



Westcliff CCF Independence: *January 2015*

Westcliff High School for Boys marks a historic moment on 8 January 2015 with the first parade of the newly inaugurated and independent Westcliff High School for Boys Combined Cadet Force. WHSB was the first School to avail itself of the Government's Cadet Expansion Programme to establish a cadet force within the School. We now have the newest CCF in the United Kingdom, and we are the first School under the Government's Cadet Expansion Programme to achieve independent status. In this respect we have much of which to be proud. We are truly pioneers of this new cadet force model.

We look forward to celebrating through a formal event to mark the inauguration of the WHSB CCF on Thursday 12 February 2015. Further details on this event can be found within the CCF section of this edition of the Westcliff Diary.

In celebrating our success we also express gratitude to Lt Col Nigel Carr, Maj Hugh Ottewell and Lt Col John Seaman, successive Contingent Commanders of

Brentwood School CCF, for their support in helping us to establish an independent unit. We now look to the future as we consider the best ways in which we can strengthen and develop our unit.

The School has welcomed to its ranks WO2 Braddon. Sergeant Major Braddon is a man of energy, breadth and experience, having served as a Sergeant Major over Colchester Military Corrective Institute, before spending many years as Sergeant Major for the Cadet Training Team in Colchester. We welcome him to the CCF and look forward to working with him.

The School is currently considering available resources to establish a more permanent set of facilities which will be available to the CCF as we continue to expand our establishment. We also look to the future possibilities of adding a Royal Navy or Royal Air Force section to the Army section currently established.

*Captain JJ Bleakley
Contingent Commander
WHSB Combined Cadet Force*

John Tothill's NYO Success



The School is delighted to announce that our Deputy Headboy, John Tothill, has been made Principal Clarinetist of the National Youth Orchestra, essentially indicating John's position as one of the best musicians of his age in the Country.

John has been a member of the NYO for over four years, and he admires the aim of the group to bring classical music to young people. He has performed at venues such as the Royal Albert Hall and Birmingham Symphony Hall, and will be touring Berlin with the NYO in the coming season. John credits his teachers Gill Thorn and Jan Walker for all he has achieved, including his acceptance into the National Children's Orchestra at a young age.

Performing Shostakovich's Symphony No. 5 with this ensemble was a significant moment for John, forcing him to "really sit up and give music the undivided attention it deserves." Needless to say, John's development as a musician has been swift, completing his Grade 8 in Year 7, and his diploma as soon as was possible in Year 12. John's musical idol is Leonard Bernstein, whose talent as a conductor and pianist is well recognised. John's contribution to Music at WHSB has been considerable, performing at countless concerts, leading various ensembles, and lending his skill to many extra-curricular musical groups. We wish him every success for the future and hope to see him return to play at the School for many years to come.

Mr T Derrick, Director of Music



FROM THE DESK OF THE HEADMASTER



GCSE and Advanced Level Trial Examinations

The Spring Term brings preparations for the Public Examinations sharply into focus. Year 11 pupils have completed their Trial Examinations and should use the feedback provided by their teachers to inform their study and revision plans. The matter of A Level options will be discussed this Term and Year 11 pupils should understand the scale of the challenge presented by GCSE Examinations and the need to reach their full potential next Summer to provide a secure platform for Post-16 education, Higher Education and employment. Equally, the Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth need to make the most of the opportunity provided by the February Trial Examinations. This will allow students to sharpen their knowledge and examination technique ahead of the real examinations this Summer. Therefore, it is vital that a methodical revision programme is in place now to ensure the students can fully engage with the Trial Examination questions.

Independent Study Arrangements

Currently the School is finalizing the arrangements for implementing its latest two-year Development Plan. A significant aspect of this plan is the promotion of

independent learning skills. The School is aware that some pupils struggle to study effectively outside of school and there can be many reasons for this situation. In response, the School will be piloting arrangements to provide independent study sessions which will run after school and provide pupils with an environment which is conducive to completing independent work. Further details will be provided to the relevant pupils later this term.

Staff Changes for the Spring Term

We begin the Spring Term with a small number of staff changes. Mrs Brown, who taught Economics and History, left the School at the end of the Autumn Term and we wish her well. We also say farewell to Mrs Morenas-Jones who has given outstanding service to the School as a Teaching Assistant. She will be greatly missed by the pupils and staff. The School anticipates making appointments to the vacant positions early in the Spring Term.

Changes to the Governing Body

On behalf of the School, I would like to thank Mr Steve Johnson for his outstanding service for many years as the Vice Chair of Governors. Throughout this time the School has benefited greatly from his generosity and support. Due to work commitments he has stood down

from the position of Vice Chair although I am pleased that he will remain on the Governing Body. Mr Jon Gershinson has been elected as the new Vice Chair of Governors. He has given tremendous service to the School in supporting the Capital Development programme. I congratulate him and thank him for his willingness to serve.

Outstanding Parents' Association

It was my great pleasure to attend the Parents' Association Winter Ball at the end of last term. It was a splendid evening and the feedback has been most positive. The School is fortunate to have such a dynamic and committed Parents' Association Committee. Each year they raise and donate thousands of pounds to the School. I am grateful for their commitment to make a contribution towards furnishing the new Sixth Form building. Moreover, I am no less grateful for the strong sense of community spirit they promote through the activities and support they provide to parents of WHSB pupils. I thank all those parents who have supported these events and encourage all parents to support the Parents' Association.

Congratulations

I would like to finish by congratulating Miss Rankin who has recently received an Outstanding Leader Award from the Jack Petchey Foundation for the work she undertook in encouraging students in her previous school to engage in Engineering. This included involving students in events and activities such as Arkwright Scholarships, the Engineering Education Scheme (EES), the Engineering Development Trust Go4SET Initiative, Rampaging Chariots, Smallpeice Trust programmes and a visit to Mexico for the International Science Exposition. Many of these activities will be familiar to pupils at this School thanks to the splendid work of Mr Senior and Mr Easby.

Headmaster

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A Day in Toy Making

Saturday 7 March 2015

Our Saturday Craft Days for Lower School pupils continue this March. This time around 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 pupils in Key Stage Three and participants will have the opportunity to build a scaled replica vintage Rolls Royce Silver Ghost.



The essential materials used are pine and mahogany and the length of the finished vehicle will be 350mm. The charge of £41.00 for each pupil is inclusive of materials. Pupils will then be able to take home their models and display them with pride in their homes. These days are always exceptionally popular and, therefore, early booking is advised.

*Mr N Senior
Head of Design & Technology*

Computer Programming Success

Earlier this term, Computing students from all years at WHSB took part in the UK Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge, a national competition sponsored by Oxford University and ARM. We are pleased to announce that out of the 39,025 students that took part nationally, four WHSB students achieved an outstanding 100% (180/180) meaning that they will appear in the Bebras Hall of Fame for 2014. We would like to congratulate Sebastian Mok (12G), Joshua West (9W), Joseph Cameron (9E), and Samuel Hughes (7S). Indeed, Sebastian is one of only twenty-five students in the country to score 100% at Elite Level, Joshua and Joseph were two of only 29 students to score 100% at Intermediate Level and Samuel was one of only eleven students nationally to score 100% in the Junior Challenge. These four students will be receiving certificates signed by a professor from the University of Oxford as well as a prize from the Computing Department in the coming weeks.



The image contains from left to right: Sebastian Mok (12G), Joseph Cameron (9E), Joshua West (9W) and Samuel Hughes (7S).

It is unfortunate that WHSB did not have any students achieving 100% at Senior Level, although many came very close. Even those who did not score 100% did exceedingly well; the WHSB averages being considerably higher than their national counterparts (see below).

Level	National Average	Westcliff Average	Disparity
Juniors (Yr 7)	85.8	102	+16.2
Intermediates (Yrs 8-9)	76.1	100	+23.9
Seniors (Yrs 10-11)	84	118	+34
Elite (Yrs 12-13)	97.6	125	+27.4

As is apparent, our students scored much higher in all levels than those of most other schools that took part. All students who took part should feel proud of their achievements, especially those in Year 13 for whom the competition was made harder due to technical problems. Despite this, Thomas Schofield (13F) came very close to full marks with a more than respectable score of 169/180.

