



# THE Westcliff Diary

## January 2014

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No.71

## A Sixth Form Capital Development Project

In the Autumn edition of the Westcliff Diary, I provided an outline of the School's planned £4.5million capital development project to build a new Sixth Form Centre and to refurbish the fabric of the Science Building.

I am pleased to report that the School was granted planning permission for both projects in October and that preliminary works have already commenced. The new Sixth Form Centre, which will cost in excess of £3million, will be located to the west of the main School building. It will contain two large study facilities, a Sixth Form dining area and Sixth Form office accommodation on the ground floor. The upper floor will contain two 90m<sup>2</sup> Science laboratories and associated preparatory room, four Sixth Form classrooms and further office space.

The layout of the building will allow for the redevelopment of other areas within the School as part of the School's overall strategic plan for the development of its facilities. The new Sixth Form Centre will involve the demolition of the West toilet block and new toilet facilities for all pupils will be incorporated into the new building.

The refurbishment of the Science Building will provide a new roof, curtain walls and glazing as well as improved toilet facilities.

The School is planning to raise further funds to ultimately modernize the laboratory facilities. This development project is likely to cause some short term disruption to the site and the School is working with its contractor to minimize any impact on teaching and learning. We have arranged for five laboratories to remain open during the refurbishment of the Science Block to ensure that pupils, particularly those taking public examinations this year, can continue to undertake practical Science work.

We anticipate that works to the Science Building will be completed by May 2014 and we plan to formally open the new Sixth Form Centre in March 2015. Works to the new Sixth Form Centre should not cause disruption to day to day teaching and learning, although we shall be locating some teaching away from the west side of the School during any periods of noisy construction. The School has developed and brought into use land on the east side of the School in order to recover the recreational area lost to the new Sixth Form building.

This is an exciting development which will provide our pupils with greatly enhanced facilities. Further details regarding this project can be obtained from the School website.

Headmaster



## 50 Years in the TARDIS

Wednesday 12 February 2014

On Saturday 23 November 1963, a British television institution was born. At 5.15 pm, the first episode of what the Radio Times described as "*An adventure in space and time*" was broadcast on the BBC. 50 years, 12 bodies and 800 episodes later, together with countless books, audio adventures and TV spin-offs to its name, *Doctor Who* is still going strong.

On Wednesday 12 February the School will host a special evening to commemorate the Doctor's golden anniversary. Mr Wilkinson will take us back to the very beginning and, through clips, memories, readings and live drama, transport us through five decades of the longest-running science fiction programme of all time. From its inception and humble black-and-white beginnings as a show designed to educate children, through to the huge money-spinning industry that it now is, he will explore just what makes it so successful.

This promises to be an entertaining evening for both younger audience members new to the show and those who have a more long-standing familiarity. We hope that many will want to come along. Tickets are priced at £3 for adults and £2 for children.

Mr S Wilkinson,  
Assistant Head: Director of Sixth  
Form Studies



## Staff Changes for the Spring Term

We begin the Spring Term with a small number of changes to staffing. Dr Robertson, who has made a significant contribution as Assistant Director of Sixth Form and as teacher of Languages and History across the last seven years, moves on to the position of Head of Sixth Form at the Swayne Park School. Dr Robertson has given his time generously and done much to promote the extra-curricular dimensions of School life. We thank him for his service and congratulate him on his well-deserved promotion. He will be replaced by Miss Laura Hurley, who joins us from Colchester Royal Grammar School.

In addition we give our best wishes and thanks to Mr Kelleher who taught English and Mr Mann who taught Mathematics. Both gentlemen will be leaving us at the end of the Autumn Term to pursue other opportunities. The School also says goodbye to Mr Westwick, who has given superb service in his position as Head Groundsman during the last two years. He moves on to become Facilities Manager at Temple Sutton Primary School. During the Autumn Term we have been pleased to welcome Mr Arnold who joins us to teach Mathematics, Mrs McKay who joins us to teach English and Mrs Cook who join us to teach Religious Education and History on a part-time basis. We are also pleased to welcome Mrs Barber who joins us at the start of the Spring Term to teach Biology and Chemistry.

We thank all those staff moving on for their service and offer them our best wishes for the future.

*Headmaster*

## Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children

### Spring Programme

The Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children (WCGC) has continued to develop from strength to strength and we now work with hundreds of pupils and staff from our local primary schools in challenging disadvantage and encouraging those who may, in the past, have overlooked the possibility of a Grammar School education, to give consideration to it. We also continue to extend the WCGC provision to provide additional encouragement and much needed motivation for local Year 5 pupils who are already contemplating applying to one of the four local Grammar Schools.

As in previous years, this term the WCGC will offer a free two-part 11+ programme for local Year 5 pupils (boys and girls) living in the Priority Admissions Area who are considering applying for a local Grammar School education. The programme will launch on Saturday 1 February 2014 with a day of fun activities designed to challenge and engage gifted pupils. This will include some formal 11+ preparation alongside other stimulating activities designed to develop the aptitudes and skills tested in the 11+ examinations. The second part of the programme will consist of five one-hour weekly sessions giving pupils the opportunity not only to improve their academic achievement but also to fully prepare them for the Grammar School selection process. These follow up sessions will take place on Thursday 13 and 27 February, and 13, 20, and 27 March 2014.

The WCGC will also be offering a free one-day Geography programme and a free one-day Science programme for local Year 5 pupils. These programmes will be held on Saturday 8 February 2014 and Saturday 22 March 2014 respectively and will include fun activities designed to challenge and engage those pupils who have a natural aptitude, interest, and passion for these subjects. We very much look forward to opening our doors and welcoming talented local primary school children to WHSB once again!

*Mr A Cass,  
Assistant Head (Acting): Director of  
Lower School Studies*



## Celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights

Last term Westcliff High School for Boys was awarded a Peace Dove as part of the art project initiated by German artist, Richard Hillinger. In order to honour the 60th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 2008, Richard Hillinger created 30 Doves, one for each

## Teacher Training in Kazakhstan

For many years Kazakhstan was a large blank on the map, little more than a back yard for the Soviet Union's labour camps, nuclear weapons testing and cosmonaut launch pads. Now one of the handful of independent countries that make up Central Asia, it is a blossoming global superpower-to-be, its brisk economic development driven by vast oil reserves and a visionary President willing to build bridges with countries far from its landlocked location.

Last July, and again in October, I was invited by the Faculty of Education at Cambridge University to participate in an international educational reform project in Kazakhstan's

futuristic new capital, Astana. Reminiscent of the educational reforms introduced in Singapore after its independence, the programme aims to completely overhaul schooling in this vast country and produce a generation of students prepared for success in the 21st Century.

Through a translator, I delivered training and provided mentoring with a focus on teaching and learning techniques, including group, independent and practical work, and aspects of curriculum development and assessment. Teaching is underpinned by theories of learning, which draw on both the abstract field of cognitive science and more tangible

behaviour management and motivation techniques. My work with leading academics in the field of education allowed me to pause and reconsider the approaches I employ in my own classroom, whilst meeting Kazakh teachers left me inspired by a system so clearly centred on the development and progression of the student.

Cambridge University is about to embark on a similar project in Mongolia and I hope that my continued association with the University in 2014 has further benefits for our School.

*Dr D Martindill,  
Deputy Head of Science*



article of the Declaration of Human Rights. Since then, the Doves have been awarded to individuals such as the Dalai Lama, Michail Gorbachev and Pope Benedict XIV, as well as deserving institutions which have been involved in the promotion of peace.

As a result of WHSB's international connections with Germany, the School has now been given the honour of receiving one of the Peace Doves. These connections demonstrate how relationships between members of two different countries, in the past divided by war, can be improved significantly and how international cooperation is possible, which in itself promotes peace, albeit on a smaller scale.

We have a long standing email exchange with the Wilhelm-Conrad-Roentgen Mittelschule in Weilheim, Bavaria, initiated by Mrs Cavalier, when she began teaching at WHSB, in cooperation with her father, the Deputy Headmaster at the German school. Since then, Year 10 and Year 11 pupils have exchanged emails with pupils in the German school, with some pupils remaining in contact after having moved on to Higher Education. In recognition of this link between the two schools, Bernhard Bürger, the Headmaster of the Wilhelm-Conrad-Roentgen Mittelschule, decided to pass the Peace Dove to our School. The Dove was presented to Mrs Cavalier, as a representative of WHSB, by the School's Headmaster and the town's Mayor. The Dove now resides at WHSB until the School makes the award to another worthy recipient in the future.

In the coming term, there will be several activities focusing on the topic of Peace, such as a German House poetry competition for students of the Sixth Form studying German, an English poetry competition on the topic of peace and other events and an assembly where the Dove will be unveiled.

The WHSB community feels most privileged to have been awarded with this honour and its staff aim to continue teaching the importance of peace in our global society.

