 'tartan' specialist running / long jump track requires full replacement and, together with associated equipment replacement, the targeted sum to raise is £50,000. This is a significant sum, and sizeable donations (from whichever source) can be discussed with myself, or directly with the Headmaster by contacting his Personal Assistant.

### **Appeal for Playground Facilities**

The School would like to install shelters (for use in rain and sunshine) and increase seating provision around playground areas, improving the break and lunchtime experience of our young people and promoting a positive, social ethos. To provide these facilities, the School needs to raise £30,000.

The School has facilitated donations by parents via Parent Pay and, when selecting an appeal to donate to, please choose the appropriate Gift Aid preference (with Gift Aid, or without).

Anybody without a Parent Pay account and wishing to donate should please contact myself [rothons@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:rothons@whsb.essex.sch.uk) directly or via Reception – arrangements



for donations can be made very easily. Should you wish to speak directly with the Headmaster, he may be contacted through Mrs Holley, PA to the Headmaster. All enquiries are treated in the strictest confidence, and any donations can be respectfully publicised or kept anonymous, as the donor may wish.

### **Corporate Sponsorship**

The WHSB community includes almost 1,300 pupils and their families, around 140 staff members, and thousands of Old Westcliffians who read our publications, attend our events, and follow us on social media.

We would like to offer your business or organisation the opportunity to advertise in this termly School publication *The Westcliff Diary* (distributed in both hard copy and digitised versions), and in the programmes printed for the multitude of events taking place throughout the School Year, including Annual Speech Day, Sports Day, and numerous dramatic and musical productions and concerts.

Annual advertising costs, to feature in each of the three termly issued editions of *The Westcliff Diary* throughout the academic year, are set out below.

### **Corporate Advertising**

Quarter Page Advert - £275

- Half Page Advert - £500
- Full Page Advert - £800 (three-year commitment £2,000)

In addition, our corporate sponsors will be prominently name-checked in each of our event programmes.

For further information, please contact Mr S Rothern (Director of Finance and Accounting), Mrs D Holley (the Headmaster's Personal Assistant), or Mrs J Clarke (Community Development Assistant), on 01702 475443.

### **Bequest in the Will of Old Westcliffian, Mr Barry Coker**

The School wishes to place on record its sincere thanks for the generous legacy in the will of ex-pupil Mr Coker. The final sum is still subject to finalisation, but is expected to be in the region of £34,000. Old Westcliffians, or indeed other friends of the School, who may wish to remember the School in their will may find details in the OWA section of the School's website, or indeed are welcome to contact myself, or the Headmaster directly, though his PA.

Thank you for your support.

*Mr S Rothern, Director of Finance & Accounting*



## THE SCHOOL SHOP



### Purchasing School Uniform and Merchandise

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

Full details of opening dates and times are made available on the School's website.

For items of uniform required in a size that is not normally stocked by the shop, please email [uniform@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:uniform@whsb.essex.sch.uk)

Items of uniform and merchandise can also be purchased online using the link provided in the Uniform section of the School's website.

Parents will be advised by email when their online order is ready for collection from the School Shop.

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

### Preloved Uniform

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



If you have any clean, unwanted uniform which you wish to donate to the School, please bring it to Reception. Funds raised from the sale of second-hand uniform are donated to the School.

*Ms I Gimbutiene, School Shop Manager*



### RECLAIMING LOST PROPERTY

*Friday 24 October 2025 and Thursday 18 December 2025*

The dates for reclaiming lost property are shared on our social platforms and through daily notices.

The lost property is available to view from 12.50pm-4.30pm on the chosen day to give pupils and families plenty of time to locate their lost items. If you have lost valuable items, please visit the Front Reception Office where these are held for security purposes.

Named items are returned to pupils, and any items of clothing unnamed and left unclaimed are donated to charities in the local area.

The lost property area is available to access all year round. If pupils are unsure how to access lost property, they should please see a member of staff in the Pastoral Office.

