



The Westcliff Diary

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FROM THE DESK OF THE HEADMASTER

Welcome from the Headmaster

At the start of another busy term, I would like to welcome pupils, parents, staff and friends back to the School as we begin 2025. I hope you enjoyed a restful Christmas break and I wish you a Happy New Year.

Preparing for the Summer Examinations

The months of the Spring and Summer Terms are always particularly busy for our Year 11 and Upper Sixth students, as they prepare to take their Public Examinations in the summer. Following the Year 11 Trial Examinations during November 2024, the staff are working on the Phase 2 Reports which are due to be issued later in January. Trial Examinations for our Upper Sixth students are held at the start of this Term and, similarly, Phase 2 Reports for those students will follow in February.

The Phase 2 Reports for both cohorts provide students and parents with feedback on a range of matters in connection with the student's progress at this point in their course of study, also addressing performance in the recent Trial Examinations. Further information concerning these important Reports is included in this edition of *The Westcliff Diary*, and I am grateful to Mr Manning for providing this helpful overview. I cannot emphasise strongly enough the need for students, with support from their parents, to focus on the teachers' feedback in those reports as they prepare for the Public Examinations.

Demand for places in our Sixth Form this year remains high, and competition for places in Higher Education and for degree apprenticeships is also fierce, therefore it is crucial that students use wisely the remaining months before their examinations. I wish all Year 11 and Upper Sixth students the very best of luck with their examination preparation this Term; balance your hard work with time to relax and recharge, and please do not hesitate to seek support from your subject teachers, and your Pastoral Team whenever that may be required.

On a separate but related matter, the School continues to develop its provision

in connection with preparing for entry into Higher Education, including degree apprenticeships. This includes plans to make further use of time from Old Westcliffians currently studying at Oxbridge and further details will be shared with students and parents in due course.

The Sunday Times Parent Power Guide

We were delighted to receive the news that Westcliff High School for Boys was, once again, rated in the Top 40 Schools nationally, and the School community should be rightly proud of this superb achievement. Such a result is not the 'be-all and end-all, of course, but nevertheless it is wonderful to have this further external acknowledgement of the School's performance nationally, and of the outstanding efforts of our staff and pupils in reaching this achievement.

Capital Developments

At the end of last term, we were delighted to see some of the scaffolding surrounding the School being removed as our project to replace the Main School roof nears completion. We hope this long-term project, the bulk of which was completed in the Autumn Term, will now help to future-proof our School facilities for many decades to come, as well as significantly reducing energy usage. I would like to thank pupils, staff, parents, and visitors to the School for their patience in navigating any changes necessary to facilitate the works during recent months. The contractors have made good progress, and we have been fortunate with the weather, with few days when work could not continue, and therefore we should see the final sections of scaffolding removed no later than half-term.

Despite falling levels of funding, we hope to continue with efforts to develop and maintain our superb facilities, with one of our next aims being the development and refurbishment of sports and changing facilities. The economic position, nationally and within the Public Sector, is such that school grant funding has been declining year on year, relative to inflation. This means some difficult decisions have had to be made wherever we believe cuts will have the least impact on our pupils,

and I am grateful to our outstanding staff for the many hours they devote towards ensuring our provision beyond the curriculum remains rich and varied. Despite many schools now suffering with deficit budgets, we are fortunate that our financial position remains relatively strong, but this is not without significant compromise. In our Autumn Term edition of *The Westcliff Diary* you will have read of our need to call on our wider School community for financial support at this time, and we are grateful for any assistance you can offer through the Pupil Fund, sponsorship, or general donations. Please do refer to that edition for further details, or contact Mr Rothon (Director of Finance and Accounting) or myself if you wish to discuss ways in which you can offer your help. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Old Westcliffian Network

I hope that you will have had the opportunity to view the Winter edition of the Old Westcliffian (OW) Newsletter which was circulated last term. This was the first edition of the Newsletter following its re-launch in 2024, and we look forward to sharing that publication with the School community, and as widely as possible, as we continue to develop its content. This electronic Newsletter will be circulated biannually, in the Summer and Winter, and a copy can be located on the OW page of the School's website. Old Westcliffians registered in our database will receive an email and link to the Newsletter as soon as each new edition is released, and please do register your details if you have not already done so.

Copies of the OW Newsletter were shared with our current pupils, and we intend to draw to their attention future editions, as we hope this will also support the development of closer links between our Alumni and pupils attending the School. I am most grateful to all those OWs who offer such valuable support, advice, and opportunities to the pupils, as that significantly enhances the extra-curricular and Higher Education/Careers provision we can offer through our School.

We need your support

A school is only as good as the investment and support our staff, pupils, parents, OWs, and friends put into it, hence the thoughts I have shared in the paragraphs above. The governors and staff at WHSB will continue to do everything possible to provide pupils with the very best of provision. However, full engagement and support from the wider community is essential for our success. I am grateful to the many members of our wider community who lend their support, through attendance at events, engaging with extra-curricular and Higher

Education/Careers provision, and through donations. Therefore, please do continue to follow the School news, through *The Westcliff Diary*, Facebook, and general communications and events, and support in whatever way you can.

The WHSB Parents' Association relies on the dedication and commitment of parents who can support their fundraising efforts, including arrangements for providing refreshments and sales at various School events. If you are a parent of a current pupil, and you have a little time to spare to become involved in the Parents' Association, please get in touch with Mrs Ghauri, Chair of the Parents' Association (pa@whsb.essex.sch.uk).

As I have noted above, WHSB is placed within the Top 40 Schools nationally. Our ability to maintain and improve our standards further depends on having sufficient resources to do so. Given the poor state of education funding, we shall have to work together more closely than ever for the good of our pupils. To paraphrase the late John F Kennedy (35th President of the USA), *ask not what your School can do for you, rather ask what you can do for your School!* Thank for your continuing support for the School.

Headmaster



CLIMBING MOUNT KILIMANJARO

Congratulations to Old Westcliffian Max Cole and his father Anthony, WHSB's Co-Chair of Governors, who climbed to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, Northeastern Tanzania. Through this challenge they sought to raise funds to support the School with the replacement of our tartan facility, and we thank them for their support.





UPPER SIXTH TRIAL EXAMINATIONS

Tuesday 7 - Friday 17 January 2025

As we enter the final full term of studies for our Upper Sixth students, they will soon undertake their Trial Examinations to aid their preparation for the A Level examinations in the summer. Students and parents are reminded that Progress Leaders, pastoral staff, subject teachers, and Heads of Department are all available to provide support with any queries or concerns. In recent weeks, effective revision techniques have also been reviewed as part of the Upper Sixth pastoral programme.



YEAR 11 TASTER SESSIONS

Wednesday 15 January 2025

On Wednesday 15 January, Year 11 pupils will spend the afternoon gaining insight into life as a Sixth Form student at WHSB. They will select four subjects of interest and attend short taster sessions to explore the differences between GCSE and Advanced Level study. These sessions are designed to help pupils make informed decisions for their Sixth Form choices. Additionally, they will have the opportunity to explore subjects available only at A Level, such as Politics and Psychology.

Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form



JACK PETCHEY SPEAK OUT CHALLENGE 2025

Jack Petchey Speak Out Workshop: Thursday 16 and 17 January 2025

Regional Finals: Tuesday 22 February 2025

Every pupil in Year 10 will be given the opportunity to take part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out workshop, which will take place in School on the 16 and 17 of January 2025. The event itself was set up by Sir Jack Petchey CBE, who wanted to give back to the community and provide opportunities the like of which were not available when he was younger. The Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge involves a series of workshops and competitions which encourage young people in Essex and London to find their voice.

During the workshops, pupils will develop public speaking skills, including delivery, timing, and presentation, all of which will be of utmost benefit in advance of the GCSE Speaking and Listening



examinations where pupils will be expected to speak about a topic of their choice. Further, it is a good opportunity to develop vital listening skills, equally essential traits as pupils look towards their later lives, including further education and

employment prospects. From the workshops, two pupils will be put forward to take part in a selection process based in School to decide which pupil will participate in the Regional Final. There they will compete against other schools to decide who will represent the Rochford and Southend Region at the Grand Final.

The English Department is pleased once again to participate in the competition which has led to success in the regional finals in recent years, including Sam Crabb taking second place, with the School also represented by Billy Wallace last year. We look forward to hearing our Year 10 pupils in action as they engage with the challenges of the day.

On Tuesday 22 February 2025, WHSB will host this year's Regional Finals of the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge. This sees pupils from local schools in the Rochford and Southend Region taking part in a competition to determine who will represent the area at the Digital Final to whittle down the best 15 students across the 37 regions, to take part in the Grand Final on 8 July 2025 at the Cambridge Theatre in London. The School is most fortunate to have the opportunity to host this year's Regional Final, thanks to Sam Crabb's second place finish in last year's Regional Final. We are looking forward to showcasing with pride the public speaking skills of the Year 10 pupils who have been chosen to represent their School.

Mr S Lilley, Teacher of English



YEAR 11 PHASE 2 REPORT

Friday 21 January 2025

Having sat their GCSE Trial Examinations in November last year, Year 11 pupils will have already received their grades in a brief report last December, distributed just before the Christmas holidays. The Year 11 Phase 2 report issued on 21 January 2025 is a more detailed analysis of their performance in their Trial Examinations. This report also includes any progress in the Non-Examined Assessment (coursework) where appropriate, as well as advice on how to improve for the real GCSE Examinations in the Summer. In addition to the Trial Examination grade in each subject, each pupil receives an overall attainment grade,

the usual attitudinal indicators in relation to effort in class, effort out of class, meeting deadlines and presentation, and a written commentary from each subject teacher. Their Form Tutor will also write on their wider contribution to School Life and the Headmaster will offer his advice and experience to each pupil on how to proceed in the remaining time leading up to the GCSE examinations. Data relating to attendance (which should be 97% or above), behaviour points (ideally 0), and Senior Commendations is also provided. Following the production of these reports, there will be an opportunity to discuss progress at the Year 11 Parents' Consultation evening on Monday 3 February, ahead of pupils making their A Level subject choices.