*Mrs V Cavalier,  
Teacher in charge of Latin,  
Pupil Progress and  
KS3 in the Foreign  
Languages Department*



## Year 12 Enrichment Day Visit of Roadster

Statistics indicate that drivers are most at risk of having an accident in the first two years after they pass their driving test and one in five newly qualified drivers have a crash of some description within a year. With this in mind, and with a view to helping our students to stay safe, our Enrichment Day in September saw our first group of Sixth Form students participating in an exciting day of activities aimed at preparing them for driving.

The Roadster programme of activities was delivered by Southend Borough Council's Road Safety Team, Essex Police and Essex Fire and Rescue Service who, together with local driving schools, provided our students with the opportunity to gain a valuable insight into the demands of the modern road and an awareness of the costs and responsibilities associated with driving.

It was an action packed day with practical activities covering choosing a driving school, buying your first car, road safety, hazard perception, peer pressure, drink driving and legal issues. For many, the highlight of the day was being given the opportunity to drive a car under the supervision of a qualified driving instructor for the first time. It was a most informative and enjoyable day which we hope will have gone some way to improving our drivers of tomorrow. The remainder of the year group will participate in a similar activity in March 2014.

*Mrs D Harris,  
Work-Related Learning Coordinator*



## NaNoWriMo

This year, for the first time, the English Department encouraged pupils to participate in the international writing competition NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month), which takes place every November.

The aim of NaNoWriMo is to complete a 50,000 word, first draft of a novel (fewer words for Under 18s), and post it on the website for all other participants to read. The winning novel could be published and this would be the first step towards becoming a writer. Writing creatively is definitely a strength for a number of pupils at WHSB, and with their drive and determination this was certainly an achievable task.

Every lunch time throughout November, a member of the English Department has been available to support pupils as they type furiously towards the completion of their original novels. They embarked on exciting sci-fi, terrifying suspense, and humorous coming-of-age stories and the English Department would like to commend the pupils for attempting such a challenging task in such a short amount of time. A special mention goes to Liam Smith (Year 10) who has completed a 12,000 word novel entitled Bleak Futures – a fantastic achievement.

*Miss A Elphick,  
Key Stage 3 English Coordinator*

## Young Enterprise

Following the successes of former WHSB companies in this competition and the increasing popularity of this Wednesday Afternoon Activity choice, two companies have been established this year. These companies, Nimbus and Zelus, each comprising of ten students, will be competing against other companies both locally and regionally for the accolade of becoming the Best Young Enterprise Company in 2014.

The companies are required to develop an innovative product and take this to market. Nimbus, under the directorship of Michael Vose (Year 12), decided to produce personalised iPhone cases whilst Zelus, under the leadership of Jake Weeks (Year 12), is selling cookie and spa jars. These are jars containing all the necessary ingredients to make cookies, brownies or gingerbread, or the ingredients for a relaxing home spa.

Both teams attended the Southend Trade Fair on 10 December where interest in, and sales of, their products was strong. In School, sales to staff and pupils were also well received. Zelus further increased their sales by attending a number of local Christmas Fairs and donating products to charity raffles. Further sales opportunities will be followed up after Christmas and new products are anticipated for the Spring market.

*Mrs D Harris,  
Work-Related Learning Coordinator*



## Connexions Careers Fair 2014

On Wednesday 5 March, Connexions will be holding its annual Careers Fair at its Shoebury Centre. This event is considered the largest impartial event of its kind in the county. The event will be host to a wide variety of exhibitors covering Higher and Further education, apprenticeships, vocational qualifications and employment. Mrs Harris will be accompanying a group of interested pupils from Years 10 and 11 to this event which we hope will assist them in making informed decisions about their post 16 options.

*Mrs D Harris,  
Work-Related Learning Coordinator*

## Charity Week 2014

**28 March - 4 April**

The most exciting and anticipated week of the year is fast approaching; the School's annual Charity Week returns this term. Led by the Charity Week Committee, the Lower Sixth will be taking over every break, lunchtime and evening throughout the last week of term to raise as much

money as possible for the two charities that we have chosen: The British Red Cross and Peaceful Place. While the Red Cross continues to provide significant aid across the world, particularly in Syria and the Philippines, the Rochford-based charity Peaceful Place makes a huge impact on a much smaller scale. Helping to improve the lives of people with early onset dementia and their carers, this is an incredibly worthy cause and one we are all looking forward to supporting. An exciting line of up events is to be expected and we look forward to seeing as many of you as possible during the week. Be sure to follow us on Twitter for all the latest updates **@CharityWeekWHSB**.

*Miss G Braiden,  
Head of PSHEE*

## Oxbridge Visits

As part of the School's ongoing commitment to support applications to the nation's most prestigious universities, an eleventh annual visit to Cambridge University is planned for this term. We hope to continue the successful format of combining a tour for Year 11 pupils with a meeting with an Admissions Tutor from one of the Colleges on Saturday 8 February.

Once again, this visit will be run in conjunction with Westcliff High School for Girls. A complementary trip to Oxford University, for Year 12, is intended for later in the year.

*Mr R Stevens  
Head of Politics & Oxbridge Coordinator*



## World Book Day Thursday 6 March 2014

The Spring term sees the return of World Book Day, the international day for the celebration of reading. Throughout the week beginning Monday 3 March, the English Department will run a series of events to mark one of the most important dates in its calendar. Activities will include

staff readings of favourite titles at break and lunch times, 'Mad Hatters' games for pupils at Key Stage 3, a school-wide book swap event, essay competitions and more.

The English Department will also be fundraising for World Book Day's partner charity, Book Aid International, an organisation dedicated to changing lives through books. Every year this charity sends half a million books to libraries in twelve countries across sub-Saharan Africa, aiming to increase access to the best-quality books in some of the poorest countries in the world. Of these donated texts, over sixty percent are gifted to primary and secondary school aged children. Every £2 raised at WHSB will provide one book for another school's library; changing lives by helping others gain a better education for life.



The English Department anticipates sharing a week of celebrations with all pupils, parents and staff; if you have an idea on how to help us mark the occasion, please let us know.

*Mrs G. Koutas,  
Head of English*

## Visiting Choir from the USA

Southend Boys' Choir & Southend Girls' Choir Trust is hosting a visiting boys' choir from California on 10 and 11 July 2014. However we wish to offer the Southend Boys' Choir and Southend Girls' Choir Trust our full support and we hope that some WHSB families will be able to assist on this occasion.

The visit is not part of the School's programme and the School is not involved in making the arrangements for the visit. We hope that some families will be able to support the Trust on this occasion.

Those who are interested in offering accommodation should contact the School Office and we shall arrange for your details to be passed on to the Trust.

*Headmaster*



## The Tolkien Society

This term, the Tolkien Society will focus on the kinds of life that we meet in Middle Earth, their lives, culture, art, and how they fit into the dualistic aspirations in the struggle for freedom or domination. Our six sessions will focus on Elves, Men, Dwarves, Wizards (Istari), Ents, and finally the characters which emanate from the shadow worlds of life beyond death. There is a great opportunity this term in which to enrich your knowledge of both Tolkien's world and ours, as he was insistent that Middle Earth is our world also.

A spring essay competition will provide the opportunity to fire the literary and analytical imaginations of our students, and a variety of subjects associated with Tolkien's works will be offered. Subjects will include the lives/deaths and aspirations of the various creatures of Middle Earth, both general and specific. This is an opportunity for pupils to become published authors.

Mr M Halsall,  
Head of Religious Studies



## Debating

The English-Speaking Union's School Mace Debating Competition is already underway with James Snell (Year 12) and John Tothill (Year 12) representing the School. The School also entered four teams in the Cambridge Union Schools Debating Competition this year and three have already successfully negotiated passage to January's second round. The Oxford Union Senior Schools Debating Competition also begins this term. We have been able to enter three teams in a competition which is growing larger every year with more than 1200 debaters drawn from around 300 schools in the UK, Ireland, the Netherlands, and Canada. We are looking forward to the start of preliminary rounds of the International Competition for Young Debaters which features Year 7, 8 and 9 teams. Each year the national debating competitions are getting tougher, with stronger, better prepared teams and the ICYD is no exception.

Mr R Stevens,  
Head of Politics & Oxbridge Coordinator

## Wargaming

The Wargaming Club's regular Friday after-School meetings continue, running from 3:35pm until 5:00pm.

In addition, the Saturday Big Game Day continues to feature on the Club's calendar with at least one each half-term.

Mr R Stevens,  
Head of Politics & Oxbridge Coordinator

## Lower School History Club

In addition to our usual lunchtime activities, The Lower School History Club is looking to collaborate with Southend Museum and Borough Council on a project to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War. The pupils will be running an investigation into the bombing of Southend in 1915 and 1917, using contemporary newspapers and maps as well as historical sources such as the 1911 Census.

In addition, there is a Heritage Project across the year to "gather stories" about Southend and the impact of the war on this community which will be used to inspire artists and poets; we will hope to contribute in some measure.