*Mrs E Lewis, Facilities and Premises Manager*

PERFORMING AT THE EDINBURGH  
FRINGE FESTIVAL: AUGUST 2025













*Enjoying a performance of Holst's The Planets - The London Philharmonic Orchestra at Usher Hall, Edinburgh*



Exploring Edinburgh Castle



*Joining in the fun at the Fringe Festival*

## A DAY AT THE OPERA: EUGENE ONEGIN

On Saturday 28 June, Westcliff High School for Boys received a kind invitation by the Channon family to attend a fantastic performance of Tchaikovsky's well-loved opera 'Eugene Onegin' at Kelvedon Hall. Many of our musicians, accompanied by the Headmaster and Mr Derrick, were fortunate to attend, and also enjoyed a picnic in the grounds before the opera.

For those unfamiliar with the opera, the story follows Onegin - an arrogant yet enigmatic man - who rejects the love of the young Tatyana only to later regret his decision after a tragic duel and years of separation.

The opera began at 6.00pm when we were ushered into the Rose Garden amphitheatre. The stage was set beneath a marquee, with chairs positioned closely on each side, creating an intimate atmosphere that allowed us to fully immerse ourselves in the performance and music. The production was fully staged and costumed, featuring a cast of exceptional singers accompanied by a chamber orchestra of 10 top musicians, conducted by the brilliant Orlando Jopling.

The music in Act 1 captured the quiet rhythms of country life and the emotional awakening of the characters, with Tchaikovsky making use of gentle, lyrical themes and folk-like melodies to reflect the rural setting. This reached a climax with Tatyana's Letter Scene - a sweeping aria which follows Tatyana's

growing emotional turmoil as she confesses her love for Onegin. Tchaikovsky's orchestration mirrors her inner passion and vulnerability, building from an initial gentle hesitancy to heartfelt intensity.

For me, the highlight of Act 2 was Lensky's aria 'Kuda, kuda' - a deeply emotional farewell to life before his duel. Tchaikovsky's use of shifting tonality perfectly portrayed Lensky's emotional journey as he moved from a sense of nostalgia to a feeling of darker resignation. Act 3 brought the emotional climax of the opera in the powerful duet between Tatyana and Onegin. The music swelled with growing intensity as Onegin, now tormented by regret, pleaded for a chance from Tatyana. However, in a poignant reversal of roles from Act 1, Tatyana rejected Onegin, bringing about a tragic end to the opera.

Overall, this performance of 'Eugene Onegin' was a unique and captivating experience for us all, granting the opportunity to see an amazing opera up close! I would strongly encourage all pupils to take advantage of the live music trips offered by the School, as they provide a wonderful opportunity to enrich and deepen their musical experience.

*Ethan Wan, Upper Sixth*



*Picnicking in the grounds of Kelvedon Hall before the performance*

## SPORT IN SUMMER 2025

### ATHLETICS

#### *English Schools' Athletics Association (ESAA) Track and Field Cup 2025*

Both the Junior and Inter Boys teams made a strong start in Round One of the English Schools Track and Field Cup. The Juniors secured a first-place finish, while the Inter Boys came second, earning both teams a place in the Regional Final. The Junior Boys advanced with a score of 437 points, and the Inter Boys progressed with 447 points. Team adjustments were made based on Round One performances, with new athletes brought in to strengthen the teams and boost point totals. Notably, Joshua Mooney made an immediate impact through his debut for the School, performing exceptionally well in both the 200m and long jump, and quickly establishing his place in the squad. As the Regional Final approached, the boys were prepared and motivated. The hammer throwers rose to the occasion, with personal bests recorded by Taseen Ahmed, Henry Eynon, and Samuel Awobadejo. In the Regional Final, the Junior Boys improved their score significantly—from 437 to 481 points—while the Inter Boys, despite returning from half-term and managing end-of-year examinations, maintained a strong and consistent performance, finishing on 550 points. After a brief wait, both teams were thrilled to learn they had qualified for the ESAA National Final in Chelmsford.

#### *5 July 2025 ESAA National Track and Field Final*

JUNIOR BOYS: Third Place

INTER BOYS: Ninth Place

Through focused training and careful injury management, the boys were well-prepared and eager to perform at their best on the national stage.

The day proved to be an emotional rollercoaster, with spirited and resilient performances from both the Junior and Intermediate Boys teams. Despite facing some of the strongest competition in the country, our boys remained focused and determined throughout. Dartford Grammar School and Southend High School for Boys, both entering the event as clear favourites, set a formidable benchmark early on. In response, WHSB set its sights on securing podium finishes in both team categories. As is often the nature of sport, however, things did not unfold exactly as planned, with injuries also impacting the team. While every member of the Intermediate team gave their best effort, the group struggled to find consistency as the day progressed. Their perseverance and commitment, though, were never in doubt.

