



# THE Westcliff Diary

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# Oliver! The Musical

## 7, 8 and 9 February 2017

**Rehearsals are well underway now for our musical production *Oliver!* which will play to audiences on Tuesday 7, Wednesday 8 and Thursday 9 February 2017 in the Main Hall.**

Hailed the world over as one of the best-loved family musicals of all time, Lionel Bart's Tony Award-winning musical *Oliver!* is based on the Charles Dickens' classic novel, *Oliver Twist*.

Set in Victorian England, *Oliver Twist* is the name given to a boy born in the workhouse orphanage whose mother died in childbirth – her identity is unknown. Now an adolescent who has never felt loved or accepted, Oliver manages to escape the workhouse and make his way to London where he feels accepted for the first time in his life amongst a similarly orphaned group of youngsters, headed by the Artful Dodger who 'makes wallets' under the direction of Fagin.

What Oliver is initially unaware of is that they are really a band of pickpockets and that Fagin hides away whatever riches he is able to obtain for his own personal benefit. One of Fagin's associates is Bill Sykes, whose girlfriend, Nancy, takes Oliver under her wing. Oliver looks to Nancy as his one true friend, especially needing her when he discovers what Fagin and his gang are really up to. Oliver comes to the attention of the wealthy Mr Brownlow, and also to Sykes who sees Oliver as both an asset and a liability, but one that needs to be kept under his watchful eye. Nancy, despite her mistreatment by Sykes, has to decide whether to be loyal to him and help him keep Oliver or to do what is best for Oliver by assisting in his escape. This becomes more important when she finds out that Brownlow is looking for Oliver when he learns of the boy's true heritage.

Dickens' hugely successful novel was a thinly-veiled protest against the Poor Law of 1834, which dictated that all public charity must be channelled through workhouses; a gritty and unromantic portrayal of

Victorian city life for orphans. Lionel Bart, however, in writing the script, lyrics and music, gives it a lively and colourful make-over.

The musical was performed for the first time at The New Theatre, London, and was an instant success. In January 1963 *Oliver!* opened on Broadway at Imperial Theatre as a result of which Lionel Bart won the Tony Award for Best Composer and Lyricist; the first British composer to win a Tony. The film version of *Oliver!*, directed by Carol Reed, was released in 1968 with Ron Moody receiving an Oscar nomination and a Golden Globe Award for his role as Fagin.

Auditions were open to students in all Years and took place early in the autumn term. We were impressed with the talent before us, with students from WHSB and WHSG being selected for roles which we know will excite our audiences in February. Characters such as the innocent, yet persistent, Oliver Twist, to the cheeky Artful Dodger; a conniving Fagin who takes in homeless children and turns them into opportunistic criminals, one of whom has grown up into a common 'lady' of the street, Nancy, and another former member of Fagin's gang, and the brutal burglar, Bill Sykes (along with his nameless dog). We also have the erudite Mr Brownlow, the pompous, self-important Mr Bumble and, of course, the insensitive undertaker, Mr Sowerberry and his wife.

*Oliver!* is full of memorable songs such as: *Food Glorious Food*, *Oliver, I Shall Scream*, *That's Your Funeral*, *Where is Love?*, *Consider Yourself*, *You've Got to Pick a Pocket or Two*, *It's a Fine Life*, *I'd Do Anything*, *Be Back Soon*, *Oom-Pah-Pah*, *As Long as He Needs Me*, and of course, *Reviewing the Situation*. There will be plenty of toe-tapping in the Main Hall come Opening Night.

***Tickets are on sale at a price of £8 for adults/£5 for pupils and are bookable via TicketSource.***



# THE HEADMASTER FROM THE DESK



## Independent Learning and GCSE and A Level Trial Examinations

Adolescence involves a journey towards greater independence as young people take on ever increasing amounts of responsibility for themselves. As pupils move into the GCSE years, and beyond, teachers expect them to gradually take control of their own learning, albeit whilst they continue to receive appropriate support and guidance.

For some pupils this transition towards independent learner can be challenging, particularly if they adopt passive or reactive strategy in School. Students need to be pro-active in organizing their revision, identifying the study methods and habits that are most effective in helping them to understand and acquire knowledge that will enable their progress. This involves completing homework and revision in a planned and organized fashion.

During term time, pupils from Year 7 to Year 13 have work to complete each weekday evening and most will also have weekend homework. In the absence of a specific assignment set by the teacher, pupils should be revising previous work, reading ahead or engaged in independent research. Effective independent research does not involve using the Internet in an unstructured manner. Independent research may involve the use of the Web but it must also involve a set of

parameters which narrow the search to reliable and useful sources. Equally, cutting and pasting some notes or saving web addresses does not amount to acquiring knowledge. It is the study and application of the material which will enable a pupil to progress and so the majority of time (at least three quarters) should be spent studying material as opposed to searching.

Occasionally pupils can become frustrated with studying and find this a daunting challenge. The School does provide advice to students on study methods, however it is important to understand that both study and revision are an individual exercise and one size does not fit all. One of the aims of homework is to help pupils develop and sharpen their independent learning skills. It is important for pupils to understand that the ability to work independently is vital to succeeding in public examinations and beyond.

The recent Trial Examinations should have provided Year 11 with a taste of the challenge to come this May. It is important they make effective use of the feedback provided by their teachers and honestly evaluate their preparations and their performance.

This process should enable individual pupils to improve and consolidate their performance in order to ensure they have a secure platform for entering Post 16 education. Equally, the Upper Sixth (and some in the Lower Sixth) will need to ensure that their Trial Examinations in February provide them with a valuable rehearsal for the A Level Examinations this summer.

This can only be achieved by ensuring they undertake a well-organized revision programme. We understand that the public examinations are demanding and students are welcome to approach the relevant pastoral office if they require additional support or guidance.

## Speech Day 2016

Speech Day is one of the highlights of the academic year and this year we were delighted to welcome The Rt Hon Ann Widdecombe DSG as our Guest of Honour. Pupils and staff have indicated to me that they found her remarks highly enjoyable as well as thought-provoking. Speech Day provides the School with an opportunity to congratulate and honour the worthy achievements of our pupils and staff. Speech Day celebrates students' individual achievements, but also our collective achievements. Ultimately the success of the School depends upon the strength of its community to support and serve one another. With this in mind, I would like to make a special mention of Peter Banfield (Year 11) the winner of the George Chiverton Prize for Contribution to the School Community. Peter has shown extraordinary loyalty and dedication to his School during the last five years. He leads the School's stage lighting crew and has given up many evenings and weekends to provide superb technical support for School events. If time and space allowed I could highlight many more pupils who have provided outstanding service to their School. I thank all those pupils and staff who make such a positive contribution to their School community.



*Peter Banfield (Year 11)*



# K OF THE HEADMASTER FROM TH

## Year 11 Mentoring

The School, with the support of members of the local business community, intends to pilot a new mentoring scheme with a small group of selected Year 11 pupils. The purpose of the scheme is to enable the pupils to discuss their education and career plans with experienced professionals. The mentoring scheme will involve these professionals visiting the School on five or six occasions during the academic year to work with pupils on a one-to-one basis. It is not coaching, but rather it is about encouraging the pupils to reflect on their current position

and to give serious thought to their future direction. The mentors will be able to give the pupils the benefit of both, their experience and expertise. The programme will be voluntary and those invited to join will require their parents' consent.

## Staff Changes for the Spring Term

I am pleased to update you on some staff changes from the start of this new term. Mrs Mason (Teacher of Economics) begins her maternity leave and shall be covered by Mr Baggs. Ms Fasquel

(Teacher of French) shall also be taking maternity leave and, at the time of writing, the appointment of her replacement is in progress. We were delighted to welcome Mr Willson, an Old Westcliffian, to the support staff in October 2016. Mr Senior remains seriously ill and we have appointed Mr Farine to cover his timetable. The school is working with Mr Senior and his family to support them at this difficult time and we offer them our best wishes.

I would also like to take this opportunity to report that Dr Oliver continues to make a good recovery.

## OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

**I am pleased to report that, since publication of our last newsletter, we have 34 new members – 19 of whom are recent School Leavers. We extend a warm welcome to them all.**

Our Annual Dinner in September 2016 was a resounding success with 93 attendees. Our guest speaker was Martin Townsend, Editor of The Sunday Express. Before the Dinner, a documentary about the School was shown, as referenced in the article within the Community Development Office section of this Diary.

During the Dinner, a continuous loop of photographs of past Dinners was running. These may be purchased from P&P Printing, 69 The Broadway, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 1PE, telephone 01702 826010, at a cost of £2.50.

Our next Dinner will be on 8 September 2017 at the School. Please diary this date and consider seriously about joining us!

You will by now have received the first alumni newsletter. Some of you will also have attended the first alumni reunion at Davy's Wine Bar in Mincing Lane, London. It is intended to hold these twice per year. These are exciting new developments designed to reach out to our alumni.

If you would like to join the Old Westcliffian Association, please contact me.

The subscription is £10 for life membership or £5 if in full-time education.



**Mr T Birdseye, Honorary Secretary**  
**[terry.birdseye@gmail.com](mailto:terry.birdseye@gmail.com)**

## School Counselling

Whilst we endeavour to provide excellent pastoral support and guidance for our pupils, it is occasionally the case that more targeted, specific help is required for a young person. We have been working closely with the Adolescent Support Clinic (ASC) for a number of years and have found their counsellors to be very effective. The counsellors are specialists at dealing with a number of issues including: anger, abuse, depression, drugs and alcohol, image and identity, OCD, self-harm and stress and anxiety. They work specifically with adolescents and can also offer family support for resolving conflict and improving communication.

These counsellors work independently of the School and so the pupils are guaranteed complete confidentiality, unless their safety or welfare is at immediate risk. If your son or daughter would like to see a counsellor, then they should speak with their Pastoral Leader, or Mrs Mumford in the first instance for a referral. The service within School is very limited and there is a triage system, with counselling sessions being allocated according to urgency, rather than chronologically assigned. However, sessions with the service can be privately arranged directly through the Adolescent Support Clinic at:

[www.adolescentsupportclinic.co.uk](http://www.adolescentsupportclinic.co.uk)  
or by calling 01702 523428.

In the first half of the spring term, we will be offering *Examination Stress Management* workshops, run by counsellors from ASC, during Friday lunchtimes for students in Years 11-13. Places are limited, so students wishing to participate should contact their Pastoral Office.

**Mrs K Mumford**  
**Assistant Head: Director of Lower School Studies**

## Oxbridge

As part of the School's ongoing commitment to support applications to the nation's most prestigious universities, a 14th 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 at Emmanuel College. A date has yet to be finalised but will be

a Saturday in January or early 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 students, is intended for Saturday 4 March.

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

## Masterclasses

We have supported a number of Sixth Form students to make bookings on various university-level masterclasses this term. Included amongst these are the excellent Villiers Park residential courses which enable some of our very best students to immerse themselves for four or five days in an academic environment, looking at topics beyond the Advanced Level syllabus, surrounded by young scholars of similar intellect and disposition.

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

## WHSB Sixth Form History Essay Competition 2016

The Annual History Essay Competition for Sixth Formers, which is run jointly between WHSB and WHSG, resulted in three strong contenders for the top prize. Essays on *The Qing Empire*, *The Henrician Reformation* and *The Black Death* by Joseph Bill (WHSB), Sam Jessep (WHSB) and Leah Durant (WHSG) can be read on our website. The scholarship displayed by all three students is strong and matched by their ambition: all three topics are far removed from the examination syllabus at either School and, therefore, necessitated extensive independent reading.