Mrs K Robertson,  
Head of History



# TALKS LECTURES & TALKS LECTU

## Humanities Evenings

### CEOP Purely For Parents Evening 22 January 2014

Information and Communication Technology has revolutionised the way we live our lives. Just two decades ago it would have been unthinkable that you could fit in your pocket a device which would comprise a phone, a video and still camera, a GPS location device, a personal computer, a word processor, a games console and many other things besides. However, with the undoubted advances that these technologies have brought in making our communication and transactions ever easier, there have come unprecedented challenges, not least with regard to children and young people. Barely a week goes by without another tragic news story about a child or teenager who has become embroiled in a situation online which has led to cyberbullying, abuse, suicide or gaming addiction.

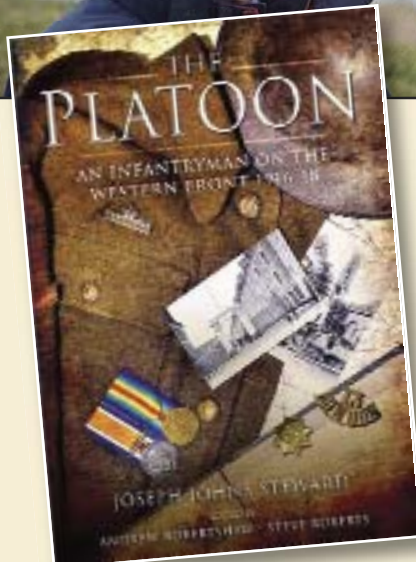
In an effort to apprise parents of the ever changing developments with regard to Internet safety, and to offer helpful suggestions as to how to keep children safe online, Mr Bleakley, our trained Child Exploitation and Online Protection Agency (CEOP) Ambassador, will be hosting an Education Evening on Internet Safety. During this evening he will address issues such as the use of social networking, mobile technology, online gaming, Internet addiction, sexting, and pornography. All parents are encouraged to attend this very important session. Please note that this session is for parents only and not intended for pupils.

*Mr J Bleakley,  
Year 10 Progress Leader*



### Andy Robertshaw and Steve Roberts on The Platoon

On Thursday 16 January, we will have not one but two military historians in School to take us through the extraordinary story of *The Platoon*. This novel, written by Joseph Johns Steward in the early 1930s, but only published in 2011, at first sight appears to be a work of fiction. However, forensic examination of the text, the storyline and characters, shows how the author drew upon his own experiences of the First World War in a very direct and compelling manner. Steward concentrates on his immediate experiences and on those of his platoon, the small, close-knit team of men who together confronted the reality of fighting during key battles on the Western Front, and this provides an unusual record of the war from the perspective of a private soldier. Other, better known military memoirs may reflect upon grand strategy and major events but to Steward's characters rations, letters, leave – and comradeship – are critical.



### Professor Andrew Lambert on The Challenge

Professor Lambert is Britain's leading Naval Historian and no stranger to WHSB. He has spoken to us about Nelson, Franklin's Lost Expedition and the Hunt for Robinson Crusoe's Island. Now he has returned to 19th Century naval history and the War of 1812, and he will be speaking to us on Thursday 20 March.

His is the story (based on exhaustive research) of how Britain, despite the on-going threat from Napoleon's France, defeated America in the last war fought between the two nations, exploding in the process a host of American myths about the prowess of their navy.

Professor Lambert will examine as a case study the epic engagement between HMS Shannon and the USS Chesapeake. Rule Britannia!



## Dr Rosie Wyles on Greek Drama

On Thursday 27 February, Dr Rosie Wyles of the Classics Department, King's College, London will be visiting the School. During the afternoon, Dr Wyles will be talking to Year 10 Classical Civilization GCSE pupils about the staging of Medea, their set text. This is something Dr Wyles has done on a number of previous occasions, but this year Dr Wyles will return in the evening to talk to parents, pupils and friends of the School about Greek drama, and not only how it has been transmitted down to us, but also the debt subsequent playwrights owe to their classical forbearers.

This draws upon some of the work she recently did for the BBC's excellent series on Greek and Roman drama presented by Dr Michael Scott under the title The Greatest Show on Earth.

*Mr R Stevens,  
Head of Politics &  
Oxbridge Coordinator*



## Gothic Man

Friday 17 January

Gothic Literature is an essential part of our English curriculum at WHSB. Pupils study Victorian literature in Years 8 and 9, with Gothic literature making its first appearance as a topic in its own right in Year 9. Students who continue English into Advanced Level will read several Gothic texts and use their knowledge to create their own Gothic characters.

Gothic literature is well known for its unsuspected twists and hidden elements, which lurk in the darkness and amongst the shadows. It was a genre of writing created to express the fear of the unknown felt by the Victorians as their deepest beliefs were brought into question. The characters, often arrogant and hubristic, represent the scientists who started to experiment with life and test the boundaries of humanity.

This year, the English Department is offering the pupils the chance to see these stories brought to life, being told by a thrilling and engaging performer. The performer, Rupert Mason, presents three classic Gothic literature tales against a simplistic curtained backdrop, wearing typical Victorian costume, and using a basic soundtrack, all of which adds to the appreciation of each of the tales. The performance will be open to all Year 9 pupils and Sixth Form students to give them a greater understanding of the texts, and hopefully ignite an interest in this exciting and exhilarating genre.

*Miss A Elphick,  
Key Stage 3 English Coordinator*



## Old Westcliffians' Association (OWA)

Last year, our Annual Dinner was held on Saturday 14 September in the School Hall. The guest speaker was Peter Bone, MP for Wellingborough and an Old Boy of the School. We had 68 attendees and a good time was had by all. This year, the Dinner will be held on Friday 12 September and it is hoped that this will be early enough to attract the leavers before they go off to university.

In other news, the new School website will feature a secure Alumni Area and this will be completed by the end of the academic year. We are also collaborating with the Parents' Association on the sale of upmarket mince pies from the Ultimate Plum Pudding Company. We sincerely hope that this will be the first of many ways in which we can help the PA. We will certainly advertise their functions in our newsletter and I will email flyers to our members.

Lastly, I would like to encourage younger members, not just to join, but to become involved and join the committee. It is not onerous, but the survival of the OWA must surely be in all our interests. Interestingly we have just signed up our first female member, having been all male since our formation in 1926!

*Terry Birdseye,  
OWA Secretary*

## WHSB Parents' Association Annual Race Night 2014

On Saturday 1 March, we are hosting our fifth Annual Race Night. This is an extremely popular event and a great family night out so early booking is advised. Doors open at 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start. You may bring your own drinks and nibbles, or for an extra £3.00 per ticket, you can enjoy a fish and chip supper (please indicate if a vegetarian alternative is required). All proceeds go to the School. We thank you for your support in advance.

*Jemima Clarke,  
Chair of Parents' Association*



## Science and Engineering Week

**14 - 24 March 2014**

To mark National Science and Engineering Week 2014 we shall be joining forces with Westcliff High School for Girls and holding The Westcliff Schools' STEM Careers Fair. This fair will take place on 18 March and will be held in WHSG Conference Centre.

Representatives from WHSB and many professional supporters from the Science, Engineering and Technology industries will be in attendance. This will provide students with the opportunity to engage with specialists from a wide range of backgrounds. The event will run from 12 noon until 5.30pm giving all students ample opportunity to visit both at lunchtime and after school when parents will also be welcome. Selected groups of pupils will also have the opportunity to attend during the school day. It is planned that this will become an annual event and WHSB look forward to hosting in 2015.

*Mrs D Harris,*

*Work-Related Learning Coordinator*

## A Day in Toy Making

**Saturday 8 March**

Mr Senior's popular Saturday Craft Days for the Lower School continue in March. On this occasion, the focus will be on toy making and pupils will develop their craft skills in the marking out, cutting and finishing of wood. The day is open to all lower years, and participants will have the opportunity to build a scaled replica vintage Triumph Sports. The essential materials used are pine and mahogany and the length of the finished vehicle will be 320mm. The charge of £40.00 for each pupil is inclusive of materials which, barring catastrophes, ought to afford a splendid model, finished and polished for pupils to take home. Early booking is advised.

*Mr N Senior, Head of Technology*



## Engineering in Education Scheme

At the request of Selex ES and Gardner Aerospace, the team investigated the benefits of fitting 'real time' monitoring devices to a Greenpower racing car, and produced a detailed report to Gardner Aerospace identifying how the data would be used to improve the performance of the car and the drivers. Perfecting their design at Cambridge University Engineering Department, the team members were awarded a Gold CREST award for their work.

Additionally, the team acted as pit crew for the 2013 racing season, and perfected processes which allowed the driver to be changed and both car batteries replaced in 25 seconds. The proposed system will be built and tested by WHSB Robotics Club under the direction of Jaisal Patel and Bruce Key in time for the 2014 racing season.