Mr M Manning, Second Deputy Head



YEAR 11 ENTRY TO SIXTH FORM EVENING

Tuesday 22 January 2025, 7.30pm to 9.00pm

Building on the Taster afternoon from the previous week, Year 11 pupils and their parents are invited to attend a series of talks outlining the Sixth Form programme at the School. These talks aim to support parents and pupils in making informed decisions about post-16 study. Information will also be provided about the enrichment activities that are part of the Sixth Form curriculum, as well as opportunities to participate in the wider School community.

Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form

CHEMISTRY LECTURE WITH DR ALEX BAKER, PHD MCHM MRSC MRSB MRI MRSTMH FHEA

Why Chemistry is more than just Chemicals

Wednesday 22 January 2025

On Wednesday 22 January 2025, WHSB will be welcoming back Old Westcliffian Dr Alex Baker to speak to Chemistry Students in the Sixth Form. He will be presenting two lectures entitled "Why Chemistry is more than just Chemicals" and "Not all doctors have a medical degree".

Dr Alex Baker is an Assistant Professor of Chemistry & Leverhulme Early Career Fellow.

Dr Baker is a young award-winning research chemist and inventor at the University of Warwick, with a passion for engaging the public in all things Chemistry and Science. He is not only a scientist with a growing international reputation but also an experienced public engager on the national stage.

His work with the BBC and other media outlets has reached tens of millions of people globally. Dr Baker is a regular speaker and Chair for Education in Action - speaking alongside Jamie Gallagher, Anna Ploszajski, and Andrea Sella to thousands of students in Manchester, London, and the Midlands. At these events he has discussed lateral flow devices, the chemical differences between medicines and drugs, and how to freeze humans.

Dr Baker has also spoken in 2024 at The Royal Institution on the Chemistry of Star Wars. He has worked with Pint of Science, notably as an invited speaker at the national Cuppa Science event in 2020, speaking alongside Marty Jopson. In 2021, as part of Coventry City of Culture, Dr Baker chaired an expert panel session discussing the influence chemicals such as caffeine and cannabis have on society ("Chemicals, Cocktails and Creativity"). He is also one of the youngest scientists to present the Warwick Christmas lectures (2019) and headlined the event in 2022. Beyond speaking, he has a wealth of experience working with young people and museums, interviewing scientists, and creating media content to engage the public. Through his award-winning research, he has invented new

lateral flow devices for COVID-19, developed cryoprotectants and has been interviewed by the BBC and Associate Press amongst other media outlets. Recent radio work with the BBC reached approximately 2 million people.

Dr Baker's particular areas of interest centre around his research designing medical diagnostics for the developing world. He has recently turned his attention to studying neglected tropical diseases such as snake bites. He believes passionately that everyone should have access to high quality science, so has founded conferences and events targeted at students from disadvantaged and under-represented backgrounds.

Dr Baker is determined to make Chemistry an engaging and modern topic of discussion in every coffee shop and classroom in the UK and beyond.

Dr Baker last visited WHSB in 2024 and we are looking forward to seeing him and hearing him speak again.

Mr D Wightman, Head of Chemistry



SPRING CHAMBER RECITAL

Thursday 23 January 2025, 7.30pm - 9.00pm

The Spring Chamber Recital will feature Westcliff's most talented solo and ensemble musicians from across the School community. The concert will showcase pupils from the youngest in the Lower School all the way to those in their final year of school. It promises to include performances of music from a range of different styles: Rock, Pop, Classical, Musical Theatre, Film Scores, and many more. Expect to see several of our most gifted pianists and vocalists performing various well-known works.

Returning performers include Upper Sixth cellist Quinn Williams and Upper Sixth vocalist Kaylan Teague. Also, expect to see new performers take to the stage such as Upper Sixth student Lexi Bush who will be performing a piece for solo tuba! Multiple ensembles, including The String Ensemble and Horn Group, will also be making their regular appearance and presenting an exciting repertoire, led by guest conductors selected from the student body.

Tickets are £5.00 for adults and free for pupils.

Mr A Wood, Teacher of Music

GCSE AND A LEVEL ART TRIP TO SAATCHI GALLERY AND V&A MUSEUM

Friday 24 January 2025



In January, Art students in Year 10 and the Lower Sixth will be visiting the V&A Museum and Saatchi Gallery in London. As both Year Groups embark on personal projects, and these visits offer them the opportunity to explore a range of traditional and contemporary artists to inspire future creative directions.

This is also a wonderful opportunity for the two Year Groups to discuss ideas with each other. We have found that, through gallery visits, students not only build up a body of sketches relevant to their themes, but also grow in confidence in how they might visually express their own ideas. Students are guided by the Art teachers, and also given free time to explore the exhibitions in small groups

Mrs K Allard, Head of Art

CAREERS EVENING IN STEM

Wednesday 29 January 2025, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

On Wednesday 29 January 2025, our Careers Evening in STEM will encompass a variety of representatives from the worlds of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

We will welcome a panel of professionals holding a range of experience in these industries. We are delighted that our guests will include Rajveer Rupra, First Officer, British Airways City Flyer, who has recently embarked on his career as a pilot.

The panel, which will include WHSB Alumni, will be able to give insights into their professions and provide some direction to pupils regarding qualifications and routes into a career in STEM.

Our careers evenings are open to all students and their parents, as well as students from other local schools.

Mr M Atkinson, Careers Adviser



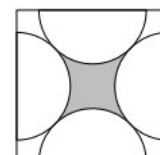
INTERMEDIATE MATHS CHALLENGE

Wednesday 29 January 2025

The Intermediate Maths Challenge is an international competition aimed at engaging our brightest pupils with problem solving challenges. The 25 questions range in difficulty and test pupils' key skills. This is aimed primarily at Year 11 pupils, however our top Mathematicians in Years 9 and 10 will also be invited to join in. Why not have a go yourself, at a question from last year's competition?

Miss A James, Head of Mathematics

The diagram shows a square of side 4 cm with four identical semi-circles drawn with their centres at the mid-points of the sides. The four semi-circles each touch two other semi-circles, as shown. What is the shaded area, in cm^2 ?



A $8 - \pi$

B π

C $\pi - 2$

D $\pi - \sqrt{2}$

E $8 - 2\pi$

REVISION TOP TIPS

Things I wish I had known when it all began for me, back in 2003...

I look back on the evolution of my ability to revise with both embarrassment and amusement. However, with the benefit of hindsight and the 20:20 vision it provides, I wanted to take the opportunity to share what I learned, albeit learned a little too slowly.

Make a plan.....stick to the plan! This does not specifically mean a revision timetable although, as our proximity to the examination window increases, these are incredibly useful. This is the first time that you are entirely responsible and accountable for your own success and, for many, this is daunting. The thought that there is too much to revise and not knowing where to start is remarkably common. The best thing to do is just to make a start, do something! This will then allow you to develop a plan that considers when to revise particular subjects, how often, and for how long. A little and often approach is more useful than blocking out hours at the weekend. Ultimately you need to demonstrate self-discipline to follow your plan and resilience to not give up on it when things get difficult. Pleasingly, both of these are admirable character traits for your future.

High levels of motivation are central to this. Motivation should be intrinsic and yet, for many, and I include my 2003 self, it is not. There is not a simple answer here and it will be different for everyone, but the question is self-explanatory: What is your reason to apply yourself, so you achieve a successful set of results? Again, this will be different for everyone but if you are struggling to find one, you are never going to be self-disciplined and resilient. Ultimately you will need to find your motivation because without it you will never achieve what you are truly capable of.

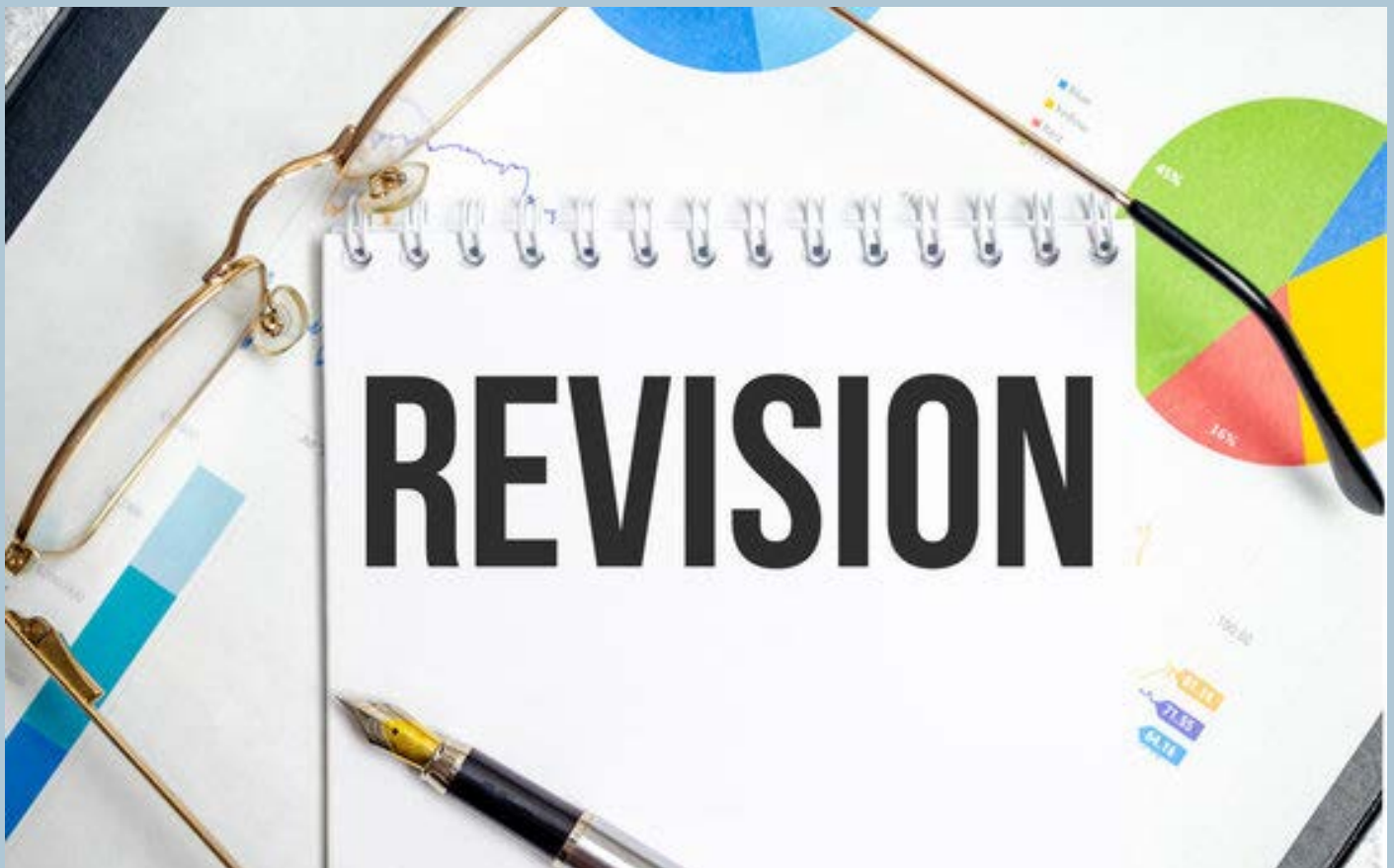
Actively Engaged Revision must not be passive and the premise that merely by reading your notes you will retain the information is both short sighted, and contrary to how our brains work. You must use strategies that involve you processing and applying the information, and these can range from (but should not be restricted to) making notes, condensing notes to flash cards, completing practice questions, marking your answers, and designing your own questions and mark schemes.