**Mr R Stevens**  
**Head of Politics**



## Geography Fairtrade Café w/c Monday 6 March 2017

In the week beginning Monday 6 March, the Geography Department will run its annual Fairtrade Café, open to all pupils at lunchtimes in the Humanities Forum.

Fairtrade offers farmers in poorer countries an assurance that they will receive a fair and stable price for their goods, allowing them to plan for their future. In addition, it provides a social fund for producers' communities, providing money for water pumps, schools and health centres. As usual, the café will be run by the Geography prefects and seeks to raise awareness of Fairtrade.

Fairtrade fruit, snack bars, chocolate, coffee, and the infamous Fairtrade hot chocolate will be on sale with all profits going towards the SOS Ghana charity which the Geography Department supports.

**Miss S Sparks**  
**Head of Geography**

## WCGC Wednesday Afternoons

In what is now a longstanding tradition, local primary schools are invited to join some of our Sixth Form students on Wednesday afternoons for an afternoon of activities aimed at providing stretch and challenge, which will reduce the gap between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 curriculums. Year 5 pupils will be invited to our School to take part in the Wow Workshop, whilst the Science Roadshow will visit them on their own sites.

Both events use short hands-on activities and experiments to help the younger pupils to access new concepts. In the summer term, our Sixth Form students will be inviting Year 4 to travel Around the World in 80 Minutes. We have found in the past that the three projects are hugely valuable as they not only excite younger pupils about the opportunities they will encounter at secondary school, but also offer our own Sixth Former students the chance to enhance their public speaking skills.

**Miss S Sparks**  
**Head of Geography**



## Breadth Studies

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) dissertation is an opportunity for all Sixth Form students to develop their knowledge and their understanding of a selected topic.

It is suitable for high-achieving Sixth Form students who plan to read *Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Medicine, Law, Economics, History, Geography* or any academic subject at a Russell Group university. It is worth a significant amount of UCAS points, where an A\* receives 70 points, for example.

Many of the top universities rate this qualification highly. For example, the University of Cambridge state *"We welcome the introduction of the Extended Project and would encourage you to undertake one as it will help you develop independent study and research skills and ease the transition from school/college to higher education"*, whilst UCL note that *"we welcome the introduction of the Extended Project into the curriculum, recognising that it will develop many of the skills necessary for successful study at university. For students presenting A-levels, UCL will be accepting the Extended Project as an alternative to the need to offer a fourth subject at AS level."*

Titles vary at WHSB but some examples include:

- *Can an atom exceed an atomic number of 137?*
- *Is immunotherapy an effective method for treating cancer?*
- *To what extent can the notion that 'all religions have a common source' be supported?*
- *Could a global pandemic of the Zika virus be treated and prevented?*
- *What are the most influential causes of the Greek Government's debt crisis?*
- *Did complex life exist before the Cambrian?*

This is a voluntary qualification and students are selected based on their aptitude and effort. There are a number of strict deadlines throughout the year that EPQ students are required to adhere to.

WHSB's results have been impressive over the past four years with a high of 100% A\*-A in Summer 2016, including a remarkable 52% of all entries being awarded an A\* grade. Students and staff

at the School are to be congratulated on their diligence and hard work which has made these outstanding outcomes possible.

If you would like to discuss an idea for an Extended Project dissertation, then please do not hesitate in coming to speak to me.

**Mr R Barber**  
*Head of Breadth Studies*

## Science Roadshow

This Sixth Form Wednesday afternoon activity continues to be popular with local primary schools. The Roadshow takes elements of Science into these schools to engage Year 5 pupils with a hands-on lesson. In Biology, the pupils look at their own cheek cells, whilst in Physics they make simple electrical circuits. In Chemistry, they burn elements in a Bunsen and utilise this in a simple forensic science scenario. This year, we have already visited Fairways School and Earls Hall Junior School and we have many more planned across the year.

**Mr L Despres**  
*Teacher of Biology*



## Year 7 Charity Week

**Monday 27 February to Friday 3 March**

Once again, the Year 7 pupils will participate in the School's fundraising efforts for its annual Charity Week, with a Charity week of their own. This will comprise a number

of events, including a sponsored silence to take place on Wednesday 8 March, as well as cake sales to take place across the week beginning Monday 27 February. In addition, Year 7 Forms will be invited to arrange any additional fundraising activities that they may wish to run to complement these events.

**Mr J Bleakley**  
*Head of Lower School*

## WHSB Charity Week 2017

**Monday 27 March to**  
**Thursday 30 March 2017**



The eagerly anticipated Charity Week in 2017 will run from Monday 27 March to Thursday 30 March, with a celebration Launch Event from 7pm on Friday 24 March. As the Westcliff Diary goes to press, the recently appointed Chair, Andrew Gilbertson; Vice-Chairs Tom Benn-Woolley and Anneli Genthe; and Secretary, Konrad Kunadu, are meeting with their colleagues and reading applications to put together the Committees required to organize the events. Perennial favourites, such as the Launch Night, Charity Assembly and Quiz Evening, are all definitely back on the cards, and a wide range of activities, suggested by members of Year 12 and staff, are under consideration to ensure that the 2017 event is one we shall not forget.

The Committee is passionate about ensuring that the Week has, at the heart of its mission, the positive impact our efforts can have in the Community; however, I am sure they will also make sure that we raise a considerable sum and have great fun during the Week.

The various charities to be supported were announced before the Christmas Jumper Day which was the first Charity event of the season.

# SCHOOL NEWS SCHOOL NEWS

Andrew writes, "As the biggest student-run project, Charity Week is a deep-rooted staple of the Westcliff calendar, as well as a highlight for pretty much all of the WHSB community."

*Writing on behalf of the Charity Week Committee, it is our vision that this forthcoming charity week introduces some new events in addition to maintaining some well-established and popular ones, as we look to once again bring the community together, to help us support our designated charities and really make a difference.*

*I look forward to, what is shaping up to be, an exciting Charity Week. Further details regarding Charity Week will be announced in the near future."*

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

## WHSB Uniform Shop

The School provides uniform through its own shop. This arrangement has existed for many years and parents appreciate its convenience. We have found that by selling uniform and certain books, bags and other essential items for School in-house, we can offer a convenient location, a personal service and keep prices at a competitive level.

Please note that certain items and sizes of uniform are subject to a price increase effective from January 2017.

An order form and revised price list, detailing items and sizes available, can be downloaded from the School website under the Uniform Shop sub-heading within the Secure Parents' Area. Pupils can hand in their orders to the School Office. These will then be prepared for collection as soon as possible.

We obviously hope you will be satisfied with the items you order; however if, for any reason you are not happy with your purchase, then please notify us that there is an issue within 48 hours of receipt, and then return the item(s) within 28 days. We will be pleased to exchange, or provide you with a full refund, whichever you would prefer, once the items have been returned to us. Please note that the items **MUST** be returned in their **original packaging and condition**, unmarked and unworn, for us to offer a full refund. The Uniform Shop, located in the East Basement, is normally open for purchases to be made by parents and pupils on Thursday afternoons from 3.45pm to 4.45pm during term time. In addition to cash and cheque payments, debit and credit cards will be accepted at this time. Queries regarding uniform orders should be directed to Mrs Clarke in the Uniform Shop via email: [clarkej@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:clarkej@whsb.essex.sch.uk)

**Mrs J Clarke, Uniform Shop Manager**

# SH AT WHSB ENGLISH AT WHSB

## Opportunities for English Support

It's never forgotten that English is such a wonderful subject. Thrilling tales, perfect poetry and discussion of important issues sculpt an engaging and interesting curriculum. Amidst the wonder of language, however, lies the challenge of expressing yourself in equally fantastic ways and identifying perceptive and sophisticated ways that others express themselves. One thing often forgotten about English, however, is that it is a skills based subject, meaning that the more you practise those skills, the more competent you will be in them.

This year the English department is offering more opportunities for you to explore the beauty of the written word and hone the skills that will help you achieve highly in the subject.



## English Key Stage 3 Club

If you are in Years 7 – 9 you could attend our English Key Stage 3 Club that meets every Friday lunchtime in E20 and is supervised by our team of English Subject Prefects. Whether you're looking for advice on ways to improve or tackle a homework task; get help with corrections; receive greater detail on written feedback, or run through useful tips for spelling, punctuation and grammar, they will be happy to help. Any pupil in the Lower School who would like to attend this club but has a conflicting commitment should speak to their English teacher in the first instance.

## English Subject Mentoring

If you're in Year 10 or Year 11, you might benefit from working one-to-one with a Sixth Form Mentor. This facility is the perfect opportunity to discuss set texts and explore author's techniques - definitely worth trying if you find identifying layers of meaning a challenge, and requests may be made via your English teacher.

## Becoming a Mentor

These programmes would not be possible without the help of our Sixth Form Subject Prefects who have displayed talent and dedication to their roles since the beginning of September.

Of course, we know that mentoring is as valuable an experience for the mentor as it is for the mentee, as teaching is one of the most effective ways to crystallise one's own understanding (as Seneca said, "while we teach, we learn"). Therefore, we invite members of Key Stage 4 to speak to Mr Allan-Smith if they would like to be considered as subject mentors for Lower School pupils.

This is a position of responsibility which requires organisational skills and also a commitment of one lunch time per week to meet with your mentee.

No matter what Year Group you belong to, there is something for every pupil studying English.

**Mrs G Koutas**  
**Head of English**



## Essex Poet of the Year

This is the sixth year in which the School has submitted entries for the **Essex Young Poet of the Year**. In every one, our pupils have achieved memorable results.

Joshua Seal was awarded a Certificate of Commendation for his poem **Winter Darkness** and Daniel Pereira took first prize in the Under 14 category for his poem **Forces of Nature**. The two boys have done us proud! My sincere thanks go out to my colleagues in the English Department for their continued support for this annual competition.

Here are the two poems for you to read and enjoy.

**Mr J Allan-Smith  
Second in English**

## Forces of Nature

*By day thou art a Summer's scathing thirst,  
To which I plead for mercy or for calm.  
By night thou art the chill of Winter's worst,  
The pain of blains upon my withered palm.*

*Dear maid, thou art contempt as Autumn's  
wind,  
And blast through all in oh! tempestuous  
rage.  
Or thou stings a man like wasps in Spring,  
And scourge and spur along my skin.*

*The might of earth and fire's unruly power,  
Still now pulsate throughout your veins.  
And the force of your forever shrewd  
demeanour,  
Will last until the strength of wind and  
waves wanes.*

*And yet, my love, besides all this which I  
recall,  
Thou art my sun, my moon, my all.*

**Daniel Pereira (10E)**



## Winter Darkness

*The snow moulds to my footsteps,  
Cold, pale bones crunch beneath my feet.*

*The wide veil of darkness  
Holds back the clawing sunlight,  
Winter grabs at your soul,  
Blocking out the brightness of happiness.  
Summer is a grasp at joy and light  
But only lasts one tick of the clock,  
One blink of the eye, one step of the  
marathon.*

*The snow moulds to my footsteps,  
Cold, pale bones crunch beneath my feet.*

**Joshua Seal (9W)**

## PIP Production: The Bard – A Celebration 23 November 2016

For many students in the School, the only Shakespeare play they will have read by the time they leave us in Year 13 will be *Romeo and Juliet*, one of our GCSE texts. It's one of the 37 the Bard wrote, a small window that offers us a little glimpse of the stage space that made up the vast range of ideas and characters that peopled the mind of the greatest writer in English who ever lived. In 1995, Leonard Whiting, who performed *Romeo* in the Franco Zeffirelli 1968 production of *Romeo and Juliet* was interviewed and said of the play:



*'In this world there is a lot of gloomy darkness. I think we need more light, like Romeo and Juliet. Many people liked this film, but for me it wasn't only a professional discovery, but also something light, as the window of a light in a world that should have more light and understanding. All people, even small children, should use their imagination more to imagine another world.'*

*Therefore I think that the actor - artist should cause people to use their imagination and to try to create light windows in common darkness.'*

Trying 'to create light windows in common darkness' provided for Shakespeare a ravishing range of dramatic possibilities. As lovers flee into Athenian woods in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and the lights go off to allow Fleance's escape in *Macbeth*, the audience is drawn in to the webs of madmen and magicians. These are the very best stories and his plays represent the 'windows' that allow us to feel and sense, but never fully understand, love and hate, tragedy and redemption. They cannot be pinned down because a play by Shakespeare, like all the best drama, will not stay still. We have no need or desire to 'dig the dust' of Shakespeare's bones because he still lives through the pulsating dynamism of his plays. Each of them works in a social and historical context, but their life-blood comes from the way that context metamorphoses into an arena for the psyches of kings and jesters, princes and pimps, to 'play' out their lives.