*Mr B Easby,*

*Physics Technician*



*The Team (left to right) William Coe, Andrew Cooper, Mr B Easby, Jonathan Miller and Daniel Bard.*

## Go4SET Scheme

Following a visit to the Building Research Establishment in Watford, the team was set the challenge of investigating power use within the School. Deciding to show the benefits of modern insulation and energy management systems, by contrasting the total energy use of the most modern, freestanding building in the School with that of the oldest one, they were amazed to find that in fact the newest building was using more power per cubic metre than any other building in the School.

After discovering that the newest building was consuming an alarming amount of power even when unoccupied, the boys concluded that the problem lay with the building's heating/air conditioning control system and were able to demonstrate that with minimal changes to the control system a substantial amount of power would be saved annually. For their work, the boys received a CREST Silver award.

*Mr B Easby,*

*Physics Technician*



*The Team: James Penkman, Mathew Clark, Alex Ayton, Jed Waghorn, Jasen Walker and Philip Boesch.*

## WHSB Parents' Association Winter Ball 2013

Tickets sold out very quickly for this year's WHSB PA Winter Ball, which was held on Saturday 30 November. Over 200 guests enjoyed a complementary drinks reception, listening to a pianist in the Humanities Forum followed by a five course, professionally-catered meal and dancing to a live band.

This main fundraising event for the Parents' Association raises thousands of pounds for the School and we were delighted that so many parents, former parents and friends were able to attend. We would like to thank you for supporting us and hope to see you again at our forthcoming events.

*Jemima Clarke*

*Chair of Parents' Association*



# GREENPOWER Racing

In October 2012, four Lower Sixth students were asked to investigate the possibility of designing a telemetry system which could be fitted to a battery powered car to monitor its performance and the state of critical components of the car.

The students' design so impressed the car's builders (Gardner Aerospace) that the team were asked if, as well as making the system, they would be willing to act as pit crew for the 2013 Greenpower racing season. The boys agreed, and were so enthusiastic that Gardners asked if WHSB would also like to supply drivers for the season.

The WHSB team of five drivers from Years 7 and 8, and four pit crew, now in Year 13, spent many hours learning safety procedures, perfecting battery changes and pit stop methods as well as familiarising themselves with driving the

car. The team did so well in the heats held at the Ford track in Dunton and the Top Gear test track at Cranleigh that they qualified for the National Final held at the Goodwood race track in October.

The team's hard work and practice paid off, completing the fastest pit stop of the

day at 35 seconds to change batteries and drivers. They finished 15th out of a field of more than 100 teams from all over the country and beyond, beating a team from Cornwall Police and teams from Poland and the USA.

*Mr B Easby,  
Physics Technician*



*From left to right:  
Harvey Masterton,  
Jonathan Travers  
(both Year 8),  
Elijah Thakoordin  
(Year 9),  
Andrew Cooper,  
Jaisal Patel,  
Jonathan Miller  
(all Year 13),  
Louis Davies  
(Year 8)  
and in the car,  
Kian Doost  
(Year 8).*

## Arkwright Scholarships

WHSB is pleased to announce that Arkwright Scholarships have been awarded to Roman Carlile and Alexander Young. Below is an account of Roman's Arkwright experience and the benefits of being an Arkwright Scholar.

Each year, WHSB sees the next generation of 'Arkwright Scholars' cross the stage and collect a certificate of prestige. For me, until the beginning of Year 11, that was all I ever gave in terms of thought to what an Arkwright Scholarship was.

However, in November 2012, Mr. Senior explained the scheme to me and encouraged me to apply for an Arkwright Scholarship due to my interest in Engineering through Design and Technology. I had to call on all of my past experience in engineering, as well as my academic and extra-curricular success, to complete the extensive application process, talking about previous projects along with my ambitions in life.

A few months later, I found myself with notice of the upcoming aptitude paper, which unsurprisingly was a little daunting. However, through practice I was able to pass this entrance requirement by just being able to think imaginatively; what Arkwright was looking for was not a solution but creativity and potential. Following my

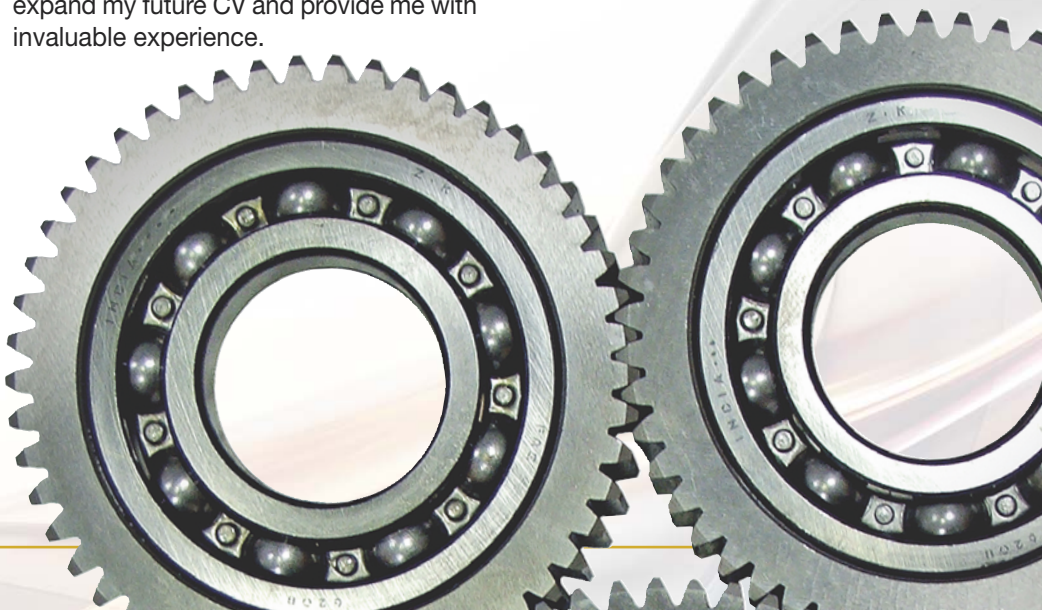
success in this field, I had to face the next hurdle, the Arkwright interview. This asked for a further set of skills: articulation, the ability to show interest and passion, and the understanding of what it means to be an engineer.

I was awarded the Scholarship because I was able to show the potential that Arkwright seek in young people, and from it I've learnt so much and eagerly anticipate what the future with the Arkwright Trust holds. I was assigned a sponsor (which in my case is Fläkt Woods Ltd) and this is just one of the many benefits of the Scholarship, as such a provision gives me contact with a real company which will expand my future CV and provide me with invaluable experience.

I would urge anyone in Year 11 or below to aim for this prestigious award if they have even the slightest inclination toward the subject of engineering in some capacity, as the process in itself is beneficial in learning what companies are looking for. Aside from monetary gain, the Arkwright Scholarship opens doors and helps the future generation of engineers go from education into the workplace.

For me, Arkwright has been a way to give my school work direction and I am immensely grateful for the invaluable future opportunities I will undoubtedly be presented with in the future.

*Roman Carlile, Year 12*



# SLICES OF PI: MATHEMATICS AT WHSB

The Mathematics Department is running a series of exciting competitions and trips, as well as offering the usual support to pupils of all ages and attainment. To see the most up to date information on the provision we offer, please see the notice boards in the Mathematics Block foyer.

## Competitions and Visits

At Key Stage 3, four of our brightest mathematicians (James Quigley 9C, Jed Waghorn 9N, Thomas Haward 8E and Rahul Arora 8N) are participating in the UKMT Junior Team Challenge in February. This is a national competition in which pupils will have to answer questions both individually and as a team. Pupils will be required to use the knowledge and techniques they have acquired in lessons but they will be applying them to problems not usually covered in the curriculum. Preparation has been underway for some time now and we wish them success in the first round. Also on offer to pupils at Key Stage 3 is our Gifted and Talented Club for pupils in Years 7 and 8. This is an online club meeting every Wednesday evening and held in conjunction with Southend High School for Girls. Pupils work in teams to solve complex, multi-stage problems before the other teams. This will prove to be an exciting opportunity for those in the lower years who want to test themselves against our local rivals. Any pupil interested in joining should speak to Simon Houghton 12F (Form room M3) or Jasper Alizond 11W (Form room W24).

At Key Stage 4, we have the upcoming UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge (IMC) for which all of the Year 11 Mathematicians who have taken Statistics GCSE will be entered. In addition, for the first time our Additional Mathematicians in Year 10 will have the opportunity to show what they can do in this national competition. The challenge takes place on Thursday 6 February and we wish all pupils involved the very best of luck. We also have the Year 10 Team Competition run by the Further Maths Support Programme (FMSP). This national competition involves a team of four pupils tackling both long and short mathematical problems under timed conditions. Rounds include a relay round, where answers need to be passed on to the next team member, and a studied round, where pupils have to learn base 6 arithmetic in advance of the competition. Our team consists of Anuj Patel 10N, Oliver Croysdill 10N, Kavin Kugan 10C, and Liam Lau 10S, and the first regional competition takes place on 5 March.

