



Westcliff High School
for Boys

The Westcliff Diary

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FROM THE DESK OF THE HEADMASTER

STAFF CHANGES DURING THE SPRING TERM 2017

There have been a small number of changes to staffing during the Spring Term 2017.

Mrs Mason (Teacher of Economics) went on her maternity leave in January and is being covered by Mr Baggs. Ms Fasquel (Teacher of French and Spanish) also went on maternity leave in January and we have temporary arrangements in place to cover her classes. We look forward to welcoming Mrs Marsh, Head of Mathematics, back from her maternity leave after the Easter break.

Mr Farine has joined us to teach Technology, and Mrs Mumford has taken over the management of Technology. Miss Braiden, teacher of RE, left the School at the February Half Term, in order to return to Northern Ireland to retrain. Miss Braiden's classes have been taken by Mr Blackburn who is an experienced former Head of Religious Studies. Miss Braiden's

responsibilities for SENDCo are being temporarily covered by Mrs Mumford, and Mr Tresidder and Mr Barber have taken over her responsibilities for PSHEE.

Dr Halsall, Head of Religious Studies, left us at the end of last term to take up an academic post at Allen Hall Seminary, Dr Halsall has recently taken Holy Orders in the Catholic Church and completed his PhD. Dr Halsall has agreed to return for one day each week between April and June to support Religious Studies public examination teaching. The School will be re-timetabling classes to provide continuity of teaching for Religious Studies groups.

CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

The refurbishment of the Science Building has been completed and we are delighted with the work. The improvements to the Science Building were arranged in two phases. The first phase involved spending £1 million on refurbishing the outside of

the building; the walls were reconstituted and re-clad, the roof was replaced and new windows and external doors were fitted. The second phase involved refurbishing the inside of the building. The layout of the interior has been rationalised and the building now houses ten full-sized Science laboratories, three preparation rooms, office and work spaces for staff, as well as welfare facilities for pupils and staff. The recently completed refurbishment of the interior cost £1.5 million, and we hope to complete some landscaping works around the Science Building across the summer holiday period. We anticipate that our excellent new facilities will assist in enhancing the quality of teaching and learning.

The School is working closely with the Department for Education's Priority Schools Building Programme team to draw up plans to refurbish our Technology Building. This is a detailed process involving a variety of agencies and interested parties. Once the detailed planning has been completed a



contractor will be appointed and work will commence. I anticipate that this may take some time and further details will be shared with the community in due course.

ELECTRIC GATES ON THE PRIVATE DRIVE

WHSB will be installing electric gates at the entrances to both ends of the School's Private Drive. This follows the successful installation of electric gates on the Eastwood Boulevard entrance. We have approached Westcliff High School for Girls regarding this project and we are pleased that they have agreed to join us in its implementation. The contractor will commence installing the gates during April and the process should take no more than six weeks. It is anticipated that the gates will remain open before and after school, when the gates are already patrolled by staff. The gates will be closed during the school day.

FORTHCOMING PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS

This is a highly demanding School term for the public examination classes. I am sure students and parents are well aware of the significance of GCSE and A Level examinations in determining the range of future opportunities open to students. For the fourth consecutive year the

School has provided a broad range of Examination Revision Classes for our GCSE and A Level students during the Easter holiday. In addition, all of the staff, including myself and members of the Senior Team, will continue to offer encouragement, support and guidance to students to enable them to achieve their potential this summer.

I give all our GCSE and A level students my best wishes for their forthcoming examinations.

LETTER FROM NICK GIBB, MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCHOOL STANDARDS

I have received a letter from Nick Gibb, Minister of State for School Standards, congratulating the pupils and staff at WHSB on the splendid GCSE results in August 2016. In his letter, he noted that following the publication of the National Education Performance Tables in January 2017, Westcliff High School for Boys was in the top 5% of schools nationally for value added (as measured by Progress 8). This is a wonderful achievement, as so many of our pupils have a high starting level which means they must achieve exceptionally high GCSE scores to add value. We are not complacent about such recognition and remain clearly focused on supporting the current GCSE pupils

to realise their full potential this summer. Nevertheless, it is a pleasure to share the details of the letter with members of the School community.

THIRTY CLUB RECOGNITION

The Thirty Club was created to balance the award of sporting Colours with an additional Colours system intended to reward non-sporting representation and contribution to the life of the School. The membership of the Thirty Club never exceeds thirty in number, and the members are presented with a Thirty Club tie to wear in recognition of their significant contribution to the School. Entry to the Thirty Club is by self-nomination usually, and at the Headmaster's discretion, which is exercised in consultation with members of staff.

It was my great pleasure to award membership of the Thirty Club to nine students during Assembly at the end of last term. All these students, listed below, have demonstrated sustained and exceptional service in fields from technical support to music, and from drama to community service: Peter Banfield, Joseph Bills, Niam Chauhan, Matthew Clark, Monty Clark, Ross McIntyre, Juwon Toyin-Adebanjo, Luke Trower and Alex Usher

SCHOOL NEWS

YEAR 11: THE CHALLENGE AHEAD

Our Year 11 pupils return after the Easter break to a challenging GCSE Public Examination period that runs from 2 May until 26 June 2017. Pupils at this stage of their education in the Middle School should, after adhering to their own personal revision programmes and accessing support via targeted Easter revision sessions at School where appropriate, feel in control of this situation. However, there will be some who are not so self-assured of their position and who are finding the situation rather daunting and stressful. The worry may be detrimental to their performance and so to their eventual outcomes.

To those pupils in this position, the first thing to realise is that you are not alone. Thousands of pupils across the Country are all in a similar situation. If you are worried, and this may manifest itself in

you not sleeping or eating properly, the worst thing that you can do is keep it to yourself. You should talk openly about your fears and concerns with others who have been through the examination system. This may be elder siblings, your parents or older pupils at WHSB. My colleagues and I are also here to listen and to help. Your subject teachers are always available to deal with specific issues which may be worrying you and will be able to direct you to sources of guidance and provide you with ample past-paper practice. If your concerns are of a more general nature then do come and see Mr Williams or me and we will do our best to allay your fears. You must however communicate.

Study Leave commences from 20 May and, in the week prior to that, pupils will attend timetabled lessons when they do not have an examination but will be free to carry out their own independent revision. Also, during this period, there will be arranged revision sessions in Biology, Chemistry, Physical Education and English Literature where the examination is imminent. These sessions

have proved particularly valuable in the past and have provided pupils with additional confidence when walking into their final GCSE examinations.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all the best with your examinations as you approach the conclusion of your time in the Middle School.

Mr A Farrell
Head of Middle School Studies

LOST PROPERTY

We would like to remind members of the School community that all lost property can be claimed from the racks located in the East Basement. At the end of the Summer Term, all unnamed and unclaimed items will be donated to charity. Please may we also take this opportunity to remind parents that all School uniform, and any other items brought into School by pupils, should be clearly labelled.

Mrs J Clarke
Uniform Shop Manager

UCAS PROGRAMME

Continuing to build on a programme established over more than ten years to support applications to the most prestigious universities, the School will host its annual Oxbridge Conference on Monday 26 June 2017. Admissions tutors, academics, staff and students from Oxford and Cambridge will visit the School to talk to potential applicants on a range of issues. They will seek to demystify the application process and the notorious interview, as well as providing concrete advice on the extra preparation expected over the summer of those who would seek to study at these ancient institutions. This year we have already conducted tours of both Cambridge and Oxford Universities, in the process meeting up with a number of the 34 former members of WHSB who are currently studying at Oxbridge.

We have also recommended students for University Study Days, supported applications for Sutton Trust Summer Schools and encouraged participation

through London University Taster courses and various Masterclasses hosted by Cambridge University. We have also booked places for all of Year 12 on the UCAS University Superfair held on Wednesday 14 June at the University of Essex campus, Colchester. All major universities are represented at that event, and students can collect Prospectuses as well as directing particular questions to the representatives from each institution. There are also talks on a wide range of subjects to do with course choice and the application process. Our annual Higher Education Evening, for all members of Year 12 and their parents, will take place in the School Hall on Wednesday 21 June, at 7:30pm.

Mr R Stevens
Higher Education Coordinator

ENRICHMENT DAY Friday 7 July 2017

Our Enrichment Day this year promises to be an exciting day for all Year Groups. Year 7 will be completing a Team Building

and PSHE 'carousel', while Year 8 put the finishing touches to their House Drama preparations. The majority of our Year 9 pupils will be visiting the Battlefields of Belgium and France with the History Department, while the remainder will visit the Science Museum. Year 10 pupils will have the opportunity to focus on Careers Skills, including some mock interviews, and our Year 12 students will make progress towards their plans for life after WHSB with a Higher Education Day. This will include a focus on UCAS applications as well as information about Higher Apprenticeships and Employment.