We tried to create that arena in the Main Hall at the School on the evening of 23 November last year for the latest PiP club entertainment. Poetry in Performance took off again in spectacular fashion during this celebration of the plays of William Shakespeare. Ranging from the lovelorn lyrics of Valentine in *Two Gentleman of Verona* through to the hideous rantings of a disfigured king in *Richard III*, Shakespeare 400 reached out to an audience of 150 through a wonderful miscellany of acting, singing, music and dancing. Drawing on the talent of students from Year 8 to Year 13, over ten plays were dramatised around the Bard's genius for comedy, tragedy and history, with an exciting narration taking us through the different phases of the playwright's output over 15 years of his writing life. The evening came to an exciting end with the banquet scene from *Macbeth*, where real Elizabethan food was served up by the Food Technology Department under Mrs Robinson's wonderful guidance. This was indeed an opportunity to see our students at their talented best and Mr Allan-Smith would like to record his thanks and congratulations to all who took part and made the evening so memorable.

**Mr J Allan-Smith  
Second in English**

# SOCIETIES CLUBS & SOCIETIES

## Algorithms Society Part 1



Algorithms are a fundamental part of everyday life, influencing your search results on Google, dictating whether the light is going to turn green at a traffic control system or simply a recipe for making a cake. They are a set of instructions that fulfil a purpose and the uses for them are wide-ranging. At the moment, self-driving car research is on the rise and these employ a variety of algorithms to allow the car to safely navigate through city streets, detecting any potential hazards, whilst giving the passengers a comfortable experience. In the UK, over 95% of the accidents involve human error and self-driving cars may provide a solution to minimise this figure. Algorithms are required to perform many tasks, and the study of how they work and how to make them is essential to everyone, not just Computer Scientists.

At Algorithm Society, we look at ways to implement algorithms involving different programming paradigms which are styles of programming. Some languages suit different styles of programming better and recently we have been looking at functional programming. This paradigm has immutable values and the functions are pure, meaning that given the same inputs, the outputs must not change. Haskell is a purely functional language, and inspired by mathematical notation, requiring the average programmer to think in new ways. The usual 'for' loops have been removed in exchange for more elegant

ways of performing repetitive tasks like recursion and the 'laziness' of Haskell means that calculations only take place until they are actually needed. Haskell is an exciting and novel language that all programmers should try out, not only because it uses ideas from mathematics but because it requires a new approach to programming, allowing the programmer to appreciate the interactions between the hardware and the code.

Besides functional programming we also have experimented in object-oriented programming. This paradigm is all about objects, which may contain data in the form of fields, often known as attributes; and code in the form of procedures, often known as behaviours. We used the programming language, Java, to test out OOP which lends itself towards large scale projects such as video games.

Pac-Man is one example of OOP in which an entity, the ghost, would have their own attributes, such as colour and speed and they would also have their own behaviours, such as moving. OOP allows the attributes and behaviours of the ghost to be unique for each of the four ghosts without having to create separate classes for each ghost.

Learning about these two programming paradigms on top of many other features of algorithms has been a very enjoyable experience, and we encourage everyone interested to attend the Society to widen their knowledge of the many uses of algorithms.

**Hugo Mayo (13C)**  
**Cyrus Horban (13B)**

## Algorithms Society Part 2

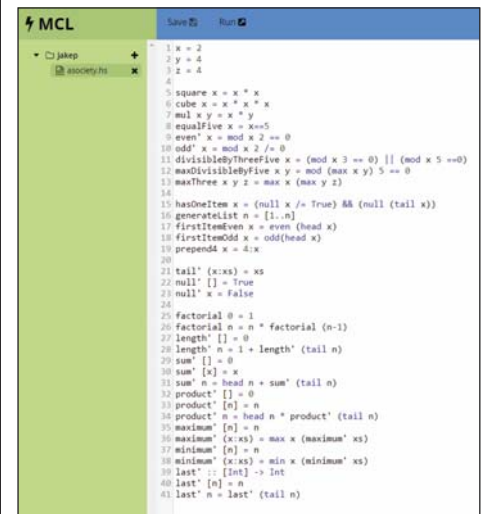
I take an active part in WHSB's computing life. I have been involved in a number of extra-curricular computing activities so when I saw a poster near E15 advertising an 'Algorithms Society' I jumped at the opportunity and turned up at the next meeting. In my first session, I was welcomed by Hashan Punchihewa in Year 13; he runs the Society, and was shown what to do.

The atmosphere is great; Hashan circulates and gives help when needed and everyone assists fellow attendees.

Throughout each session, we each use computers to visit the website Hashan made for the Society. It contains all the resources we need to help us develop our Algorithm coding skills and exercises to hone our abilities. The material Hashan has written for us is written in such a way that it is easy to grasp the idea of the different algorithms but still presents an enjoyable challenge.

The activities we carry out during the meetings consist of learning to code in Haskell, a coding language similar to Python, and testing the fragments of code we write. The website has its own easy-to-understand exercises alongside explanations of the ideas. The exercises ask you to write your own function in Haskell which completes a certain task. Once completed, you test out your code using your own methods of testing.

The environment in which we do our coding was created by Hashan and has a simple file explorer on the left, a place to write your code in the middle, and the output on the right, as you can see in the image.



This Society is a great, enriching experience for all those interested in coding and computing plus anybody else who wishes to add to their computing skills. It is an excellent opportunity for anyone wanting to partake in the extra-curricular life of the School and in an engaging and challenging Society. It is great that such a thing exists at WHSB and that every part of it, including all the coding behind the webpage and the rest of the coding infrastructure, was designed and put together by a Year 13 at our School.

**Jake Pilkington (9S)**



# CLUBS & SOCIETIES CLUBS &

## Debating

This is the main term for the various Schools' Debating Competitions which we enter: the English-Speaking Union Mace, the Oxford Union Senior Schools' and the Cambridge Union's Schools. These are major National and International Competitions and the standard of debating is high and getting higher each year.

We will be defending a strong record from last year, having reached the Eastern Region Finals in the first-named and International Finals in the second. We will also be entering Year 7 to Year 9 teams in the International Competition for Young Debaters.

*Mr R Stevens, Head of Politics*



## Wargaming Club

Led by the masterly generalship of Miss Lo, the school's Wargaming Club has embarked on a new initiative and entered the *Games' Workshop Schools' League* for the very first time.

Our team has triumphantly overcome their opponents in the First Round and further conquests no doubt await!

The Club continues to meet weekly on Fridays after School in M2 and M3.

*Mr R Stevens  
Head of Politics*

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

## WHSB Alumni Network Project



A key aspect of the CDO's ongoing remit, working alongside the Old Westcliffian Association (OWA), is to develop a strong, diverse and flourishing alumni community. WHSB Alumni include all former students and staff, past and present. In addition to maintaining our existing links with those alumni who are still in contact with either the School or the OWA, we are looking to reach out to those alumni who presently have no link with us and who would like to make contact, keep up-to-date with School news and possibly attend future School and Alumni Networking events.

Our new termly-issued WHSB Alumni Network Newsletter was launched in September 2016 and received a very positive response. The first Alumni Network Social event took place in the City of London on 20 October 2016 and we were pleased to see so many of our former students and staff attend. Our next Alumni Network Social will take place closer to home on Friday 23 June 2017 so please save the

date. Further details will follow in the Alumni Network Newsletter and on both the School's and the Old Westcliffian Association's social media feeds. We look forward to meeting members of our Alumni Community so please spread the word.

If you or someone you know would like to join the WHSB Alumni Network and/or join the OWA, please take a few minutes to register your details via the WHSB School website. Select 'Community' from the Main Menu followed by 'Alumni & Old Westcliffian Association'. You will then receive password information enabling access to the secure 'Alumni' area of the School website. For further information, contact Mrs Clarke or Mrs Weller in the Community Development Office on **01702 475443** or via e-mail: [community@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:community@whsb.essex.sch.uk)

The WHSB Alumni Network is completely free to join and we look forward to hearing from you. In addition, you can follow WHSB on Facebook and Twitter where you can find out about the latest developments and events taking place at the School.

We would be delighted to welcome members of the alumni community back to the School to see what is going on.

In addition, the Old Westcliffian Association has accounts on Facebook and Twitter where you will have the opportunity to network and keep in touch with other members of the WHSB Alumni Community.

## Alumni Donation to School Library



On Friday 11 November, WHSB Alumni, Professor Brian Hamnett from the University of Essex (Department of History), visited the School to donate a large number of History books from his personal collection to the School Library. Professor Hamnett attended Westcliff High School for Boys from 1954-1961; then Peterhouse, Cambridge to study History, from 1961-1964, and as a Research Student from 1964-1967. He received his PhD (Cantab) in 1968. He specialised in Late-Spanish Colonial History and taught at the State University of New York at Stony Brook as an Assistant Professor in Latin-American History from 1968-1972, and at the University of Strathclyde from 1974. He moved to the University of Essex in 1990 and became a Professor in 1995.

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

After retirement, he was made an Emeritus Professor. He has published several books and articles on Latin-American and Spanish History, both in English and Spanish, including three editions of *A Concise History of Mexico* (Cambridge University of Press) and has two new books coming out: *The Enlightenment in Iberia and Ibero-America* (University of Wales Press) and *The End of Iberian Rule in Continental America, 1770-1830* (CUP, New York). He has been a member of the Royal Historical Society since 1986 and a Corresponding Member of the Mexican Academy of History since 1993. We thank Professor Hamnett for his very generous donation and look forward to him returning to the School to provide a university-style tutorial session for some of our Sixth Form History students.

## WHSB Documentary by Beyond the Point



Liam Heatherson (Old Westcliffian, 2007-2014) from *Beyond the Point*, a local award-winning historical film-making organisation based in Canvey, Essex, has now completed his documentary about the history of WHSB. Liam achieved A\* A\* A at A Level and finished a gap year, prior to embarking on a History degree at the University of Exeter in September 2016. Liam said, "I'm really glad to have finally completed it, it has taken a long time! Some parts of the video show things now long gone so in a way it has archived the School." Liam presented an exclusive first showing of his documentary at this year's Old Westcliffian Association's Annual Dinner in celebration of the Association's 90th Anniversary. The documentary will shortly be available to view on BTP's YouTube channel at <http://www.youtube.com/BeyondthePointTV>.