Good examination technique will be instrumental to your success and is essential for all subjects. This ranges from the obvious such as knowing how many papers per subject, how long each paper is, and what topics are on which paper, through to the types of questions set and the number of marks awarded for each. It is vital that you are familiar with the mark schemes and that they are used as part of your preparation. Familiarity builds fluency! Repetition has become an unfashionable word for many and, for me, that is a shame. The brain, like a muscle, will respond more effectively if it repeats the same process multiple times. It will build stronger connections and increase the likelihood of retention – this is an effective way to revise and should be something you undertake willingly.

Key Points

- ✓ Take personal responsibility for your future success and accept that you are the deciding factor in it.
- ✓ Have something to be successful for, ensure you are organised, remain focused, engage willingly, and repeat.

Mr A Barnett, Director of Middle School



CAPTAIN'S LOG

Since my last Captain's Log, we have enjoyed a packed term full of memorable School traditions and events, as we headed towards our Christmas break.

I was delighted to attend the annual Old Westcliffian Association Dinner, where School alumni gather to meet, reminisce, and enjoy a delicious dinner in the Main Hall. It was also a fantastic opportunity to network, and I enjoyed meeting former pupils of all ages and talking about their varied careers and interests. It brought home to me just how meaningful our time at school is, and just how much of a significant impact it still has on us years after we have left. It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening, and I would encourage you all to try and maintain this tradition by joining the OWA when you eventually move on.

As always, we had an exceptional turnout for our Sixth Form Open Evening. Our School has such a lot to offer and is widely held in high regard. It was a pleasure for me, the School Vice Captains, and our prefects to promote WHSB and our outstanding reputation to Year 11 pupils from across the county and further afield. Everyone representing the School did a great job that evening and deserves special praise for their enthusiastic support.

Congratulations to the Charity Committee for organising yet another hugely successful Culture Day in October. Once again, it proved to be an extremely popular event, with many of us celebrating our cultures through music, dance, and a splendid display of colourful traditional dress - as well as one or two football and rugby kits also on display!

The Autumn Chamber Recital was a wonderfully eclectic evening of instrumental music and vocal entertainment by our talented students, showcasing some fantastic solo and ensemble performances. The sheer variety displayed that evening was quite breathtaking, ranging from classical to contemporary pieces, with incredible vocal performances as well as pieces from well-known musicals. Please do try to come along to future recitals. Not only is it hugely enjoyable and entertaining, but it also widens our appreciation of music and the Arts. The audience also makes such a huge difference to the atmosphere and gives a great boost to the performers.

Our annual Speech Day in November was a fitting celebration of the talents and hard work of the pupils and staff. There were, as usual, many deserving winners mounting the stage to receive their awards. This year, we welcomed Rear Admiral Roy Clare as our Guest of Honour and heard him speak of his highly interesting career path and very amusing anecdotes on how success can often follow failures. It was inspiring to listen to his message, delivered with endearingly gracious humour, that true leadership is fundamentally rooted in duty and resilience. I was very proud to hear his praise for our School and our achievements, and grateful to him for making an effort to talk to me and many other pupils in person.

Our impressive CCF did us proud at the Remembrance Day commemorations on 11 November, another important date in the School's calendar. We remembered those who laid down their own lives for our freedom, and we paid tribute to the 96 Westcliffians who died in the Second World War, and those in other conflicts. We also paused to reflect on current wars and conflicts, and on the importance of recognising and respecting

one another despite our differences. I was honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of our School at the Cenotaph, in what was a very moving ceremony.

"The Spring Term promises to be yet another busy term. For many of us, examination season is fast approaching, and we will be ramping up our revision schedules and immersing ourselves in schoolwork. From a personal perspective, balancing the responsibilities of being School Captain with my academic studies and life outside the School has been both interesting and, at times, challenging. I am sure that this is something most of you will have also experienced. I have had to learn quickly the importance of organisation and time management, life skills that are encouraged and fostered at WHSB. Balancing so many different things can be stressful at times, so do ask for help from staff, parents and friends - and try and remember it is often better to be busy than bored!"

With that thought, I wish you the very best of luck with your studies.

Rafael Gamma, School Captain



THE ANTHEA BELL PRIZE FEBRUARY TO MARCH 2025

Every year since the competition's launch in 2020, pupils at Westcliff High School for Boys have taken part in The Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators, and every year we have had considerable success in the competition, winning regional (East of England) and national prizes in all languages offered. We have now won four national prizes and sixteen East of England prizes in the Anthea Bell Prize, and we look forward to more success in 2025.

In the 2024 competition, Isaac Bajela and Oladipupo Taiwo won the national prize at Level 2 German for their excellent translation of *Mauskätzchen* by August Heinrich Hoffmann von Fallersleben (1798-1874) about a cat who is called upon to chase some mice. William Bambrick and Reuben Fuller were runners up nationally in the Level 2 Mandarin competition, Marcus Cato and Troy Mukudu were runners up nationally in the Level 3 Spanish competition, and Abdullah Raja won the East of England Level 3 Italian competition (all of the national winners and runners-up are also regional winners). There were over 16,000 entries nationally.

This year, the competition will run in February and March 2025. The competition organisers (from The Translation Exchange at The Queen's College, Oxford) have introduced a new language – Russian. Pupils in Year 7 will be entered for Level 1, those in Years 8 and 9 compete at Level 2, Middle School pupils, i.e. Years 10 and 11, will enter the Level 3 competition, and Sixth Form students enter Level 4. The languages available are French, German, Italian, Mandarin, Russian, and Spanish, and pupils can all take part from Years 7 to the Upper Sixth. The best five translations from each level and language are submitted by the MFL Department, i.e. 5 entries for Level 1 French, 5 for Level 2 French, 5 for Level 1 German, 5 for Level 2 German, etc. Entries can be from an individual or from a pair of pupils working together. The Modern Foreign Languages Department encourages Lower School and Middle School pupils, along with Sixth Form students, to try translating from languages they are not studying, as well as those they do study. Practice translations are available, and one lesson is given to pupils to begin translating the competition text. Sixth Form students who do not study a language at A Level are welcome to take part. The competition texts themselves are poems, extracts from works of fiction, or pieces of non-fiction, and the aim is to turn the translation into a fluent piece which does not read like a translation, but yet conveys the essence of the original piece. More information can be found on the competition website: <https://www.queens.ox.ac.uk/research-at-queens/translation-exchange/anthea-bell-prize-for-young-translators-faqs/>

We look forward to launching the competition in MFL lessons and we hope you are as excited as we are to see the new competition texts for 2025.

Ms J McKeown, Head of Modern Foreign Languages



YEAR 11 PARENTS EVENING

Monday 3 February 2025, 4.00pm – 6.00pm

On Monday 3 February 2025, Year 11 pupils and parents will have the opportunity to discuss the pupil's progress with the subject teachers at Parents Evening. This follows the issuing of the Year 11 phase 2 Reports, which are issued on Tuesday 21 January 2025. This event will build upon the written commentary within the Report and allow pupils and their parents to understand how further progress can be made and how best to address any areas of academic weakness. This is also an invaluable opportunity to look ahead to Sixth Form study and consider the suitability of the pupil's Advanced Level choices.

These evenings are held remotely using the online programme *SchoolBooking*. This programme allows parents to book meetings with teachers they wish to see, and for teachers to book appointments with parents.



Year 11
Parents' Evening

Full instructions will be distributed nearer the time. Time does not allow for all parents to meet with all teachers, therefore parents are asked to select those subjects for which they consider a discussion may be most beneficial. The instructions will detail the total number of appointments parents can attend, and this number will take into consideration specific requests made by teachers to meet with parents.

Mr A Barnett, Director of Middle School

UPPER SIXTH PHASE 2 REPORTS

Friday 7 February 2025

Following the completion of Trial Examinations in early January 2025, students in the Upper Sixth will receive their Phase 2 reports on 7 February 2025. These will inform parents of the grades achieved by their children in these examinations. An overall attainment grade will also be included for each student, as well as attitudinal indicators in relation to effort in class, effort out of class, and meeting deadlines. This will be followed by a written comment from the subject teachers on how to improve. Form Tutors will also review students' wider contribution to School Life, with the Headmaster then offering his advice and best wishes to all students in what is their final written report during their time at WHSB.

Many students will have received offers from universities at this point, so it is worth noting that the average "bounce" between their Trial Examination grade and their final A Level is around half a grade per subject. Typically, this translates to two whole grades for a student studying four A Levels, or one or two grades for a student studying three. This will mean that if AAA is a student's offer for their preferred university, ABB or AAB is the least they should be targeting in their Trial Examinations, as converting results such as CCD to AAA is a highly unlikely prospect.

Mr M Manning, Second Deputy Head



CHARITY EVENTS

Friday 7 February and Friday 28 March 2025

Once again, our Charity Committee has been busy. In 2024, we raised over £4,000 for Little Havens Hospice, and HARP, a local charity supporting people experiencing homelessness. This amazing total reflects the hard work and dedication shown by Nevin Nice, Laoise Bullock, Amina Mammadezada, Ifeoma Nwabueze, Quinn Williams, and Theo Brooke Durrant, as members of our Charity Committee.