We hope that all Computing students across the School take pride in these results and will continue to perform to this level of excellence.

Max Rigby 12F, Daniel Chester 12G and Max Day 12F

Settling in at WHSB

I sympathised with the nerves and excitement of all the new boys and girls who joined WHSB in September, as it was also my first term, but it has been better than I could ever have imagined. The majority of my teaching has seen me based with Year 7 in Mathematics or Technology and it has been a pleasure watching them grow and develop in confidence. There has been no better display of how well they have settled in than their performance at the Year 6 Open Evening, where the very youngest members of our community, having been with us for just seven weeks, led tours of the School with confidence and charm, impressing not only me, but our prospective Year 7 pupils and their parents. It has also been lovely to meet and work with so many friends of the School, such as the Old Westcliffian Association and the Parents' Association. I think I speak on behalf of myself and all the new students when I say thank you to everyone who has helped us to settle in and feel so welcome during our first term.

Miss K Rankin
Assistant Head: Director of Lower School Studies

Parents' Association Winter Ball 2014

Our 2014 Winter Ball was held on Saturday 29 November with over 150 guests attending. The evening began with a sparkling drinks reception and canapés, followed by a three course 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.

Mrs J Clarke,
Chair of the Parents' Association

Careers and Work-Related Learning



At WHSB, we take pride in preparing our students for the next phase of their lives. At each key transition we have both discreet and implicit arrangements in place to ensure their future success, in the short and longer term.

A recurrent and key theme is our Learner Profile, which you will recall was introduced in the April 2014 edition of the Westcliff Diary. We aim to develop the Learner Profile attributes in our students and are confident that they will feel the value of those skills and traits beyond their years at WHSB.

In a recent survey of employers, the following were deemed as the most important employability skills: written and



oral communication; mathematical skills teamwork; leadership; taking responsibility; problem solving; creativity; reflective thinking and independent enquiry. The language used may differ from the terms we have used in our Learner Profile, but the overall sentiment is undoubtedly the same.

This term has seen a huge variety of opportunities for students to develop

their employability skills, many of which have been documented in this publication. From Year 7 students working as a team in the East Mersea Activity Day, to Year 10 Team Building or Group Interview Scenarios for Year 13 on Enrichment Day, every student has developed or learned a new skill which will make them better prepared for the next stage in their education and more desirable to future employers.



The development of employability skills is not restricted just to the Pastoral and Careers areas. Many departments have been offering work-related learning and careers information opportunities for our students. They have been visiting local engineering companies, the Palace of Westminster, Southend Hospital, CERN and many more and it is encouraging that so many embrace the prospect of these events, even in their own time. I know that students who participate appreciate the efforts of the staff involved as the organisation of all of these activities demands a great deal of time.

We are hoping to develop our Careers provision further still, with a variety of events planned for the remainder of this academic year. We are currently planning work experience placements for Year 11 students, mock interviews for Year 10 students, a Post-18 Careers and Higher Education Evening and much more. If you, as parents and friends of the School, feel that you could contribute to the programme, either by hosting a Work Experience student, or coming into School to give a presentation or assist in Mock Interviews, please do contact Mrs Weller in the Careers Department.

Miss K Rankin
Assistant Head: Director of Lower School Studies

Parents' Association Annual Race Night

Saturday 24 January 2015

On Saturday 24 January, we will be hosting our sixth 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. Bring your own drinks and nibbles or, for an extra £3.00 per ticket, you can enjoy a fish and chip supper (or vegetarian alternative). Please come and join us and help raise funds for the School. Thank you for your support.

*Mrs J Clarke,
Chair of the Parents' Association*

Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children:

Spring Programme 2015

The Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children was established in 2010 to challenge local disadvantage and to encourage those who may, in the past, have overlooked the possibility of a Grammar School education, to give consideration to it. It also exists 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 but would like a taste of the opportunities to come.

This term, the WCGC will offer a free two-part 11+ Programme for local Year 5 pupils (boys and girls) living in the Priority Area. This Programme will commence on Saturday 10 January 2015 with a day of fun activities designed to challenge and engage. This will include some formal 11+ activities alongside other activities designed to develop those aptitudes tested in the 11+ examinations. The second part of this Programme will then consist of five one-hour weekly

sessions giving pupils the opportunity not only to improve their academic achievement but also to be fully prepared for the 11+ examination. These sessions will take place between 4.15pm and 5.15pm on Thursday 15, 22, and 29 January, and Thursday 12 and 26 February 2015.

In addition, and for the very first time, the WCGC will host a Festival of Education specifically aimed at local Year 5 pupils (boys and girls) living in the Priority Area. This event will be held on Saturday 14 March 2015 and will consist of a full day of exciting activities. Year 5 pupils will participate in formal 11+ activities in both English and Mathematics, but they will also attend separate sessions led by our specialist staff in Science, Geography, History, and Art. Consequently, not only will pupils receive help in preparing for the 11+ examinations, but they will also sample some of the many benefits of an education at a selective Grammar School. In addition, senior staff and governors from local Primary Schools are invited to join us between 11.30am and 1.30pm, when they will be able to observe pupils during sessions, enjoy a buffet lunch, and meet with staff from Westcliff to discuss present and future WCGC events. Finally, the parents of local children are invited to attend the Helping Parents Help Their Children session at 3.00pm, before collecting their children at 4.00pm. The aim of this session for parents is to provide practical advice and guidance relating to the CSSE, the 11+ examinations, and life at a selective Grammar School.

*Mr A Cass
Head of Lower School*

Retrospective: Year 8 English Civil War Day

On 21 November 2014, Year 8 pupils participated in a thoroughly enjoyable English Civil War Day which enhanced immensely our knowledge of the conflict.

In the first session, we took part in artefact handling. Our class was split into three groups, and I was put into group 3. Firstly, we found out how the soldiers in the war marched and what they carried.

I was one of the pikemen, and I learnt how to carry and fight with a pike. Most of us were pikemen, but there were flag bearers and a musketeer as well. We also learnt how an army in the Civil War would march and, additionally, learnt about one particular flag bearer for the Royalists. He was killed and had to have his hand chopped off for the Parliamentarians to get the flag he was carrying, as his grip on it was so strong.



Once we had finished that part of artefact handling, we went to the section about guns. The demonstrator showed us the steps of loading a musket (he didn't actually load it with bullets!), and then told us about how Prince Rupert, the commander of the Royalists left in exile to France after the Royalists were defeated, and returned to England in 1660, when England was under King Charles II.

Finally, we went to the last station for artefact handling, which was where we learnt how to load a cannon. We used a real cannon, but did not actually fire it. I worked as man number 4, and helped with loading the powder into the cannon. There were 5 people who loaded the cannon, and the others observed all the steps and instructions.

Following a break, we met the historical re-enactors. They were people who acted as if they were people from the times of the Civil War.

The first person was a woman called Grizelda, a woman who did not reveal her age but worked as an apothecary. When asked about her opinion on the war, all she said is that she hoped peace would be restored as soon as possible. Grizelda was a Catholic and was middle class in terms of society. The medicines and remedies she had contained herbs and spices from all over the world.

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The second person was a man called Sir Marmaduke, who was 64 years old, a great age he said, who was a noble, and left his wife and children in 1619 to join Charles I in Oxford to fight for the King. He believed that the King was right and Parliament was wrong, and thought that the Royalists would definitely win the war. Sir Marmaduke was very rich, and was upper class in society.

The third person was a woman called Prudence Rushbook, who said she was over 50 years old but told no more. She seemed to be very elderly, as she had no idea that there was a war going on. Nonetheless, Prudence did not think the King had made any mistakes, but thought he should make decisions not only for himself but for the Country, in the future. As for Parliament, she thought that Charles should listen to them, and factor in their opinions, probably not knowing of how he had done exactly the opposite of that. Her husband went to fight for the Royalists. She had four daughters and four sons that had survived childhood.