## Alumni Involvement in Careers & Work-Related Learning in 2017

This term, the School will be holding three Careers Evenings for students across all Year groups and their parents to attend. The first, for those interested in a Medical Career, will be held on Thursday 19 January. The second, focussing on jobs within the Banking and Finance sector, is on Thursday 23 February. Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) careers will be discussed on Thursday 16 March. We would like to thank all those members of the School and its wider community (our alumni and local business contacts) who have offered their time to assist with these Evenings. If anyone is able to offer our students careers advice at future events we would like to hear from you. Please contact Mrs Weller, who is in the Community Development Office, if you are able to assist:

[community@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:community@whsb.essex.sch.uk)

## WHSB in the Local Community

### CHALKWELL WARD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION



On 9 November 2016, Mrs Clarke, Community Development Officer, attended a meeting at the Chalkwell Ward Residents' Association and spoke to local residents about the School's history and connections with the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea dating back to 1920. Founded in 1973, the Chalkwell Ward Residents' Association ([www.chalkwell.org.uk](http://www.chalkwell.org.uk)) is a community organisation that aims both to support and inform people living in the ward regarding local issues. Local residents were also provided with information about WHSB's wide-ranging programme of events which runs throughout the academic year and they were invited to attend by booking tickets online via the School website.

We would like to thank the Association for the opportunity to speak to their members and their generous donation to the School's Centenary Fund.

## Armed Forces visit WHSB as part of their Community Liaison Role



Mrs Weller, Community Development Officer, facilitated visits by both the Army and Royal Marines in the Autumn Term 2016. On 23 September, representatives from the British Army's Chelmsford Army Careers Centre spent the day with over 100 Year 9 pupils, engaging them in various real-life army scenarios and activities involving themes such as Forensics, the Sciences and Citizenship.

This was an excellent Team-Activity Day and WHSB was delighted to be the very first school in the UK to support this new initiative. On 3 November, representatives from the Royal Marines' Eastern Region Visibility Team visited the School as part of their remit to visit schools and colleges within their allocated region and give presentations about the role of the Marines. During their visit, the Marines focused on Year 10 GCSE Physical Education pupils, providing an energetic programme of outdoor physical training, team-building activities and self-defence techniques.

## Donations to the WHSB Pupil Fund

We should like to thank all those parents who have previously donated, or continue to donate, money to the School's Pupil Fund. As the degree of state-funding for the School continues to decline, increasingly we will be required to rely on our own resources and to identify funding streams which can be accessed to support the continuing development of the School and its pupils. WHSB's Pupil Fund, one such stream, enables the School to enhance pupils' experience within the educational environment. The Pupil Fund is used to assist with the provision of the



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

multitude of extra-curricular activities and events which take place regularly after school and on Enrichment Days throughout the academic year. Donations can be made in the form of one-off payments in cash, by cheque (payable to WHSB), by monthly standing order, or via ParentPay.

If you would like to make a donation, are a current donor and wish to amend your donation or payment method, or wish to register with us for Gift Aid purposes,

please contact Mr Partridge, Director of Resources and Support Services.

All donations and enquiries are treated in the strictest confidence. We are extremely grateful for any donation received, no matter how small or infrequent, at any time during the academic year.

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



## PARENTS' ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

### Sainsbury's Active Kids 2016: Voucher Collection

In 2016, the Parents' Association co-ordinated the collection of Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers on behalf of the School and was able to purchase new items of equipment for the PE Department (table tennis bats, badminton equipment and cricket balls) and for Food Technology (baking equipment). We should like to thank the School Community for supporting this initiative and for taking the time to collect and send in these vouchers. Look out for Sainsbury's Active Kids 2017 as we will be collecting them again!

### Shop Online and Raise Funds for the School with Easyfundraising

*Easyfundraising* is a shopping directory listing some of the UK's favourite online stores, including *Amazon*, *John Lewis*, *Marks & Spencer*, *Debenhams* and over 2,000 others. Just use the links on the *easyfundraising* site whenever you shop online and, at no extra cost to you, the PA will receive a free donation of up to 15% from every purchase you make. It really is that simple and it is completely FREE to register. You will not pay a penny more for your shopping when you use the *easyfundraising* site. In fact you can even SAVE MONEY as many retailers offer discounts, special offers and even useful

'e-vouchers' exclusive to easyfundraising. If you shop online anyway, then why not raise valuable extra funds for us by using this fantastic scheme. All you need to do is visit [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and when you register, select Westcliff High School for Boys as the organisation you wish to support. Our thanks in anticipation.

### WHSB Parents' Association Winter Ball 2016

Our 2016 Winter Ball was held on Saturday 26 November 2016 with over 130 guests attending. The evening began with a sparkling drinks reception and canapés, followed by a three-course meal and dancing to the live band, *Big Yellow Suitcase*. 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, staff and friends were able to attend.

We would like to thank you for supporting us and we very much hope to see you again at our forthcoming events.



### WHSB Parents' Association Annual Race Night 2017

On Saturday 4 March, we will be hosting our 'Annual Race Night' fundraising event for the School. This is an extremely popular family night out so early booking is advised. Doors open at 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start. Tickets are priced at £6 for adults and £3 for pupils. Bring your own drinks and nibbles or, for an extra £4 per ticket, you can enjoy a fish and chip supper (or vegetarian alternative). Tickets can be booked through WHSB's online ticketing service.

Please come and join us. We always welcome new members to our Parents' Association Committee.

Please contact us via email:  
[pa@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:pa@whsb.essex.sch.uk)  
Alternatively, contact the School Office.

**Mrs K Merriman  
Chair WHSB Parents' Association**



## STEM Activities at WHSB

During the current year, over 500 of our scholars have benefitted from at least one extra-curricular activity arranged by the Science Department.



Pupils have built rockets to compete in the UK Rocketry Challenge, taken part in the Engineering Education Scheme, worked on Teen-Tech projects, visited local industry, built Rocket Cars as part of the Bloodhound Project, won the IT category of the Ford Challenge, and attended a number of *Engineering our Future* lectures at Anglia Ruskin University.



Our pupils have also taken part in the Royal Society's *Physics Masterclasses*, been awarded 15 CREST Awards, both Silver and Gold, won a commendation from Essex Digital Awards for an impressive entrepreneurial Software project, won their heat of the Faraday Challenge at Queen Mary (University of London) by successfully programming the recently announced BBC micro:bit and attended Buckingham Palace to receive an award from the National Grid for the UK's Best National Energy Project, presented by the Duke of York.

**Mr R Easby, Physics Technician**

## Engineering Masterclass: A Review

Last month, five Year 9 pupils were invited to attend an Engineering Masterclass run by the Royal Institution, along with many other pupils from schools across Essex. The sessions were held at PROCAT (*Prospects College of Advanced Technology*) in Basildon. Each of the six sessions were two and a half hours long. Each week saw something completely different as each session was being run by a different company focussing on a specific aspect within the subject of engineering. All of the sessions were staged in groups, which often contained pupils from a mixture of schools. This was a great opportunity to interact with members of other schools.

In one of the sessions we were asked to try to imitate what a printer does by using glue and dipping a sheet of paper into black sand. At first, the task was underestimated by the group, but we soon found out it was very difficult to do with precision. After that, the students learned how to repair an industrial scale printer by deconstructing and reconstructing it. During another week, an Italian defence and security firm named Leonardo gave us the task of using a *Raspberry Pi* computer (which is about the size of a credit card) to write code that could control a traffic light system. What was generally considered to be the students' favourite was the session held by Rolls Royce which allowed us to construct a part-cardboard, part-steel replica of a V8 engine.

Overall, it was a very enjoyable experience as it helped develop the students' abilities to work in groups, and also how to effectively problem-solve an issue an engineer may have in real-life scenarios. It also illustrated which sections of engineering may appeal to them the most, and some may consider it an option for a career path in later life.

**Alex Giffin (9N)**

## Visit to MoD Shoeburyness: Retrospective

On 21 November, fifteen Year 10 pupils were given the opportunity to visit QinetiQ in Shoeburyness.

It was an extremely beneficial trip that was relished by all who attended.

The day began with a speech introducing us to the Ministry of Defence and the different skills that we might need to pursue the field of Construction and Engineering. In addition, we heard from a former apprentice that told us of his experiences in becoming a worker for the company. Not only was this speech interesting, it also gave us a brief insight into what Engineering involves, and whether this field matches our interests.

The first half of the day involved heading over to the QUEBEC range, where two experienced workers introduced us to the 4.5 Mark Naval gun. We were shown how the gigantic weapon was constructed and the damage it could do. Moreover, a brief video was put together by the company, analysing the speed of the round and how many times it span per second. Although this activity did not involve any practical work, most pupils found it the most interesting.

After this, we had a 30-minute lunch break, where we had the opportunity to gain more information about the company.

The second half of the day was tremendous fun. The fifteen of us were split into three groups before we were briefly introduced to a firing mechanism called a trebuchet. This was created during the Middle Ages and was used to fling projectiles weighing up to 160kg into enemy territory.

However, we used 100g balls to knock down, instead of destroy, the target ahead. We were initially given 30 minutes to test out the different distances the ball travelled by adding weight onto the end of the trebuchet. Our points were then recorded onto a graph that showed distance against weight. The common trend was that as weight increased, the sling swung upwards at a greater speed, which resulted in the more distance being covered by the ball. With all of the data recorded, a best line of fit was drawn which helped us with the second part of the activity. Three targets were set up at random distances and, in our teams, we had to adjust the trebuchet to get the right direction in hitting all of the targets in just nine shots. However, only one of the four teams managed to hit all three targets, which was a fantastic feat considering



# STEM ACTIVITIES STEM ACTIVITIES

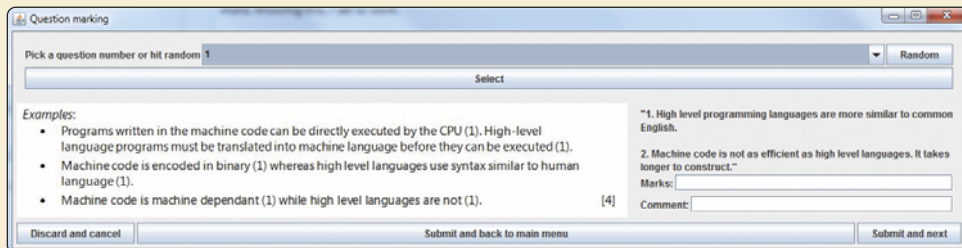
the short amount of time we had practising with the weapon. Doing this activity was exceedingly enjoyable and it allowed WHSB pupils to improve on their own teamwork skills.

Overall the trip to Shoburyness was very successful and worthwhile. I recommend this visit to any pupil that has the opportunity to go, and most of all I would like to thank the staff for arranging such a wonderful day.

*Jai Patel (10S)*

## Learning Java by Doing

During Year 10, our class was shown Mr Rahman's rather marvellous website to allow pupils studying Computing to hone their skills. Going home that day, I had a mission: make it work in Java. The website, using a (thankfully) simplistic structure, could be very easily interfaced with the Java library JSoup. JSoup was not something that I had ever heard of before, but setting out on my quest to replicate functionality,



I quickly stumbled upon the JSoup library, which allows a programmer to access websites, read data from the page, submit forms and more. Knowing this, I set to work.

In Google Chrome, you can press the F12 key to enter a world of myriad technical delights: the source code viewer. This became especially useful in deconstructing how the site worked. Using a Chrome App called Postman, which allows someone to make HTTP requests. I used this to poke around the site, practising logging in etc. When I had this understanding, I was ready to actually write some Java code.

I used an approach of writing out each tool in a separate 'method', so I would have one for logging in, one for fetching a

mark scheme, one for submitting an answer, etc. At this point, I would hard code my username and password into it, and rewrite the 'main' method every time I wanted to go from answering questions on my 'pile' to marking other people's answers. I put the project on hold after this.