The School's annual Enrichment Day adds breadth to the curriculum and provides important opportunities for our pupils to work together and engage in new experiences.

Mrs K Mumford
Assistant Head:
Director of Lower School Studies



SCIENCE ROADSHOW

The Science Roadshow continues to take Science into junior schools in the area on Wednesday afternoons. Our Sixth Form students teach Biology, Chemistry and Physics to Year 5 pupils and, this year, they are covering topics such as cheek cells, flame tests and electrical circuits. This is a popular event and we are almost fully booked by schools we have visited before, such as Fairways, but we are delighted that we shall also be visiting schools that are new to us, such as Hadleigh Junior School.

These excellent activities provide the chance for pupils in our local primary schools to experience Science beyond their own curriculum. Equally important, are the opportunities created for our Sixth Form students to experience teaching and leadership, as well as developing their own understanding of the subject. The Science Roadshows create an environment in which one generation inspires another, sparking an interest in this field.

*Mr D Despres
Teacher of Biology*

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION DISSERTATION VIVAS

In the latter part of the Spring Term, Year 13 students took part in their Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) Viva assessments. These presentations lasted approximately 50 minutes and individuals presented their research to at least two members of staff and their peers. They explained what their dissertation was about, discussed research methods, critiqued evidence and elaborated on their findings, conclusions and evaluation. Students were then asked a series of detailed questions to test whether they understand their topic.

EPQ dissertation programme is aimed at high-achieving individuals who aspire to study at top Russell Group universities such as Cambridge, University College London (UCL), Imperial, London School of Economics (LSE), Oxford, Bristol and Southampton, for example.

It is particularly relevant for competitive degrees such as Geography, Medicine, Economics, Dentistry, History and Veterinary Medicine, to name but a few. Others choose to complete a dissertation on a subject that they do not study for Advanced Level, but wish to pursue at university. Examples include Archaeology, Anthropology, Law and Engineering.

*Mr R Barber
Head of Breadth Studies*

Projects are approximately 7,000 words in length and are of a highly academic nature. The quality this year has been exceptional and most are at first or even second-year undergraduate level. The

ARCHITECTURE WORKSHOP

Wednesday 21 June 2017

In June, all Year 12 Mathematicians will have the opportunity to participate in the annual Architecture Workshop, working in small teams to create large free-standing structures using limited resources. The Workshop provides an opportunity for students to apply their logical and mathematical skills to a practical challenge, working collaboratively as a team on a small-scale project. The Mathematics Department fully anticipates that all students participating will have an enjoyable experience. In previous Workshops, the structures produced by students have varied in creativity, innovation and success. The Mathematics Department looks forward to witnessing the efforts of the current Year 12 cohort in June.

*Mr C Doherty
Second in Mathematics*



YEAR 12 AND THE FUTURE

Each year, the range of options open to Sixth Form students on leaving School becomes larger, and potentially more bewildering. While most of our students aspire to study a traditional subject at an established British university, a variety of other Colleges are available offering very specialist courses. There is also the option to study abroad, and the increasingly popular direct routes into employment (particularly Degree Apprenticeships) which are also worthy consideration in some instances.

For the budding university student, it is important that time is spent during the summer term (and summer holiday period) considering courses and, once a course is chosen, specific universities can be studied in depth and visited. While the range of courses is bewildering, it is never too soon to start investigating what is on offer; it is only as the detail is explored that questions and ideas form in a student's mind, which can eventually germinate into a decision. However the decision is made, students will need to have their application more-or-less complete (including a one-side Personal Statement) by the October half term break. Students applying for Medical, Dentistry, Veterinary or Oxbridge courses have a tighter deadline, and should



compete their side of the application by the end of September at the latest. For potential Apprentices the need for research is, if anything, more urgent as applications will need to be tailored to particular companies, and deadlines for applying can be as early as September of Year 13. These students are advised to seek the advice and guidance of Mrs Weller, our Work-Related Learning Co-ordinator, as soon as possible. She is able to meet with students on Wednesdays and Thursdays in the Community Development Office, which can be found at the bottom of the stairs next to Mrs Mumford's office.

WHSB provides particular events to assist students (and parents) with the decisions to be made. Details of the events are included in Mr Stevens' article on the UCAS programme, which also makes reference to our evening presentation at the School on 21st June for Year 12 students and their parents. During that presentation, information will be given to help with decision making, and the application process will be explained. A comprehensive booklet will be given out with further information. We do expect all Year 12 students to be present at this event, with a family member, to ensure that they can benefit from this information, most of which will be presented by our Higher Education Co-ordinator, Mr Stevens, whose knowledge is encyclopaedic and up to date.

Once students return from the May half term break, extensive time will be made



available to each student, in Form Periods, to discuss their thoughts with their Form Tutor, and work on their application. This will culminate in our Enrichment Day on Friday 7 July. Visiting speakers will provide advice on course selection and the writing of Personal Statements, and at least one past student will speak on the option of entering employment directly. Time will also be made available for students to use the computers to amend applications and research courses.

It is essential that students find the time to speak to Mr Stevens, Mrs Weller, subject specialists, Form Tutors and myself to explore the options. If handled with a positive mind, this period of time can be one of the most rewarding of the Sixth Form – there is indeed something for everyone, and it never does harm to lift your eyes to the horizon to glimpse the myriad possibilities.

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

CAREERS ADVICE AND WORK-RELATED LEARNING

It was a very busy Spring Term for Careers Advice and Work-Related Learning this year. We have hosted three Careers Evenings: Medicine, Finance & Banking and STEM. Each evening was attended by students and parents from not only our own School community, but also other schools in the locality as well. Three or four speakers on each of the separate evenings spoke openly and honestly about their career paths to date, the highs and lows of their chosen industry and gave some personal words of advice. We were absolutely delighted to welcome back a number of Old Westcliffians to talk at these events and they were equally keen to nostalgically revisit their old school. We will be organising more of these successful evenings in the next academic year.

Placements for the annual Year 11 Work Experience Programme are currently in the process of being secured and I am very pleased to report that some new and exciting local opportunities have been offered to the boys for 2017. However, it is always a pleasure to be approached by parents and former pupils with placements, both locally and in London. Please contact me on wellern@whsb.essex.sch.uk if you are in a position to accommodate a 15 or 16 year old boy for a week or two on work experience this Summer - almost any industry sector would be appreciated.

In addition, we have also had representatives from the RAF here speaking to the whole of Year 8 about their work within Intelligence and the associated career opportunities available. Tim Green was indeed an Old Westcliffian himself and enjoyed his role reversal, speaking in the Westcliff Theatre rather than being part of the



audience. Investment 20/20 also came to the Lecture Theatre to speak about options and pathways in to Investment Banking - one of the top three career choices of WHSB students. They were also kind enough to support the Finance & Banking Careers Evening as well. Finally, potential Engineers were treated to an excellent talk by an ex-WHSG pupil, Nicole Simpson, who has completed her Advanced Engineering Apprenticeship at IPECO and accepted a permanent role within their Design Department.

*Mrs N Weller
Careers and Work-Related Learning
Coordinator*

LAUNCH OF WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS' NEW ONLINE UNIFORM SHOP



For our current pupils, uniform and other essential school items can now be ordered and paid for via the School website. Online orders will, under normal circumstances, be available for pupils to collect from the Main School Office within two School days of submission. The WHSB Online Uniform Shop can be accessed by visiting <http://www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/uniform> or by selecting About Us, Practical Information, Uniform on the School website.

In order to purchase items, simply select the size and quantity you require and click 'Add to basket'. Payment for online purchases will be by credit or debit card only.

Please note that for the remainder of the current academic year the new uniform online ordering system will run concurrently with the existing system of a paper order form and payment by cash or cheque. The Uniform Shop will also open on Thursday 31 August and Friday 1 September 2017, between 10.00am and 4.00pm, for purchases to be made and online orders to be collected prior to the start of the autumn term. For further information, please contact Mrs Clarke, Uniform Shop Manager, by e-mail (clarkej@whsb.essex.sch.uk).

Mrs J Clarke
Uniform Shop Manager

MINERAL, ROCK AND FOSSIL COLLECTION

We are extremely grateful to a member of our Alumni Community who recently donated a very generous sum of money in recognition of the enjoyable and worthwhile contribution made to his own education and those of many others by Head of Geology at the School, Mr Cooper.

With the sum of money, the Geology Department has been able to purchase a beautiful and varied collection of minerals, rocks and fossils which are now on permanent display near the front entrance of the School for the benefit of the whole School community. The Old Westcliffian wishes the exhibit to be named the "Nick Cooper Mineral and Fossil Collection", in recognition of the fact that Mr Cooper has taught the subject at the School for many years. The collection has already provoked much thought amongst parents, staff, students and visitors to the School.