Following lunch, we had a lecture from Andrew Robertshaw about the experience of the Civil Wars and the Great Rebellion. He told us about various different aspects of the Civil War, such as how 1000 soldiers died after the Battle of Edge Hill. I found out that the first gas attack was not during the First World War in 1915, but in fact at a point during the Civil War, at Basing House. Surprisingly no one was killed, but people were wounded. The most interesting thing I learnt was that when the Countess of Derby's husband went to fight for the King, the Parliamentarians in the area came and demanded the house. When the Countess of Derby refused; she got seasoned marksmen to stand on her roof and carry muskets. The Parliamentarians left and came back with multiple cannons. One of the shots made it through the window taking the Countess' servant's arm off, effectively causing her to bleed to death. The Countess surrendered later on, due to lack of food. Then she went over to the Isle of Man, to her other house, where she found herself



under siege by Parliamentarian officials once again. These two sieges took place over a span of four years, believe it or not.

Once this engaging lecture concluded and Civil War Day finished, I walked into the blissful weekend with my brain full of knowledge of the Civil War.

Neil Kumar, 8W

NEWS SIXTH FORM NEWS SIXT

Sixth Form Council

With many changes afoot in the Sixth Form (not least the imminent completion of the new building with its study spaces for the Sixth Form), it is vital to ensure that students are involved in the decision making processes of the School. While a Council has existed at WHSB for many years, it seemed appropriate to form a Sixth Form section to discuss matters pertaining to our Advanced Level students. The Council has a representative elected by each form. The first meeting, of Year 13 representatives, agreed the expectations and desired atmosphere for the Common Room, and members of the Council have been at the forefront of operations in the Common Room. The Year 12 Council provided valuable insights and suggestions for improving our Induction Programme and the welcome we give to students in the Sixth Form. The Council has also been active in the development of the Learning Journal issued to all Sixth Form students

and used to review the progress of learning.



Once provisional plans for the internal arrangements of the new building were available, the Council met to debate improvements while such changes were still possible. Councillors are also welcome to raise issues of concern for wider discussion and to request the support of the Sixth Form Pastoral Office, and indeed the School. I have been thrilled with the positive attitude of all councillors, even when discussing matters which clearly need improvement; and it has been a delight to see the relish with which our Sixth Form Council sets about analysing and reporting on a project – particularly the new building

layout, which is clearly a matter of great importance to our students, as it is to everyone at WHSB.

*Dr A Machacek
Assistant Head:
Director of Sixth Form Studies*

Elena Johnson elected as Deputy Youth Mayor of Southend

We are very proud to report that one of our Year 12 students, Elena Johnson, was elected by the Southend Youth Council to be Deputy Mayor for the forthcoming year. Elena has served on the Youth Council for eighteen months, and was elected in September on the basis of her presentation to the Council. She and her team have great plans for the year ahead. As in many parts of the Country, the arrangements and fares for



bus travel have a large impact on young people, and Elena will be meeting with bus company officials to represent local views and to improve the availability of public transport for young people. In addition, her team will be preparing a new website for the Youth Council. Another passion of Elena's is to raise political awareness in schools, and we look forward to seeing her work in progress at WHSB as well as at other local schools, to encourage her peers to get involved in discussing political issues, and getting involved in democracy themselves. We congratulate Elena on her election – it is a great honour to have a Deputy Mayor in our midst – and look forward to seeing the fruits of her work on the Youth Council.

*Dr A Machacek
Assistant Head:
Director of Sixth Form Studies*

Encouraging Reflective Learning in the Sixth Form

At WHSB, we strive to encourage students to take personal responsibility for their learning, and nowhere is this more relevant than in the Sixth Form. The



courses are very intense, and there is much ground to cover. At the same time, students need to be prepared academically for the next stage in their lives, which will almost certainly involve a far greater degree of independent learning than they are used to at School. To help students develop the study skills needed to make a success of their Advanced Level studies and their future learning, we ask them to review their learning in each subject weekly, and provide a dedicated journal for them to record their reflections. This has space for them to grade their level of understanding, to comment on the topics and tasks which have gone well, as well as earmarking the areas in need of improvement together with the action planned to bring about the necessary change. There are tables for students to record test results and their reflection on performance after reports as well, together with space for any targets they or their teachers set to bring about improvement in specific areas of their studies.



Journals are checked periodically by subject staff, and especially by form tutors. They form a valuable basis for mentoring sessions, and a checklist of priorities for revision. In the Autumn Term, feedback was sought from staff, as well as students, who discussed the matter in the Sixth Form Council. Parents were particularly enthusiastic. This feedback was very valuable in improving the journals for the Spring Term. One of the major changes was to incorporate space to record the experiences and opportunities students had been given to gain those skills in the wider curriculum which are especially important to employers, such as teamwork. These skills fit harmoniously with the Learner Profile introduced over the past year, and

it is our aim that the Journal helps students become more critical and reflective in their learning, and that this in turn enables them to take more control and accept more responsibility for their progress.

*Dr A Machacek
Assistant Head:
Director of Sixth Form Studies*

Charity Week 2015

**Monday 23 to
Friday 27 March 2015**



WHSB's Charity Week 2015 is fast approaching and the whole of Year 12 and the Charity Week Committee are preparing the School for what is sure to be a fantastic and fun-filled week of fabulous fundraising! At the end of this term, Year 12 will be busy every break, lunchtime, and after school raising money for two very worthwhile charities. However, we need you (as pupils, parents, staff, and friends of the School) to get involved with the week by helping us to raise as much money as we can and to reach our target of £20,000 - that is just £15 per pupil. We look forward to your support for what promises to be a fantastic week. Please follow our preparations on Twitter for all the latest updates @CharityWeekWHSB

*Mr T Sinnott,
Head of Art & Year 12 Progress Leader
and Mr A Cass,
Head of Lower School*

Biology Visit to the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, Cambridge

Thursday 5 February 2015

On Thursday 5 February 2015, thirty Year 11 pupils will be offered the opportunity to visit the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute in Cambridge. This trip will inspire any budding Biologists or Programmers, who will learn about how the Human Genome Project developed and how it involved the collaboration of many scientists worldwide. We will experience genomics first-hand by talking directly with the scientists about their cutting-edge research and also have a tour of the research centre. We shall see the technologies that drive this science and enable us to ask important questions about inheritance, evolution, health and disease. This visit is by invitation only.

*Mrs R Barber
Teacher of Biology*

Science and Engineering Evening Lecture

Wednesday 18 March,
7.00pm-9.00pm

On Wednesday 18 March 2015, WHSB will be pleased to present its first in a series of Science and Engineering Evening Lectures. We will have guest speakers from a range of Science and Engineering-based careers who will be presenting the route they followed into their current career and company, as well as a broad overview of their field. Whilst we await confirmation of speakers, we hope to tempt you with the prospect of meeting key contributors to The Shard, Cross Rail and Southend Hospital medics. This event will be aimed at Year 9 pupils and above, with parents and interested siblings welcome.

*Miss K Rankin
Assistant Head:
Director of Lower School Studies*

Retrospective: Visit to CERN



Last term, Mr Dalby and Mrs Barber took nine lucky students to Geneva on the Physics Department's annual CERN trip. This year the students enjoyed two nights away in Switzerland's second-most populated city. The journey there was without incident. Soon after arrival at the hostel, students were given their first chance to sample some authentic Swiss cuisine in the form of large margarita pizza.

The next morning was an early start. Mr Dalby led the students through Geneva and onto the tram system, arriving at CERN in good time. Students were able to explore the museum before being treated to a lecture all about the work that is carried out at CERN. After this, the students were taken on a tour of the cryogenic testing facility and saw where physicists were testing electromagnets of up to 14 teslas in flux density; the most powerful magnets in the world. The tour guide then led students to the ATLAS control room, where they learnt how the ATLAS detector worked and saw a 3-D film.

After a brief stop in the CERN gift-shop, the students were treated to a gourmet meal in CERN's world-famous cafeteria. After lunch, there was time to explore the state-of-the-art globe museum before the second leg of the tour began.

The same tour guide then took the students across the border to France – to the LHCb detector experiment. The experiment investigates the properties of bottom quarks and looks for evidence of charge-conjugation-parity symmetry violation. The tour guide demonstrated to the students his research, and Mr Dalby keenly offered him advice on an alternative interpretation of his results.