The Junior Boys delivered a series of impressive performances, showing real development and composure across the events. Their efforts were rewarded with a superb team score of 499 points and achieving 3rd position; an excellent achievement at national level. It is important to recognise the contribution of every pupil across both teams. Their dedication and teamwork allowed WHSB to once again field two teams at the National Final, which is no small feat. Congratulations to all the boys who played their part in ensuring WHSB remains a strong competitor for national honours in Athletics.



*Junior and Inter Boys Athletics Teams*

## Essex Schools Championships

The Essex Schools Championships bring together the top athletes from across the county to compete for their respective boroughs, having earned selection through a competitive trials evening. This year, 14 boys from WHSB were chosen to represent the Borough of Southend across a range of events. Strong performances at this event can lead to further opportunities, including potential selection to represent Essex at the prestigious English Schools Track and Field Championships in Birmingham. The Southend Boys' team performed admirably, finishing second overall, behind Mid Essex. Several WHSB athletes reached their track event finals—placing them among the top eight athletes in the county for their respective disciplines.

The following pupils won medals on the day:



**Joshua Babalola** (selected to represent Essex in Birmingham) and **Samuel Awobadejo** are Essex Champions for Hammer, photographed here with Paul Head the ex-British Record holder and Olympic Hammer thrower.



**Matthew Agbolebe** won the 400m and has been selected to go to Birmingham to represent Essex.



**Sochima Okoye** won the junior boys' triple jump (12.37m)



**Charles Harvey** won the silver medal in the inter boys' javelin.

## The Borough Athletics Championships 2025

The Borough Athletics Championships saw a large number of WHSB boys competing throughout the week across a full range of disciplines. The event began on Monday 16 June, with the Year 10 field finals and all sprint heats. Athletes were required to qualify through these heats to earn a place in the finals held on Friday. The pole vault and hammer competitions took place on Wednesday, ahead of Finals Day on Friday 20 June at Garons Park. WHSB's athletes performed strongly across the board, ultimately securing second place overall.

Congratulations to all our athletes on their commitment, resilience, and strong performances demonstrated throughout their training and the competitions. Competitive athletics will commence again this term and next, with the indoor championships at Lee Valley throughout October, November, and February.

*Mr M Fletcher, Director of Sport*

### Borough competition results:

NAME	EVENT	POSITION
<b>YEAR 10</b>		
JOSHUA BABALOLA	HAMMER	1 <sup>ST</sup> (CHAMPION)
CHARLES HARVEY	JAVELIN	1 <sup>ST</sup> (CHAMPION)
REGGIE HERRON	HAMMER	2 <sup>ND</sup>
BENAIHA OSEI-POKU	TRIPLE JUMP	2 <sup>ND</sup>
CRAWFORD KEENAN	SHOT	2 <sup>ND</sup>
JOE BURDETT	DISCUS	3 <sup>RD</sup>
TOBY WOOD	POLE VAULT	3 <sup>RD</sup>
<b>YEAR 9</b>		
MICHAEL KUSHIMO	80M HURDLES / TRIPLE JUMP	1 <sup>ST</sup> AND 3 <sup>RD</sup>
SOCHIMA OKOYE	TRIPLE JUMP	1 <sup>ST</sup>
SAMUEL AWOBADAJE	HAMMER / 80M HURDLES	1 <sup>ST</sup> AND 2 <sup>ND</sup>
FREDDIE SANKEY	300M AND HAMMER	2 <sup>ND</sup>
SEB SHIRLEY	LONG JUMP	3 <sup>RD</sup>
MAHRAN MOMIN	1500M	3 <sup>RD</sup>
<b>YEAR 8</b>		
TASEEN AHMED	HAMMER	2 <sup>ND</sup>
JOSHUA MOONEY	200M	3 <sup>RD</sup>
JOJO AIDOO	300M / TRIPLE JUMP	3 <sup>RD</sup>
WILLIAM SHORT	POLE VAULT	3 <sup>RD</sup>
<b>YEAR 7</b>		
ZION FARUNDE	SHOT	1 <sup>ST</sup>
JAMES PACKER	HIGH JUMP	3 <sup>RD</sup>

## BASKETBALL

The Basketball season is fast paced and exciting and also covers a large proportion of our year in Sport, which is a challenge. We have already seen the majority of our teams produce successful outcomes during the season, which has led to various teams advancing to latter stages in a variety of competitions.