Geology has been taught at Westcliff since 1976 when 'O' Level Geology was introduced and 1978 when A-Level Geology commenced. Since then GCSE and A-Level Geology have been taught uninterrupted through to the present day. Central to the teaching of Geology, and well known to many Old Westcliffians, have been the Year 10 Field Courses to Swanage, Dorset (since 1977) and the Year 12 Field Courses to Dyfed (1979 to 1987) and Isle of Arran (1987 to the present day). Such field courses have helped inspire many Old Westcliffians to



study the subject at University and pursue a geology career within such industries as oil and gas, mineral and rock, mining and engineering and environmental geology. Such vital industries provoke an interesting saying about the importance of Geology as a subject: "What we do not grow or hunt for, we must take from the Earth".

In the last twelve months, the Geology Department has prioritised the development of Technology. Recent developments have included the School's own seismograph which can record earthquakes from all over the world. This was supported financially by the British Geological Society (BGS) and interesting results are often displayed on the School's

website and social media feeds. Also, the Geology Department has its own Twitter account (@WHSBGeology). In the near future we hope to provide an opportunity for Old Westcliffian Geologists to link up with each other for the purposes of job and course opportunities, advice, social links and more. The School hopes that Old Westcliffian Geologists working within the industry might also be willing to provide advice to current students and perhaps contribute to the Westcliff Geology Conference held in December each year. Anyone interested in offering their services should contact the Community Development Office in the first instance.



ART AND DESIGN SHOW

Thursday 6 July 2017

The Summer Term is another busy period for the Art Department. Our GCSE pupils will be creating their 10-hour examination outcomes on 27 and 28 April, while our Advanced Level students will be embarking on their 15-hour end of course examination between 3 May and 5 May 2017 inclusive. Over the last two years, the Art Department has helped students to produce some outstanding work. The scale, diversity and academic story behind the works may bring a tear or a smile, but always a reaction. The journey behind the students' work is now a major factor in the acquisition of marks and, as we have some deep thinkers at WHSB, this has helped the Department achieve some first-rate examination outcomes. Themes explored by the students have included isolation, fitting in, Asperger's Syndrome, aspiration, as well as fantasy and landscape.

Jack Drummond's (Year 13) work was considered by AQA to as an exemplar of exceptional performance. Of course Jack is not the only exceptional student in the group and you will all



have the opportunity to share and celebrate the work created by the Fine Art Department at the forthcoming Art, Design and Technology show, which will be held in the Humanities Forum on the Thursday 6 July 2017. The PA has kindly offered to provide refreshments, so please do come along to be dazzled and amazed.

We will be inviting students from the last couple of years such as Charlotte Hurst, who is now in her second year at the famous Slade School of Art, and former Head Boy, Sam Thomas, now studying Theatre Design along with the legend that is Jack Browning, painter of the stars. Jack will be working with students this term giving his unique take on the portrait. We look forward to seeing you and sharing our story.

Finally, we would like to express our thanks to Jack Drummond, who is the curator and manager of the Art Exhibition space in the Humanities Forum, where we are now able to permanently showcase some of the extraordinary work we produce here at WHSB.

Mr T Sinnott
Head of Art



¿HABLA USTED ESPAÑOL?

As parents will be aware, the MFL Department started to offer Spanish as an option for Year 7 pupils in 2013. Many of the pupils who selected Spanish in that year will be starting Year 11 in September 2017. To support our linguists in their preparation for their public examination oral tests, the School employs Foreign Language Assistants, who work predominantly with pupils in Years 11-13 in small groups, practising general conversation and other speaking skills.

As we will only need support in Spanish with our Year 11 pupils for around 3 hours per week in the academic year 2017-18, we would be interested to hear from any parents or friends of the school who are native speakers of Spanish and who would be interested in working with small groups of pupils to improve their oral skills. Interested parties should send a brief letter and Curriculum Vitae to Mr Partridge, Director of Resources and Support Services.

*Mrs J Williams
Senior Teacher: Staff Tutor and
Acting Head of MFL*



[MISSING]
A modern murder mystery drama

WHSB Drama Society presents an original play
Book your tickets now:
<http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/>

STUDENT PRODUCTION: 'MISSING'

MISSING began, as many projects do, as a dream. The dream of a student-run production that would create a team, a group of people willing and committed to a show. When I first thought of MISSING, I wanted it to be a show for the actors. I wanted everyone involved to decide on their role and to shape the plot and the show together. The synopsis of the show is as follows:

Oscar White and Victoria Lockwood are the most controversial couple at Greenswood School. Victoria belongs to the boarding school's elite, and her romance with a scholarship student is not embraced by everyone. Still, they soon find a home in an oddball friendship group. During a party, the couple argue and go missing that very night. The next morning Victoria's father is found murdered. A search for the killer ensues, but who is to be trusted in a school of unreliable narrators? As the investigation continues, more and more questions are raised. Why did Victoria and Oscar go missing? How far would Victoria and Oscar go to be together? Why was Dr Lockwood killed? And most importantly, who is the murderer?"

MISSING will take place in the Westcliff Theatre on the 27 April 2017 at 7:30pm. Tickets are available from TicketSource and priced at £6.50 for adults and children. The cast, crew and I are so proud of our production and we hope to see you there.

*Oluwajowonlo Toyin-Adebanjo
Year 13*

FIELD WEEKEND AT COLCHESTER GARRISON: A REVIEW

From 2 to 4 February, our Cadets participated in a Field Day weekend at Colchester Garrison. The aim of this weekend was to provide the Cadets with an opportunity to practice their weapon handling and to have a chance to fire rifles live.

After school on Thursday, the Cadets from Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 travelled to Colchester Garrison to take over the camp, set themselves up and participate in a "virtual" firing exercise on a Combat Trainer. In this exercise, Cadets handled rifles that were linked to a computer, and shot virtual rounds at a projected screen. This sort of firing is designed to offer comprehensive feedback, and it helped the Cadets in significantly improving their shooting posture and breathing habits.

On Friday, the same Cadets participated in a live firing exercise, shooting at targets on a 25m range. This allowed them an opportunity to put into practice all of the good technique that they had learned during the virtual firing exercises, and many of the Cadets had visibly improved.

Later, on Friday evening, the Year 9 Cadets joined us; they came to this camp primarily to improve their weapon handling skills as they have very little experience of working with rifles.

In all, the camp proved most successful. Cadets improved their understanding of the rifle and, more importantly, learned about the safe and responsible use of the rifle. Alongside this, they had a glimpse of what it was like living on a barracks, and of some of the activities in which members of the Armed Forces participate.

SURVIVAL CAMP/LIVING IN THE FIELD

16 to 18 June 2017

From 16 to 18 June, the CCF will once again be joining up with Tunbridge Wells Girls Grammar Schools (TWGGS) for a two-night survival camp. During this period, the older Cadets will be left to their own devices, to live in the field for 48 hours while fulfilling recon and concealment criteria. It will be a good chance for the older Cadets to display all that they have learned across their careers, and it should pose some interesting problems for them to overcome.

Alongside this, we also plan on hosting the Living in the Field day once again for Year 9 Cadets. We will teach and train the Year 9 Cadets to live in the field, using bashas to shelter themselves and ration packs to feed themselves. We will also take time to teach them important lessons about navigating at night, and moving quietly in the field to scout out targets.

Both sets of Cadets will undertake many activities across the three days, all of which are hosted by either the Officers or the Senior Cadets. They will spend all of the days working in their sections, with the aim of developing their team working skills, and they will be tested on material that they have learned across the year, such as first aid and harbour drills.

Last year these two events were incredibly successful at giving our Cadets the first real glimpse of Cadet life in the field, and we hope this will once again prepare them for the Summer Camp, where they are expected to live in the field for up to 48 hours with very little support.

*Lt M Dowding
Whitehouse Company Commander*

BIENNIAL INSPECTION: A REVIEW

Wednesday 22 March was the first Biennial Inspection of our Contingent since we achieved independence in 2015.

The day involved a rotation of activities for Year 9 Cadets in the morning, covering skills such as first aid, drills, an obstacle course, and Physical Training with Mr Garstin. Year 10 Cadets took part in an advance to contact and withdrawal, instructed by Sgt Fraser and another CTST member, alongside Capt Baggs and Old Westcliffian, Officer Cadet George Evans. For all of these activities, Cadets in Years 11 to 13 acted as Non-Commissioned Officers.

During the afternoon, Year 8 pupils were off timetable to visit a number of stands, led by Year 10 Cadets. The stands included activities focused on first aid, command tasks, and field craft, and there was also a stand with para kit and a real SA80 assault rifle with bayonet, magnified sight and bipod foregrip.

After School, there was a break in the inclement weather and the final parade took place. The Cadets performed exceptionally well and looked outstanding. Our visitor for the day, Col Stockley, said that he would have been proud to have a troop who were as well turned out.