In the Sixth Form, we have had the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge (SMC) in November where the Year 13 Mathematicians and Year 12 Further Mathematicians performed exceptionally well. Two Mathematicians, Robert Young 13I, and Thomas Simmonett 13C, are through to the British Mathematical Olympiad (BMO) and it is the first time in over three years that the School has had anybody reach this stage. Additionally, six students (Niall Prior 13D, Kyle Slater 13G, Dominic Herriott 13G, Elmo Osman 13E, Christopher Vickers 12G and Simon Houghton 12F) are through to the second follow-on round, the Senior Kangaroo. The SMC is a national competition in which the top 40% of entrants are awarded certificates. Last year we attained 72 certificates however this year we managed an impressive 93 certificates. We would like to congratulate all pupils who took part on their performance.

At the start of the year, students in all Years were offered the opportunity to take part in the Cipher Competition, a national competition run by the University of Southampton. WHSB has three teams which are all still in joint first position (alongside many other teams from other Schools), as well as some other teams who have not completed all of the ciphers thus far. The competition requires pupils to use logic and their knowledge of different cryptographic methods to decode messages and complete the monthly tasks. We wish all teams taking part the best of luck and look forward to hearing of their results later this year.

Last term the Maths Inspiration series of lectures took place at The Palace Theatre in London. Mr Dowding and Miss Elliott accompanied 43 Sixth Form Mathematicians and all enjoyed the speakers. The first speaker was Rob Eastaway, a renowned author of Mathematics books. He spoke on *'From Pepsi to Peace Deals'*, attempting to relate the complex ideas behind game theory to real world examples. Steve Mould then went on to discuss *'The Weird and Wonderful World of Mathematics'*, highlighting some interesting concepts in Mathematics, such as the Game of Life. Ben Sparks finished the presentation with an in-depth look of the lyrics of a song by Sting, relating this to the concepts of chance and just how unnatural the idea of statistics is to humans.

This coming term, Matt Parker, a representative of Think Maths, will visit WHSB to give a lecture to the Sixth Form students. Matt Parker has visited the School on a previous occasion giving a very memorable lecture on four-dimensional space which was greatly enjoyed by all. This time he will be covering a range of topics, most notably the notion of Prime numbers, why they are important and just how our technological dependence is derived from their anonymity. He will also be repeating his 'Adventures in the Fourth Dimension' lecture for a new audience, which will begin in two dimensions and work through the world of higher dimensional shadows. We welcome schools from the local area into this event too; it will be, without doubt, an equally enjoyable speech and it should be shared with as many aspiring mathematicians as possible.

## Additional Support in Mathematics

### The Mentoring Scheme

The Mathematics Department continues to develop its mentoring scheme with over 30 pupils being mentored by Sixth Form Maths prefects or other mathematicians who are willing to give up their free time to help others. Some of the pupils in the Middle School are meeting weekly with those in the Lower School and this has enabled some of our youngest pupils to make considerable progress. If any pupil would like a mentor to meet with him once a week at lunchtime, or would like to volunteer to mentor others, please see Mr Dowding.

### Maths Angels

In addition to our mentors, this year we have been offering pupils the option of having a Maths Angel: a mentor who will meet with pupils online through the School VLE Fronter once a week for an hour. Therefore, pupils who are busy at lunch can still receive additional support. Our Maths Angels have full training in helping others using an online blackboard, where communication can be more difficult. They have also been trained by Mrs Imbush, whose responsibilities include training teachers on how to help pupils without just telling them the answer, enabling pupils to develop a better understanding of the methods they are using. If any pupil would like a Maths Angel, please speak to Mrs Marsh.

### The Lunchtime Help Club

Every Thursday our lunchtime help club for Years 7-12 runs in M6. It is run by Anna Rayner 12H, Zameer Panjwani 12F, Emma Jarvis 12I and Alex Morris 12H and is supported by Mr Dowding and Mrs Marsh. Any pupil may attend and ask for help, either on a particular question or on a particular topic. If pupils are working on a particularly difficult task or struggling with their revision they could attend M6 to complete these, and the prefects will be there to assist them if required. No prior arrangement needed; just turn up and tell them what help you need.



### Sixth Form Classroom Assistants in Mathematics

We have six Classroom Assistants for Mathematics this year and our assistants are focussing their efforts on improving understanding of A\* GCSE material with the lower sets in Years 10 and 11, as well as stretching the most able in Year 7. All of our assistants are in the Sixth Form and use their free periods (*in lieu of Wednesday afternoon activities*) to help in various Mathematics classrooms. They make a significant difference to the classes in which they volunteer, freeing up the teacher to work with some groups of pupils while they work with others, and ensuring that all pupils who need assistance in lessons receive it quickly. If any pupil in the Sixth Form would like to be a Classroom Assistant, please speak to Mrs Marsh.



Mrs A Marsh,  
Head of Mathematics

# DRAMA, THEATRE VISITS & POETRY

## The Phantom of the Opera

**Thursday 9 January 2014**

This icon of musical theatre opened at Her Majesty's Theatre on 9 October 1986 with Michael Crawford and Sarah Brightman in the leading roles, and there have been dozens of productions worldwide since then. Indeed, it is estimated that more than 130 million people have watched a performance of this classic of musical theatre, and the show has won over 70 major theatre awards including three Olivier Awards and seven Tony Awards. Now in its 28th record-breaking year, *The Phantom of the Opera* continues to captivate audiences at Her Majesty's Theatre in London's West End after more than 10,000 performances. Andrew Lloyd Webber's mesmerising score, along with jaw-dropping scenery and breathtaking special effects, magically combine to bring this tragic love story to life each night. Mr Cass will lead a party from WHSB to see this production on Thursday 9 January 2014 at 7.30pm. This promises to be an evening to remember!

Mr A Cass,  
Assistant Head (Acting): Director of  
Lower School Studies



## School Production of Little Shop of Horrors

**26 to 27 March 2014**

In March of this year, the comedy horror spectacular that is *Little Shop of Horrors* will appear on the Westcliff stage for the first time. Seymour Krelborn, a naive and innocent employee at Mushnik's Flower Shop, is hopelessly besotted with his co-worker Audrey. When the shop is faced with bankruptcy and closure, Seymour brings forth the answer to their problems: a flytrap-esque plant he calls Audrey II. The plant immediately attracts business but the plant begins to wither and Seymour soon discovers what Audrey II needs to remain healthy: blood. Seymour feeds the plant his blood and, as a result, it gets bigger and bigger attracting the attention of the world and Audrey's affections. However, when Seymour becomes unable to keep feeding it he is forced to perform dark deeds to keep his new found fame, fortune and Audrey.

The hit musical, written by Tony award winning writer Alan Menken (Aladdin, Newsies), won two Drama Critics Awards when it was released in 1982 and retains its reputation as a darkly funny and immensely entertaining piece of theatre.

The show is entirely student-led, and Henri de Lausun (Director) and Andrew Cooper (Musical Director) have assembled a star studded cast comprising talented newcomers such as Brooke Littlejohn (Audrey) and Timi Ariyo (Audrey II) but also experienced and dynamic stage veterans such as Luke Barret-Bentley (Seymour) and Richard Wells (Mr Mushnik). With an incredibly skilled ensemble to join them, the show is destined for success and promises to deliver all things gory, gruesome and side-splittingly brilliant.

Henri de Lausun,  
Year 13



## Essex Young Poet of the Year 2013

For the third year in succession, our budding poets in the Lower and Middle School achieved certificates and prizes in recognition of their talent at the award ceremony for *Essex Young Poet of the Year* on October 5th last year at the Cramphorn Theatre in Chelmsford. Certificates of Commendation and impressive placings were awarded to eight of our pupils in both the Under 14 and Under 16 categories against competition from more Essex schools than ever before.

As a County-based competition, this is an ideal opportunity for many of our young poets to make initial inroads in to the public arena of competitive writing and to hear our eight winners reading their poems to an invited audience of 200 people in Chelmsford was a memorable experience for all concerned. Mr Allan-Smith, who, with the help of the English Department, supervises the entries to the competition, would like to record his thanks and congratulations to all those who took part.

Pupils in Years 7 to 10 who would like to take part in next year's competition are welcome to start submitting entries to their English teachers now.

Mr J Allan-Smith,  
Second in English





## The Poetry in Performance (PIP) Club

Last November saw the emergence of some extraordinary talent in the School during the PIP Club presentation, A Gothic Tale: *The Song of Aengus*. Louis Mayo carried the narrative thread of the evening as the eponymous hero in search of his beloved, the 'glimmering girl' of the Yeats poem on which the evening's entertainment was based. Some stunning dance routines from Jonathan Tudor and, later, a zombie dance choreographed by Maddie Scates and Natalie Pavelin were among a thrilling range of different acts that followed Aengus through to the end of his long and arduous journey.