We are now in the process of recruiting our new Committee for 2025 and will then update the School community regarding the charities to be supported this year. There are charity events planned for Friday 7 February and Friday 28 March, and the new Committee will circulate details closer to the time.

We look forward to some imaginative events along with the eagerly anticipated Tuck Shop, which the whole School can enjoy.

Mrs K Revell, Director of Sixth Form



COMBINED CADET FORCE NAVY SECTION NUCLEAR HIGH ROPES AND BUNKER TRIP

Saturday 8 February 2025

Cadets in the Westcliff High School for Boys' Navy Section are very much looking forward to their upcoming field trip to the Nuclear High Ropes and Bunker.

The objective of this trip is to provide hands-on experience and practical skills to Naval Cadets, who will learn and develop their skills in working with rope, and improve their teamwork skills. The Cadets will then top that off with a history lesson detailing the history of our country and its role in various conflicts around the world. This will then allow the Cadets to more extensively

explore the Nuclear Bunker, known for its vast selection of equipment, uniforms and more.

Cadets will be participating in high rope activities that will test their strength, knowledge of rope work, and teamwork in a day spent high in the trees, as they navigate the course set out across the site. This field visit offers a very different sort of experience for the Navy Cadets and should complement their associated work completed in School.

Lieutenant Hadley, Section Commander Royal Navy CCF



WESTCLIFF CENTRE FOR GIFTED CHILDREN GO FOR GRAMMAR!

Saturday 8 February 2025

It was exciting to restart the Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children Go for Grammar! Programme for local Year 5 pupils last term. Seventy-two children attended the first of our programmed days, which was on the theme "All Things Creative". Each of the days in our programme includes English and Mathematics lessons designed to stretch pupils and aid their familiarity with 11+ style work, and also includes lessons associated with the theme for the day. Our "All Things Creative Day" in the autumn also included lessons in Art, Technology, and Languages.

In the afternoon, parents were welcomed into the School for a seminar with the Director of Lower School, to discuss how parents could best support their child through the 11+ Examinations. WHSB's Ellis Hall in Year 7 spoke to parents passionately and honestly about his preparations for the 11+ Examinations.

The Year 5 pupils had the opportunity to engage with our Sixth Form Students who chaperoned them around the School, and joined them for some of their lessons.

This term, the School will welcome more Year 5 pupils for our "Lively Laboratories Day" on Saturday 8 February, which will see pupils engaging with Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Earth Science activities. Finally, there will be a Sport, Adventure, and Leadership Day in the Summer Term, to conclude the 2024/25 Programme.

Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School



YEAR 9 IMMUNISATIONS

Monday 10 - Tuesday 11 February 2025

Shortly before the Half Term holiday, the School Aged Immunisations Team from Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust (EPUT) will be visiting the School to administer Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio, and Meningitis vaccinations.

The School acts as a venue only for the vaccinations, and is not involved in the arrangements, provision of information, or requesting of consent regarding the vaccinations. This is managed entirely by the Immunisations Team, and the School is unable to answer any questions.

Any queries or concerns can be addressed directly to the Immunisations Team on 0300 790 0597 or epunft.SE-Immunisations@nhs.net



Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School



NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK: MORGAN STANLEY

Wednesday 12 February 2025

We look forward to once again welcoming representatives from Morgan Stanley, who will present to interested Lower and Upper Sixth Students regarding Morgan Stanley's Apprenticeship Programme.

As in previous years, they will also review any student's current CV and provide feedback. This proved to be incredibly popular last year, and I am sure that it will be of interest to a good number of our current Lower and Upper Sixth Students.

Mr M Atkinson, Careers Adviser

COMBINED CADET FORCE FIELD DAYS

Saturday 8 - Friday 14 February 2025

Following a very successful Field Week in October, which saw over 100 Cadets from Years 10 to the Upper Sixth take part in activities to develop their core training in areas such as Skill at Arms, Shooting, or Fieldcraft, there will be a second Field Week from Saturday 8 - Friday 14 February 2025.

This week will comprise another series of training events for Cadets from the Royal Navy, Army, and Royal Air Force Sections. The Contingent will be based at Cherry Tree Cadet Training Centre, Colchester, and undertake training appropriate to their Services, including visits to Regular Units, the use of simulated training facilities, and leadership activities.

Lt Col A Baggs, Contingent Commander



THE SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP AND LOST PROPERTY RECLAIM

WHSB uniform is sold exclusively through the School Shop, and parental feedback confirms that this is the most convenient approach for parents. We also find that, by selling in-house, we can offer a personal service and keep prices at the most competitive level possible.

The School Shop, located in the School's East Basement, will normally open during Term time on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 10.30am to 1.30pm, and on specified dates/times at the end of the School's summer break and prior to the start of the new Academic Year.

When the Shop is open, items of uniform can be tried on for size and purchases made. Cash, cheque, and debit/credit card payments are accepted. Details of dates and opening times are available on the School's website. For items of uniform required in a size that is not normally stocked by the shop, please email uniform@whsb.essex.sch.uk

Items of School uniform and merchandise can also be purchased online using the link provided in the Uniform section of the School's website. Parents will be advised by email when their online order is ready for collection from the Shop.

Details of the WHSB School Uniform Policy can be accessed via the School website: www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/uniform

SECOND-HAND UNIFORM

We are pleased to advise parents that the School Shop has further increased the stock of second-hand uniform. Please feel free to contact uniform@whsb.essex.sch.uk for further details if this should be of interest.



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



LOST PROPERTY RECLAIM

Friday 14 February 2025, and Thursday 3 April 2025

Named and unnamed clothes, bags and other items which are found around the School are placed in the Lost Property area located in the East Basement.

Each term we will empty out the Lost Property area, giving pupils and parents a chance to claim back their items.

Any unclaimed items left at the end of each term are recycled locally.



NEW YEAR 7 PUPILS 2025

Details of uniform fitting days for incoming Year 7 pupils can be found on the Year 7 Entrants section of the School website www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/lower-and-middle-school/year-7-entrants.

Ms I Gimbutiene, School Shop Manager

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION COOKIES AND TREATS SALE

Friday 14 February 2025

This fundraising event will take place on Friday 14 February 2025 at morning break. Quality bakes and delicious seasonal treats will be on sale. Cash and card payments will be taken on the day.

Mrs J Clarke, Head of the Parents' Association



FIRST INTUITION

Friday 14 February 2025

We are pleased to welcome First Intuition back to the School on 14 February. During lunchtime, First Intuition will present to all interested pupils on Apprenticeships and the company's role as a training provider for apprenticeship programmes.

We are delighted that First Intuition will also deliver a presentation to our Year 9 cohort in the afternoon. This will also support the School's work associated with the Provider Access Legislation, which addresses meaningful encounters with providers of apprenticeships.

Mr M Atkinson, Careers Adviser



FORM 7W: TRIP TO KINGPINS

Saturday 15 February 2025

This term, pupils in Form 7W will have the opportunity to take part in a team-building activity; we are going bowling! On Saturday 15 February, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm, we will be at Kingpins Bowl on Southend seafront, rolling a 22cm diameter 6kg ball into ten unsuspecting wooden pins. The purpose of the trip is for pupils in the Form to get to know each other better and to build a strong sense of community.

If you are in 7W, see Mr Dalby for a letter. The cost will be £12.00 per pupil, payable via ParentPay.

Mr K Dalby, 7W Form Tutor

SPANISH DEPARTMENT TRIP TO ALMERÍA, GRANADA, CÓRDOBA AND SEVILLE

Saturday 15 - Friday 21 February 2025

The Spanish Department is delighted to be returning to Andalusia in the February half term, for the third year running. This time, 33 pupils from Years 9, 10, and 11, along with three Sixth Form students, will be travelling to Spain, and we will be staying in hotels in the cities of Almería and Córdoba. We have a busy schedule, with the first four days (Saturday 15 to Tuesday 18 February) spent in Almería, then from Wednesday 19 to Friday 21 February we look forward to visiting Granada, Córdoba and Seville.

Whilst staying in Almería, pupils will visit Mini Hollywood, the theme park in the desert that has proved a popular visit with our pupils in the past. There, we will have the chance to see cowboy and dance shows, visit the set of western films that were made in the Tabernas desert, and explore the nature reserve. We will spend another day at our partner Spanish school, IES Albaída, which is always interesting and very different from Westcliff High School for Boys. It is great fun getting to know Spanish pupils and attending lessons. A flamenco show in Almería is also planned, along with chocolate con churros at a well-established café in the centre of Almería. We will visit the historic old town, the seafront, the Alcazaba, the Museo de la Guitarra, and bunkers from the Spanish Civil War.

When we leave Almería, we head to Granada to visit the Albaicín and the majestic Alhambra palace. This is a real highlight of our visit and a place that is hard to forget. From Granada we will journey on to Córdoba, where we will spend two nights, arriving in the late evening of Wednesday 19 February and departing on the morning of Friday 21 February. We have a day to explore Córdoba's narrow streets and the incredible Mezquita-Catedral, along with time to buy souvenirs and visit the market. Our last day will be spent in Seville, visiting the spectacular Plaza de España and Seville Cathedral's magnificent Giralda. We will fly home from Seville Airport in the late evening of Friday 21 February.

It is thanks to the warmth and excellent organisation of María Luisa Cabrera Ibarra at IES Albaída that many of our activities in Almería are possible, and we cannot thank her enough for everything she, her colleagues, and her students do to make us feel so welcome. Having friends in Almería makes the trip so much more meaningful than merely visiting as tourists, and we hope that the pupils accompanying us this year will make new friends and take advantage of the opportunity to practise as much Spanish as possible. We very much look forward to returning to Andalusia soon, and we hope that all our fellow travellers have a wonderful time.

Ms J McKeown, Head of Modern Foreign Languages



SKI TRIP TO FOLGARIA

Saturday 15 - Sunday 23 February 2025

Across the February half term break, eighty pupils from Years 8 to 11 are set to embark on the much-anticipated Ski Trip 25 to Bardonecchia, Italy. This week-long trip offers pupils a chance to develop their skiing skills, experience a new culture, and bond with peers, with many of the group being complete novices.