In the evening, our annual Mess Dinner took place with Col Stockley as our Inspecting Officer. In addition, Col Retd. Urqhart joined us in his role as Chief Executive of the Combined Cadet Force Association (CCFA). The Dinner was well-received and the Cadets demonstrated their pride in their CCF. We would like to express our thanks to Col Stockley for supporting the day and our Contingent.

*Capt J Bleakley
Contingent Commander*



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

SAINSBURY'S ACTIVE KIDS 2017 VOUCHER COLLECTION

Following last year's success, the Parents' Association is again co-ordinating the collection of Sainsbury's Active Kids 2017 vouchers on behalf of the School. We are encouraging our School community, their family and friends to collect these vouchers which can then be exchanged for new items of sports equipment for the PE Department and for items used in Food Technology. Simply shop in Sainsbury's stores, petrol stations and online at www.sainsburys.co.uk and you will earn Active Kids vouchers for the money you spend on your shopping. In Sainsbury's Locals, you will get one voucher for every £5 you spend. In the larger Sainsbury's Supermarkets you will

receive one voucher for every £10 you spend. Vouchers will be issued this year up until Tuesday 2 May 2017. Please send your vouchers to the Parents' Association,

c/o the Front Reception at the School, no later than Friday 30 June 2017. Thank you for your support.



WHSB SPORTS DAY CAKES

Tuesday 4 July 2017

The Parents' Association will be represented at WHSB's Sports Day on Tuesday 4 July, serving refreshments, providing complimentary fruit and selling quality, tray-baked cakes. All proceeds go to the School.



PIMM'S STALL AT THE SUMMER BIG BAND AND BBQ EVENT

Friday 7 July 2017

We will be running our ever-popular Pimm's Stall selling alcoholic summer punch and soft drinks at the School's annual Summer Big Band and BBQ event on Friday 7 July. We look forward to seeing you there!



DISCOUNTED ADVENTURE ISLAND WRISTBANDS

Discounted wristband vouchers for Adventure Island, one of Southend-on-Sea's main visitor attractions, are available through the Parents' Association again this summer. Each wristband voucher purchased can be exchanged for an all-day 'Big Adventure' wristband (for those 1.2m or over in height). Vouchers will be issued to pupils following submission of an order form together with full payment (cheques only please, made payable to WHSB Parents' Association). For further details or to request an order form, please contact the Parents' Association via e-mail: pa@whsb.essex.sch.uk.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

DONATIONS TO THE WHSB PUPIL FUND

We should like to thank all those parents and guardians 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 shall 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 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 or by cheque (payable to WHSB) or by monthly standing order. In addition, one-off payments can be made via ParentPay. If you would like to make a donation, are a current donor and wish to amend your donation, 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.



WHSB GARDEN PARTY IN CELEBRATION OF THE ARMED FORCES AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

Sunday 11 June 2017 (from 12.00pm in the School Grounds)

The School's Annual Garden Party event arranged by our Community Development Office, supported by the Parents' Association and Young Enterprise Sixth Form students, will this year link with Southend being the Alternative City of Culture for 2017 and its theme of celebrating the Armed Forces and Emergency Services during the month of June. Representatives from all these organisations will be invited to attend along with local veterans from the Armed Forces.

Bring your own picnic baskets, seats and blankets and join the celebration in the grounds of the School. The event promises an afternoon of nostalgia and entertainment featuring a parade by WHSB's Combined Cadet Force, a display of classic and vintage vehicles, retro dance demonstrations, music from WHSB's talented musicians, afternoon tea, and refreshments including Pimm's. On sale will be ices, soft drinks, hot and cold snacks, plus wristbands for inflatables for younger children. The event aims to bring together the current School and wider community: families and friends, Alumni and Old Westcliffian Association Members, our new Year 7 2017 intake, this year's WCGC 'Go for Grammar!' Year 5 local primary school pupils and their families, and our neighbouring residents. Tickets are £1 for adults (free for under 16s and over 65s) and must be booked in advance at <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/>.



DEBATING

The three premier Schools' Debating Competitions concluded last term. In the English-Speaking Union's School Mace our team of George Tothill and Hassan Sarfraz (both Year 13) fought their way through three qualifying rounds to be one of six teams contesting the East of England Regional Final. They were unable to claim the title despite a spirited defence of the motion to support the use of private military contractors in combat roles, but can be proud of having reached the Regional Finals in two consecutive years.

We were also represented in the Oxford Union's Senior Schools' Competition, this time by three teams: George Tothill and Hassan Sarfraz (Year 13); Conrad Kunadu (Year 12) and Scott Jones (Year 11); Jasper Harmer and Anthony Haiser (both Year 11). The motions, which

were given with 15 minutes' notice for preparation, were reasonably standard fare for this competition – including one on instituting a quota of women MPs and one of allowing schools to select students on the basis of academic ability – but the standard of school debating is rising every year with more good schools fielding multiple teams. Consequently, for only the fourth time in the last 15 years, we did not have a team qualify for the International Finals.

In the Cambridge Union Schools' Competition we again fielded three teams: Juwon Toyin-Adebanjo (Year 13) and Scott Jones (Year 11); Conrad Kunadu and Ross McIntyre (both Year 12); Jasper Harmer and Anthony Haiser (both Year 11). The short preparation motions were particularly challenging, including one which called on women from privileged backgrounds to forgo any advantage from

positive discrimination programmes. The competition was packed with some of the top teams in the Country, including the England Schools' team. Our pairing of Juwon and Scott – debating together for the first time – were rated the top team from the East of England, and, following an extraordinarily skilful final debate in the Union Chamber on the proposition that "memory-writing" technology should be welcomed, qualified for the National Finals. Unfortunately, Juwon and Scott were unable to participate on Finals' Day in Cambridge due to myself being unwell, a great shame because they would probably have entered as the highest-ranked of any of the nine WHSB teams to compete at that level in the last 15 years.

Mr R Stevens
Head of Politics

SIXTH FORM GERMAN CLUB

The German Club at WHSB, consisting of eight Sixth Form students, is currently taking part in an international bilateral project (UK-German FLA/ELA Ambassadors-Program), organized by the UK-German-Connection. This project allows Language Assistants to find a partner Assistant and a partner group in the country where the language their students study is spoken. Our eight Westcliff boys, led by myself, have found a group of fellow students at the Gesamtschule Hungen in Germany, led by Miss Batimana (English Assistant).

Together, we are working on themes of national identity and are discussing post-Brexit European relations, with the aim of providing meaningful intercultural contact between young people in both countries, as well as encourage and strengthen UK-German youth relations.

As part of our first topic, *National Identity*, we took part in and won a competition. The organisations involved were impressed by our concept and projects about the theme. We would like to thank the British Council, the UK-German Connection, Martin-Gropius-Bau and the Friede Springer Stiftung for their continued support.

We are now continuing with our project, an online exhibition with objects of national importance and history, that the students choose for themselves to broaden their views on their respective country and identity. If you want to see this exhibition, read the students' comments and follow our next steps, please visit our online blog at <http://whsgsh-school.tumblr.com> (password: germanenglishclub).

Mr J Alpmann
German Assistant



Tickets for all Westcliff Diary events can be purchased via TicketSource at <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/> or by scanning this QR code.



SIXTH FORM HISTORY: THE GLORIOUS REVOLUTION

Wednesday 26 April 2017



On Wednesday 26 April 2017, Dr Andrew Thompson (Queens' College, Cambridge) will talk to Advanced Level History students on *The Glorious Revolution*. This is an important topic on the syllabus as it explores the historiographical debate on how to interpret this seminal event in British history. Was it Macaulay's 'sensible revolution': distinctive of English restraint and moderation? Or was it Pincus' 'first modern revolution': a popular rejection of Catholic absolutism in favour of what would emerge as liberalism? Or was it essentially a Dutch conquest, aimed at decisively shifting the European balance of power?

Mr R Stevens
Head of Politics

SCHOOL PRODUCTION: DR FAUSTUS

24 and 25 May 2017

This summer, WHSB is pleased to present an outdoor production of Kit Marlowe's *Dr Faustus*. The brilliant and flamboyant Christopher Marlowe (Elizabethan spy, playwright, poet and alleged blasphemer) wrote his most famous play at some point between 1588 and his own death in 1593, at the age of just 29. It was first performed in 1592 by the Admiral's Men of Elizabethan England and will next be performed by the Headmaster's Men of WHSB.

Dr Faustus tells the true story of the German academic, Faust, who sells his soul to the Devil. In return, Faustus is granted 24 years of life with the demon, Mephistopheles, as his personal servant. How much time and knowledge is your soul worth? This is a play of exploration, helped by the music of the Pet Shop Boys and the world of Harry Potter.