The tour led the students 100m underground into the LHCb cavern, where they were provided with close-up views of the LHCb detector and the old DELPHI detector too.

After the CERN tour, the students were treated to a tour of Geneva by night, led by Mr Dalby. The next morning, the students were taken on a tour of the Red Cross headquarters museum, which has recently been renovated and included some brandnew high-tech exhibits. This is certainly a museum worth visiting if you have the chance.

During the trip, the students behaved impeccably and were fantastic representatives for our School community. This was a busy weekend, but an enjoyable and educational one.

*Mr K Dalby
Acting Head of Physics*

Goodwood/Bloodhound Project

In July, four members of the Sixth Form were invited to visit the Bloodhound exhibition which took place at the Goodwood Festival of Speed. As well as being shown the Bloodhound's jet engine and speaking to members of the Bloodhound support team, a full size model of the car was on show. The group then spent the rest of the day at the Goodwood site, seeing Formula 1 cars, visiting display stands of all the major motor manufacturers, and experiencing the new Tesla electric car.

UKayROC

During the Summer, a team of students entered the UK Rocketry competition. The requirement was that they must design and build a rocket which would carry two raw eggs to a height of 850 feet, and then parachute them back to earth without breaking the eggs. In addition, the maximum weight and total flight time of the rocket was defined.

The regional heat was held at Stow Maries, a World War 1 airfield which, with many of its original buildings still standing, is being restored and is one of only a handful of WW1 air fields remaining in Europe.

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The WHSB team of David Argent and Cyrus Horban, successfully launched their rocket and retrieved the eggs, still intact. Unfortunately, due to engine failure, they failed to achieve the prescribed height and so did not qualify for the finals. However, this was a valiant effort and the boys should be congratulated for their work on this project.

Go4SET

For some years the School has entered a team of six pupils into the Go4SET competition, run by the Engineering Development Trust, whose aim is to enthuse young people to study the STEM subjects, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. This year WHSB was asked to help pilot a new scheme, involving 24 pupils, working on four different environmental projects. With the help of our sponsor company Selex ES (who sent four of their student apprentices to school each week to assist the pupils) the boys completed their projects and, in addition to receiving a Go4SET achievement certificate, were awarded CREST Bronze awards.

*Mr B Easby
Science Technician*

Senior Mathematics Challenge

A customary fixture in the Mathematics Department calendar is the Mathematics Challenge run by Leeds University and the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT). In the Senior Challenge, all Year 13 Mathematicians and Year 12 Further Mathematicians are entered for this event, and in previous years we have achieved a great deal of success.

In this competition there are 25 multiple-choice questions to answer, with correct answers scoring 5 points, and incorrect answers scoring -1 point. This is a national competition initially, with successive stages becoming international. The top 40% of the national cohort are awarded a certificate in a 3:2:1 Bronze to Silver to Gold ratio respectively.

This year, students at WHSB managed to repeat the excellent scores of last year as reported in a previous edition of the Westcliff Diary. Twelve students from the School collected a Gold certificate, thirty-seven a Silver certificate and forty-four a Bronze

certificate. Alongside this, seven students managed to gain high enough marks to progress to a further National round known as the Senior Kangaroo. Our congratulations go to Jack Walker (who came top in the year), Simon Houghton, Thomas Schofield, Roman Carlile, Jonathan Hall, Sebastian Mok and Andrew Lo for their progress through to the next round, and we wish them good luck.

Pupils in the Middle School and the Lower School will not miss out on these competitions. We have the Intermediate Mathematics Challenge (for all Year 11 A band and Year 10 A band) on 5 February 2015, and the Junior Mathematics Challenge (for all of Year 8) on 30 April 2015. If you wish to prepare for this competition, simply ask your teacher for some materials or access the UKMT website and search for the respective challenge. Alongside this, pupils are invited along to the Key Stage 3 Extension Club on Tuesday lunchtimes in M1, or the Key Stage 4 Extension Club on Wednesday lunchtimes in W28. In these sessions Mathematics challenge-style problems are tackled as a group and techniques discussed to help improve results in these competitions.

*Mr M Dowling
Acting Head of Mathematics*

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CEOP Purely for Parents Evening on Internet Safety

Wednesday 21 January 2015

It is remarkable to consider how rapidly the advent of the Internet has changed the world in which we now live. Just a few short years ago it would have seemed ridiculous to expect that a device as seemingly innocuous as a mobile phone could act as a high-speed, internet enabled personal, handheld computer, camera and GPS locator. However, this is the reality with which we are now presented.

Adults are 'digital immigrants' in a world of 'digital natives', where children grow up familiar with the use of internet technology;

adults often feel that they constantly have to play 'catch up'. However, despite being accustomed to the technology, many young people are naive about its associated risks and parents do not know how to protect them.

The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Agency (CEOP) has been established in part to help address this through training for parents, teachers and young people. Mr Bleakley, the School's CEOP ambassador will run an evening session for parents only on Wednesday 21 January from 7.30pm to 9.30pm, during which he will present some of the realities of the risks presented to young people online, and some ways to keep children safe. There will be opportunities to ask questions throughout the presentation and refreshments will be served. Places can be reserved through the Westcliff Diary reply slip.

*Mr J Bleakley
Year 11 Progress Leader*

Education Evening: Universities and the Sciences



Dr Chris Taylorson

On Thursday 8 January at 7.00pm, Dr Chris Taylorson will be talking on the subject of Universities and the Sciences. The evening is intended for Year 11 pupils and their parents and is specifically timed to come

LKS LECTURES & TALKS LECT

before the School's Sixth Form Information Evening and the choice of A Level options. Dr Taylorson is the Biosciences Admissions Tutor for University College, London. He will speak on the subject of the differentiation of sciences at University level and give some indication of how A Level choices might influence a student's pathway into Higher Education. He will also speak specifically about the study of biosciences, including biomedicine, molecular bioscience, biological sciences and cell and brain biosciences. As you can see, University-level science courses come in many different forms and can present a daunting prospect for students. Dr Taylorson will help Year 11 pupils form an idea about the different options open to them.

*Mr R Stevens
Head of Politics &
UCAS/Higher Education Coordinator*

Humanities Evening: Andrew Robertshaw

Thursday 15 January 2015



Mr Andrew Robertshaw has visited us many times over the years and his talks have rightly become popular fixtures for many staff, pupils and parents. On Thursday 15 January, at 7.00pm, Mr Robertshaw will be looking at Britain's involvement in the Crimean War 1854-6, critically examining it to see if it merits the epithet "the first modern war". Certainly, as this Country's only conflict with another European great power in the 99-year period between Waterloo and Mons it occupies an important but often neglected place in military history. Later in the year there will be a follow-up session for Advanced Level English students as Dr Marcus Waithe, an Old Westcliffian

and Cambridge English tutor, has offered a university-style seminar on Victorian war poetry.

In addition, we are hoping to arrange a Parents' Battlefields Trip in 2015. Our intention, through the expert guiding of Mr Robertshaw and Battle Honours tours, is to visit Ypres for a weekend in March or May. We would leave early on Saturday morning and return after the Menin Gate ceremony on the Sunday, staying overnight at a 3* hotel in Ypres. If you ever wondered what your son did on the Year 9 Battlefield Tour, this is your chance to find out.

*Mr R Stevens
Head of Politics &
UCAS/Higher Education Coordinator*

Humanities Evening: Professor Andrew Lambert on The War at Sea 1914-15

Wednesday 11 February 2015

Professor Lambert is Britain's leading Naval Historian and no stranger to WHSB. He has spoken to us about Nelson, Franklin's Lost Expedition, the Hunt for Robinson Crusoe's Island and, last year, on the War of 1812 in which he argued the Royal Navy responded effectively and triumphantly to the threat of the fledgling US Navy. Now Professor Lambert will be speaking to us on Wednesday 11 February. He will be examining the First World War at Sea in 1914 and 1915 as prelude to next year's hugely important centenary of the Battle of Jutland. Thus far national commemoration



has focused on the trenches, yet it was as the world's greatest seapower that Britain went to war and, arguably, it was British seapower that inflicted the greatest damage on Germany's capacity to fight across four years of global conflict.