Located in the Italian Alps, Bardonecchia has slopes suitable for all skill levels, making it ideal for both beginners and experienced skiers. Under the guidance of qualified instructors, pupils will improve their technique while enjoying impressive Alpine scenery.

Looking ahead, Ski Trip 26 will take pupils to the Sestriere resort in the Italian Alps and is already fully booked. Pupils interested in joining are encouraged to contact Mr Tresidder to join the waiting list. For those planning further in advance, Ski Trip 27 will open for applications in October this year, so please keep an eye on announcements, as places are limited and fill quickly.

Mr H Tresidder, Teacher of Physics





HISTORY DEPARTMENT TRIP TO GERMANY

Sunday 17 - Saturday 22 February 2025

In February half term, the History Department looks forward to another trip to our mighty European neighbour Germany, accompanied by 30 Sixth Form students all learning at Advanced Level about the rich history of this world power.

We will start our trip by flying to Munich, the historic capital of Bavaria and the spiritual home of Hitler's brand of National Socialism, the two linked by the 1923 Munich Putsch. We look forward to a walking tour of Munich to consider Bavarian history and to inspect rich Baroque churches, together with taking dinner at the Hofbrauhaus (no wheat beer involved). In Munich, we shall also be visiting Dachau Concentration Camp, the first concentration camp in Germany. Built by Himmler as Bavarian Police Chief in 1933, Dachau was strategically located in the neighbourhood of Munich where the Nazis had received least political support. Every day, vowed Himmler chillingly, those Bavarians who opposed the Nazis would walk by the barbed wire fences that interned such opponents. The camp is a grim place with its dark huts, gas showers, and large furnaces. Dachau is never a comfortable place to visit but it is certainly thought provoking. We will also be visiting the BMW Welt in Munich to marvel both at the history of the company and the astonishing range of cars and motorcycles showcased in its exhibition centre.

From Munich, we travel north by coach. First stop, still in Bavaria, is the historic mediaeval fortress city of Nuremberg,



which we will tour that evening. In the twentieth century, Nuremberg gained notoriety as the home of annual Nazi rallies and there are plenty of relics from this period to explore too. The rally grounds are available to walk along and it is possible to stand where the Fuhrer stood, gazing out at imagined and sinister ranks of marching young men. From Nuremberg, we head further north to the more refined spa town of Weimar, where Socialist leaders gathered in 1918 to map out the ill-fated Weimar Constitution. Weimar sits in the state of Thuringia, where the controversial German AfD Party recently topped the poll – its current politics are perhaps no less interesting and turbulent than its historic ones.

Our final destination is the magnificent Berlin, the centre of power into which so many amazing Germans have been born. We look forward to visiting the impressive German History Museum on the Museum island and the colourful Berliner Dom, a Protestant cathedral standing nearby. The History Museum has a fascinating array of source material for Germany's history and is always a point of rich interest, from the grand painting of the Declaration of Unification to the posters of the inter war years to displays on post war Germany. We will also see the historic sights of Berlin, be it the Brandenburg Gate, the Reichstag building, or Checkpoint Charlie. Of course, sometimes the best way to understand a country's history is through its culture. A stroll through KaDeWe, the Harrods of Berlin, teaches us much about post war materialism in the Capitalist West; a visit to the jazz bars exposes the Weimar culture so damned in the countryside; and a night out at the WinterGarten (the visual spectacle of which Mrs Cook enjoyed so famously on our last visit) takes us deeper into Germany's psyche.

So there is much to look forward to in our fourth German History trip, and a wonderful group of students which Dr Platts, Mrs Cook and I look forward to taking along. "Man reist nicht, um anzukommen, sondern um zu reisen."

Mr B Jeffreys, Head of History



THE TENTH ANNUAL SIXTH FORM PHYSICISTS' CERN TRIP

Wednesday 19 February – Saturday 22 February 2025

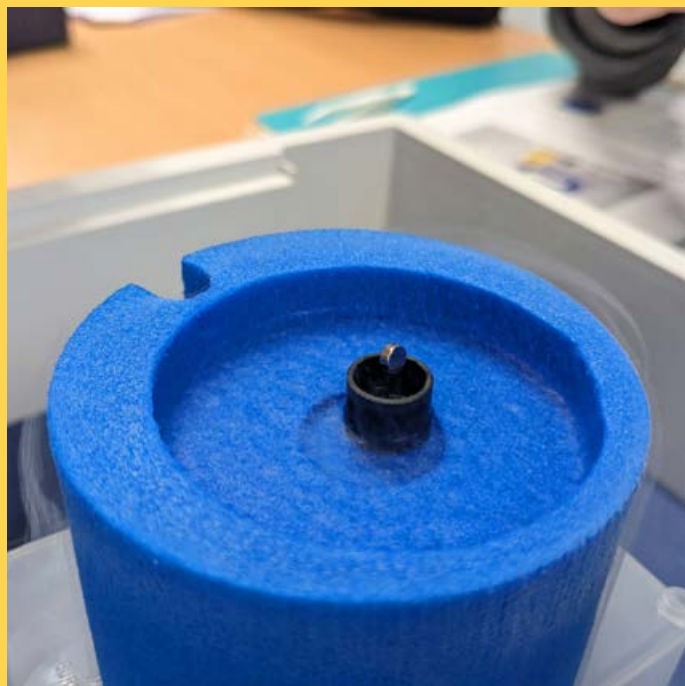
This year, A-Level Physicists will spend three nights in Geneva. Whilst there, they will have a private particle physics workshop at CERN, delivered by one of the physicists working there. Last year, students had the opportunity to handle liquid nitrogen and discover superconductivity, but each year is different so who knows what we will discover! Students will also be treated to a tour of facilities within CERN. Previous tours have taken us underground to see a particle detector up close, to the cryogenic testing facility, to the synchrotron, to the anti-matter factory, to the LHCb experiment, to ATLAS, and to the data centre, amongst other places.

Students will also see the sights of Geneva, including the History of Science Museum and the Natural History Museum. We will get a tour of the International Red Cross Museum, and of the UN Headquarters in Geneva. The students will also be treated to a tour of the Geneva Old Town at night and get to sit on the world's longest bench!

Every year the students report how much they have enjoyed the trip, so we cannot wait to return once more.

We will be running another trip to Geneva to visit CERN for the current Lower Sixth students in the academic year 2025-2026, so if you are interested, ask Mr Dalby for details

Mr K Dalby, Head of Physics



MATHSFEST TRIP

Thursday 27 February 2025

Hand-crafted by stand-up mathematician Matt Parker and mathematics author Rob Eastaway, Maths Fest is an all-day extravaganza for Lower Sixth students. Maths Fest 2025 will feature some of the best mathematics speakers in the UK talking about their favourite aspects of mathematics, and will celebrate mathematics as an exciting, useful, and rewarding subject. Fifteen Lower Sixth students are able to attend and this event will be certain to leave them motivated and excited to learn more mathematics!

Miss A James, Head of Mathematics

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY Saturday 8 March 2025

Gender equality remains a critical issue worldwide. Despite advancements, women still face disparities in areas like the labour market, political representation, and education.

International Women's Day, celebrated on 8 March every year, continues to be a powerful global event dedicated to honouring the achievements of women and advocating women's rights. This year's theme, "Accelerate Action," emphasises the importance of the urgency to take swift and decisive steps to achieve gender equality rather than just talking about it.

In School, on this important day, we contribute by highlighting stereotypes we might have, questioning bias, and celebrating women's successes in a whole School Assembly, with speeches on these themes by the School's Captain and Vice-Captain, as well as a Year Assembly and activities for Form time. However, 8 March falls on a Saturday in 2025, therefore the Assembly will be held on Thursday 6 March. Throughout the day there will be activities linked to this celebration, in and outside lessons.

Ms M Niedziela, Head of German

Gender Equality in Action

In celebration of International Women's Day, we are delighted to share through this edition extracts from interviews with two truly remarkable women who have achieved and contributed a great deal throughout their impressive careers (extracts from International Women's Day Social Media).



Carina Chorenge, Senior VP for Commercial, Asia Pacific, Hyatt Hotels & Resorts

"I believe that International Women's Day is an important opportunity to focus our attention on celebrating the achievements of women in our society, as well as reflecting on the areas where women still face very real challenges in different areas of their lives, including work. In many

ways, the hospitality industry provides significant opportunities for women.

Today, at Hyatt, we are proud that nearly half of our 33,000 full-time colleagues in Asia Pacific are female, and that a growing proportion of women hold leadership positions in the region. In fact, women made up half of our most recent Hotel General Manager Development Program cohort, which is wonderful to see. However, the reality is that there is still much more to be done to create a more equitable world. To me, this year's [2023] theme of Inspire Inclusion encourages us to look at how everyone, regardless of background or gender identity, can be made to feel they can contribute, be included, and hold a sense of belonging. This is close to my heart as Hyatt has made caring for others central to our purpose - part of which means making our people feel welcome and accepted.

As Executive Sponsor of the ASPAC chapter of Women@Hyatt, our global network to nurture our female talent, I have been able to see first-hand how mentoring and building a supportive culture, can

create environments where women can lead and thrive. I am also proud to be a member of our Global Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, chaired by our CEO, Mark Hoplamazian, which focuses our attention on how our organization can continue to be a place where everyone feels included and empowered, regardless of their background."



Shelli Brunswick, Chief Operating Officer, Space Foundation

How do we embrace equity in today's technology sector?

"March 8th is International Women's Day, and this [embracing equality] has never been more necessary or urgent. Women are being hit hard by changing labor markets, especially in the technology sector," writes Shelli Brunswick for Forbes.

Shelli is Chief Operating Officer of Space Foundation and is a regular speaker on technology used for the betterment of humanity and planet Earth. Space Foundation is a global nonprofit leader in space awareness activities, educational programs that bring space into the classroom, and major industry events.

"Traditional societal roles suggest men are often the change-makers. Not only is this inaccurate, but it isn't fair to either gender. In the technology industry, as well as other spheres, such thinking can cause men to look at gender more in terms of quotas than what a female job candidate has to offer and what upward mobility could look like. This type of thinking also undersells women's abilities to advocate for themselves and their interests," writes Shelli.