We can promise you an entertaining time, with spectators invited to bring their picnic to our outdoor venue before the show starts. However, be warned – it is said that actual devils once appeared on the stage during a performance, "to the great amazement of both the actors and spectators", a sight that was said to have driven some spectators mad...

Tickets are available priced at £6 for adults and £3 for pupils from TicketSource.

Mr B Jeffreys
Head of History

TRIPS & VISITS

ISLE OF ARRAN

24 to 30 June 2017

As part of their Advanced Level geological studies, Year 12 students will undertake their compulsory fieldwork between Saturday 24 June and Friday 30 June 2017 on the Isle of Arran, staying at the Lochranza Field Studies Centre. From this location geologists are able to study a large variety of topics of interest. These include the nature of the rock record and how they were formed, their plate tectonic relationships, fossil content, folding and faulting.

As part of their work, students will collect data for their Year 13 field investigation relating to the opening of the North West Atlantic 65 million years ago, when Scotland separated from Greenland. Isle of Arran is visited by many school and undergraduate geologists as it is a world-renowned location for the study of the subject. As a result of the visit, students will have a much greater knowledge and understanding of field geology and be able to relate it to their class studies. Also, the students will have developed their transferable skills in numeracy, report writing, problem solving and teamwork within an area of outstanding natural beauty.

Mr N Cooper
Head of Geology



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

Silver Practice: 21 to 23 April 2017
Bronze Practice: 20 and 21 May 2017
Bronze Assessment 1 and 2 July 2017
Silver Assessment: 12 to 15 July 2017

The Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award at WHSB has proven to be very popular and this year we have just taken in a new cohort of 30 pupils. These Year 9 boys were asked to write a letter of application, 63 letters were received by the deadline and Messrs Despres, Sims and Tresidder carried out the shortlisting. Unfortunately, not all pupils who sign up for the Award complete it. Of the 30 who joined in 2015, so far 20 have managed to complete but it is not too late for them to finish and I would encourage them to do so. We are hoping for an improved return from the 2016 cohort, but they are not due to finish until the expedition in July. The new intake will not carry out their expeditions until next year.

The pupils who sign up for the Bronze award are expected to continue to Silver, and we would encourage these pupils to do so. In 2016, although not all pupils signed up for the Silver Award, of those that did, 100% completed. These Awards have a lasting and valuable presence on any CV and I encourage pupils to get involved. I hope we will see encouraging numbers this next time around.

Mr Despres
Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator



CHINA TRIP 2017

15 to 28 July 2017

Mr Hill and I are thrilled to be leading a group of Year 10-13 students to China for the Bridge to the UK Summer Camp. The initiative was started by the Chinese government to allow students from around the world to learn the Chinese Language and experience the culture first hand.

We fly to Beijing on Saturday 15 July and can expect to be treated to a whistle stop tour of the capital including the Great Wall, Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square, Bird's Nest and Summer Palace before being whisked off to our province where the work begins. We have been allocated to Harbin, which is in the North East of the country and here, we will be hosted by a university, staying on campus and having lessons in Mandarin as well as cultural lessons such as Tai Chi, Fan Dancing or Knot Tying.

This trip promises to be exhausting, but well worth the effort for the once in a lifetime experiences and memories forged whilst submerged in a completely alien environment and culture.

Mrs K Mumford
Assistant Head:
Director of Lower School Studies



YEAR 7 GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO SOUTHEND

Friday 7 June 2017

During the second half of the academic year, Year 7 pupils use their Geography lessons to study tourism, coastal processes and a local case study of Southend. To tie in with these lessons, and in what has become a well-established WHSB tradition, Year 7 pupils will be visiting Southend on their first Geography fieldtrip.

The day will be divided into three parts, allowing pupils to complete Geographical activities relating to their studies on the beach, near the pier and on the Royal Terrace. The day will also introduce pupils to settlement theories, which will be their first topic of study in the September of Year 8, and they will generate data to be used in practicing graphical and cartographical techniques.

Coaches will depart from the School at 8.45am and return before 3.30pm. Pupils will be in School uniform and will either require a packed lunch or a small amount of money to buy lunch in Southend's High Street. We fully anticipate that the pupils will have a most enjoyable and highly informative day.

YEAR 10 GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO LONDON

15 and 16 June 2017

GCSE Geography pupils are required to complete two fieldtrips as part of their studies; their knowledge of data collection and analysis techniques used will be tested as part of the Paper 3: Geographical Application examination. To give them the greatest advantage, we have decided to complete one day of human fieldwork in London in the Summer Term of Year 10 and one day of physical fieldwork at Walton-on-the-Naze in the Autumn Term, ensuring that they have a broad range of techniques to discuss.

The Summer Human Geography field day will focus on the regeneration of East End London. We will travel to the area, and between sites, by coach; the coaches will depart from the School at 8.45am and return at 5.30pm. Pupils will be in uniform and will require a packed lunch.

As Year 10 has a large Geography



GREAT WAR BATTLEFIELDS TRIP 2017

7 to 10 July 2017

This summer sees the 27th annual visit to the Great War Battlefields in France and Belgium, organised by the History Department, with over 90 pupils due to attend. The focus will be on the British and Allied experience of warfare on the Western Front. Pupils will spend one full day around the Belgian town of Ypres, where four major battles were fought, most notoriously the Battle of Passchendaele. Indeed, this year commemorates one hundred years since this Battle, so we expect interest to be heightened.

Pupils will spend another full day visiting sites on the Somme Battlefield and learning about the circumstances which preceded 1 July 1916 (the bloodiest day in British military history) and the 60,000 casualties suffered on that day, as well as the significance of the Battle in the context of the wider War.

We look forward to what promises to be an eye-opening, educational visit which will give pupils a valuable insight into the experience of soldiers in the Great War.

Mr S Neagus
Teacher of History

uptake, the pupils will be split across two days, ensuring they can be taught in small groups and can all actively take part in the data collection. The trip letter to follow will explain which teaching groups will attend on each date.

YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO ABERYSTWYTH

2 to 6 July 2017

A Level Geography students are required to undertake four days of fieldwork as part of their course. The information gathered will be used on return to School as the primary data collection for their 4,000 word Independent Study. Each student will decide upon an individual title, allowing those with a preference for Human or Physical Geography to play to their strengths.

We have chosen Aberystwyth as a destination as it is currently the only

University-based field studies centre in the country and as part of the package the students will hear a presentation by a university lecturer, which gives them valuable UCAS experience.

University staff are helping to arrange the fieldwork on each day to ensure the level of terminology and analysis gives the students every opportunity to score highly. The trip will include two days of Human fieldwork (based on the impact of globalisation and urbanisation) and two days of Physical fieldwork (based on glaciation and water infiltration rates).

Miss S Sparks
Head of Geography

SKI TRIP: A REVIEW

11 to 19 February 2017

This year we had a most successful ski trip to Hochfugen, Austria. This is an excellent little resort in the Zillertal, which caters really well for all our skiers and has excellent accommodation. Consequently, we have booked the same resort and hotel for 2018. This trip, which will be my last, is already fully booked, so pupils who wish to join a ski trip will need to book early for 2019.

Mr D Despres
Teacher i/c Ski Trip



SLICES OF PI: MATHEMATICS AT WHSB

SENIOR MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE (SMC), INTERMEDIATE MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE (IMC) AND JUNIOR MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE (JMC)

On Tuesday 8 November 2016, all members of Year 13, and those studying Pre U Mathematics in Year 12, took the Senior Mathematics Challenge. This year, Oliver Croysdill, William Brookes and Jasen Walker got through to the British Olympiad, all performing well on what are incredibly challenging questions. Alongside these three, Daniel Gilbert, Anuj Patel, Harry Dare, Ryan Lawrence, Lewis Hunt and James Quigley got through to the Senior Kangaroo follow on round, with Anuj Patel scoring a merit on this paper, and the rest performing admirably.

On Thursday 2 February 2017, all members of Year 11 took the IMC. This year, 13 pupils got through to the Pink Kangaroo follow on round; Joseph

Cameron, James Walker, Christopher Chadwick, Kayode Omotoso, Rahul Arora, Harry Degrove, William Allan-Smith, Cameron Heafield, Alasdair Ramsay, Michael Kunadu, Joshua Wood, Peter Banfield and Storm Jackson-Abbott.

In the SMC, 13 pupils achieved a gold certificate, 50 a silver, and 51 a bronze. In the IMC, 15 pupils received a gold certificate, 40 a silver, and 49 a bronze. I would like to congratulate all pupils who took part. The questions posed acted as a superb method of improving students' ability to solve problems. This is a key skill at A Level and GCSE which is often not practised nearly enough by pupils due to the modular nature of the course. The Junior Mathematics Challenge will take place on Thursday 27 April 2017. All

pupils from Year 8 will be entered into this problem-solving competition. In previous years, WHSB has enjoyed a great deal of success in this challenge, and often from those pupils who do not find Mathematics straightforward. The nature of these questions means that those who have an innate ability for problem-solving often gain better grades, regardless of how they are performing academically within the year group.