*Mr R Stevens
Head of Politics &
UCAS/Higher Education Coordinator*

Politics Conference

Friday 27 February 2015



Professor Wyn Grant

A Politics Conference for Year 12 Politics students will be held on Friday 27 February. The main speaker is Professor Wyn Grant of Warwick University, the inventor of the key Pressure Group typology used in every University Politics Department in the UK. Unsurprisingly, Professor Grant will speak about modern



Matthew Zarb-Cousin

pressure groups. He will be joined by Matthew Zarb-Cousin, who has the distinction of not only being an Old Westcliffian but at one time was the most-read Labour contributor in the blogosphere. He will be talking about social media and politics.

*Mr R Stevens
Head of Politics &
UCAS/Higher Education Coordinator*

TIES CLUBS & SOCIETIES CLUB

The Tolkien Society

The Tolkien Society will continue to meet throughout the Spring Term on Fridays Week B, at 1.00pm in W2. This term we will be taking an in-depth look at Tolkien's most famous children's work, *The Hobbit*. It has featured in film, art, animation, and the stage, and we shall be looking at key themes such as: kinship and loyalty; wealth and greed; journey and quest; good and evil; the love of food; and, life after death.

Tolkien's works offer much more than an engaging tale; he transports the reader into worlds and situations which have a reality of their own, and speaks to generations from beyond the grave.

All staff and students are welcome to attend.

Mr M Halsall,
Head of Religious Studies



Key Stage 3 History Club

The Key Stage 3 History Club meets weekly on Friday lunchtimes. Run by three of the School's History Prefects, the Club provides pupils from the Lower School with an opportunity to enhance their historical knowledge. Currently we are focusing on Military History as we find this a particularly interesting area of study. We provide this through presentations, films, debates and we hope, in the future, to invite some guest speakers. So, if you are a pupil in the Lower School, have a passion for History and want to share this with like-minded people come and join us on Friday lunchtimes in E23.

Jack Confrey, 12C

Debating

The English-Speaking Union's School Mace Debating Competition is already underway with James Snell and John Tothill (both Year 13) representing WHSB. The School also entered four teams in the Cambridge Union Schools Debating Competition this year and have already successfully negotiated passage to January's Second Round. The Oxford Union Senior Schools Debating Competition gets underway this Term. We have been able to enter two 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 & UCAS/
Higher Education Coordinator

Key Stage 4 History Club

The new Key Stage 4 History Club will be meeting every Thursday in E24. We will be discussing key areas of debate for the GCSE course such as the Russian Revolution, the outbreak of the Second World War and the Cuban Missile Crisis. Pupils who are interested in exploring some of the themes covered at GCSE History in greater depth are encouraged to attend. We will also be running an essay competition through the Key Stage 4 History Club with prizes available for the best pieces of writing. We hope to see you there!

Finlay Cullender, 12A

PREPARE TO MOVE...MOVE!

CCF AT WHSB

Inauguration Celebration Parade and Buffet

Thursday 12 February 2015

All members of the School, friends and guests are invited to join with the CCF in celebrating their inauguration as an independent CCF by attending a special parade and dinner on Thursday 12 February 2015. The event will include a formal parade and inspection by a visiting senior officer, followed by a buffet meal, speeches and slideshows of our first two years. Tickets for the parade are free of charge. Details regarding the meal, evening event and ticket prices will follow.

Field Day

Friday 13 February 2015

On Friday 13 February, the Contingent will conduct training at Middlewick Ranges and Colchester Barracks. The Contingent will undertake training in First Aid and Fieldcraft, complete a series of command tasks and use the assault course, while cadets in Years 10 to 13 will undertake live firing at 100m, 200m and 300m with the Cadet GP rifle. This will be the first time that the whole contingent will undertake training together and it will test the skills that we have developed over the course of the year so far.

Welbeck Cadet Leadership Challenge Competition

Friday 20 March to Sunday 22 March 2015

This year, the CCF plan to enter the Exercise Cadet Leadership Challenge, a military skills competition for cadets of fifteen years of age and under, organised by Welbeck College. We will pitch our best nine cadets against CCF teams from all over the United



Kingdom. The competition is a test of communication, leadership, teamwork, strength, fitness, and physical and mental stamina, as well as a test of the cadets' military skills. This event represents our second foray into any formal competition and we will be working hard to obtain our best possible position.

Easter Battle Camp with Campbell College CCF in Ballykinlar Camp, Northern Ireland

26 March to 2 April 2015



Our Year 11, 12 and 13 cadets have been invited to join with Campbell College CCF on its Easter Camp in Ballykinlar, Northern Ireland. Ballykinlar Camp, based by the sea at the foot of the Mourne Mountains, has outstanding facilities and an excellent

training area, including a training village comprising a small town with residential and commercial buildings, as well as a patrol base and country farmhouse.

In joining with Campbell College we are able to pool our resources to create a camp for our cadets which will be far above and beyond anything which they have yet experienced. Our cadets will be able to work closely with cadets in another contingent, and experience training delivered by individuals outside of our own CCF. The camp will take the form of a five day blank firing exercise. Cadets will operate as sections, working in platoon strength on six hour rotations of sentry and quick reaction force, patrolling and rest periods.



During the five days, cadets will be presented with a series of scenarios to which cadets and cadet NCOs will have to respond. Cadets will practise the basic skills of navigation, first aid, signals, weapons handling, fieldcraft, section battle drills, fighting withdrawal, operating in urban areas, wooded areas, ambushes, night patrolling, harbour areas and living in the field, among others. The concept of the camp is that, while an overall scenario would be in place across the whole exercise, real-time events will influence the cadets' actions, with the Cadet Platoon Commander and NCOs making decisions based on the information they receive. This will test their leadership, initiative, communication teamwork in a way that they have not yet experienced. It is anticipated that the exercise will be supported by regular soldiers from the Royal Irish Regiment. We look forward to what should be a truly memorable week.

*Captain JJ Bleakley
Contingent Commander
WHSB Combined Cadet Force*

DRAMA AND THEATRE TRIPS

Trip to the Oxford Playhouse *Mary Stuart*

Saturday 14 March 2015

Mary, Queen of Scots awaits her death, alone and imprisoned. Queen Elizabeth, all powerful and adored, must sign the death warrant. Yet when they finally meet, it is Mary who has nothing to lose and can speak freely, whilst Elizabeth can only rail against the pressures upon her.



There will be another trip to The Oxford Playhouse on Saturday 14 March 2015, for a selected number of Year 8 pupils to watch Peter Oswald's new adaptation of Friedrich Schiller's play, *Mary Stuart*. This visit is aimed at those who have demonstrated a flair and keen interest in both History and Religious Studies during their short time at WHSB, and is by invitation only. The purpose of the visit is to build on Year 7 studies in both subjects, to promote further Independent Learning, and to raise cultural and religious awareness of life during and after the English Reformation.

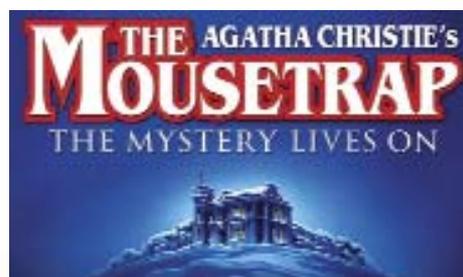
The cost will be £20.00 for the day, including tickets and transport, and we shall take a walking tour of Oxford and its colleges prior to the performance at 2.30pm. The trip is organised and supervised by Mr Halsall and Mr Neagus.

Mr M Halsall
Head of Religious Studies

English Department Theatre Visits to see *The Woman in Black* and *The Mousetrap*

In English, we have plenty of opportunity to read a range of books and genres. We explore classic literature such as *A Christmas Carol*, modern plays like *Blood Brothers*, and analyse a whole host of poetry from a range of different decades and styles. One purpose of English at WHSB is to introduce students to texts they have not yet discovered and consider ideas and themes that they have not considered before. Sometimes, the study of texts can become a little repetitive and, in the English Department, we love the opportunity to bring our subject to life. Already this year, we have taken forty pupils to the Noel Coward Theatre in London to see the stage productions of *Shakespeare in Love* and *The Mousetrap*, and on Tuesday 6 January 2015 we are taking a party to see *The Woman in Black* on stage.