"There are many ways to embrace equality. It starts by showing children and students new pathways and what's possible through education..." suggests Shelli.

"We also must provide better examples of women in leadership than what they see on the news or hear over social media. In space technology, in particular, we need to offer present-day role models rather than historical figures and showcase their space-to-Earth contributions—such as mammograms and cataract repair—rather than focusing solely on space exploration conquests. We can rise above the noise by providing easy access to innovative curriculums, professional internships and outside programming that demonstrates what a career could look like," she explains.

"For people already in the workforce, we need to open our minds in terms of how we conceptualize jobs..." says Shelli.

Shelli believes that solving earth's greatest challenges will require diversity and inclusion to accelerate a path to solutions. *"We have to collaborate with one another on a global scale to appreciate what others offer. Not only will working together aid in innovation and economic development as well as diplomacy, but this is also how we empower women and other underserved groups. This is how we create change. This is how we embrace equality,"* comments Shelli.



LOWER SIXTH PARENTS' CONSULTATION EVENING

Monday 3 March 2025, 4.00pm to 6.00pm

On Monday 3 March, the School will hold its online Consultation Evening for parents of Lower Sixth students. Parents can schedule appointments through the *SchoolBooking* App to meet with subject teachers following receipt of the Phase 2 Report issued earlier in the term. This evening provides an excellent opportunity to assess students' strengths, identify areas for consolidation, and plan for the Lower Sixth Examinations. Thorough preparation for these examinations is essential, as they form the basis of UCAS predicted grades. Ongoing support will also be provided to all Lower Sixth students through Assemblies and the pastoral programme.

Mrs K Revell, Director of Sixth Form



NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK

Monday 3 - Friday 8 March 2025

National Careers Week is a one-week celebration of careers guidance in education across the UK. WHSB supports this celebration by providing various careers-related activities for our pupils, in order to further encourage their awareness and excitement about their future employment pathways.

Throughout lessons, pupils will be reminded of the different careers available to them which are linked to the subjects they study. Furthermore, the Careers Across the Curriculum project in conjunction with the School's Enterprise Adviser, Adam Berry of HSBC, will continue to help demonstrate how the soft skills of Teamwork, Networking, Conflict Resolution, Communication, and Time Management can be applied to their curriculum learning.

Our Sixth Form students will also have the opportunity to create careers-related challenges linked with soft skills for Years 7 and 8 on designated days over the course of the week.

In addition, and in association with our MDV (Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary) Society, we will introduce our younger pupils to careers in Medicine, supported by medical professionals who will present relevant information to the pupils and make themselves available for questions.

We look forward to an exciting week of activities.



NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK: AEROSPACE CAREERS PROGRAMME

Wednesday 5 March 2025

During National Careers Week, we are pleased to host the Aerospace Careers Programme.

The Schools' Aerospace Careers Programme Charity supports young people across the UK with external, independent, up-to-date careers advice in respect of engineering-based industries, especially aerospace, and aviation.

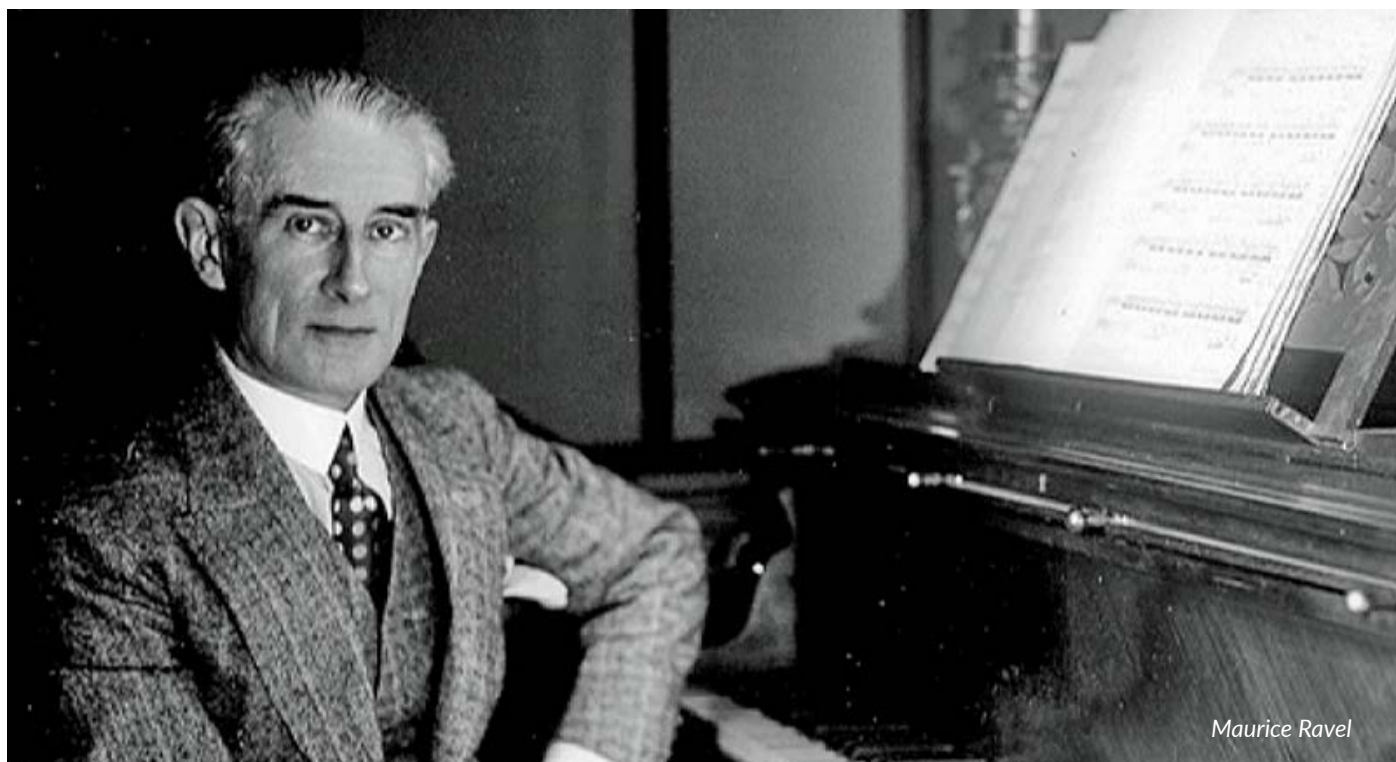
Throughout the day, the Charity will be running workshops for our pupils from Years 10 to the Upper Sixth who have an interest in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). Pupils will be selected and invited to attend on the basis of their interest and record. On the day, pupils will have the opportunity to experience AR/VR, flight simulators, robotics, and receive informative talks from companies in attendance.

Mr M Atkinson, Careers Adviser



SPRING SINFONIA CONCERT

Thursday 6 March 2025, 7.30pm – 9.00pm



Maurice Ravel

This term's Sinfonia Concert will have a distinctly Latin American flavour, featuring two pieces written to emulate dances from that part of the world. Perhaps the most famous example of a European composer borrowing from the Latin musical tradition is Maurice Ravel's 'Bolero', inspired by the Cuban dance style of the same name. As a dance, the bolero traditionally features a strong pulse, provided in Ravel's piece by a repetitive snare drum ostinato that lasts the full length of the piece, occasionally augmented by the rest of the orchestra. The bolero was traditionally sung, often using sophisticated lyrics to articulate feelings of love. While Ravel's piece has no voice, it has a complex and provocative lyrical melody, often presented by wind instruments that emulate the sound of the human voice. While there are no words, the melody's dissonance hints at a seductive exoticism that initially seems unfamiliar but, as it is repeated multiple times, soon becomes natural.

The piece was originally written for a ballet performance but, much to his surprise, quickly became Ravel's most popular work, performed by orchestras around the world without accompanying dancers. Its popularity has never waned but perhaps reached its peak when it was once again paired with movement in Torvill and Dean's gold-medal winning ice dancing performance at the 1984 winter Olympics. More recently, it has been used in the 2020 Olympic and 2024 Paralympic opening ceremonies, indicating its continued relevance.

The second Latin-inspired piece performed by the orchestra this term will be 'Danzón No.2' by Mexican composer Arturo Márquez. This modern piece of orchestral music was first performed in 1994 and, like 'Bolero', was named after a Cuban dance style. The danzón is the official musical genre of Cuba and features extreme syncopation against a strong pulse. The style was adopted by folk musicians and dancers of the Mexican state of Veracruz, becoming so popular that it inspired Márquez to write the piece.

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

Mr T Derrick, Director of Music



Arturo Márquez



Bolero; Torvill and Dean's gold-medal winning ice skating performance, Winter Olympics 1984

YEAR 9 GCSE OPTIONS CAROUSEL

Thursday 6 March 2025

Year 9 pupils are now approaching their decisions on the subjects they will pursue for the two years of GCSE studies. There are several stages to this process to help pupils make an informed choice.

In the Spring Term, pupils will receive a series of Assemblies from optional subject departments, including presentations on Economics and Geology, which are not part of the Lower School curriculum.

On Thursday 6 March, Year 9 pupils will spend an afternoon taking part in an Options Carousel, where they can visit subject stands, view work, and talk to current and former GCSE pupils. There will also be a presentation from the School's Careers Adviser.

Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School



Charity Silly Tie Day 2023

YEAR 7 CHARITY WEEK

Monday 10 - Tuesday 18 March 2025

Following enthusiastic participation in the School's non-uniform Culture Day last term, Year 7 pupils will participate in the School's fundraising endeavours with a Charity week of their own. This will comprise a number of events, including a Sponsored Silence, Silly Tie Day, and cake sales which take place across the week. In addition, each Year 7 Form will be welcome to arrange any additional fundraising activities that they may wish to run to complement these events.

This important week brings the Year Group together in charitable pursuit, and helps pupils to appreciate the role and importance of charities in society. Pupils with suggestions about the charities to which proceeds should be donated should speak to their Form Tutor.

Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School

YEAR 10 PHASE TWO REPORTS

Tuesday 11 March 2025

On Tuesday 11 March 2025, pupils in Year 10 will receive their Phase 2 Report. This will provide an update on their academic performance so far and should form the foundations of their revision planning, ahead of the Year 10 End of Year Examinations which take place in June 2025. This is also an invaluable opportunity for parents to discuss with their child not only areas of improvement, but also areas of strength, and to look ahead to future steps, including Sixth Form study and beyond.