A few months later, I decided that my knowledge of JFrames (creating visual interfaces with Java) was poor, and what better way to improve than by adding a visual interface to the code I had developed in those prior months. So I added those, tied it all together and finally had a tool that I use in lessons, because it makes my life easier.

*Felix Johnson (11S)*

# SITS TRIPS & VISITS TRIPS

## Geology Field Visit to Dorset

Saturday 11 to Friday 17 March 2017



Geology is a science that requires pupils to go out into the field and study; for example, minerals, rocks, fossils and geological structures within their natural environments.

From Saturday 11 March to Friday 17 March 2017, Year 10 geologists will visit coastal rock exposures and quarries to study such field relationships within Dorset. Based in Swanage, iconic locations such as Lulworth Cove, Durdle Door, Stair Hole, Kimmeridge Bay and Isle of Portland will be studied and students

will also be able to collect data for their coursework, which is worth 25% of their examination. The Dorset coastline merits UNESCO World Heritage status mainly because of its dinosaur fossil content and it promises to be an enjoyable and highly educational visit to an area of outstanding natural beauty.

*Mr N Cooper, Head of Geology*

## Barcelona Field Trip

Tuesday 21 to Friday 24 February 2017

Year 13 Geographers will, as has become traditional, be visiting Catalonia in Spain for their annual field visit. This is an essential pre-requisite to their Advanced Level summer examinations.

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 sand dune surveys.



This field visit has always proved a most rewarding experience for all concerned and it has helped the students achieve well in the second examined paper, by allowing them to practise and consolidate a range of fieldwork techniques and gather data for analysis and evaluation.



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

*Miss S Sparks, Head of Geography*

## Ski Trip to Hochfugen

Saturday 11 February to Sunday 19 February 2017



The popularity of our annual ski trip continues and this year we shall be visiting Hochfugen. We have been liaising with *Team4*, the ski company, following some difficulties with the hotel we have used previously, and we are pleased that they have offered us an alternative hotel in Hochfugen, which should far better suit our needs, and which we have now accepted for our trip. We are delighted that this new hotel will now allow our pupils to walk just a short distance from the hotel to the ski slopes, and we look forward to an exciting ski trip this year.

The ski trip to Saalbach in 2018 was advertised in November and, due to its popularity, all places were booked in just three days.

**Mr L Despres**  
*Ski Trip Coordinator*

## Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme at WHSB

### Bronze and Silver Awards

The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award is being run by Mr Tresidder and Mr Sims.

For this Award we recruit 30 pupils and competition is high. Applications began earlier this year, at the end of Year 9, and we plan to start slightly earlier next year. The reason for this timing is that we want pupils to complete the Bronze Award and progress onto the Silver Award without interference to their GCSE examinations. The current 2016 cohort are now well on the way to their Award.



All but two of the pupils taking the Silver Award 2016 have completed their Award and many of them have progressed to the Gold Award at local Open Centres. We congratulate all these pupils on their achievements.

**Mr L Despres**  
*DofE Coordinator*

## KS4 Computing Visit to Bletchley Park and the National Museum of Computing: A Review

On Friday 30 September, a group of GCSE Computing pupils visited the National Museum of Computing at Bletchley Park. With an 8.00am start, the coach journey was uneventful and long, however when we finally arrived, we were in for an exciting day of learning.



After routine safety procedures had been explained, we were taught what a Caesar Cipher is. In cryptography, a Caesar Cipher, named after Julius Caesar, is a type of substitution cipher in which the letters of the alphabet are 'shifted' a certain number of places in order to change the letters in the word that is to be encrypted. We were told to cypher our own phrases for a competition. The cohort was split into an "A" group and a "B" group. Once the messages had been cyphered each group chose one to swap and the challenge was to see which group would be the first to solve their assigned cipher and also to see whether anybody could crack the code within 2 minutes.

In the end, the "B" team won, though failed to complete the puzzle within two minutes. We were asked whether a computer would make the cipher easier to crack. The whole group then responded with a resounding "Yes!"

The group then moved to the next station where we were taught what the Lorenz cipher was and how it worked. Then we were taught how British cryptologists managed to break it. We examined multiple primitive machines that were used in the attempt to break the cipher including the famous Colossus computer. The machine was very loud and spanned the length of a large room. Then we moved on to increasingly more complex machines. These included computers that were the size of large rooms to much smaller machines, reminiscent of modern day laptops. Finally, just prior to lunch, we were allowed to play some retro video games from some very old systems, including the Super Nintendo and the Sega Saturn.

After lunch we were given a difficult task: Could you program artificial intelligences to the likes of 'Siri' and 'Cortana'? We were all given laptops and were told to try and think of questions people would ask such as "What is the date?" and "How old are you?". There were varying degrees of success as many found it very challenging.

Finally, we went to a room filled with some very old computers, called BBC Micros. We were told how children used to have to write code on their computers so they could play games such as Snake. We were given the code for Snake and we wrote it out on to the computer. It was a slow and meticulous process however we all got immense satisfaction when the game started up. Then we were given the task of devising hacks for the game. Some examples were from Mr Sims who made a hack that, when the snake bit itself, you would not lose, and Peter Simon, who made a hack whereby the score would increase much faster than that of the intended speed. We were also challenged to try and get on the museum leader board. Although nobody managed to get on the leader board, notable scores were achieved by William Skeldon who achieved a score of 180 and Brandon Mistry with an impressive score of 498.

Unfortunately, that was the last lesson of the day and we had to leave. Overall, it was a fun and exciting day. The group thanks Mr Sims who organised the event and the National Museum of Computing for having us.

**Peter Simon (10N)**



# SLICES OF PI: MATHEMATICS AT WHSB

## Senior Mathematics Challenge (SMC) and Senior Team Mathematics Challenge (STMC)

The Senior Mathematics Challenge ran on the 8 November 2016 with all Year 13 students studying Mathematics taking part, alongside all those in Year 12 who study Pre U Mathematics. We are pleased to announce that we managed to achieve 13 Gold Certificates, 50 Silver Certificates and 51 Bronze Certificates, which was an improvement on last year's competition. We also had a number of students who made it through to the follow on rounds.

Our congratulations go to *Oliver Croysdill 13C*, *William Brookes 13F* and *Jasen Walker 12H* who managed to get through to the British Mathematical Olympiad, coming in the top 0.5% of the candidates. Our further congratulations go to *Daniel Gilbert 13B*, *Anuj Patel 13H*, *Harry Dare 13A*, *Ryan Lawrence 13D*, *Lewis Hunt 13C* and *James Quigley 12G* who managed to get through to the Senior Kangaroo, coming in the top 2% of the candidates. We wish all of these students luck with the follow on rounds.

The Senior Team Mathematics Challenge ran on 23 November 2016. This competition consists of three rounds of problems issued in various different styles. The first is a group round, where all four work together to answer ten problems. The second is a cross number, where the team split into pairs to tackle across clues as one pair and down clues as the other pair without communicating.

The final round is a relay where they again work in pairs, with the first pair giving an answer to the second pair, who return a new answer and so on until all the questions are answered. The team consisted of *Anuj Patel*, *Oliver Croysdill*, *Nikhil Anthony* and *Ciaran Dunleavy*. This year the team came a respectable 5th place after a good first round, and a near perfect second round. Next year, we will be looking for able Year 12 students to join the team; if you wish to prepare for this feel free to collect some of the Intermediate Mathematics Challenge questions from the UKMT or sign up to the Intermediate Mentoring Scheme.

## Intermediate Mathematics Challenge (IMC)

2 February 2017

The Intermediate Mathematics Challenge runs on 2 February 2017. All Year 11 pupils, and those studying Further Mathematics in Year 10, will be able to participate in this National Competition that will test their problem-solving abilities.

Previously, we have experienced a great deal of success in this Competition, and we wish to highlight specifically that success has come from students across the whole ability range. Due to the nature of this Competition, we have many students who have challenges with their normal academic studies but who succeed in the IMC because they are able to showcase their problem-solving ability.

Feel free to ask your teachers for some additional problems, or you can search for the papers yourself by visiting the UKMT's website and following the links there. Last year's paper, with extended solutions, is available for you to use for preparation.

## Mentoring Schemes

The Junior (Years 7-9), Intermediate (Years 10 and 11) and Senior (Years 12 and 13) Mentoring Schemes are up and running. Each month, students are given a set of problems which they can work on in their free time, or as extension work in lessons. During the month, the teachers offering these schemes set up times to meet to discuss these problems. At the end of the month, the teachers conducting these schemes offer solutions to students who can check their work. Quite often there is more than one way to answer these problems, so alongside celebrating a correct answer you can also help others understand the way you tackled the problem.

These schemes are meant to extend the more able students by offering them a variety of problem-solving challenges. The problems offered in these schemes are similar to those encountered in the JMC, IMC or SMC. These are a fantastic way of showing your ability and your commitment in Mathematics, so if you

feel you are able to rise to the challenge, then sign up with Mr Doherty for the Junior scheme, Mr Manning for the Intermediate scheme or Mr Dowding for the Senior scheme to get involved.

## Student mentoring

The Mathematics Department continues to run a successful student-to-student tutoring scheme over lunch time and break time. If you wish to sign up for this scheme, either as someone who can help mentor another student or someone who needs help themselves, please see Mr Doherty.

We can accommodate students from Years 7-13 in both Mathematics and Further Mathematics, so if you are having any problems with your work feel free to ask for help. The sessions with your mentor are designed to run across the year but the scheme is flexible to suit your needs, so if you are having a challenging time this term as there is much work on Algebra, then we can arrange a mentor for a short period of time instead.

## MyMaths Challenge

The MyMaths Challenge continues to run in Years 7, 8 and 9. In Years 7 and 8, you must complete five Level 5, three Level 6 or two Level 7 tasks, to be awarded with a House Point. In Year 9, you must complete five Level 6, three Level 7 and two Level 8 tasks. The House Points are awarded at the end of the year and particular note is made of those pupils who have made impressive progress. This is an easy way to earn House Points and improve in Mathematics. You get to choose exactly what tasks you wish to do.

**Mr M Dowding**  
Head of Mathematics (Acting)

# DRAMA, LECTURES AND EVENTS

## The Woman in Black

Thursday 12 January

The first time I saw *The Woman in Black* I was on a School trip. I was in Year 10 and we had coached to London's diminutive Fortune Theatre, crept along the narrow galleys, and taken our seats in the stalls. As the lights darkened and the actors took to the stage, I remember being instantly engaged and excited about what was going to happen. There are two things I cannot deny about that trip to the theatre: one – the scant set design and small cast offered more than I ever could have imagined; two – it is by far the scariest thing I have seen in my whole life!

Ignore the film. And what you think you know about *The Woman in Black*. This is the terrifying tale of Alice Drablow and her sister, Jannet Hymfrye. Bound to Eel Marsh House by a fateful accident that occurred years before, when Mrs Drablow dies there is nobody to organise her papers. A London law firm sends an enthusiastic and naïve junior solicitor, Arthur Kipps, to the house. Despite the warnings he receives from the locals, Arthur stays on site and suffers the most horrifying ordeal of his life. Years later, haunted by the memories, he turns to a director to help him tell the story of *The Woman in Black*.

It's scary, absorbing and interestingly staged, and I recommend it to any lover of horror or Gothic. In fact, it is its roots in Gothic Literature that makes this trip so appropriate for members of Years 9 and 10, who will (or have already) be studying classic Gothic novels, such as *Frankenstein* and *Jekyll and Hyde*, and a selection of short stories.