Last year, 9 pupils got through to the follow on rounds, 21 achieved a gold, 54 a silver and 42 a bronze. We look forward to experiencing a similar degree of success this year. If you wish to prepare or train for the challenge, then please ask your teacher for additional materials, or access the UKMT website to locate past papers.

DR MATT PRITCHARD TALKS ON MAGICAL MATHS

On Friday 24 February, Dr Pritchard visited WHSB to present a show entitled *Magical Maths* to our Year 7 pupils. Dr Pritchard's presentation included an awe inspiring and highly engaging array of magic tricks involving the use of mathematics. These tricks included anything from predicting the future, reading minds, sending secret messages

and making objects vanish, all whilst exposing the audience to a surprising amount of mathematics, with topics ranging from shape and symmetry to number patterns. Our pupils enjoyed the experience immensely and hopefully went away with new ways to amaze their friends and families, but also learn some interesting mathematics in the process.

On the same day, Dr Pritchard also delivered a talk to our Middle School and Sixth Form pupils during the evening. The title of the talk was *Something about*

Nothing and it addressed the topic of *nothing* in Mathematics, approached in a fun and engaging manner, whilst exploring some of the rich mathematics and history that has come about over the question of what exactly is 'nothing'. The talk also covered the highly controversial use of the number zero in ancient civilisation, the philosophy behind nothing, negative numbers, vacuums, the Big Bang and many more interesting points of discussion. It was a fun, engaging and highly informative evening, which our pupils thoroughly enjoyed.



YEAR 8 TEAM CHALLENGE

On Tuesday 14 March 2017, Mrs Hammond took a team of four Year 8 pupils to compete in the Year 8 Team Challenge at Bancroft School. The team consisted of Sammy Joujou, Jake Pilkington, Justus Genthe and Nivasan Loganathan. The team competed in a series of rounds designed to test their mental arithmetic and problem-solving skills, while at the same time working effectively as a team. They performed well, ending up 4th place overall in the competition, and being complemented for their team work, enthusiasm, hard work and knowledge of mathematics.



MENTORING SCHEME

The Junior (Year 7 to 9), Intermediate (Year 10 and 11) and Senior (Year 12 and 13) Mentoring Schemes are up and running. Each month, pupils 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 with pupils to discuss these problems. At the end of the month, the teachers conducting these schemes offer solutions to pupils so that they 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 in which you tackled the problem.

These schemes are meant to stretch the more able pupils 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 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 TUTORING

The Mathematics Department continues to run a successful student to student tutoring scheme over lunch times and break times. 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 pupils from Year 7 to Year 13 in both Mathematics and Further Mathematics, so if you are having problems with any of your work please do ask for help. The sessions with your mentor are designed to run across the year, but the scheme is flexible to suit your needs. Therefore, if you are having a particularly tough time this term, as there is a lot of work on Algebra, then we can arrange for 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 can choose exactly what tasks you wish to complete.

HELP CLUBS

The Department offers Key Stage 3 and 4 Help Clubs, running every Monday and Thursday in M2, and Key Stage 5 Help Clubs every Tuesday and Friday in M6. These Help Clubs are designed to support pupils who are finding difficulty in a certain aspect of their work. Pupils are welcome to bring along a problem or topic with which they are struggling and arrange one to one support from a teacher or Sixth Form student tutor. It might be that you only need to come for 5 minutes,

or that you will need more extensive help for the entire lunch time. Whatever your requirement, this is the place to come for support and assistance with any, and all, Mathematics related problems.

YEAR 10 TEAM CHALLENGE

On Monday 6 February, Miss Dole took eight Year 10 pupils to King Edward's Grammar School to engage in the Mathematics Feast. This event was a team challenge, where teams of four pupils would participate in a number of rounds, competing against other local schools. The round included a group round, where all pupils worked together on a set of problems, a relay round, where pairs of pupils would work in tandem to answer questions, and a crossnumber round, where pairs of pupils would work in tandem to solve clues.

The pupils representing WHSB were Dhilan Patel, Luxathan Krishnamoorthy, Daniel Barton, Hugo Miloszweski, Peter Simon, Jai Patel, Adam Whittaker and Warwick George. Both teams performed well, ending up in 5th and 6th place overall, with one of the teams gaining a certificate for scoring full marks in one of the rounds. If you wish to know more about this competition, or if you are in Year 9 and want to express your interest for next year, please see Miss Dole.

Mr M Dowding
Acting Head of Mathematics

MUSIC AT WHSB

YEAR 7 CULTURAL ENRICHMENT PROJECT

Through the School's Learner Profile we encourage our pupils to be open to opportunities and our Cultural Enrichment Project offers the chance for them to experience, and develop an understanding and appreciation of, classical music.

This term, all Year 7 pupils will attend at least one of the musical concerts or trips listed in the Westcliff Diary as an audience member, in order to write a review of their chosen event. This written work will be evaluated as a formal assessment, and will contribute to reports and end-of-year grades. More details will be given during lesson-time, but it is advised that pupils sign up to events as soon as possible to guarantee a ticket.

SUMMER CHAMBER RECITAL

Wednesday 3 May, 7.30pm

The Chamber Recital is a termly opportunity for the Westcliff community to experience the best soloists and small ensembles that the School has to offer,

and this summer's concert will be no exception. The outgoing Year 13 holds a wealth of gifted musicians, many of whom will be making the most of their last opportunity to perform. This includes George Tohill performing the exciting showpiece for Oboe, *Morceau de Salon*, and tenor, Cameron MacDonald, giving a dramatic rendition of *Confrontation* from the musical *Jekyll and Hyde*.

This is in addition to an ensemble of Sixth Form Musicians performing *One Day More* from *Les Misérables* and Chamber Recital regulars, such as the Westcliff String Ensemble and the Saxophone Ensemble.

Tickets are priced at £5 for adults, inclusive of a programme and refreshments. This concert is free of charge for pupils.

WESTCLIFF SINFONIA SUMMER CONCERT

Wednesday 5 July, 7.30pm

The Westcliff Sinfonia continues to go from strength to strength, with each term's programme presenting new and exciting challenges. This term will be no different, with the orchestra tackling some of the most thrilling and exciting music in the orchestral repertoire.

The Sinfonia will begin by performing music from Bizet's most famous work, *Carmen*, an opera that tells the story of Don José, a soldier seduced by the gypsy Carmen. The opera ends tragically, with José abandoning his life to be with Carmen, who subsequently leaves him for a glamorous bullfighter. However, the music that people remember tends to be much jollier, and those attending the concert can look forward to familiar melodies such as the *Habanera* and *Song of the Toreador*.

Clarinetist, Alex Usher, will perform Weber's *Concertino* accompanied by the Sinfonia – an exciting showpiece for the instrument that tests the dexterity of the soloist. The concert will end with extracts from Stravinsky's *Firebird*, a thrilling work telling the story of a hero's quest to save a magical realm. This is Stravinsky at his most Romantic, mixing sweeping lyrical melodies with a bombastic finale that cemented his reputation as the heir to Russia's musical tradition.

Tickets are priced at £5 for adults, inclusive of a programme and refreshments. This concert is free of charge for pupils.

Mr T Derrick
Director of Music

MUSICOLOGY SEMINAR: BEETHOVEN'S SUPERPOWER

Tuesday 9 May, 3.45-4.45pm

How can a composer write music as successfully as Beethoven without being able to hear a note? That was the question asked by Richard Wagner in his essay 'Beethoven' written in 1870, 100 years after the birth of the composer. Wagner's answer is simple: Beethoven's deafness was his greatest strength, allowing him to see beyond the world as we know it to

access music in its purest sense. To what extent is Wagner's answer accurate? Did Beethoven really have a metaphysical superpower?

This seminar follows on from last term's seminar on the development of the Russian national style, and once again focuses on the historical and personal circumstances behind famous composers and their works. This seminar is free and is recommended to students from Years 9-13 with an interest in the history of music.



THE PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA AT THE ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Wednesday 21 June, 4.30pm



Pupils, staff, parents and friends of the School are invited to join the Music Department on a trip to the Royal Festival Hall in London to see the world-class Philharmonia Orchestra perform an exciting programme of music. The evening will start with Lyadov's *Kikimora*, telling the story of a malevolent spirit in the wilds of Russia, followed by pianist Denis Kozhukhin playing Rachmaninov's *Piano Concerto No 2*, featuring a famous and beautifully lyrical second movement.

The concert will end with the bombastic *Symphony No 5* by Shostakovich. This is one of those rare pieces of music that

is almost more famous for the history behind it than for the music itself. The myth and legend that surrounds this piece, concerning Shostakovich's justifiable fear of being abducted and executed by the soldiers of Stalin's regime, leads the listener to attach a story to the music whose veracity continues to be debated. Nevertheless, this is a thrilling and, at times, devastating piece of music that is required listening for any musician.