Our Year 7 team had a particularly challenging start to the year; playing against three strong opponents in their Essex Cup group meant that they finished the group stages with a record of 0-3. However, this was not a reflection of insufficient hard work and training throughout the year, or any absence of talent in Basketball. The Borough season then began and our Year 7 team members were soon seeing the superb results they deserved. Reaching the Borough Final was an achievement in itself, and ultimately then just falling short was a real shame, however the team remained positive.

Our Year 8 team experienced a journey similar to that of the Year 7 team - losing in their Essex Cup group to some strong competitors, but seeing very positive results in the Borough competition. Reaching the Borough Final was a superb achievement after narrowly missing out in the previous year.

WHSB's teams in Year 9 and Year 10 have remained unbeaten so far this season, both teams playing some outstanding

Basketball. These teams have reached Essex Cup Semi-Finals and are preparing for the challenge ahead. The Year 11 team has struggled all season to find their feet; playing some impressive Basketball, but mixed with an absence of team cohesion, has meant that results have not been kind to this group. Our Sixth Form team has also advanced to the Essex Cup Semi-Final following a challenging season in both the County and National Cup competitions.

WHSB Basketball is thriving and this success is the result of the hard work of pupils and staff alike. Achieving such positive outcomes on such a regular basis, with all 5 Year Groups reaching the Borough Finals, demonstrates that Basketball at WHSB is in a strong position.

Good luck to all our teams awaiting their next fixtures, and congratulations on a hard-fought season so far.

### 2024/25 so far:

Year 7	Borough Finalists
Year 8	Borough Finalists
Year 9	Borough Finalists / Essex Cup Semi-Finalists / National Cup Last 32
Year 10	Borough Finalists / Essex Cup Semi-Finalists
Year 11	Borough Finalists
Sixth Form	Essex Cup Semi-Finalists

*Mr J Sexton, Master in Charge of Basketball*

## Basketball Results

### Year 7

Opponents	PF	PA	Win/Lose
Chase Y8	26	36	L
Shenfield	15	49	L
Gateway	42	60	L
Redden Court	42	51	L
Chase	69	22	W
SHSB	25	66	L
Eastwood	51	17	W
STM	53	27	W
Cecil Jones	74	15	W
SHSB	39	54	L

Year 7 Captain  
Miles Jarman

### Year 9

Opponents	PF	PA	Win/Lose
Riverside	68	61	W
Copleston	68	34	W
Barking Abbey	57	42	W
Fitzwimarc	62	47	W
SHSB	74	37	W
Northfleet	65	21	W
STM	78	50	W
Gateway	66	63	W
STM	48	43	W
Woodlands	74	44	W
St Cleres	76	65	W
Gateway	31	70	L
Queens Park	63	69	L

Year 9 Captain  
Samuel Awobadejo

### Year 11

Opponents	PF	PA	Win/Lose
Fitzwimarc	43	47	L
Gateway	38	58	L
Royal Liberty	22	66	L
St Martins	43	59	W
SHSB	64	29	W
STM	40	61	L
Copleston	43	81	L
STM	52	54	L

Year 11 Captain  
Nathan Adeyemi

### Year 8

Opponents	PF	PA	Win/Lose
Eastwood	58	39	W
Appleton	57	26	W
St Martins	60	66	L
Gateway	27	59	L
SHSB	61	62	L
SHSB	72	69	W
Eastwood	57	18	W
Shoeburyness	61	31	W
STM	34	64	L

Year 8 Captain  
Samuel Bajomo

### Year 10

Opponents	PF	PF	Win/Lose
St Helena	60	35	W
Great Baddow	68	34	W
Fitzwimarc	46	28	W
Chase	43	27	W
SHSB	69	44	W
Shoeburyness	58	14	W
Eastwood	65	51	W
KJS	44	37	W
Redden Court	75	68	W