For those pupils attending, details about the trip will be issued closer to the time, including arrangements for meeting at the theatre and appropriate attire. I hope all those involved are already excited and looking forward to what will most definitely prove to be a wonderful trip to the theatre.

**Miss A Elphick**  
Year 10 Progress Leader

## Poetry Live!

Friday 24 February 2017

On Friday 24 February 2017, 44 Year 11 pupils will be heading to Apollo Victoria Theatre for an engaging and insightful day, exploring a range of poetry included in the AQA GCSE Literature anthology. Although the day has been offered by AQA for over ten years, this is the first time in quite a while pupils from this School have attended and on behalf of the department, I can certainly say it is an event we are excited about.

Poetry is one of the essential threads of English Literature studies, and in the GCSE exam, the analysis and comparison of poetry is worth nearly 60% of the grade. What makes poetry such an exciting element of the English Literature GCSE is its range of forms, structures, styles, messages, and time-periods. From Percy Bysshe Shelley's 1818 sonnet *Ozymandias*, that comments on the temporary nature of power, to Wilfred Owen's World War 1 *Exposure*, that details the horrifying and distressing aspects of warfare, to John Agard's lively and passionate *Checking Out Me History*, that outlines the difficulties of creating and maintaining a personal identity and history, the power of poetry cannot be denied, nor can its many layers. Where, in most subjects, there is a clear expectation of right and wrong, a response to poetry is personal and subjective, and what pupils need to gain is a confidence in not only developing these ideas, but also in sharing them appropriately. That is why this event is so helpful.

Over the day, famous poets such as Simon Amis, Daljit Nagra, and Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy will deliver readings of their poems from the anthology, and of work published before 1914.

Two presentations by the chief examiner will outline to pupils what AQA is really looking for in a poetry response, suggesting ways that pupils can access the poems and use their time effectively in the exam to write about their interpretations.

For this last element alone, I can see no reason why a pupil about to sit a GCSE exam would not attend. However, as a lover of literature, I can only encourage pupils to open their minds and to see this as an interesting experience, where they will be able to hear some of the very best words written by some of the very best British poets, and possibly, discover something they will learn to love.

**Miss A Elphick**, Year 10 Progress Leader

## Sixth Form History: The Stuarts

Wednesday 18 January 2017

On Wednesday 18 January, Dr David Smith (Selwyn College, Cambridge) will talk to A Level History students on "*Oliver Cromwell: Hero or Villain?*" This is very much a partner piece to his similarly titled talk in December on Charles I. In the argument about the role of individuals in History versus the influence of more long-term social, economic and political changes, there can be few more striking examples than Charles I and Oliver Cromwell.

**Mr R Stevens**, Head of Politics

## Sixth Form History: The Russian Revolution

Wednesday 22 March 2017

On Wednesday 22 March, Professor Chris Read (Warwick University) will be visiting the School for the second consecutive year to talk to A Level History students about the Russian Revolution. His topic this time will be Revolution from above or below? exploring the debate about whether the February Revolution '*fits*' the Marxist model of a revolt by an oppressed, class-conscious proletariat or is rather more of a '*coup d'état*' by elites within the Duma and Army desperate to revive Russia's military fortunes during WW1.

**Mr R Stevens**, Head of Politics

## History Evening: Oliver Cromwell

Wednesday 18 January 2017

Following the request for more non-Military History topics from those who attended Dr Marc Morris' talk on Edward I last term, we have asked Dr David Smith to stay on at School after speaking to the Sixth Form (see above) on Wednesday 18 January. He will offer his view on Oliver Cromwell to an audience of parents, pupils, staff and friends of the School at 7pm, looking at the controversial career of the great Regicide. Was he "*the greatest Englishman of all time*" as one Victorian historian called him or the "*Brave Bad Man*" acknowledged by one of his enemies? Did he deserve to be remembered as "*Our Chief of Men*" as in Milton's poem or as the subject of a popular Irish curse?

**Mr R Stevens**  
Head of Politics

## Greek Play

In February, we plan to take a party to see King's College, London's annual Greek play, which this year is Aeschylus' *Prometheus Unbound*. Perhaps less well known than Shelley's version, *Prometheus Unbound* only survives in 11 fragments preserved by later writers, including Cicero. It is considered part of a trilogy of plays concerned with the torments of the titan, Prometheus, who defies the gods and proceeds to give fire to humanity (theft of fire), for which he is subjected to eternal punishment and suffering at the hands of Zeus.

**Mr R Stevens**  
Head of Politics



# CCF: FRONT AND CENTRE

## Review of the Autumn Term

Last term, the WHSB Combined Cadet Force (CCF) once again had a full programme of activities including a Cadet Forces Instructional Technique Training Day, two Field Days, four Remembrance Services, a Year 5 Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children CCF Experience Day, a Year 9 Taster Session and Induction Day, and the expansion of the CCF to allow for an establishment of up to 125 cadets.

In early October, the CCF contributed to the School's Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children *Go For Grammar* Programme, running a series of activities including First Aid, living in the field (comprising shelter building and cooking in the field), and a number of leadership tasks. The following week, the Year 11 cadets and Sixth Form NCOs undertook a Junior NCOs Field Weekend in which they were instructed on the proper occupation of a harbour area, shelter building and the Orders process. They also tackled the assault course and were given tours of 2 Para's vehicle fleet and a World War 2 era RAF Dakota at the gates of Merville Barracks, home of the Parachute Regiment.

In November, the cadets were once again heavily involved in the Remembrance events. On Friday 11 November, as well as taking part in the School's own Service of Remembrance, the CCF also provided a

guard of honour for Remembrance services at Hamstel Infants and Junior Schools, and conducted a Remembrance Service at Edwards Hall Primary School, after which they conducted a series of Remembrance-themed command tasks for the Years 5 and 6 pupils. On Saturday 12 November, a group of cadets assisted the Orpheus Singers at their Concert of Remembrance at Southend Plaza. On Remembrance Sunday, they joined other cadet units, veterans, reservists, emergency services and other uniformed groups in the Borough as part of Southend's Remembrance Parade.

On Thursday 17 November, the CCF ran a series of taster sessions for potential cadets from Year 9 and, following that, an induction session on Saturday 19 November for those who will be joining the CCF. During this induction cadets were issued with uniform and given a basic introduction to drill, rank structures, wearing uniform and some other basic skills.

RSM Lyne, our School Staff Instructor, ran a course on the Cadet Forces Instructional Technique On Saturday 3 December, teaching Methods of Instruction to prepare our Sixth Form Cadets to become Senior NCOs.

Towards the end of term, on Tuesday 13 December, a further excursion organised by RSM Lyne (a former Royal Engineer), saw Year 10 cadets and a small group of Sixth Form NCOs, accompanied by the

RSM, Captain Bleakley, 2Lt Tresidder, and Mr Sims, visit the Royal Engineer Boat School in Chatham, Kent. The training package arranged by the Boat School instructors, familiarised the cadets with different types of craft, including an army boat operations introduction and then familiarisation with the Mk6 assault boat, Mk3 rigid raider and combat support boat. Cadets also visited the Royal Engineers' Museum.

## Forthcoming CCF events

This will be another busy term for the CCF with plans for a series of days at the ranges in Colchester in February, and a week-long Battle Camp for Senior Cadets at Swynnerton Training Area across the spring half term break. In addition, the CCF intends to enter both the Combat Cadet Competition and Welbeck Leadership Challenge.

Moreover, the CCF has its first ever Biennial Inspection pencilled in for March, with a date to be confirmed. It is our intention to hold our formal Parade and Mess Dinner to coincide with this event this year. Details will be published when the date has been confirmed.

**Captain J Bleakley**  
**WHSB CCF Contingent**





# NEWS FROM THE MODERN FOREIGN

This has been a busy term for the MFL Department. We have celebrated the European Day of Languages, we have had visits from our two partner schools from Bonn and Rouen, our film club has continued, our Modern Languages Assistants have arrived from Germany and France and Mrs Niedziela led a trip for Sixth Form students to the German Careers Fair at the London School of Economics. Looking forward to the Easter Term, we will pay our return visits to our two exchange schools, always exciting events in our calendar. Below we introduce our Assistants, we have a review of the German exchange and a piece about the mentoring opportunities which exist in MFL.

*Mrs J Williams, Acting Head of MFL*



## Our new German Assistant: Jonas

Hi, my name is Jonas Alpmann and I have taken up the post of German Language Assistant at Westcliff High School for Boys. In Germany, I grew up in Cloppenburg, which is a smaller city in the north-west of Germany and which is famous for its open-air museum with various old regional buildings. I live in Hannover, which is the capital of Lower-Saxony, where I am studying Music and English to qualify as a high school teacher. Hannover is a very interesting and lively city with lots of opportunities, especially for musicians, as it has a well-acknowledged music college and was appointed UNESCO City of Music in 2014. Fun fact: Great Britain and Hannover have a strong connection, at they were both ruled by the same kings, including George I.-IV., from 1714 to 1837, the so called "Personal union".

For my studies in English, I have to spend at least three months in an English-speaking country. I decided to extend this time by applying for a job as a Foreign Language Assistant, as I think it is a thorough and intensive way to get to know the land and the people. Also, I hope to get some experience for my future career as a teacher. My impression of WHSB is a very good one, so far. I feel very welcomed by both teachers and students and am well supported by staff, and especially the Foreign Language Department. The generally high level of the German learners makes my work enjoyable and demanding at the same time.

It is also interesting to see the differences between English and German schools, beginning with school uniforms (we don't have them), school facilities (I especially like your music rooms) and everyday school life (long day, but many breaks) and ending with the examination system (very different), discipline (I'm impressed) and a teacher's work load (luckily I'm only an assistant!).

I hope that my time at Westcliff will provide me with lots of experiences, new ties of friendships and many impressions of your country and culture.

## Our new French Assistante: Sarah

My name is Sarah Zerrouki and I am the new French Assistant at WHSB. I have a master's degree in multilingual specialised translation in both Spanish and English, so I know how important it is to learn foreign languages. After my graduation, I worked for several years as a project manager in a translation agency in Paris but for personal reasons I had to go back to my hometown in the North of France.

I decided then to reorient my career and I realised how much I love working with children and how fulfilling it can be. It allows you to pass on knowledge and to contribute to the education of so many children. I chose to apply for a post as a French Assistant to enable me to be immersed in English. Furthermore, it corresponds with my future project since I would like to teach in the long term in an English-speaking country, ideally in a primary school.

I really like the British culture and way of life. At first, when I found out I was going into a school for boys I was a bit nervous. It is so different from what we have in France; I didn't know what to expect but so far it has been a wonderful experience. I really love sharing my language and my culture with the students and also learning from them. Finally, let me tell you more about myself.

I really love baking and reading, and I crochet as well. I also love travelling and discovering all kinds of different cultures. So far, I have been to Spain, Turkey, Greece, Ireland, Jordan, and last year I went on a road trip on the East coast of the United States from Washington to Boston.

## Mentoring in Modern Languages

Take a stroll down the MFL corridor during any lunchtime and you will find a hive of activity in the classrooms. One aspect of our lunchtime provision is our pupil-led peer mentoring which runs in all three languages. In the piece below, Pratham Mehrotra writes about the opportunities in Spanish.

## Spanish Mentoring



Languages play a huge role at WHSB, and thanks to the MFL staff we are very fortunate to receive excellent language skills that will stay with us for the rest of our lives. Spanish has been a recent introduction to WHSB but despite its novelty, it has been very popular in the school and continues to inspire enthusiasm and interest.