Tickets for pupils, staff, parents and friends of the school are £19 including travel. Tickets are limited for this event. Booking closes on Friday 12 May.



SUMMER BAND AND BBQ

Friday 7 July, 7.00pm

Join the Westcliff Big Band in welcoming in the summer with lively music and delicious food. Performers at this much anticipated annual event include the Saxophone Quartet and the Westcliff Choir, who will entertain the crowd with a selection of well-known songs from popular genres while hot dogs and burgers are flipped on the grill.

Following the entertainment outside in the quads, the Westcliff Big Band will take to the stage to play a selection of jazz and swing numbers. After a long academic year of working and studying hard, students, parents and staff are encouraged to let off some steam in what is sure to be an unforgettable evening of music.

This event is open to all, costing £16 for adults and £13 for students, including food. Tickets are £7 for adults and £4 for students excluding food.

SCHOOL SPORT AND THE HOUSE SYSTEM

WHSB EQUESTRIAN TEAM

Since our first competition in December, WHSB's Equestrian Team has continued to succeed in the National Schools' Equestrian Association (NSEA) League. The dedication and determination of team members has meant everyone has been able to compete in several disciplines across the South East. We have also had the incredible opportunity to have our own official WHSB kit, comprising of hoodies and saddlecloths, which have established our identity as proud representatives of our School.

The Team had a very rewarding day at The Jays Equestrian Centre in Suffolk on 10 December 2016, taking on the relatively new discipline of Arena Eventing, which combines the skills of show jumping and cross country. George Mayson and Douglas Pitcher took on the challenge and boldly went where no Westcliffian had gone before. Sadly, Douglas and his ride, *Eduardo's Dream*, came to an abrupt stop when 'Ed' decided the chilly water splash was not for him, but not before clearing the first half of the course with ease. However, George and the ever faithful *Cracker* stormed to sixth place, looking nothing short of professional and earning him a very fetching hot pink sash and rosette.

As a practice for the Essex Qualifiers, we made the trip once again to The Jays on 28 January 2017 to give our Sixth Form students, Natasha Webb and George Mayson, a well-deserved break from revision. The starting order meant a very cold and early morning for Natasha and



her horse *Rosie* as they prepared for the 70cm and 80cm classes. However, as is the way with horses, *Rosie* decided she was not in the mood for any jumping and Natasha gained valuable experience, but was not placed. In the afternoon, the sun finally made an appearance, ready for George and *Cracker* to take on the 90cm and 1m. George and *Cracker* rode a textbook course and I was extremely proud of our Team.

For the Equestrian Team, the half term break posed the task of the Essex County Qualifiers. The show jumping was held at Wix Equestrian Centre on 15 February 2017, with George Mayson and Noah Waterfield stepping up to represent their School. As dedicated and professional as ever, George and *Cracker* sailed through the 90cm without a hitch, meaning they finished clear and a mere eight seconds

away from first place. However, we also got to see a different side of sweet and unassuming *Cracker* when he jumped ten feet in the air at the sight of a perfectly harmless wheelchair. Needless to say, George will learn to pay more attention when going for a stroll to cool off! Noah and the ever enthusiastic *Clover* had more of a frustrating day and sadly accrued faults in the 90cm and 1m. However, it was wonderful to have Noah back out competing with us and *Clover* is such a character; the duo's rounds are never dull to watch! Whilst the WHSB team was not able to advance to the next round, we certainly showed that although our team is small, we are not to be counted out.

Miss C Bailey
Equestrian Team Manager

BOROUGH SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIP 2017

On Wednesday 8 March 2017, Mr Atkinson and Mrs Burden took 18 boys between Year 7 and Year 11 to the Southend Schools' Swimming Gala at Southend Leisure and Tennis Centre, Garon Park. The School finished in second place overall, which is an outstanding achievement as the competition was incredibly strong. A special mention goes to Billy Lo in Year 11, who won the Champion Boy Event for the second year in a row. All pupils did exceptionally well, securing six Gold, three Silver and two Bronze medals in the Individual Events and a Gold, four Silvers and a Bronze award in the Relays. Well done to all involved.

Mr T Morrish
Director of Sport



HOUSE GOLF

Friday 9 June 2017

In the third year of its current format, the House Golf Event is a Lads and Dads tournament, where twosomes compete in Texas Scramble or Golfer Putter Pairs, as well as a staff competition played over 9 holes at Garon Park Golf Complex. Even though the headline is Dads and Lads, it could just as easily be Mums and Sons, Daughters and Dads, Grandads, Uncles, or a family friend.

There is a competition for the senior years - 'Senior Singles' and this will be suitable for any player in Year 10 or above to compete in matchplay to represent their House.

The event will take place at Garon Park Golf Complex on Friday 9 June. Tee-off times will be from 4.30pm.

Golfer and Putter Pairs: This competition will require one golfer, who will take all shots onto the green, and a non-golfer 'Putter' taking all putts. This is a great opportunity to involve non-golfers, as everyone can putt! Will anyone be fit to claim the trophy from Mrs Burden and Mrs Mumford this year?

Texas Scramble Pairs: This competition will be for pairs of golfers who make their way around the course, but only using the better ball. Both players take a turn from the better ball lie.

Both competitions will be determined using the Stableford Points system, with the lower golfer's handicap being using



to calculate the points. Drew and Mr Johnson 26 points won this prize for Osprey in 2016 with an impressive.

Senior Singles Matchplay: Any student in Year 10 or above may enter the Senior Singles Matchplay competition. Unlike Stroke play where it is player vs the course, in Matchplay, each hole can be won or lost directly to your opponent. The rules are easy - the lowest score on a hole, wins the hole. The golfer who wins most holes, wins the competition.

Bonus Competition: There will also be bonus points for 'Nearest the Pin' and 'Longest Drive', which played a crucial part in the overall standings last year.

We will be joined once again by Leigh Professional Golfer, Martin Foreman, and friends of the School and members of our Alumni and the Old Westcliffian Association and are also welcome to join

the event and represent their House. The staff competition promises to be exciting this year, with our Director of Sport, Mr Morrish, former 4 handicapper, joining forces with Mrs Mumford representing Harrier House.

Will any of the other Houses step up to seize the Golf Cup from Kestrel? Traditionally a close competition, with only three points between the top three Houses last year, participation is crucial to success in this activity.

The cost of this event is £12 per head and will include refreshments at the end of the round. Please use TicketSource to indicate your participation. I look forward to seeing you there.

Mrs K Mumford
Assistant Head:
Director of Lower School Studies



SCHOOL SPORT AND THE HOUSE SYSTEM

HOUSE SYSTEM: REVIEW OF THE SPRING TERM

Participation rates for House events continue to improve and this is very pleasing to see. Some events during the spring term were extremely popular and we are delighted that pupils are coming along to support their House. The camaraderie and team spirit has been exceptional.

Thank you to everyone that has generated ideas for new events and helped to organise activities. I am keen to hear from you, no matter what Year Group you are in. Some successful recent activities, for example, have been created and organised by Lower School pupils for the first time. Recent events have included House dessert-off, 'improv', rugby, badminton, basketball, table tennis, rowing, squash, football, science and oratory, among others.

I would like to acknowledge the work of Mr Shirlin, Mr Tresidder and Miss Dolan, the Heads of Houses, as well as Mr Morrish, Mr Atkinson, Mr Brinklow, Mrs Robinson, Mr Garstin, Mrs Barber and all the other staff that have supported House activities.

Future events will include short tennis, cricket, golf, debating, Xbox, chess, cross country, drafts, Scrabble, literature, drama, geography, geology, puzzles, illustrating, sudoku, satire, PSHEE, CCF and many more. Sports Day will also be a highlight of the year where a great number of House points will be available. It is essential that full teams are organised for this.

Heads of House will be choosing their new House Captains and Vice-Captains in the coming months. If you are interested in applying for these senior positions then you should speak to your Head of House to obtain more information about what this involves, and apply for the Shadow House roles which will soon be advertised. We tend to select students that participate and have a consistent track record of supporting their House.

*Mr R Barber
House System Co-ordinator*



ATHLETICS

The Year 7 Indoor Lee Valley athletics squad performed well in their first competitive meeting and managed to achieve a place in the semi-final, competing against a very strong field in the qualifying round. In the semi-final event the team performed well, with some excellent individual performances from Timi Ibinola who came 2nd in the Hurdles losing to a new Championship record and Toulou Odubade came 3rd in the Long Jump having led the entire competition until the final two jumps. The top three Long Jump competitors were separated by less than 10 cm.