Year 10 Captain  
Benaiah Osei-Poku

### VI Form

Opponents	PF	PA	Win/Lose
St Martins			W/O
Hailbury			W/O
St Edmunds	79	81	L
Shoeburyness	60	57	W
Riverside	51	100	L
KEGS	63	58	W
KEGS	33	50	L
Christ College	38	62	L
Barking Abbey	59	91	L

VI Form Captain  
Temitayo Samuel

## FOOTBALL IN SEPTEMBER 2025

The school is once again entered into all the local cup competitions (Borough and South-East Essex), as well as the Essex and National Cup competitions for all Year Groups. The Sixth Form team is entered in the Division 2 League and Cup for the coming season.

The games begin with our usual local Derby matches against SHSB during the week of the 8 September, and full details can be found on TeamUp.

We wish all our teams the very best of luck with their competitive football this term.

*Mr M Fletcher, Director of Sport*

## CRICKET

Our cricket teams have had a great deal of success during the 2025 season, with Years 7-10 all reaching Borough Finals, and both our U14 and U15s teams reaching County Cup Finals. This performance continues an upward trajectory in the success of our cricket teams during the last few years, with impressive talent on show.

We have seen some brilliant individual performances in Year 7, which included a half century and a century from captain Sri Gangireddy. The Year 8 team had a mixed year, losing early on in the County Cup but reaching a Borough Final.

The Year 9 team reached finals in both the Borough and County Cups. Shri Vijaykrishnan has continued his excellent form for WHSB, scoring over 300 runs for the year. Improved batting from Dhruvan Appachi has made him an excellent all-rounder and, arguably, the most valuable player for the team. Gowtham Sanga (Year 8), has also scored some incredibly important runs and taken some big wickets for the team, helping them on their way to the County Cup Final.

Our Year 10 cricketers also reached both the Borough and County last stage, with some impressive victories on the way.

Sahas Gangireddy and Shri Vijaykrishnan have been excellent at the top of the order, with some brilliant middle/late order runs, meaning the bowling attack always had large totals to defend. The last academic year also saw each Year Group putting out B teams for the first time, meaning a record number of boys competed for the School in cricket.

WHSB performed superbly in the four Borough Cups finals this year, winning 3 out of the 4 competitions. The Year 8 team won their year group competition for the second year running. Gowtham Sanga gave a particularly impressive performance as part of a very strong team. The Year 9 won their final in fine style. Shri Vijaykrishnan and Jash Dalal made highly significant contributions to the team's success across the year and particularly in the final, showing real maturity in their performances. The Year 10 team won their age group Borough Cup for the fourth year running, with some excellent bowling displays particularly from Thanishq Miriyala, and an unbeaten year from Daiwik Thakkur with the bat. Our U14 and U15 teams also reached County Cup Finals. Although both teams lost to strong opposition in the finals, they both teams gave a fine account of themselves.