The *Mousetrap* is famous for being the longest running show in British theatre and it fits in perfectly with the Year 8 exploration of detective fiction. Throughout the topic, Year 8 pupils have closely considered how an interesting detective is created, how tension is built and how a series of red herrings and revelations allow for the climax of the story to unfold. We were excited about running this trip for the first time and our Year 8 pupils certainly got to see just how exciting and thrilling the detective genre can be.



The Woman in Black is also considered one of the greatest. In its 25th year, *The Woman in Black* is viewed as one of the darkest, scariest, creepiest productions currently on the stage, and I would have to agree. This play builds tension, forcing its audience onto the edges of their seats like no horror film ever seen. This is not the first time the School has given its students the opportunity to see this play; each year, Year 9 study Gothic Literature and Year 12 explore how Gothic characters are created, and therefore this play has been a fixture of the English calendar for some time now.

English is not just something we read on the page. It is all around us, and often we fail to take the time to enjoy it. We hope that theatre trips such as these allow our students to experience English at its best and begin to love it as much as we do.

Miss A Elphick
Year 8 Progress Leader

Greek Play

Thursday 12 February 2015

On Thursday 12 February we plan to take a party to see King's College, London's annual Greek play, which this year is Aristophanes' *The Clouds*. We have been to previous productions and Mr Halsall has taken trips to Oxford for similar occasions, but though 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 & UCAS/
Higher Education Coordinator

Year 8 Visit to Boulogne: a retrospective

J'ai beaucoup aimé Boulogne. Nous sommes allés à la ville en car et nous avons répondu à quelques questions dans le cahier d'activités. Puis, nous avons mangé notre déjeuner dans un parc. Après notre déjeuner nous sommes allés à l'aquarium. L'aquarium s'appelle Nausicaa. A mon avis Nausicaa était mon endroit préféré. Nous avons vu beaucoup de poissons comme des requins et des poissons-chat. Quand nous sommes remontés dans le car nous avons visité un centre commercial. C'était une bonne journée.



I woke up at 4.00am that morning and, as expected, I was a bit tired, as everybody else on the coach must have been. We got to Boulogne at about 11:15am – rather later than expected. Our first task involved walking around the town finding the answers to our booklet questions. We got the answers from buildings, monuments and plaques. Later, we stopped at a park and ate some lunch. It was quite nice, and the park was peaceful. After lunch, we continued with our journey, this time going to an aquarium called Nausicaa. From my perspective, this was the highlight of the trip as I got to see some of my favourite sea-life such as seals, sharks and many fish. We then went to the old town and bought some cakes, sweets and a postcard. We walked around the town, too. At the end of the day most of us were exhausted as we travelled home on the coach. That said, I thoroughly enjoyed the trip and my first visit to France was a memorable one

Christian Barnes, 8S

Geography A2 Field Visit to Barcelona

24 to 28 February 2015

Between 24 and 28 February 2015, the Year 13 Geography students will be going to Catalonia in Spain for their annual field visit. This is an essential pre-requisite as it is examined in the summer.

Based in the nearby seaside resort of Sitges, they will undertake a day's urban work in Barcelona itself to see urban change and conflict at close quarters. Additionally, the students will refine their practical skills by engaging in a source to mouth river study and surveys on the Llobregat Delta.

This field visit has always proved a most rewarding experience for all concerned and has helped the students achieve well in the second paper, practising as they do a range of fieldwork techniques and gathering data for analysis and evaluation.

We hope for our customary good weather and look forward to a splendid trip.

*Mr N Gordon
Teacher of Geography*

School Ski Trip to Maria Alm, Austria

13 to 21 February 2015

The annual School Ski Trip has been going to La Plagne, France for the past three years and students have stayed in a



hotel adjacent to the slopes and we had planned to return to this resort again this year. However, due to circumstances beyond our control, it has been necessary to change location and we shall be returning to ski in Austria for the first time in fifteen years. We shall travel to Maria Alm, Austria where we will be accommodated in a modest hotel right on the slopes. This will provide us wonderful views of the surrounding mountains. Maria Alm is a typical Austrian resort which is relatively undiscovered by British visitors. It has a good snow record, with only slightly fewer kilometres of piste than our original destination, La Plagne. Due to the change in destination, the cost of the trip is significantly reduced. At the time of writing, we have two places remaining. If your son is interested, please contact Mr Despres in the first instance.

*Mr LGP Despres
Ski Trip Organiser*

Oxbridge Visits



As part of the School's ongoing commitment to support applications to the nation's most prestigious universities, a twelfth 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 Dr Robert Henderson, Sciences Admissions Tutor at Emmanuel College on Saturday 17 January. The date coincides with Cambridge University's The Subject Matters day which aims to help Year 11 pupils to make the right Advanced Level choices and we have been able to book places. 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.

Additionally, on Wednesday 25 February all Year 13 students will be participating in a Student Finance event hosted by WHSG. We look forward to an enjoyable and informative session.

*Mr R Stevens
Head of Politics & UCAS/
Higher Education Coordinator*

History Trip to Germany

18 to 22 February 2015

During the February half-term holiday the History Department will be undertaking the latest of its biennial visits to Berlin. This year will see a party of nineteen Sixth Form students and staff depart on Wednesday 18 February for a five day

tour of Berlin. We visit the German Historical Museum, and its galleries relating to the Weimar and Nazi periods are of particular interest to Advanced Level History students. The museum offers a comprehensive overview of Germany from the prehistoric to modern period. In keeping with our focus on modern German history we visit Imperial Germany's Brandenburg Gate and Reichstag – buildings which encapsulate so much German history within their own fabric. For the Weimar and Nazi eras we visit the award-winning Jewish Museum, Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp and the Villa at Wannsee, where plans for the Final Solution were drawn up. There is also a new museum building at the previously open-air Topography of Terror site, built between Prinz Albrechtstrasse and Wilhelmstrasse, where the Gestapo had their headquarters. Cold War Berlin receives attention via the Museum of the



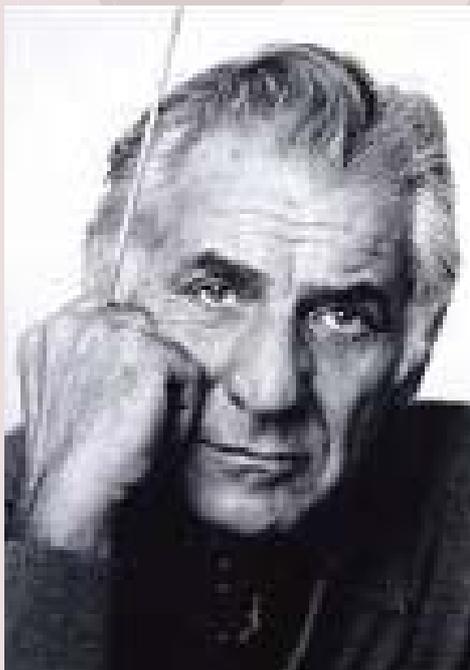
Wall at Checkpoint Charlie. In addition, the Pergamon Museum in Berlin stands alongside the Louvre and British Museum as one of the world's great archaeological repositories – the Ishtar Gate from Babylon is itself worth a visit to Berlin.

*Mr R Stevens
Head of Politics & UCAS/
Higher Education Coordinator*



MUSIC DEPARTMENT REVIEW

Composer and conductor Leonard Bernstein once said that *“to achieve great things, two things are needed: a plan and not quite enough time.”* The Music Department at Westcliff High School for Boys certainly subscribes to this philosophy. Our plan is, as always, to enhance and enrich the lives of our pupils through music-making, and this plan is regularly fulfilled with resounding



success. One need only listen to the pride students pour into every note of *Jerusalem* when singing in assemblies, accompanied by our Organ Scholar, Alex Wood. Experience the sensitive playing of the Westcliff Sinfonia accompanying George Tohill's firework display performance of Vivaldi's *Oboe Concerto in A minor*. See the dedication and passion on display in any of our extra-curricular rehearsals, whether it is the Westcliff Concert Band, Westcliff Big Band, String Orchestra, or even the new Ukulele Group established by Year 12 student, Rebecca O'Hara. One need only drop in on a Year 9 assessment lesson to see students using complex composition techniques to create an authentic piece of the Minimalist style. Feel the warmth of the applause on a Wednesday morning as the assembled audience show their approval for the performance of Edoardo Chidichimo, Year 8. Hear the applause of the residence of Admiral Court Care Home as a small ensemble of Westcliff students complete a performance of a Gilbert and Sullivan overture on National Care Home Day.