On the same day, a Form Period focusing on revision strategies will be delivered by Sixth Form students, with tips and expertise accruable from those who have themselves been through the GCSE process successfully.

Mr A Barnett, Director of Middle School



CAREERS EVENING IN MEDIA, PUBLISHING AND LANGUAGES

Wednesday 12 March 2025, 7.00pm - 8.30pm

On Wednesday 12 March, WHSB will be hosting our third Careers Evening of the School year.

For this event, we will be inviting guests from the world of Media and Publishing, together with Language experts, to pass on their knowledge and experience to our guests. Through the Pupil Survey tool in Unifrog, we have ascertained that these career sectors are of interest to many of our pupils, and we therefore feel it would be beneficial to focus on these sectors in more depth.

Our Careers Evenings are open to WHSB pupils and parents, as well as those from other local schools.

Mr M Atkinson, Careers Adviser

YEAR 9 GCSE OPTIONS EVENING

Thursday 13 March 2025, 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Following the Options Carousel in the previous week, the School will host parents and pupils for the evening on Thursday 13 March to discuss the process of GCSE Options, and to give advice on making informed decisions.

We will ask pupils to make a final choice of GCSE options towards the end of the Spring Term, and details of how to complete the online GCSE Options form will be given during our GCSE Options Evening.

Option choices made by every pupil will be carefully reviewed by the School before they are confirmed, so that the School can be satisfied that the choices which have been made are sensible and in the best interests of the pupil concerned.

There will be plenty of opportunity for pupils to speak with teachers and Senior Staff throughout the process, and they are strongly encouraged to do so if they have any questions.

Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School

YEAR 11 PHASE THREE TARGETED REPORTS

Friday 14 March 2025

Some Year 11 pupils will receive a Phase 3 report on Friday 14 March. These reports are focused on those pupils who received a grade 5 or lower in their Trial Examinations, and only in those subjects where such a grade is received. This is a final opportunity for these pupils in Year 11 to receive some guidance on how best to prepare for the imminent GCSE Examinations, and those key areas requiring their focus.

Mr A Barnett, Director of Middle School

YEAR 10 GEOLOGY DORSET TRIP

Saturday 15 - Wednesday 19 March 2025

Investigating Geology in the field is a compulsory requirement of the GCSE course. In March, twenty-four Year 10 Geologists will be visiting famous locations such as Lulworth Cove, Durdle Door, and Kimmeridge Bay in Dorset in order to complete their fieldwork.

Much of the Dorset coastline has UNESCO World Heritage status and a wide range of topics can be investigated including minerals, rocks, and fossils, as well as larger-scale studies related to plate tectonics and the geological history of the area. This part of Dorset is a world-renowned area for geological studies and Westcliff pupils will have the opportunity to build their knowledge and understanding of field Geology throughout the week.

All this can be done whilst gaining an enjoyment and appreciation of being within a beautiful landscape, itself governed by the geology of Dorset.

Mr P Marlow, Head of Geology



**United Kingdom
Mathematics Trust**

INTERMEDIATE MATHS KANGAROO CHALLENGE

Thursday 20 March 2025

The Pink and the Grey Kangaroo Challenges are the follow-on rounds to the Intermediate Maths Challenge. Only the top achievers in the Intermediate Maths Challenge are eligible to take part and this is by invitation only. This is run by the UKMT (UK Maths Trust) who are established to advance the education of children and young people in Mathematics. The trust is made up of Mathematicians and Mathematics enthusiasts.

Miss A James, Head of Mathematics

THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III

Wednesday 19 - Friday 21 March 2025, 7.30pm - 9.00pm

I would contend that madness is much better than its opposite. In a world of stress, difficulty, and challenge, why should any of us be boringly normal, or be soundly sane and sensible when there is such a liberating alternative? Every pressure cooker needs its loosening off to allow steam to escape and this can rarely be achieved in a life of stiffness and mundanity. In the wonderful musical "Man of La Mancha", Cervantes cries out in anguish for a lunatic world of escapism with the words "too much sanity may be madness and the maddest of all, to see life as it is and not as it should be." When normal life is so oppressive, madness (or perhaps schoolmasterly eccentricity?) can become a refuge. And is it such folly to be a little mad? The poet John Dryden suggested "Great wits are sure to madness near allied, and thin partitions do their bounds divide". How much more attractive can a little inspired lunacy be over a stolid, plodding sobriety.

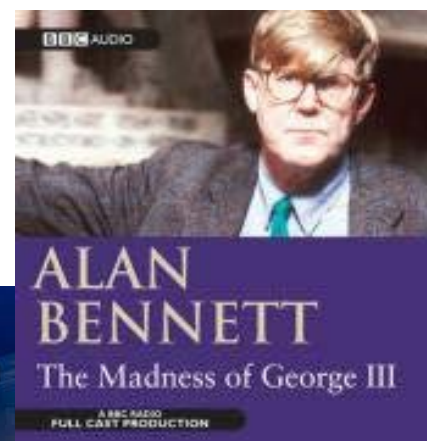
The novelist J G Ballard suggested "in a completely sane world, madness is the only freedom" and this idea is explored by Alan Bennett in his play "The Madness of George III". Set in the year 1788, the story tells the British side of the events related in the musical Hamilton. King George III has been King of Great Britain for 28 years and is the most powerful man in the world, although not quite powerful enough to hold onto the Americas. Nor, indeed, reality. George's behaviour becomes increasingly erratic with his mind unravelling at a dramatic pace. As the Queen and Prime Minister attempt to hide the King's illness from his subjects, royal doctors hopelessly squabble over the correct cure, subjecting him to torturous medical treatments. Ambitious politicians and the scheming prince begin a power struggle,

endangering the stability of the crown until a Lincolnshire parson steps in. But how mad is the King and how sane his courtiers in this frenzied comedy?

The play was written by the wickedly brilliant Alan Bennett, author of 'The History Boys', and first made an appearance in 1991 at the National Theatre's Lyttelton Theatre. The director of that production was Nicholas Hytner, now beknighted and Artistic Director of the Bridge Theatre. Sir Nigel Hawthorne played the lead role in this original production, and in the follow up film, hailed by the New York Times as "astonishing, unforgettable". A more recent revival saw Sherlock's Mark Gatiss perform the part of the King to widespread acclaim. Reviewing that performance, Lyn Gardner said that Luscombe's production reminds us that "Bennett is not writing a royal Downton Abbey, but a play exploring appearance and reality", and that the play brings out the fact that amidst all the royal pomp the king is merely a man like everybody else.

I first directed this wonderful play twenty-five years ago at Cambridge University's ADC Theatre and what a joy it was; fun, wild, irreverent, and thought-provoking. There are some glorious character roles for young actors to perform and moments of drama and emotional power along the way. I am delighted that we will be staging the play 25 years on this March in our Library Theatre, and we hope you will join us for an evening away from reality.

Mr Jeffreys, Director of Drama



HISTORY DAYS OUT: TRIP TO DOVER CASTLE

Saturday 22 March 2025



In March, the History Department is delighted to offer pupils in Key Stage 3 the opportunity to learn about one of the most significant castles in English History.

Dover Castle is one of the largest surviving castles from the medieval period and the site itself has history stretching from the ancient to the modern world. Its history began with the Romans and a pharos (a lighthouse) can still be seen in the castle grounds. The Castle's rich history stretches through the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods, including a major siege in 1216, and the Second World War. From 1939 to 1945, the Castle served as the headquarters for the naval forces stationed at Dover and Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsay coordinated the Dunkirk evacuation from it.

We are exceptionally fortunate that Dr Marc Morris will accompany us on the trip. Dr Morris is the author of a wide range of books on the medieval period, including *Castles*, which was also developed into a successful Channel 4 documentary. Dr Morris will provide a bespoke tour of the site, giving pupils a remarkable insight into a structure that has played a significant role in much of English History.

The day should offer a fascinating insight into English history and the changes the country has experienced over the past 2,000 years.

Dr C Platts, Teacher of History

UPPER SIXTH PHASE 3 (TARGETED) REPORTS

Friday 28 March 2025

Following the January Trial Examinations, the Senior Master for the Sixth Form will identify students who need to make accelerated progress to ensure they can achieve their future goals. These students will attend additional mentoring sessions with a senior staff member, during which specific targets will be set and tracked. A Phase 3 report will then be issued to provide an update on their progress since the Phase 2 report.

Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form

LOWER SCHOOL REPORTS

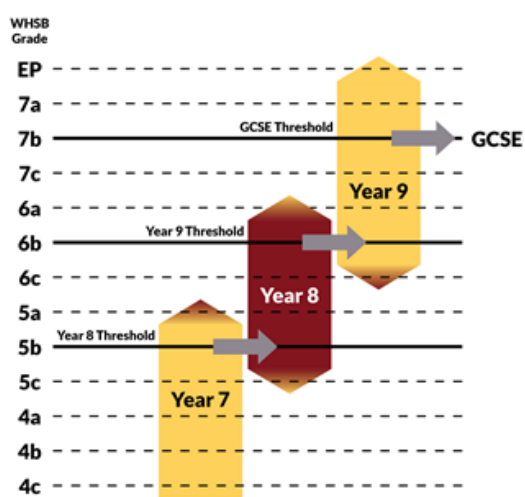
Year 7 Phase 2 Reports

Friday 21 March 2025

On Friday 21 March, pupils in Year 7 will receive their Phase 2 Reports. This is an important report as it is the first full written report, with detailed feedback from all of a pupil's teachers, providing parents with a detailed insight into their son's progress.

Pupils will be given an attainment grade from each of their son's teachers, using the School's internal system. The expected grade at this stage is a 5c. This helps parents, pupils, and teachers to understand a pupil's current level of understanding, and identify areas of strength and areas for development. Pupils will also be given four attitudinal indicators to reflect their efforts in and out of class, adherence to deadlines, and presentation of work. The indicators range from 1 (Exceptional) to 4 (Unacceptable). The expected indicator is 2 (Good), which represents a pupil demonstrating the anticipated attitude. A full explanation of the indicators can be found on the final page of the report.