*Mr H Marrant, Sports Coach*



Miles Jarman 50\* and Sri Gangireddy 106\* vs Thorpe Hall



U14 Essex Cup Finalists



U13 and U15 'Champion of Champions' Essex Cricket Indoor Winners



U15B vs Brentwood



Year 7 Borough Finalists

## TERM IN PICTURES



*Year 10 Biology Challenge Awards*



*Geography Fieldwork and Data Collection*



*Awards for Outstanding Contributions to Music for Upper Sixth Leavers*



*Awards in Modern Foreign Languages*



*Senior Physics Challenge*



*Mother Tongue Other Tongue Prize Winners*



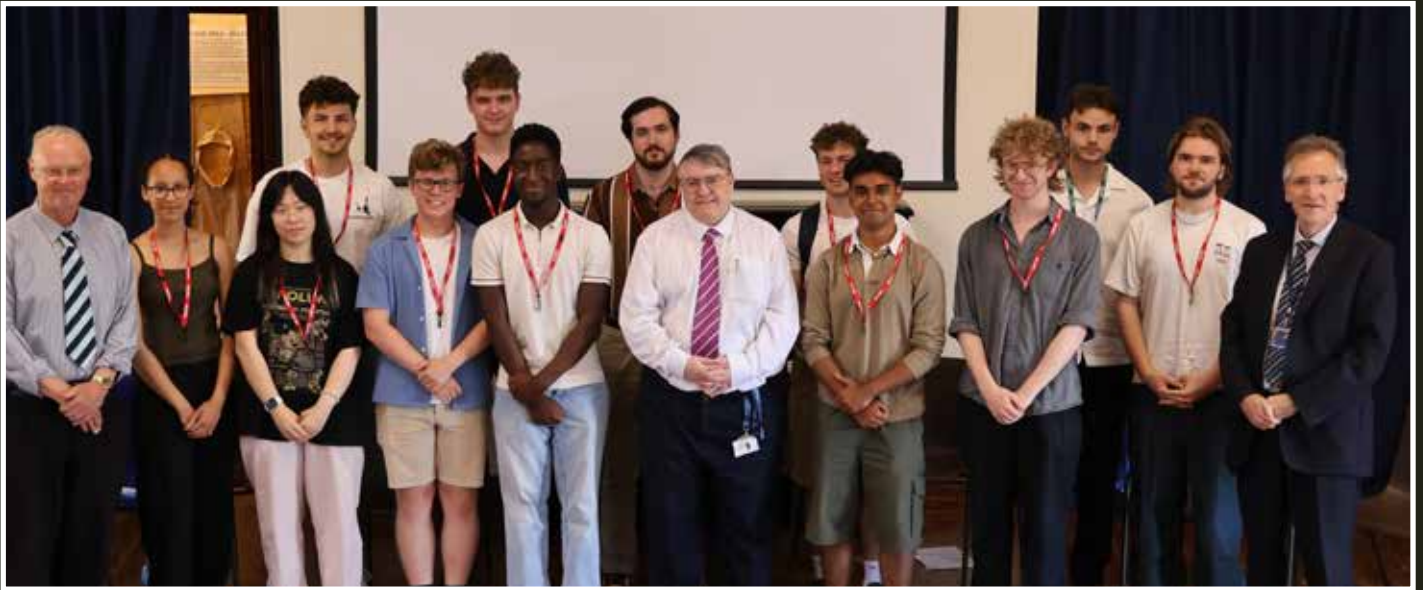
*Chemistry Challenge Success*



*HARP24 Endurance Challenge for Charity*



CCF Royal Navy Camp



*Oxbridge Conference*



*Old Westcliffians studying Medicine or Dentistry return to WHSB for Q&A Panel*



*Celebrating House Competition*





*Commemorating VE Day*



*Summer Chamber Concert*



Leavers' Assembly



*Competition Success for our Year 8, 9, and 10 Cricket Teams*



*Chemistry Olympiad Winners*



Mathematics Lesson



*Meducators Workshop*



*National Final of the UK Maths Trust (UKMT) Team Maths Challenge*



Royal Navy Cadets aboard HMS Queen Elizabeth Aircraft Carrier



*Year 9 Basketball Borough Champions*



*Journalism: English Students take over The Echo for a Day*





*Summer Sinfonia Concert*

# CALENDAR FOR AUTUMN TERM 2025

Monday 1 September	<b>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY</b>	27 - 31 October	<b>AUTUMN HALF TERM</b>
Tuesday 2 September	<b>AUTUMN TERM BEGINS, 8.40am</b>	27 - 29 October	Lower Sixth Physics Trip to CERN, Geneva
Thursday 11 September	Lower Sixth Education Evening, 7.30pm-9.00pm	<b>Monday 3 November</b>	<b>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY</b>
Monday 15 September	Year 7 Parents Welcome Evening, 6.30pm-7.00pm	Tuesday 4 November	Years 10 and 11 Cambridge Insight Day, Emmanuel College
	Year 7 Helping Parents to Help Their Sons, 7.00pm-8.30pm	Thursday 6 November	Speech Day - School closes at 12.50pm
	Parents' Association AGM, 7.00pm - 8.00pm	Friday 7 November	Lower and Upper Sixth Legal London Day
Wednesday 17 September	Geology trip to Folkestone	8 - 9 November	CCF Attendance at Local Remembrance Events
Friday 19 September	Enrichment Day:	Monday 10 November	Year 8 Phase 1 Data Report Issued (Data Only)
	Year 7 Trip to Thriftwood	Tuesday 11 November	Annual Service of Remembrance, 8.45am-9.30am
	Year 8 Science Day		Parents' Association Meeting (via Zoom), 7.30pm-9.00pm
	Year 9 Visit to the Imperial War Museum	Wednesday 12 November	Upper Sixth Medicine, Dentistry, and Veterinary Medicine Mock Interviews, Library
	Year 10 Humanities Enrichment Day	Thursday 13 November	Sixth Form Open Evening, 6.30pm-9.00pm
	Year 11 and Upper Sixth visit to Nuclear Races, Brentwood	Friday 14 November	Year 10 Phase 1 Data Report Issued (Data Only)
	Lower Sixth Induction Activities	17 - 25 November	Year 11 Trial Examinations
	Upper Sixth Pottery Painting	Monday 17 November	Year 7 Parents Consultation Evening, 4.00pm-6.00pm