See the grin on Year 10 student Niam Chauhan's face as he watches the London Symphony Orchestra perform Tchaikovsky's *Pas de Deux* from the *Nutcracker Suite* on one of the Music Department's regular concert trips. Observe a silent, standing school on the 11th day of the 11th month, the only sound a single solemn trumpeter, Harry Bartholomew, playing the *Last Post*.

The Department thrives and develops, with new initiatives and ensembles, fresh, more vigorous schemes of work in production, and new technology arriving to replace the tired equipment that was previously in use: Both Music teaching rooms have received new computer and keyboard suites, allowing students in all year groups to make more consistent use of music technology when writing music. In addition to computer compatibility, these keyboards are also touch-sensitive, meaning students can give more nuanced and sensitive performances, with clear dynamic contrast.

We have a plan that Bernstein would be proud of, and that plan continues to succeed. Music is a vital and intrinsic part of life at this School for every single student, whether they participate in extra-curricular musical activities or not. Bernstein would point to the tight time-frames that our plan occupies as a major contributing factor to our success, and he might be right. However, I would say that Bernstein's quotation needs an addition: A plan is

important for a Music Department, and short-term deadlines certainly apply much-needed pressure, but none of the work this department does would be possible without the hard work, talent and dedication of our students, as well as the support of their parents.

Mr T Derrick, Director of Music

Key Stage 3 Overview

In addition to the Music Department's busy extra-curricular schedule, we are passionate and committed to delivering outstanding teaching. As such, in my responsibility as KS3 Music coordinator, I have taken it upon myself to investigate how high achievers in the classroom (specifically those who have attained a high mark in an ABRSM/Trinity board music exam) can be supported and meaningfully challenged within lessons. This piece of research is supported by the University of Cambridge and I have no doubt that this process will help us to develop our understanding of pedagogy and educational issues through supported and structured research. I imagine that the feedback from our consenting Year 9 students will prove to be most interesting and a useful indicator in identifying how we can move forward.

On a separate matter, the current KS3 schemes of work are also undergoing an overhaul. In a quest to appropriately

MUSIC DEPARTMENT REVIEW

challenge all pupils of any musical ability, lessons will be planned to incorporate more score-reading. It is our intention that all these pupils will be able to read music, compose with notation, and perform their work in the context of a given topic. These measures will strengthen the Music Department's identity and further raise the standards which already set us apart from other schools.

Mr A Camillo, Assistant Director of Music

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Cliffs Pavilion, Westcliff

Sunday 8 February 2015

Students, teachers, parents and friends of the School are all welcome to join the Music Department at a concert performed by an outstanding international orchestra, right on our doorstep. The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra will hit the ground running with the lively and exuberant *Overture to Ruslan and Ludmilla* by Glinka, a piece based on a poem by Pushkin, who intended to write the libretto for the opera himself before he was killed in a duel that he initiated. The next piece on the programme is *Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No 2 in C minor* which was premiered in 1900 with the composer himself as the soloist. The RPO will be accompanying world-class Italian pianist Alessio Bax for this performance. The programme continues with the popular and familiar *Fantasy on a Theme of Thomas Tallis* by Vaughan Williams, in which the composer arranges the orchestra in an innovative way to sound like an organ. After the interval our audience will be treated to a performance of Beethoven's *Symphony No 5 in C Minor*, one of the most influential and famous pieces of music ever written, and described by E T A Hoffmann as "one of the most important works of all time." It would be difficult to find

someone who does not recognise the opening four-note motif. This motif's consequent development charts a narrative of the composer's refusal to allow fate to defeat him, from the fury of the first movement to the triumph of the finale, setting the standard for all subsequent composers to follow. Unfortunately, the victorious ending of the symphony does not reflect the actual narrative of the man's life, as the fate which he was resisting so violently slowly and inevitably took his hearing from him.

Tickets are £10 for students and £24 for adults. Ticket numbers are limited, and booking for this event will close on Monday 12 January.

Spring Sinfonia

Wednesday 11 March 2015

This concert draws on the film music genre and will feature the opening movement of Strauss's *Als Sprach Zarathustra*, which originally represented the eponymous hero of Nietzsche's book emerging from his hermit's cave to witness the sunrise. The music has since been hijacked to become one of the most recognisable pieces of music in popular culture due, in large part, to Stanley Kubrick's creative reappropriation of the fanfare to represent mankind's ascent from ape to human to superhuman in the film 2001: *A Space Odyssey*. Symphonic selections from Leonard Bernstein's influential musical and 1961 film, *West Side Story*, will also make an appearance, taking the audience on a whirlwind journey of romance, revenge and tragedy, all with a Latin, Jazzy flavour. Fans of swashbuckling adventure will be satisfied by the *Pirates of the Caribbean Suite's* presence on the programme which, like Jonny Depp's character of Captain Jack Sparrow, has become an iconic part of film culture.

In addition to this programme of Film Music, John Tohill, last seen conducting the Sinfonia in the Autumn term, will be performing Weber's *Clarinet Concerto No 2 in E flat major*,

accompanied by the Sinfonia. The piece, composed in 1811, features three, varied movements, in typical Classical style. Weber's operatic writing is on show, particularly in the slow second movement, making the most of the clarinet's rich timbre with its lyrical phrasing and rapid dynamic change. This performance by the principal clarinettist of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain will be a highlight of the school calendar, and one of the last chances to see John perform as a soloist in the School Hall as a student of WHSB.

Tickets are priced at £4 for adults and are free for students.

Spring Chamber Concert

Friday 30 January 2015

You are warmly invited to our Spring Chamber Recital which will once again spotlight some of our most outstanding musical performers. Following on from the success of our last recital programme, we will have a number of solo and ensemble performances which will encompass a variety of genres. Many of our Advanced Level students will be taking part, and we are particularly looking forward to Ewan Lane's performance of his own composition on the guitar. This recital will also feature talented students, Devan Vadher (Year 12) playing Primavera by Einaudi on the piano and Niam Chauhan (Year 10) playing the violin. Furthermore, the wonderful Westcliff Concert Band will be making an appearance playing a creative arrangement of Bach's Toccata in D Minor, as well as Elsa's procession to the Cathedral by Wagner. We are sure you will agree, this is a fabulous opportunity to showcase some of our exceptional students and we would be delighted to see the tradition of a welcoming WHSB audience continue.

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

Mr A Camillo, Assistant Director of Music

HOUSE SYSTEM SPORT AND THE

School Sport: Review of the Autumn Term 2014

In Rugby, we experienced some exciting matches across the Autumn Term. The First XV narrowly lost in the NatWest Cup to local rivals, SEEVIC, by just 5 points to 3. The team went on to enjoy good results in the Vase competition and there are high ambitions to make good progress in this National competition. The Year 10 team lost to KEGS at the same stage in the NatWest Cup but again has moved on to experience a good run in the Vase competition. Elsewhere, our Year 9 and Year 11 teams remain unbeaten to date with a number of testing fixtures to come. The Year 8 team has demonstrated real promise and has started its Essex Cup campaign with a secure win over Colchester Royal Grammar School. The Year 7 team is developing and, with forthcoming fixtures which include the introduction of a local league for their year group, the team should look to flourish during the coming months.

In Football, the First XI have enjoyed a mixed start to the season, exiting both cups following defeats by the Plume School, although enjoying a secure win against rivals

Southend High School for Boys. The Second XI has fared better, making a strong start to their League campaign, which has seen them beaten only once. The Year 7 side has endured a difficult start to their School career with defeats at the hands of stronger opposition, but the team is showing signs of improvement and remains in the Essex Cup. The Year 8 team has played some excellent football, but has unfortunately found itself on the wrong side of two of extremely close games. Year 9 remain the best performing team with strong victories in the early cup stages. Year 10 and 11 have both had outstanding seasons to date, playing some very impressive football and taking some notable scalps, with Year 11 remaining unbeaten after their three games.