The PIP club, in the meantime, continues to meet every Thursday (Week B) in the Humanities Forum. We will read and discuss favourite poems, including pupils' own creations, and their potential for future recitations in performance with music, dance and art. All pupils from across the School are welcome.

*Mr J Allan-Smith, Second in English*

## Greek Play

On Thursday 13 February we plan to take a party to see the annual Greek play presented by King's College, London, which this year is Aristophanes' *The Wasps*. We have been to previous productions and Mr Halsall has taken trips to Oxford for similar occasions. On this occasion, although the staging may be modern, it remains a rare opportunity to see a play performed in ancient Greek (with English surtitles!) and, hopefully, it may appeal beyond those studying Classical Civilization at GCSE.

*Mr R Stevens,  
Head of Politics & Oxbridge Coordinator*

## Visit to the Fortune Theatre: The Woman in Black

On Wednesday 15 January, forty students will be travelling to London to view the 25 year anniversary production of *The Woman in Black* at the Fortune Theatre, Covent Garden. Based on the bestselling gothic novel by Susan Hill, the secrets of Eel Marsh House and the haunting of the hapless Arthur Kipps will both terrify and enthrall.



This production makes clever use of a range of special effects, in addition to exploiting the atmospheric qualities of light and shadow to present a visually striking set with the dark intensity of film noir. Fans of the recent film adaptation should anticipate a different ending, and beware: live theatre has a tendency to be much more frightening than cinema!

Initially this trip will be open to students of AS Language and Literature, in support of their studies of Gothic fiction, and then to pupils in Year 9 as they explore the Gothic genre for the first time this term.

*Mrs G Koutas,  
Head of English*

## Wednesday Afternoon Players: Dad's Army Thursday 1 and Friday 2 May 2014

When, in 1968, *Dad's Army* hit British television screens it was an almost instant success. We are hoping that when our School Hall is transformed into the Walmington-on-Sea Town Hall next term, we are able to achieve similar acclaim. Based around the fantastic misadventures of the local Home Guard platoon, led by the boisterous Captain Mainwaring (James Lamb) and his worldly Sergeant Wilson (Harvey Moldon), work is steadily underway for the performance which will feature three of the best episodes from the famous TV favourite.

With many other strong performances from new faces and our own WHSB veterans, *Dad's Army* should prove to be an amusing night, not to be missed.

*Richard Wells, Head Boy*





# Prepare to move ... Move! CCF at WHSB

Last term was a busy term for the CCF, having finally signed a funding agreement with the MoD, recruited new staff, selected new cadets and employed our School Staff Instructor, Mr KP Brett, the former Regimental Sergeant Major of the Royal Anglian Regiment and former Company Quarter Master Sergeant for CCFs in our area.

In addition, we conducted a Field Day at Haileybury College during which the cadets undertook an exercise involving night Close Target Recces, a night Ambush, map reading and First Aid and Section Attacks. The cadets were each given a command appointment to showcase their leadership ability. Nearly all Year 12 cadets have also undergone the Cadet Forces Instructional Technique (CFIT) Course and have shown great progress in Methods of Instruction (MOI).

Assuming that 49 Brigade is able to grant permission, we look forward to the expansion of the CCF early this term, recruiting from both Years 9 and 10, such that our existing cadets will now be able to assume roles and responsibilities with the new recruits.

A highlight of the term will be our Field Day on 6 March for which we expect to bring the entire CCF Detachment to Colchester Barracks where the programme will include live firing on a 25m Barrack Range, an Assault Course, and Fieldcraft stands. This will be a fantastic opportunity for our new cadets to experience a military barracks and apply their new training for the first time and for our existing cadets to teach and lead in a formal setting.

In addition, in our first foray into competition, we will select a team on behalf of Brentwood School CCF which we will enter in the 'Exercise Combat Cadet' on 28-30 March. We also intend to hold a Cadet Experience Day Fundraising Event on Saturday 15 March in the School Grounds which will be open to all interested parties.

*Lt J Bleakley,  
CCF Commanding Officer, WHSB Detachment*

## Field Day: A Review

On Friday 25 October, the School's CCF set off on its first independent overnight exercise. They travelled to Haileybury College in Hertfordshire to conduct fieldcraft and military style training with the help of volunteer instructors from the Army Cadet Force.

On arrival, the cadets were issued with the L98 (cadet general purpose rifle) for the duration of the exercise. After setting up bashas (shelters) in which to sleep, cadets cooked their evening meal from British Army Ration Packs using hexamine stoves.

After nightfall, the training package commenced with night patrols. Cadets took turns to lead their section under simulated tactical conditions to reconnoitre enemy positions. Following this, the cadets conducted a full platoon ambush on an enemy supply route, successfully taking an enemy patrol by surprise. In the morning, the cadets prepared breakfast before embarking on the next phase of the exercise. This involved cadets carrying out a patrol to investigate various locations around the school grounds and in Haileybury Heath, a nearby forest. During this activity the cadets enjoyed a visit from the Headmaster.

The final part of the exercise involved a combat first aid scenario, an observation test and a section attack. The first aid scenario allowed cadets to practise treating a casualty whilst under combat conditions. For the observation test, cadets patrolled down a track through a wooded area while remaining on the lookout for any signs of enemy activity. The final activity of the day gave cadets the opportunity to engage an enemy with blank ammunition and attack his position.

All of the cadets enjoyed the challenge of putting what they had learnt over the last year into practice. From the exercise, the cadets learnt leadership and teamwork skills, combat drills and fieldcraft.



*Joshua Uren,  
Year 11*

## Geography A2 Field Visit to Barcelona

Between 25 February and 1 March 2014 the group of 28 Geographers will go to Barcelona to undertake primary fieldwork essential for their second paper in the examination next summer. They will be accompanied by two members of staff.

As in previous years, they will study a river's processes and landforms along its course, practise field techniques on a delta and visit Barcelona itself to see urban change and conflict at close quarters. This successful trip will enable our students to place theoretical concepts in context, experience new places and people and utilise survey methods they would not otherwise encounter.

*Mr N Gordon,  
Head of Geography*

## Ski Trip - February 14 -22 2014

Once again, the School will be taking a Ski trip to Hotel Turquoise, La Plagne, France. This hotel enjoys a perfect site adjacent to the pistes and opposite the ski school. The resort offers 225km of skiing with a top station at 2700m and a glacier at 3417m which should ensure skiing for all abilities. This expedition will include 43 pupils and WHSB will be sharing the hotel with another school. We take pride in the fact that WHSB is regularly told how well behaved its pupils are on School trips and I am sure the current group will be exemplary ambassadors for the school.



*Mr L Despres,  
Ski Trip Party Leader*

## GCSE Science Live - March 6 2014

A group of 43 Year 10 pupils will attend the Science Live Lectures at the Dominion Theatre, London on Thursday 6 March 2014. Lectures will be given across the day by Professor Richard Dawkins, Professor Andrea Sella, Professor Jim Al-Khalili, Professor Dave Cliff and Dr Kate Lancaster. There will also be a talk by one of the Chief Examiners on exam technique and problem questions. This offers our pupils the opportunity to hear eminent scientists talking about their field and we hope the pupils may be encouraged to enter the field of Science in the future.

*Mr L Despres, Teacher of Biology*

## Retrospective: English Civil War Day

On Friday 15 November Year 8 pupils took part in a Civil War Day lasting for three periods. It consisted of a lecture enthusiastically given by Mr Andrew Robertshaw, a weaponry and artefacts section, and convincing re-enactment talks by Past People's historical actors.

The lecture explained many important attributes of what was known as "The Great Rebellion" and Civil War in detail. In the weaponry and artefacts section, Year 8 pupils got to hold a musket, pretended to fire a real mortar and put on 17th Century armour. Finally, in the re-enactment part, the actors explained their character's personal lives and views on the war. There were many opportunities to ask questions, maps were examined and herbs were smelt.

Overall, we had a brilliant day and we would strongly recommend it to the next cohort of Year 8 pupils. It was a very special day because it was a change from normal classroom History lessons.

*Thomas Linsell and Billy Lo, both 8W*

## Retrospective: Eyes Deep in Mud

On Thursday 12 December Andrew Robertshaw was in School to speak to all Year 9 pupils about the First World War. He brought in uniforms, equipment and weapons for volunteers to try on. When you see all the clothes and equipment that a soldier needed in the trenches you get some idea of what they experienced. However, Mr Robertshaw also used pictures and evidence from the First World War to examine some of the "myths" about who served in the army, how many men were killed or wounded and what the "average day" of a soldier might be like, including how long was actually spent in the trenches or fighting. The talk made a really useful contribution to our study of the First World War.