During Tuesdays and Thursdays, Miss Bellinghausen has kindly put together a mentoring scheme, where pupils from Years 7-10, who are struggling with the subject, can be put together with a senior



# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

mentor who is more confident. Together, they cover areas of weakness such as tenses, verbs and general vocabulary until Miss Bellinghausen thinks that the pupil has made enough progress and improvement in their Spanish skills. This is a very effective method of engaging with pupils who need more help in the subject, maintaining their interest in Spanish without disheartening them.

The process involves one-on-one mentoring so the pupil receives a more concentrated amount of help and any queries or problems can be quickly and easily solved. Furthermore, mentors are rewarded with House Points and praise to make sure they do not lose passion for mentoring others. This scheme is beneficial to the School community and reflects WHSB's core values and our Learner Profile.

The MFL Department and the School greatly look forward to the continued progress of the mentoring system, the ever valuable role it plays in the development of pupils, and the good results it continues to produce.

**Pratham Mehrotra (10C)**

## German Exchange Testimonial

When we first met our partners it was a daunting experience. We soon realised that there was nothing to worry about and the teachers helped us get acquainted with our partners. The first evening was difficult but we managed to find out our interests and it just got better from there.

With the weekend quickly upon us we had to make plans. My partner and I went to the cinema and played mini golf on the Saturday (helpful tip: do activities based on the weather conditions). The next day was a journey to the secret forest in Kent. My partner and I enjoyed this because we shared an interest in outdoor activities.

Overall the experience was challenging but fun and I recommend it to anyone thinking about taking part in the Exchange. I look forward to seeing the German school in March.

**Michael Niman (10W)**

## French Exchange: A Review

A new French Exchange is now in place between WHSB, in partnership with our neighbouring Girls' School, and the Institution Rey, a Sixth Form College in the French city of Rouen, in Normandy. The two Westcliff Schools hosted 24 French students in November; for our part, we are looking forward with a lot of enthusiasm to our first visit to Normandy in April 2017.



In the photo, Mr. Skelly receives a gift from Institution Rey, presented by Mme Saunier (lead French teacher on the Exchange) and from her colleague Mme Séglas. Judging from the experiences of two of our own boys, any apprehensions were immediately dispelled.

Josh Jones, Year 12 said *"It was very enjoyable hosting my French exchange partner, Arthur. We shared for the most part the same interests, so we got on with each other very well. Despite the fact that most of the conversation was in English, my French vocabulary improved substantially and I picked up several phrases. My partner was very pleasant and polite which made it a pleasure to host him for eight days. It was also pleasing to see the extent to which his English improved in such a short space of time."*

Year 10 pupil, Ben Johanson, said *"At first I was nervous about the French exchange, but Dimitri came to my house and was a really nice guy. We had lots in common: we both play guitar and video games. At the weekend we went to London, first to Greenwich planetarium, then to the London Eye, and finally we ate at Spitalfields Market. On Sunday we saw a remembrance parade and on to Southend pier. Throughout the week we would play guitar, and we enjoyed the lessons we had together. It was really fun and easy to communicate. I cannot wait to go to France."*



The group photo shows Josh, Adam, Alex, David, Gurajan and Ben along with their French Exchange partners.

Mr. Sampson is continuing his efforts to broaden the participation from WHSB; therefore any boys currently in Years 8-12 are encouraged to take part. There might be a place for you as early as this term, allowing you to be part of the first inaugural trip and exchanging with Rey's partner High School in Rouen.

**Mr G Sampson**  
*Teacher of French*

## Language and Culture Trip to Barcelona for Spanish Pupils

**Friday 21 to Monday 24 July 2017**

The Modern Languages Department is delighted to offer this new and exciting opportunity for a small group of our Year 10 GCSE Spanish students. A Language and Culture trip to Barcelona will provide them with plenty of opportunities to put their Spanish language skills into practice, extend their vocabulary and discover the Catalan culture.

The trip will include a visit and tour to Barcelona FC's Camp Nou, which will bring out the passion in the sports fans amongst the group, whilst the more artistic can enquire about Antoni Gaudi and his influence on the architecture of the capital of Catalonia. We will also see a live Flamenco show, enjoy an authentic tapas experience, and visit la Sagrada Familia, the beach, port and Las Ramblas. Nothing can replace the passion for the language that will be instilled in your son by a visit to the country to see at first hand the beauty, history and culture of Barcelona. The trip is scheduled to take place from 21-24 July 2017.

**Miss R Bellinghausen**  
*Head of Spanish*

## Spring Chamber Recital

Thursday 26 January 2017

The year's second Chamber Recital will present another diverse programme of music, showcasing the very best talent that the School has to offer. Musicians from every Year group will take to the stage, promising an excellent evening of entertainment. This evening will feature Alex Usher returning to the clarinet after numerous solo piano performances, playing Solo de Concours by Messager. He will be joined on stage by Year 7 pupil, Pratyaksh Gupta, making his debut performance on the piano, in addition to regular performers, such as cellist, Miles Graham, violinist, Niam Chauhan and singer, Cameron MacDonald.

Chamber Concert regulars namely the Westcliff String Ensemble are set to return, as well as the Saxophone Quartet. A variety of other soloists will also take to the stage.

*Tickets are priced at £5 for adults.  
This concert is free of charge for pupils.*

## Westcliff Sinfonia Spring Concert

Thursday 9 March 2017



This term's school Concert will include a performance of Grieg's Peer Gynt Suites No 1 and No 2. Perhaps one of the most famous examples of programme music, this Suite boasts a collection of well-known

tunes including Morning, Anitra's Dance and In the Hall of the Mountain King. The music was originally composed to accompany Henrik Ibsen's play of the same name, which Grieg was more than happy to write. In fact, his wife commented on his devotion to the project, saying that *"the more he saturated his mind with the powerful poem, the more clearly he saw that he was the right man for a work of such witchery and so permeated with the Norwegian spirit."* This should be of particular interest to Year 8 pupils who will be completing a Scheme of Work on programme music that features Grieg's work.

The Concert will open with Alex Wood conducting another piece of programme music: Kikimora by Anatoly Lyadov, a composer who was drawn to Russian subjects and folklore. This piece is no exception, with the orchestra used to portray the eponymous creature who *"grows up with a magician in the mountains...with evil intentions for the world."*

The evening will also feature a favourite composer of the orchestra, Johann Strauss I, whose Huldigung der Konigin Victoria von Gross Brittanien was written as a homage to Queen Victoria. The piece makes use of some typical British melodies, with a variation of Rule Britannia and a waltz version of the National Anthem featuring at various points in the piece.

*Tickets are priced at £5 for adults.  
This Concert is free of charge for pupils.*

## Year 8 Cultural Enrichment Project

This term, all Year 8 pupils will attend at least one of the Concerts listed in the Diary as an audience member, and write a review of their chosen event. This written work will be evaluated as a formal assessment and will contribute to their written report and end-of-year grades. More details will be given during lesson-time.



## Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Cliffs Pavilion

Sunday 5 March 2017

The world-class Royal Philharmonic Orchestra will be playing a variety of exclusively Russian works at this concert, held a little closer to home than our usual termly trips. The evening will hold an array of crowd-pleasing works including Borodin's Polovtsian Dances, Rachmaninov's Variations on a Theme of Paganini, Tchaikovsky's finale from Swan Lake and his stirring 1812 Overture, famously featuring percussive canon fire. This is an excellent opportunity for Year 8 pupils to experience musical styles covered in Theme and Variation and Programme Music schemes of work, but will also be a worthwhile excursion for any interested music-lovers, or those wishing to learn more.

*Tickets are priced at £13.50 for students and £27.50 for adults.*

*Mr T Derrick, Director of Music*

## Slavophiles verses Westernizers: The Fight for Russia's Musical Tradition

Thursday 19 January 2017



*Can you restore a national tradition when it has been hijacked by another culture?*

*Should you even try?*

This was the question asked by many artists, authors and composers in 19th century Russia, and will be the focus of the first of termly seminars focusing on the contexts behind the composition of music. The seminar will take place on Thursday 19 January 2017 in M16, starting at 3.45pm.

This should be of interest to musicians from Years 9-13 and to those planning to attend the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra concert on 5 March.

*Mr T Derrick, Director of Music*

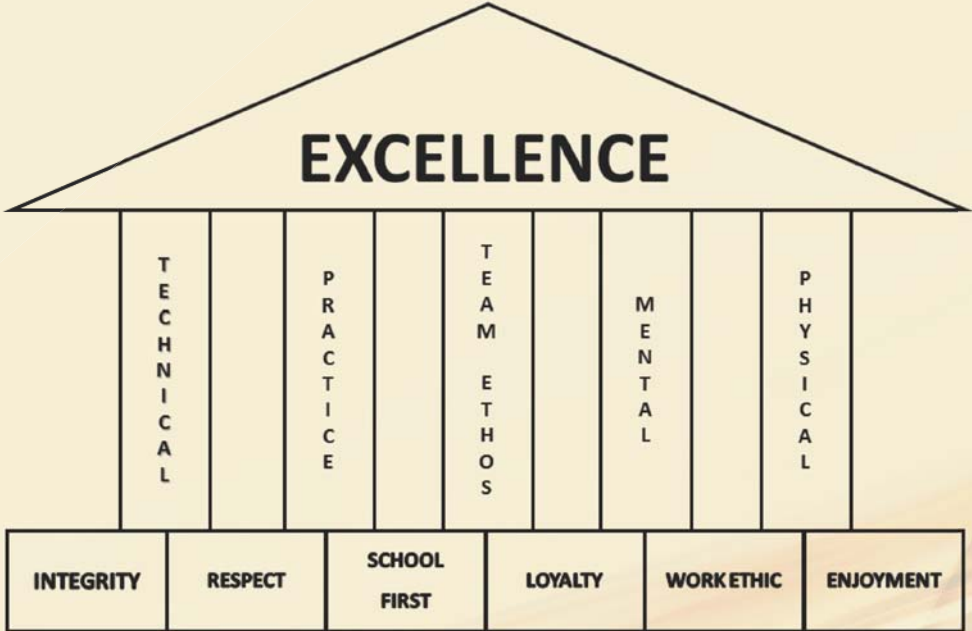


# SCHOOL SPORT AND THE HOUSE SYSTEM

As the new Director of Sport this is my first Westcliff Diary. I would like to take this opportunity to say what a fantastic time I am having teaching and working with the pupils. They have a great attitude and a desire to represent WHSB to the very best of their ability. This is combined with the active support of the Senior Team and staff who wish to see the increased success of our pupils in a sporting context. Sport has had a highly positive impact on my life, both in terms of physical skill and also in terms of attitude, teamwork, loyalty, resilience and a sense of belonging to something shared across countries and cultures.

The challenge, for me, is to ensure the provision of these opportunities for all WHSB pupils. High quality teaching incorporates skill, as well as attitude for all pupils. The challenge this term has been to increase the opportunities for boys to take part in extra-curricular sport. The frequency of practices offered has increased this year through the introduction of ‘before school sessions’ alongside lunchtime, after school, and an evolving Saturday programme.

Many pupils at WHSB are talented at sport. It is, however, important to remember the words of Tim Notke that **“hard work beats talent if talent does not work hard.”** The pupils are definitely working hard! The combination of talent and work ethic will lead to their increased success in sport and prove valuable in many other areas of life. I would like to share with you my vision for sport at WHSB that is best illustrated diagrammatically as a temple.



It is important to note that excellence is relative to the individual achieving their full potential. Maximising their progress and enjoying the journey to realizing their potential is central to my vision.

The School will continue to enter local, regional, and national competitions across a wide range of sports. Ultimately, the performance aim is to have regular success at a regional and national level. We are continuing our work with local primary schools and will be hosting a variety of tournaments across a range of sports. Linking with the community is an important aspect of any school and it is important that we give the community an insight into the exceptional environment at WHSB.