This term we were delighted to welcome the regional Hammer coach, Rob Earle, to the School to deliver coaching to some pupils. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed this experience and made good progress in improving their technique. The PE Department has scheduled more development sessions for the summer term. It is important for both staff and pupils to develop their technical expertise through the use of highly experienced and capable regional coaches. Such training sessions should enable our pupils to improve their performance and progress.

The Physical Education Department is looking forward to the athletic matches that are confirmed in the Department's summer calendar. We shall be competing against schools such as Brentwood, John Fisher, Woodcote and Whitgift. Clearly these schools have a good athletic reputation, and I know the pupils from WHSB are looking forward to competing against them and showing just how talented and determined they are.



RUGBY

WHSB hosted its first Rugby 7s tournament for Year 8 teams during the latter part of the spring term. It was well attended by local schools and some well-established rugby schools from further afield. The WHSB team's performance was excellent. The team defeated Champion School, a reputable rugby school, in the early rounds and finished in second place overall, narrowly losing to The King John School. I would also like to commend our Year 8 'B' side, who were entered into the competition at short notice due to the late withdrawal of another school from the competition. This desire and readiness to represent WHSB reflects the pupils' superb commitment and does much to enhance the performance and dynamism of sport at this School.

Overall, the School enjoyed a good rugby season with its teams competing in all age groups in the Essex 7s Competitions as well as the Borough Championship for the Under 12 side.

In the Under 13 (Year 8) category, WHSB was allocated to a tough group which included New Hall School and Brentwood School. However our team rose to the challenge to achieve second place in the group, narrowly losing to New Hall School in the deciding game. Finishing in second place was enough to take WHSB through to the quarterfinal stage as the highest try scorers. Woodlands School were our opponents in the quarterfinal match; a game which WHSB dominated. We took on Champion School in the semi-final and, in a competitive game, WHSB scored in the final moments to achieve a place in the final. Again the WHSB team faced our group rivals New Hall School. The first half ended with the teams evenly matched, having scored two tries each. Unfortunately, New Hall School had the



better of the second half, and despite a spirited performance from WHSB, the game ended with New Hall School as the winners. This was a highly enjoyable day of rugby and we would like to commend the outstanding performances of Jack Shea, Guy Rainforth, Josh Ogunfolaju and Damope Akinyemi.

Timi Ibinola, Isaiah Akinlabi and Hamza Termezi led from the front as the Under 12 side gave a spirited performance in their Essex 7s tournament. After dominating the group games the WHSB team once again drew New Hall School in the quarterfinals. New Hall School had an excellent team and ultimately triumphed. However, a week later the WHSB team made the short journey to Westcliff Rugby Club where we defeated all the local opposition in the Borough Championships. The pupils represented the School with pride and were deserving champions.

The Sixth Form side claimed third place in the Essex Rugby 7s competition at the end of March, beating Southend High School

for Boys with the last play of the game

The Under 15 side is to be commended on reaching the semi-final of the Essex Cup in the 15 aside version of the game. Ultimately, the team suffered a narrow defeat to Robert Clack School. Unfortunately the Under 16 team, having defeated Robert Clack School in the Essex Cup, then lost to Colchester Royal Grammar School and did not progress from the group stage of the competition.

The Physical Education Department is looking forward to next season and the organisation of our Saturday programme for next year is already underway. We already have a pre-season tournament at Millfield School to look forward to with Years 7 and 8. We also look forward to playing block fixtures against established rugby schools such as St Albans, Epsom College, Dartford Grammar and Gravesend Grammar School next season. It is a testament to the positive attitude and commitment that the pupils have shown this season that such a high calibre of fixtures are in place for next year.

FOOTBALL

The School's teams enjoyed success in football in both the Southend Cup and South East Essex Cup competitions. The Year 8 team reached the semi-finals of both competitions, but were unfortunately defeated by Southend High School for Boys. The Year 10 team secured their place in the final of the Southend Cup. However, in an extremely close fought encounter with Southend High School for Boys, the side narrowly lost 2-1. WHSB performed particularly well in the first half but unfortunately failed to capitalise on their dominance. In particular, Lucas Courtney was unlucky hitting the bar with a superb long range

free kick and Southend High School for Boys were fortunate when handling numerous scrambles in the mouth of the goal, following excellent WHSB corner kicks. The Year 10 team also reached the final of the South East Essex Cup and this result will be reported in the next edition of the Westcliff Diary. Meanwhile the Year 11 team emerged victorious against Shoeburyness High School 2-0, to reach the final of the South East Essex Cup. The result was not available at time of writing.

OVERVIEW

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parents Association for their

incredibly generous contribution towards PE resources. I know the pupils will enjoy the new resources but I shall be keeping the new purchases a secret for now.

The pupils have performed very well this term across many sports and I think it is important that the Department thanks them for their continued commitment and effort. I look forward to working with them in the summer term when the focus switches to athletics and cricket.

*Mr T Morrish
Director of Sport*



CALENDAR FOR SUMMER TERM 2017

Tue 18 April	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY	Wed 21 June	Mathematics Architecture Workshop
Wed 19 April	SUMMER TERM BEGINS, 8.45am		Royal Festival Hall Visit, 4.30pm - 11.00pm
	Year 7 Parents' Surgery	Fri 23 June	Alumni Network Summer Meetup, 7.30pm - 10.00pm
21-23 April	Silver Duke of Edinburgh Practice Weekend	24 - 30 June	Geology Visit to the Isle of Arran
Mon 24 April	Year 10 Parents' Meeting, 4.00pm - 6.00pm	Tue 27 June	School finishes at 12.50pm
Tue 25 April	Jack Petchey Final		Open Evening for Year 5 pupils, 5.00pm - 9.00pm
Wed 26 April	Warhammer National Championships	Wed 28 June	Parents' Briefing for Battlefields Trip, 7.30pm - 8.30pm
	Dr Andrew Thompson: A Glorious Revolution (Year 12)	29 - 30 June	Sixth Form Induction Course
Thu 27 April	Junior Mathematics Challenge (Years 7 and 8)	Fri 30 June	CCF Passing Out Parade, 4.00pm - 6.00pm
	Student Production: Missing, 7.30pm - 9.00pm		Year 13 Leavers' Dinner, 7.00pm - 11.00pm
Fri 28 April	Year 8 Phase 2 Reports issued	1 - 2 July	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Assessment Weekend
Mon 1 May	BANK HOLIDAY	2 - 6 July	Geography Visit to Wales (Year 12)
Wed 3 May	Year 8 Parents' Surgery	Mon 3 July	UKCAT Preparation Day (Year 12)
	Summer Chamber Recital, 7.30pm - 9.30pm	Tue 4 July	Sports Day
Sat 6 May	WCGC: Languages Day, 8.30am - 4.00pm	Wed 5 July	Summer Sinfonia Concert, 7.30pm - 9.30pm
Tue 9 May	Musicology Seminar (Years 9-13), 3.45pm - 4.45pm	Thu 6 July	Art and Design Exhibition, 7.30pm - 9.00pm
Thu 11 May	Official Opening of the Sixth Form Centre	Fri 7 July	Enrichment Day
Fri 12 May	Production of Nell Gwynn at the Globe Theatre		New Year 7 Induction Day
15 - 19 May	Year 12 (new specification) End of Year Examinations		Summer Band and BBQ, 7.00pm - 10.30pm
Thu 18 May	Building Infrastructure Day (Years 9 and 10)	7 - 10 July	Battlefields Tour (Year 9)
20 - 21 May	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Practice Weekend	9 - 12 July	Bristol ChemLabS Trip
24 - 25 May	School Production: Dr Faustus, 7.00pm - 9.15pm	12 - 15 July	Silver Duke of Edinburgh Assessment Weekend
		Thu 13 July	House Drama Competition, 7.00pm - 9.00pm
29 May - 2 June	SUMMER HALF TERM	Fri 14 July	Years 8 and 10 Phase 3 Reports Issued
5 - 9 June	Years 7 - 10 Internal School Examinations	15 - 28 July	Trip to China
Fri 9 June	Year 7 visit to Southend	Thu 20 July	Years 7 and 9 Phase 3 Reports Issued
	House Golf Competition, 4.30pm - 8.00pm	21 - 24 July	Trip to Barcelona
Sun 11 June	Garden Party, 12.00pm - 4.00pm	Fri 21 July	SUMMER TERM ENDS, 2.45pm
Wed 14 June	UCAS University Superfair	Thu 17 August	AS/A Level Results Day
Thu 15 June	Oxbridge Conference	Thu 24 August	GCSE Results Day
15 - 16 June	Year 10 Geography Field Trips	Fri 1 September	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
15 - 18 June	CCF Survival Camp	Mon 4 September	AUTUMN TERM BEGINS, 8.45am

Tickets for all Westcliff Diary events can be purchased via TicketSource at <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/> or by scanning this QR code.



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