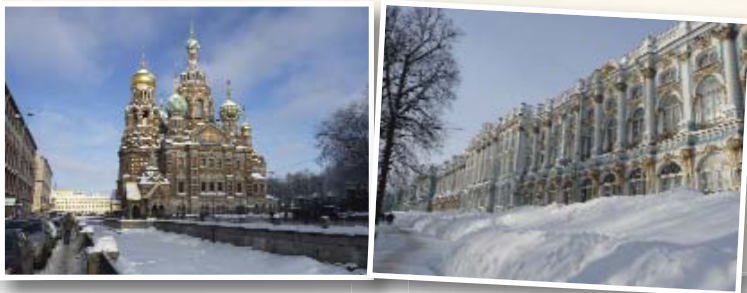
*Jacob Martin and Kieran Maharaj, both 9S*



## History Trip to Russia

During the February half-term holiday the History Department will be undertaking the latest of its biennial visits to Russia.

This year will see our largest ever party of 49 students and staff depart on Friday 14 February for a six day tour incorporating both Moscow and St. Petersburg. All students are familiar with the history of the last Tsars and the revolutionary events after 1917 that swept away their established order. Highlights of the stay in St Petersburg will include visits to both the Catherine Palace and Hermitage Museum, whilst in Moscow the Kremlin Armoury and Lenin Mausoleum never fail to impress.



However, the itinerary is a varied one, and time will also be found for much anticipated visits both to the ballet and a top ice hockey match. As might be expected, all participants are eagerly looking forward to what will be a unique educational experience.

*Mr D Maughan,  
Teacher of History*

## Year 11 Visits to Earth Galleries



On Friday 7 February 2014, 47 Year 11 Geology pupils will visit the Earth Galleries (part of the Natural History Museum) in South Kensington, London, as part of their GCSE studies. The Earth Galleries aim to showcase all major geology topics within six sub-sections, including the 'Power Within' (volcanoes and earthquakes), 'Earth's Treasury' (minerals, some of which are among the most valuable in the world), 'From the Beginning' (mainly fossils) and 'Earth Today and Earth Tomorrow' (man's use of resources such as oil and gas).

Overall, during the visit, pupils will undertake written and graphical work 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, the logging of recent volcanic and earthquake activity and the evaluation of geological materials within our modern industrialised world. 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 splendid educational opportunity for Year 11 Geologists.

*Mr N Cooper,  
Head of Geology*

## Visit to Dorset

Geology fieldwork, including an investigation, is an essential requirement of the GCSE course. From Saturday 1 March to Friday 7 March 2014, Year 10 Geologists will be undertaking their studies from a base in Swanage, Dorset.

The Dorset coastline has World Heritage status because of its rich geological heritage, especially dinosaur fossils, and is the most visited area of the British Isles for geology field studies. Specific visits will be made to iconic locations such as Lulworth Cove, Durdle Door, Kimmeridge Bay and the Isle of Portland. At such locations, our Geologists will be able to develop their knowledge and understanding of field geology as well as gaining an enjoyment, interest and appreciation of the outdoor environment.

*Mr N Cooper,  
Head of Geology*



# Duke of Edinburgh's Award: An Update

## Bronze Award 2013

A group of 30 Year 10 pupils signed up for the Bronze Award in September last year and while some are still undecided with what they want to do, most have started their sections and begun presenting evidence on their "edofe" profiles. The sections include a Physical and pupils have taken on a wide range of sports including martial arts outside school and use of the School gym.

In the Skills section we see pupils taking up musical instruments and, in one case, vegetable growing. Volunteering is one of the more challenging sections for the younger group but most pupils are involved with charity work and coaching sports. The Expedition section is run by the School and training takes place at lunchtimes. The first outing will be a walk around Hockley woods on Saturday 8 February to teach navigation techniques and the use of the Trangia, a meths burning stove. The practice will take place at Danbury and the qualifying expedition at Skreens Park, both occurring in the Summer Term. It is hoped that these pupils will go on to take the Silver Award next year.

## Silver Award 2013

WHSB enrolled a group of Year 10 pupils in the Bronze DofE in September 2012 and at the time of writing this 25 have completed their award and four are putting the finishing touches to their sections. When these final pupils have completed we will be issuing certificates in a School Assembly. Of the 2012 Bronze participants 21 have decided to continue to Silver and we have registered three more pupils to bring the number to 24. These pupils are already logged onto "edofe" (online system) and some have started their new sections.

The School will be organizing their expeditions which will take place in the Summer Term; a practice based at Bushy Wood Scout Camp, Hailsham, Sussex and the qualifying Expedition in the White Peaks of Derbyshire and Staffordshire. We look forward to this time next year when we hope to see these pupils receiving their Silver Award.

*Mr L Despres,  
Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator*





## Westcliff Sinfonia Spring Concert Wednesday 12 March 2014

Following on from Autumn's energetic and rousing concert, Westcliff Sinfonia's first performance of 2014 will begin with Glinka's Kamarinskaya, a love letter to Russian folk music which spurred on a new Russian musical tradition. Indeed, Tchaikovsky himself acknowledged the composition's importance when he said "all of the Russian symphonic school is contained in Glinka's Kamarinskaya." Johann Strauss' Blue Danube is equally influential, but perhaps more recognizable after it was given a new cultural significance by Stanley Kubrick in his 1968 film 2001: A Space Odyssey. This may lead to an interesting juxtaposition of associations when listening to the Sinfonia's performance; you could be thinking of the disorienting spin of space travel in addition to the elegance of a Viennese waltz!

After the interval the Sinfonia will perform Mozart's Symphony No. 40 in G minor, whose first movement is one of the composer's most well-known works. This symphony is often referred to as the "Great G minor symphony," as opposed to the "Little G minor symphony," the only two minor symphonies the composer wrote. Strauss will return to provide a bombastic finale, as the Sinfonia ends the concert with his famous Radetzky March. This work, dedicated to Czech Field Marshal Joseph Radetzky von Radetz, is a popular march among soldiers, and its military pomp will ensure a rousing end to the programme. Tickets are priced at £4 for adults and without charge for pupils.

*Mr T Derrick,  
Teacher of Music*



## Spring Chamber Recital Friday 31 January 2014

The School's termly Chamber Concerts are a fantastic opportunity for soloists and small ensembles to demonstrate their ability, showcasing the terrific musical talent within the WHSB community.

Last term's offering provided an excellent and diverse evening's entertainment, and the Spring Term concert will prove to be no different. The forthcoming recital will include the WHSB Barbershop Quartet, Tami Sotire's soulful singing, and Sinfonia's leader Alex Kelly playing violin. In addition to these excellent performances, the audience will be treated to a rendition of Mozart's Oboe Quartet in F major, with George Tohill, Miles Graham, Alex Kelly and Mrs Williams. There will, of course, be many other acts to look forward to. Please join us for this evening of variety and excitement.

Tickets are priced at £4 for adults and without charge for pupils.

*Mr T Derrick,  
Teacher of Music*



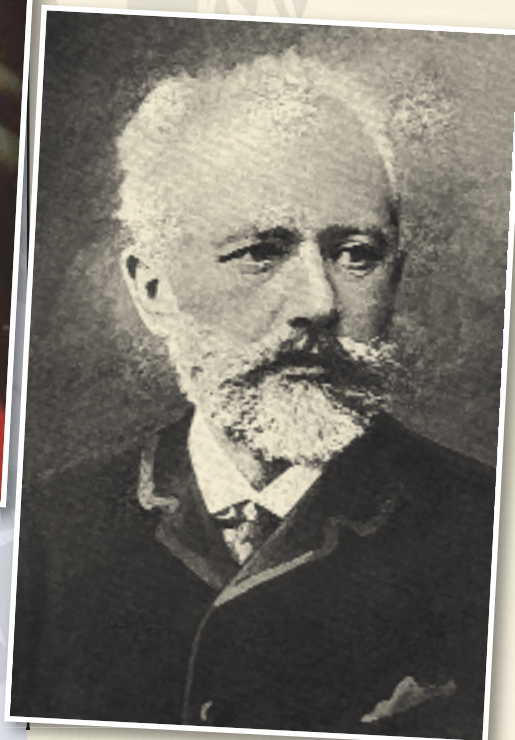
## London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Cliffs Pavilion Saturday 8 March 2014

The Cliffs Pavilion continues its superb Symphonies by the Sea season with a guest orchestra, The London Philharmonic, providing an exciting programme of late Romantic and early Twentieth Century music. The evening begins with Dvořák's popular Symphonic Variations, followed by Tchaikovsky's audacious Piano Concerto No.1, performed by the talented soloist, Simon Trpceski.

The highlight of the night must be Shostakovich's Symphony No.1, which had such a successful 1926 première that it immediately launched its 19 year old creator from graduating conservatoire student to respected composer overnight.

This event is open to all, but should be of particular interest to GCSE and A Level students. The School is offering tickets priced at £10 for students and there are a limited number of tickets for adults priced at £24.

*Mr T Derrick,  
Teacher of Music*



# SPORT AND THE HOUSE SYSTEM

## *The House System: An Update*

This year the House System at WHSB has undergone some important changes. We now have some new Heads of House in Miss Dolan (Merlin), Mr Groves (Kestrel) and Mr Barber (Harrier) to join Mrs Cavalier (Osprey) in the organisation and day-to-day running of the House System. Working closely with Mr Cass, we are hoping to increase levels of pupil participation and the number and range of House events available during the School year. New events like House Golf, House Chess, and House Music are available this year too, in addition to the large number of established activities already on offer. All you need to do is to become involved!