	Upper Sixth and Lower Sixth Physicists to Sizewell B		Lower Sixth Biology Live Trip
	Upper Sixth Medicine, Dentistry, and Veterinary Medicine Mock Interviews, Library	Friday 21 November	Upper Sixth Parents Consultation Evening, 4.00pm-6.00pm
19 - 20 September	Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Assessment	Monday 24 November	Careers Evening, 7.00pm-8.30pm
Saturday 20 September	11+ Main Test Day	Wednesday 26 November	Autumn Sinfonia Concert, 7.30pm-9.00pm
22 - 26 September	Upper Sixth Formative Examinations	Thursday 27 November	History Days Out to Hampton Court Palace
Tuesday 23 September	Flu Vaccinations #1	Saturday 29 November	GCSE Music Recordings
Thursday 25 September	Year 9 Helping Parents to Help Their Sons, 7.30pm-9.00pm	1 - 2 December	Year 8 HPV Immunisations
Saturday 27 September	CCF Royal Navy to Grange Waters	Thursday 4 December	Christmas With The Big Band, 7.30pm-10.00pm
29 September - 3 October	Year 11 Formative Examinations	Friday 5 December	Lower Sixth Formative Examinations
Tuesday 30 September	Year 9 Take Your Child to Work Day	Monday 8 - 17 December	Year 8 Parents Consultation Evening, 4.00pm-6.00pm
	11+ Alternative Test Day	Monday 8 December	Christmas Theatre Production, Library, 7.30pm-9.00pm
Thursday 2 October	Year 9 CCF Interest Evening, Westcliff Theatre, 7.30pm-8.30pm	10 - 12 December	Astronomy Society Meet-up, Playing Field
	Year 10 Education Evening, Main Hall, 7.30pm-9.00pm	Thursday 11 December	Charity Events with the Charity Committee
Friday 3 October	Lower Sixth Phase 1 Data Report Issued (Initial Indicators)	Friday 12 December	Geology Conference
Tuesday 7 October	Flu Vaccinations #2	Monday 15 December	Year 11 Trial Examination Report Issued
Thursday 9 October	Reach for the Stars: Join the Astronomy Society, Playing Field	Thursday 18 December	Geology trip to the Natural History Museum
	Mental Health Information Evening, Main Hall, 7.30pm-9.00pm	<b>Friday 19 December</b>	Leavers' Certificate Collection, 3.45pm-5.00pm
Friday 10 October	Upper Sixth Phase 1 Data Report Issued (Data Only)	<b>Monday 5 January</b>	Festival of Lessons & Carols, 7.30pm-9.00pm
Saturday 11 October	WCGC Go for Grammar! Session: Get Up and Go!	<b>Tuesday 6 January</b>	Lost Property Reclaim
13 - 17 October	CCF Field Week #1		<b>AUTUMN TERM FINISHES</b>
Thursday 16 October	Autumn Chamber Recital, 7.30pm-9.00pm		<b>Staff INSET Day</b>
Friday 17 October	Year 7 Phase 1 Data Report Issued (Baseline Data)		<b>SPRING TERM BEGINS</b>
	Year 11 Phase 1 Data Report Issued (Data Only)		
	Charity Events with the Charity Committee		
17 - 19 October	CCF Royal Navy to Trafalgar Day Parade		
Tuesday 21 October	Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Albert Hall		
Thursday 23 October	Year 9 Phase 1 Data Report Issued (Data Only)		
Friday 24 October	Lower Sixth Parliament Education Day		
	Lost Property Reclaim		

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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