The autumn term was busy, with an impressive 163 fixtures played over 78 School days. This is a testament to both the pupils and staff throughout the school week but also those who contribute to a growing Saturday programme.

Saturday sport is an important part of the tradition and history of Westcliff High School for Boys and it is great to see such endeavor and pride in representing the School badge. There have been notable successes with the Year 10 and 11 indoor athletics team, with WHSB achieving silver at the Lee Valley Indoor Championships, losing out by a point. The winning team running a Championship Record in the 200 meters to gain a bonus point! The combined Year 11 and 12 ‘Tens’ rugby team won the County title beating well-established rugby schools along the way.

This group of individuals, with the important contribution of influential Year 13 players also had an enjoyable Natwest Bowl Cup run, losing in a tight fought game by a couple of points. The Key Stage 4 pairing of Dominic Moon and George Earle returned from Southend High School for Boys as Borough badminton winners beating Southend in the final. We were within two points of making it an all Westcliff final. Congratulations to all students who represented the School in this tournament.

Our Year 7 pupils have engaged and thrown themselves fully into life as a pupil at WHSB. Being open to opportunity is an element of the WHSB Learner Profile. It is a vital element, especially in Year 7 when there are so many new experiences on offer. This openness to new opportunities encourages the development of other elements within the Profile; Personal Integrity, Effective Communicator, Collaborative and Supportive. Their attitude has been superb with excellent attendance at both fixtures and practices.

A wide variety of sports ranging from badminton, tennis, cross country, football, rugby, basketball, through to new clubs such as squash, have all been available to Year 7. A particular mention goes to the many pupils who have regularly trained for rugby. This attitude to training has had a direct impact on the results which have been very pleasing. Being able to field two sides for every fixture is an excellent achievement and testimony to their commitment and enthusiasm.

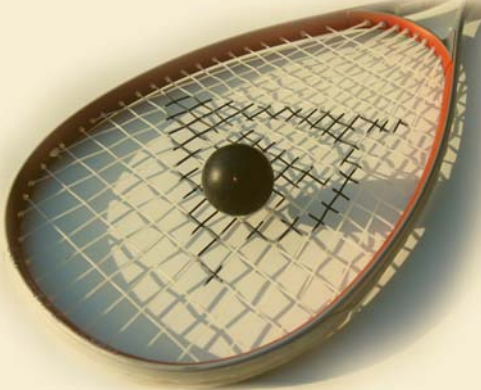
A special thanks goes to Mr Garstin for his enthusiasm and commitment in running the Year 7 rugby teams. The boys are clearly modelling the attitude of their coach.



# SCHOOL SPORT AND THE HOUSE SYSTEM

The introduction of a squash club, goes to demonstrate that the PE Department is always keen to create a wider level of sporting opportunities. If there is a sport in which you as a parent can offer support, to provide further opportunities to WHSB pupils, please do contact the school.

The school and the Parents Association are being incredibly supportive in providing superb new equipment that enhances the experience of students at WHSB. I would like to take this opportunity to offer my thanks to them for the support they are giving towards the development of sport at WHSB.



Sean Fitzpatrick, an 'All Black' captain, states that **"Success = modest improvement consistently done."** Within sport, we have consistently improved this term. Increasing success will continue to come with the same attitude and approach to sport over the coming months and years. A great first term by all involved with sport at WHSB. Let us not sit back content but continue to strive to be the best that we can be.

**Mr T Morrish**  
Director of Sport

## House System Report, 2015-16

The House System has continued to go from strength to strength and it has been an honour to be appointed as Senior Head of House with responsibility for coordinating the House System as a whole. I also remain proud Head of Harrier and it is my privilege to continue to lead my House for a 4th academic year.

This year, our emphasis has been on developing new House activities and broadening participation in the Sixth Form. New events have included, among others, House: Poetry, *Lord of the Rings*, *Magic the*

*Gathering*, *WarHammer*, *Bake-Off*, Christmas cards, *Star Wars*, Sports Quiz, Combined Sciences, Algorithms, Cartography, *Harry Potter* and also Improvisational Theatre ('improv'). More established events have also taken place, such as Spelling, General Knowledge, Current Affairs, Music, Badminton, Rugby and Business.

I would like to express my gratitude to Mr Shirlin, Mr Tresidder and Miss Dolan for their hard work and commitment organising their respective Houses. In addition, I would like to acknowledge Miss Lo and Mrs S Robinson, and other teaching staff, who have supported House events. I would also like to thank the House Captains, Vice-Captains, Year Representatives and all the students that have got involved to help make the House System a success.

Upcoming events taking place in the New Year will include table tennis, geography, rapping, table-football, French, cross country, basketball, tennis, athletics, football, debating, mental arithmetic, chess, oratory and many more. Please see the notice-boards and listen to announcements in registers for more details.

If you have any ideas about new House events or would like to assist with organising an activity, then please do not hesitate to contact me. Remember, it is all about getting involved, trying new things and, most importantly, having fun!

**Mr R Barber**  
Senior Head of House

## Equestrian Success at WHSB

The autumn term marked the WHSB's Equestrian Team's first competition of the season as well as its second year competing nationally. The Equestrian Team has already come up against some fierce competition at the NSEA Grass Roots Qualifiers, however, we are pleased to announce that our appearances have been extremely successful.

Thus far, Noah Waterfield and Natasha Webb have returned fantastic performances, gaining critical points in the NSEA League. With his own horse, Clover, Noah has already won a 70cm Championship and Natasha has been showing excellent progress with her new horse, Rosie.



We anticipate being able to take the full force of the team to our final competition of the calendar year, ensuring we are ready to attend a whole host of competitions in the Show Jumping and Cross-Country disciplines in the coming year. In 2017, we expect to not only be attending competitions nationwide, but also covering topics such as Farriery and Equine First Aid in our weekly meetings.

**Miss C Bailey**  
Teaching & Administration Assistant



# LOOKING BACK AT 2016 IN PICTURES

*Just a Few of the Many Special Memories!*



**January** – Our Sixth Form Building opens



**February** – Year 11 and 12 students visit the University of Cambridge



**March** – Charity Week raises £20,000



**April** – Passionate debates on the EU Referendum take place



**May** – Our new minibus is delivered (our thanks to the PA)



**June** – Sir David Amess opens our Garden Party



**July** – Sports Day takes place



**August** – Our pupils celebrate superb GCSE and A-Level results



**September** – Year 7 visit Stubbers Activity and Adventure Centre



**October** – The first WCGC Go for Grammar day of the academic year takes place



**November** – Our cadets lead the parade at the town's Remembrance Service



**December** – Year 8 and 9 are crowned Lee Valley Combined Indoor Athletics champions



# SPRING TERM 2016 CALENDAR

## SPRING TERM

Thursday 5 January	<b>SPRING TERM BEGINS</b>	8.40am
Saturday 7 January	Form 7N BaseJump Team-building	3.00pm - 4.30pm
9-13 January	Year 12 Formative Trial Examinations	
Thursday 12 January	Women in Black Theatre Visit	7.30pm
Saturday 14 January	WCGC: Humanities Day	8.30am - 4.00pm
Tuesday 17 January	<b>Year 11 Entry to Sixth Form Evening</b>	7.30pm
Wednesday 18 January	IET Faraday Challenge	8.00am - 4.30pm
	Dr D Smith's Year 12 History Lecture	1.55pm - 3.35pm
	Engineering Lecture at Ford Dunton	6.30pm - 9.30pm
	History Lecture: Oliver Cromwell	7.00pm - 9.00pm
Thursday 19 January	<i>Careers in Medicine</i> Lecture	7.00pm - 9.00pm
Friday 20 January	<b>Year 11 Phase 2 Reports Issued</b>	
Monday 23 January	Year 11 PHSE - Dead End Performance	8.45am - 10.00am
	<b>Year 8 Parents' Evening</b>	4.00pm - 6.00pm
25 January - 3 February	Year 13 Trial Examinations	
Thursday 26 January	Spring Chamber Recital	7.30pm - 9.30pm
Friday 27 January	<b>Holocaust Remembrance Service</b>	8.45am - 10.00am
Tuesday 31 January	Year 12 Chemistry Lectures	8.30am - 4.30pm
	Year 9 Immunisations	9.00am - 1.30pm
	Year 11 A Level Taster Seminars	1.55pm - 3.35pm
Thursday 2 February	IMC Mathematics Challenge	
	Year 9 Energy Quest Challenge	
Friday 3 February	<b>Year 12 Phase 2 Reports Issued</b>	
Monday 6 February	<b>Year 11 Parents' Meeting</b>	4.00pm - 6.00pm
7 - 9 February	School Musical Production: <i>Oliver! The Musical</i>	7.30pm
Friday 10 February	<b>Year 9 Phase 2 Reports Issued</b>	
11 - 19 February	Ski Trip to Hochfugen	
w/c 13 - 17 February	<b>SPRING HALF TERM</b>	
Monday 20 February	<b>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY</b>	
21 - 24 February	Year 12 Legacy Trial Examinations	
21 - 24 February	Year 13 Geographers visit Barcelona	
Wednesday 22 February	Year 9 Parents' Surgery	4.00pm - 6.00pm
Thursday 23 February	<i>Careers in Finance</i> Lecture	7.00pm - 9.00pm

## SPRING TERM

Friday 24 February	Year 11 English trip to Poetry Live	8.00am - 4.00pm
27 Feb - 3 March	Year 7 Charity Cake Sales	
Thursday 2 March	Year 10 Jack Petchey's <i>Speak Out</i> Competition	9.10am - 3.35pm
Friday 3 March	<b>Year 13 Phase 3 Reports Issued</b> Year 10 Jack Petchey's <i>Speak Out</i> Competition	9.10am - 3.35pm
Saturday 4 March	Year 12 visit to Oxford University PA Race Night	6.30pm - 10.00pm
Sunday 5 March	Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at Cliffs Pavilion	7.00pm - 10.00pm
6 - 10 March	Fairtrade Café	
Wednesday 8 March	Year 12 and 13 Immunisations Year 7 Sponsored Silence <b>Year 9 Options Evening</b>	7.30pm - 9.30pm
Thursday 9 March	Spring Sinfonia Concert	7.30pm - 9.30pm
Friday 10 March	<b>Year 10 Phase 2 Reports Issued</b>	
Saturday 11 March	WCGC: Science Day	8.30am - 4.00pm
11 - 17 March	Year 10 Geology Visit to Swanage	
Monday 13 March	<b>Year 9 Parents' Meeting</b>	4.00pm - 6.00pm
Tuesday 14 March	UKMT Team Challenge	8.30am - 5.00pm
Thursday 16 March	<i>Careers in STEM</i> Lecture	7.00pm - 9.00pm
Friday 17 March	<b>Year 11 Phase 3 (Targeted) Reports Issued</b>	
Wednesday 22 March	Prof Read's Year 12 Russian History Lecture	1.55pm - 3.35pm
Friday 24 March	<b>Year 12 (Legacy Subjects) Reports Issued</b> Charity Week Launch Evening	7.00pm
26 March - 4 April	German Exchange Visit to Bonn	
27 - 31 March	Charity Week 2017	
Thursday 30 March	<b>Year 7 Phase 2 Reports Issued</b>	
30 March - 7 April (TBC)	French Exchange	
31 March	<b>SPRING TERM ENDS</b>	2.45pm
8 - 14 April	CCF Battle Camp at Swynnerton	
Tuesday 18 April	<b>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY</b>	
Wednesday 19 April	<b>SUMMER TERM BEGINS</b>	8.40am