In the first half of the Autumn Term, both House Football and House Rowing were completed with Osprey and Harrier winning those events respectively. Before Christmas, the House Art,

Chess, Rugby, Netball, Geography, MFL, and Table Tennis events were also completed. In an exciting change to the status quo, every House event is now allocated a specific trophy and these will be presented in School Assembly to the House Captains of the winning Houses. This, we believe, will help to boost the profile of the House System at WHSB and increase levels of participation and competition as all four Houses fight to get their hands on the coveted Phoenix Cup.

The House System must be an integral part of life here at WHSB and it is my aim to improve it and to encourage all pupils to participate in as many of the House events as possible.

*Mr D Shoesmith,  
Coordinator of House Activities, Participation and Leadership*

## House Business Challenge 2014

The House Business Challenge is now in its fourth year and will be taking place in March with all Houses hoping to take the crown from Harrier who were last year's winners. This year's competition will see all pupils in Year 9 taking part in 'The Tenner Challenge'. Pupils in their House teams will have the opportunity to get a taste of what it is like to be an entrepreneur. The teams will each be loaned ten pounds as startup capital and over the course of one month they will be required to develop their business idea and make as much profit as possible. At the end of the period the House which generates the most money will be judged the winner, the loans will be repaid and the profits donated to charity.

'The Tenner Challenge' is part of a National Competition and pupils will be required to upload progress information weekly and complete a log book. At the end of the competition three teams will be selected to represent WHSB at the National Final where they will be judged against teams from across the country with awards for Best Overall Company, Highest Profit and Biggest Social Impact. This is a new initiative for WHSB which we believe will provide our Year 9 pupils with an exciting and engaging addition to the House competitions.

*Mrs D Harris,  
Work-Related Learning Coordinator*



## WHSB Netball Continues to Grow

Last term, WHSB's Netball team recorded their first victory, which came against Robert Clack School, Dagenham. This was a tense encounter in which, against the run of play, WHSB opened the scoring with a goal from Ellie Talbot. However, Robert Clack soon made the most of their possession and quickly scored three goals. Some astute defending from Eve Rees meant that the scores were kept locked until half time, but the real change came in the second half. WHSB battled back with renewed resolution and a determined mindset.

The final score was 8-6 to WHSB with Beth Cooper sealing the win. The girls should be congratulated on their spirited performance and we look forward to the forthcoming term with optimism.



*Miss F Dolan,  
Teacher of Geography*





# School Sport: Review of the Autumn Term

In Football, the First XI were successful in reaching the fourth round of the National Cup and the team has started their Essex Sixth Form League well. The Year 7 team has begun to show potential after a slow start, whilst the Year 8 team remains in the Essex Cup.

The Year 9 and 10 teams have encountered some tough opposition in the cup competitions, and must strive to improve in the New Year.

The Year 11 side is well placed in both local cups and has aspirations of that elusive trophy in the team's final year together.



In Rugby, the Year 7 side has made an excellent start to their rugby careers with over forty boys regularly involved. Their performances on the pitch have also been encouraging with both the A and B teams remaining unbeaten so far. The Year 8 team had a good strong start but has slipped into some weak performances recently.

The Year 9 and 10 teams have struggled with their consistency thus far this season. The Year 11 team has lacked fixtures due to teams withdrawing from competitions but hopefully will have a successful Essex Cup campaign this year. Finally, the First XV have again lacked consistency with lots of injuries affecting the squad.

Year	Rugby					Football			
	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>	<i>PD</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>W</i>	<i>D</i>	<i>L</i>
<b>7</b>	8	7	1	0	+186	10	5	1	4
<b>8</b>	6	4	0	2	+118	4	1	1	2
<b>9</b>	5	1	0	4	-138	5	1	0	4
<b>10</b>	6	2	0	4	-63	6	2	0	4
<b>11</b>	1	1	0	0	+3	6	3	0	3
<b>1st team</b>	4	2	0	2	+62	8	4	1	3
<b>2nd team</b>	-	-	-	-	-	6	3	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>+180</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>23</b>

Mr D Phillips - Head of Physical Education

## Under 15 Rugby Tour to Worcester Friday 7 February to Sunday 9 February 2014

This year WHSB continues its recent tradition of touring with the Under 15 Rugby team. The team returns to Worcester, the venue for our 2011 tour. After travelling up to the heart of Midlands rugby the pupils will enjoy the Match Day Experience at Worcester's Sixways Stadium and then watch the Worcester versus Leicester Premiership Match.

On Saturday, WHSB will play against Alcester Grammar School in what we hope will be another successful win on tour. The pupils will then have some free time to explore the wonderful city of Worcester before enjoying a team social on Saturday evening. The Sunday will be another travel day as we return to WHSB after what promises to be an enjoyable weekend away.

Mr D Shoesmith,  
Master in charge Rugby



# CALENDAR FOR THE SPRING TERM 2014

## FIRST HALF TERM

Mon 6 January	Staff Development Day
<b>Tue 7 January</b>	<b>SPRING TERM STARTS</b>
Thur 9 January	London Theatre Visit to Phantom of the Opera, depart 4.30pm
Wed 15 January	Visit to the Fortune Theatre: The Woman in Black, depart 5.00pm
Thur 16 January	Andrew Robertshaw and Steve Roberts – The Platoon, 7.00pm
Fri 17 January	Issue of Reports for Year 11
Fri 17 January	Production of the Gothic Man, 4.00pm
Mon 20 January	Year 8 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm-6.00pm
Tue 21 January	Year 11 Entry to Sixth Form, 7.30pm
Wed 22 January	CEOP Purely for Parents Evening, 7.30pm
Thur 23 January	Holocaust Remembrance Service, 8.50am
Fri 31 January	Spring Chamber Recital, 7.30pm
Sat 1 February	WCGC 11+ Launch Day, 9.00am-.2.15pm
3-7 February	Years 12 and 13 Trial Examinations
Wed 5 February	Briefing Meeting for Russia Trip, Westcliff Theatre, 7.00pm
Fri 7 February	Year 11 Geologists visit Earth Galleries, Natural History Museum, 9.00am-6.00pm
7-9 February	Year 10 Rugby Tour to Worcester
Sat 8 February	Bronze DoE Practice Day at Westcliff Rugby Club  WCGC Geography Day, 9.00am-2.00pm
Mon 10 February	Year 11 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm-6.00pm
Wed 12 February	50 Years in the TARDIS, 7.30pm
Thur 13 February	Year 10 Classics Pupils visit The Wasps at KCL  WCGC, 4.15pm-5.15pm
Fri 14 February	Issue of Reports for Years 7 - 10
14-19 February	Visit to Moscow and St Petersburg
14-22 February	Ski Trip to La Plagne, France
<b>17-21 February inclusive</b>	<b>HALF TERM</b>

## SECOND HALF TERM

Mon 24 February	Staff Development Day
25 February-1 March	Year 13 Geographers visit Barcelona
Thurs 27 February	WCGC, 4.15pm-5.15pm Dr Rose Wyles' Lecture, 7.00pm
1-7 March	Year 10 Geologists visit Swanage
Sat 1 March	PA Race Night 6.30pm
Wed 5 March	Year 10 & 11 Connexions Career Fair
Thur 6 March	Enrichment Day World Book Day CCF Field Day GCSE Science Live, Dominion Theatre, London
Fri 7 March	Issue of Reports for Year 12
Sat 8 March	A Day in Toy Making The London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Cliff Pavilion, 7.30pm
Wed 12 March	Sinfonia Spring Concert, 7.30pm
Thur 13 March	WCGC, 4.15pm-5.15pm Year 9 Options Evening, 7.30pm
Fri 14 March	Issue of Reports for Year 13
Sat 15 March	Cadet Experience Fundraising Event, 10.00 am-2.00pm
Mon 17 March	Year 9 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm-6.00pm
Tues 18 March	Westcliff Schools' STEM Careers Fair
Thur 20 March	Year 10 Immunisation WCGC, 4.15pm-5.15pm Andrew Lambert – The Challenge, 7.00pm
Fri 21 March	Issue of Reports for Year 11
Sat 22 March	WCGC Science Day, 9.00am-2.00pm
Mon 24 March	Year 10 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm-6.00pm
26-27 March	School Production: Little Shop of Horrors
Thur 27 March	WCGC, 4.15pm-5.15pm
Fri 28 March	Charity Week Launch Evening
28-30 March	Combat Cadet Competition
30 Mar-9 April	WHSB Pupils on German Exchange
31 Mar-4 April	Charity Week
<b>4 April</b>	<b>SPRING TERM ENDS</b>
1 May	School Production: Dad's Army
2 May	School Production: Dad's Army