All teams are well placed in the local cups and we look forward to some exciting semi-finals in the New Year.

*Mr D Phillips
Head of Physical Education*

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>
7	1	0	0	1	-35	6	1	0	5
8	5	3	0	2	+96	5	2	0	3
9	3	3	0	0	+126	4	3	0	1
10	6	3	1	2	-53	5	3	0	2
11	1	1	0	0	+5	3	2	1	0
1st team	6	4	0	2	+161	9	4	1	4
2nd team	-	-	-	-	-	7	3	2	2
Total	22	14	1	7	+370	39	18	4	17

Parents' Association sponsor School Rugby

Last year, after a successful bid to the PA, the School has received two new high quality rugby kits. The Parents' Association work tirelessly across the year to help the School, raising funds to provide pupils with new and improved facilities and resources. The Physical Education Department now has two new BLK rugby kits for our senior teams.

The photo below shows our First XV captain, Blaine Webber and Vice Captain, Callum Bartlett sporting the new kits which have been worn across the season so far. The School would like to extend its thanks to the Parents' Association for their help in providing the students with such superb jerseys.

Mr D Shoemith, Second in Physical Education



THE HOUSE SYSTEM SPORT AND

Year 10 Rugby Tour to Leicester

On Friday 14 November 2014, twenty members of the Year 10 Rugby Squad, accompanied by Messrs Groves, Shoesmith and Pickering, travelled to Leicester for a weekend tour. Friday evening was spent at leisure with a team meal before taking in current film phenomenon, *Interstellar*.



Saturday morning saw the team travel to Leicester Grammar School (LGS), whose excellent sports facilities provided the backdrop for our first fixture. Despite a slow start, the LGS team provided keen and able opposition for our pupils, testing our defence whilst remaining resolute in their own. Ultimately, WHSB overwhelmed their slick opposition, emerging as the winners with a score of 37-10. The final period of play involved the teams in mixing and matching players and this was played in a superb spirit. Our grateful students then bade farewell to their excellent hosts, but not before having the opportunity to meet former Leicester, England and Lions scrum-half Harry Ellis (now a member of staff at LGS).

An early start on Sunday gave our team the opportunity to experience a matchday coaching clinic run by Leicester Tigers, before a player open forum with two current Leicester Tigers first team players. The team then travelled to Welford Road to watch a hotly contested match between Leicester Tigers and Saracens. To close a fine weekend, the boys had their photo taken at half-time with the Tigers' mascot and British and Irish Lion, Geoff Parling.



In all the pupils enjoyed an excellent weekend of rugby and they behaved impeccably throughout. We now look forward to next year's proposed Year 10 Rugby Tour to Europe.

Mr L Groves
Teacher of Physical Education

House Scrabble Club

Last term, the English Department introduced Scrabble for the first time to the list of extra-curricular activities on offer at the School. The event, which takes place during Thursday lunchtimes in E21, has proven a huge hit with pupils from all year groups. Tyler Girling (Year 11), Joseph Cameron (Year 9) and Daniel Barton (Year 8), our first player to score a seven-letter word, are amongst the experts in the Club, whilst we also are pleased to see several Year 7 pupils, particularly members of 7C, who have never played the game before, quickly learn the tricks of the trade.



Our pupils inform us that they find House Scrabble Club an enriching and interesting competition. Joseph Cameron of 9E says, *"I really like playing Scrabble and it adds a further choice of activity for pupils during lunch time on Thursdays. It is easy to get used to, and we get the opportunity to learn some interesting new words!"*

Mr. Phillips, who runs the Scrabble Club, is delighted with the interest that the event has attracted, and says that playing Scrabble has several benefits. *"I was hugely surprised to see more than thirty pupils outside E21 on the first day of the Club, and the interest certainly has not dwindled. The Club has a competitive, yet friendly, spirit and the pupils know more about the English Language when they leave at the end of the lunchtime than they did when they walked in."*

The Scrabble Club will continue throughout the School year, and the winning House will receive an award in the Summer term. We look forward to seeing more players join in the competitive fun this term, too!

Mr A Phillips
Teacher of English

CALENDAR FOR THE SPRING TERM 2015

FIRST HALF TERM

Mon 5 Jan	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
Tue 6 Jan	SPRING TERM BEGINS 8.45am Visit to Palace Theatre to see <i>Woman in Black</i> , 8.00pm
Wed 7 Jan	Berlin Trip Briefing, 7.00pm
Thur 8 Jan	Dr Chris Taylorson, <i>Universities and the Sciences</i> , 7.00pm
Sat 10 Jan	WCGC Launch Day
Thur 15 Jan	Andrew Robertshaw Lecture, <i>Britain in the Crimean War</i> , 7.00pm
Fri 16 Jan	Issue of Year 11 Reports
Sat 17 Jan	Year 11 Visit to Cambridge
Tue 20 Jan	Year 11 Entry to Sixth Form Evening, 7.30pm
Wed 21 Jan	Education Evening on Internet Safety, 7.30-9.30pm
Thur 22 Jan	Holocaust Remembrance Service, 8.45am Prof Carolin Crawford, <i>Our Place in the Solar System</i> , 7.00pm
Fri 23 Jan	Issue of Year 8 Reports Advanced Level French Trip to the British Film Institute
Sat 24 Jan	Parents' Association Race Night, 6.15pm
Fri 30 Jan	Issue of Year 10 Reports Spring Chamber Recital, 7.30pm
2-6 Feb	Years 12 and 13 Trial Examinations
Thur 5 Feb	Year 11 Trip to Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, 9.00am-3.30pm Intermediate Mathematics Challenge
Fri 6 Feb	Issue of Year 9 Reports
Sat 7 Feb	Mayor's Charity Concert in Main Hall
Sun 8 Feb	Visit to Cliffs Pavilion, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
Mon 9 Feb	Year 11 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm-6.00pm
Wed 11 Feb	Prof Andrew Lambert Lecture, <i>The War at Sea 1914-15</i> , 7.00pm
Thur 12 Feb	Visit to King's College, London to see Aristophanes' <i>The Clouds</i> CCF Inauguration Parade and Buffet

SECOND HALF TERM

Fri 13 Feb	CCF Field Day, Middlewick Ranges and Colchester Barracks
16-20 Feb inc HALF TERM	
13-21 Feb	Ski Trip to Austria
18-22 Feb	Sixth Form History Trip to Berlin
Mon 23 Feb	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
Wed 25 Feb	Year 13 Student Finance event at WHSG
24-28 Feb	Year 13 Geography visit to Barcelona
Fri 27 Feb	Politics Conference at WHSB
28 Feb-6 Mar	Year 10 Geology Visit to Swanage
Fri 6 Mar	Issue of Year 12 Reports
Sat 7 Mar	A Day in Toy Making
Wed 11 Mar	Sinfonia Spring Concert, 7.30pm
Thur 12 Mar	Year 9 Options Evening, 7.30pm
Fri 13 Mar	Issue of Year 13 Reports
13-14 Mar	A Level PE Students Visit to St. George's Park
Sat 14 Mar	WCGC Festival of Education Trip to the Oxford Playhouse, <i>Mary Stuart</i>
Mon 16 Mar	Year 9 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm-6.00pm
Wed 18 Mar	Science and Engineering Lecture, 7.00 - 9.00pm
19-29 Mar	German Exchange - WHSB pupils visit Münster
Fri 20 Mar	Charity Week Launch Evening
20-22 Mar	Welbeck Cadet Leadership Challenge Competition
Mon 23 Mar	Year 10 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm-6.00pm
23-27 Mar inc	Charity Week
Fri 27 Mar	SPRING TERM ENDS
27 - 29 Mar	Combined Cadet Competition
26 Mar - 2 Apr	CCF Easter Battle Camp, Ballykinlar Camp, Northern Ireland
30 Mar-4 Apr	Earth Science Visit to Iceland
7-11 Apr	Years 10 and 11 Historians visit Normandy and the D-Day Beaches
30 April	Junior Mathematics Challenge