Following the issue of the report, Form Tutors will dedicate time for pupils to reflect on their grades, and to develop goals for the rest of the year. Form tutors will also discuss strategies to help pupils to improve their grades where a foundation performance has been recorded. Parents should also discuss the Report with their son, including the goals set by the pupils, which will be recorded in their planner. Further support is available from the Pastoral Team, subject teachers, and mentors.



Year 8 Phase Two Reports

Friday 28 March 2025

On Friday 28 March, pupils in Year 8 will receive their Phase 2 Reports. This key report provides updates for parents on their son's attainment and attitude to studies. Parents will receive an attainment grade in the form of a letter and number from each of their son's teachers, using the School's internal grading system.

It is expected that pupils will achieve a grade 6c; grades higher (or lower) than this will indicate if pupils are performing above (or below) this level, and this is useful in understanding a pupil's attainment in the context of their Year Group.

The report also contains pupils' Lower School target grade. The average target grade is 7b; therefore, if a pupil has a target above this, the School would anticipate that pupils would be achieving above the current expected level. If the target grade is below a 7b, a grade 6c would be considered a strong result. This helps parents, pupils and teachers to understand a pupil's current level of understanding, and identify areas of strength, and areas for development.

This report also contains attitudinal indicators and parents should consider the indicators received against the explanatory table on the back of the report.

Year 9 Phase Two Reports

Monday 3 March 2025

On Monday 3 March, pupils in Year 9 will receive their Phase 2 Reports.

This is an important report as it informs parents how pupils have progressed this academic year, and is timed to be a significant factor when pupils are finalising their GCSE Option Choices, the process for which concludes shortly after the issuing of this report. Parents will receive a current attainment indicator in the form of a grade from each of their son's teachers, using the School's internal grading system.

It is expected that pupils will achieve a grade 7c; grades higher (or lower) than this will indicate that pupils are performing above (or below) the expected level, within the context of the Year Group. The report also contains pupils' Lower School target grade. At this stage in Year 9, pupils should be within one grade of their target (for example, if a pupil has a target of 7a, here they should be achieving a 7b). This helps parents, pupils, and teachers to understand a pupil's current level of understanding, and to identify areas of strength and areas for development.

The report also contains attitudinal indicators; these are awarded on a scale of 1 (Exceptional) to 4 (Unacceptable). The expected indicator grade is a 2 (Good). Grades of 3 or 4 require a change in attitude by the pupil, and a Grade of 1 is awarded when a pupil has exceeded the already high expectations of this School. Parents should consider the indicators received against the explanatory table on the back of the report.



Support Following Receipt of Reports

Following the issue of the Report, Form Tutors will dedicate time for pupils to reflect on their grades, and to develop goals for the rest of the year. Form Tutors will also discuss strategies to help pupils to improve their grades where a foundation performance has been recorded.

Parents should discuss the Report with their son, and discuss the goals set by the pupils, which will be recorded in their planner. Should there be any further concerns, parents should contact their son's Form Tutor via the School Office. There are many mechanisms in place to support pupils, including Pastoral Support, Subject Support, and Mentoring.

Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School

SPORT AT WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS

RUGBY 2024/25

Year 7 Rugby Captain: Owen Barber



Year 7			
Opponents	PF	PA	Win/Lose
Gravesend	20	30	L
Brentwood	40	10	W
STM	45	0	W

Year 8 Rugby Captain: Xavier Keenan



Year 8			
Opponents	PF	PA	Win/Lose
Woodlands	40	25	W
New Hall	5	10	L
King John	5	5	D
Saffron Waldon	20	5	W
Gravesend	40	25	W
Brentwood	35	35	D
James Hornsby	25	5	W
Castle View	35	5	W
Gateway	30	0	W
Redden Court	35	5	W

Year 9 Rugby Captain: Freddie Sankey



Year 9			
Opponents	PF	PA	Win/Lose
Woodlands	20	26	L
Belfairs	36	17	W
SHSB	0	50	L
Gravesend	15	50	L
SHSB	5	20	L
Woodlands	0	10	L
Coopers	0	15	L
Brentwood	5	5	D
Brentwood	10	10	D
New Hall	0	5	L
Campion	5	10	L
Robert Clack	0	10	L

Year 10 Rugby Captain: Reggie Herron



Year 10			
Opponents	PF	PF	Win/Lose
Woodlands	57	17	W
Gravesend	45	19	W
SHSB	7	0	W
King John	24	5	W
New Hall	26	7	W
Brentwood	41	0	W
SHSB	22	5	W
Robert Clack	0	50	L

Year 11 Rugby Captain: Luke Pitkin



Year 11			
Opponents	PF	PA	Win/Lose
Woodlands	45	19	W
Campion	0	50	L



FOOTBALL 2024/25

Year 7 Football Captain: William Headford



Year 7			
Opponents	PF	PA	Win/Lose
SHSB	1	5	L
Ormiston Park	7	0	W
King John	0	8	L
Gable Hall	3	3	D
Shoeburyness	2	1	L
Gable Hall	1	2	L
Greensward	3	1	W

Year 8 Football Captain: Stanley Cook



Year 8			
Opponents	PF	PA	Win/Lose
SHSB	1	4	L
Chadwell Heath	6	0	W
Chase	7	0	W
Beaulieu Park	5	4	W
Fitzwimarc	1	3	L
STM	1	2	L

Year 9 Football Captain: Victor Janus



Year 9			
Opponents	PF	PA	Win/Lose
SHSB	2	3	L
Emerson Park	7	0	W
Shoeburyness	1	5	L
Shoeburyness	2	1	W
Thorpe Hall	10	0	W

Year 10 Football Captain: Joseph Burdett



Year 10			
Opponents	PF	PF	Win/Lose
SHSB	5	0	W
Sandon	8	1	W
Shoebury	1	2	L
Appleton	2	1	L
Cecil Jones	8	1	W

Year 11 Football Captain: Thomas Barker



Year 11			
Opponents	PF	PA	Win/Lose
SHSB	2	1	W
Plume	7	0	W
KJS	8	1	W
Fitzwimarc			

Sixth Form Football Captain: Sean Pasipangodya



VI Form			
Opponents	PF	PA	Win/Lose
Sweyne Park	5	0	W
Chase	5	1	W
Havering NCC			



Year 9 Football Team

CROSS COUNTRY 2024

English Schools Championships



Senior Boys Team

The English Schools Cross Country teams this year ran over a challenging course in the woods opposite King John School, for the first round, and performed exceptionally well. The Junior

boys, made up of year 7 and 8 pupils, worked hard and narrowly missed out on making it through to the Regional Final, by finishing fourth. The Inter boys found the going tough, achieving sixth place, however the majority of the team members are from Year 9, so this is promising for next year.

The Senior boys squad came third overall; this means the Senior team, the majority of whom are from Year 11, qualified through to the Regional Finals; this was a fantastic achievement as they were competing against teams generally consisting of students from Years 12 and 13. The standard of our team's performance at the Regional final was extremely high and the team finished eighth overall. The boys have trained hard through some harsh weather and the results of that training are evident. Well done to all the boys involved.

Borough Cross Country Championships took place in November and saw WHSB finish in third place overall in the championships, behind Southend and Eastwood Academy. The pupils are making good progress and we hope to see this continue to grow for the rest of the season.

BADMINTON 2024/25

The second half term of the Autumn Term saw the Borough Badminton Finals take place with a strong presence in the Key Stage 3 competition. The Competition was split into group stages, culminating in the semi-finals, and final. WHSB's Year 8 pair, Rishi Dash and Dhrish Patel, won their group stage, as did our Year 9 pair, Samarth Parashar and Sai Vijay. The top two pairs from both groups were selected to play in the semi-finals, the



Badminton Winners 2024

opponents being selected at random; regrettably, both WHSB teams were picked to play against each other, meaning one of them would miss out on the gold/silver match! Samarth Parashar and Sai Vijay progressed to the Final and, following a challenging match, they won to become Borough Champions. Rishi Dash and Dhrish Patel competed in the Bronze Medal match and gave an impressive performance, therefore achieving third place in the competition. Samarth has now won the Borough Competition for the past two years, playing alongside different partners. It has been a superb start to the Badminton season, with more matches to follow.

LEE VALLEY INDOOR ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024/25

This year, the Physical Education Department decided that pupils from our Lower School should re-enter the Indoor Athletics Championships in Lee Valley. The Year 7 Championships will take place in February 2025, however the Competition for Years 8 and 9 is well underway. WHSB entered two teams and qualified through the first round in joint first and third respectively. Both teams now progress to the semi-final stage. This competition gives pupils an early opportunity to get back into their athletics, and to apply their learning to the Summer Term programme.

OTHER SPORTS

Across all the sports in which WHSB pupils participate, the numbers involved have been high. Throughout the Year Groups, teams are involved in local, county, regional, and national competitions. There have been strong performances in both Football and Rugby, throughout the various Cup and League competitions, with more pupils enjoying opportunities to represent the School, no matter what the weather.

The Basketball campaign has begun and is continuing into January. The pupils' continued development and successes comes down to their attitudes and perseverance, as well as their desire to be better and to learn. This has been evident through

the large numbers of pupils participating in our extra-curricular programme of sport since the start of September.

Since the start of this academic year, pupils have been involved in 115 fixtures across a range of different sports, and there are a great deal more to look forward to.

Congratulations to all our pupils on a fantastic start to the year.

SPRING TERM 2025

This Term will see the following sports continue and others begin:

- Borough Basketball to start, with Essex and National Cup Basketball to continue into the knockout stages with the finals taking place in March 2025;
- The Borough and South East Essex Football will begin again after February Half Term, with Essex and National Cup competitions continuing;
- Rugby will continue through the next term with block fixtures and cup competitions taking place;
- The Year 7 Indoor Athletics Championships will begin at Lee Valley in February;
- The Regional stages of the National Table Tennis Competition will take place in January;
- The National Badminton Competition will begin and continue throughout this Term;
- The Borough Swimming Gala will take place on 6 March at Garon Park;
- The Essex Schools Cross Country competition will take place throughout the next half term, with races for pupils in Years 7 and 8, along with the Year 11 and 12 pupils who qualified to represent Southend at the championships.

For all upcoming fixtures please refer to the School's website and Teamup. <https://teamup.com/ksuv3k4ss5jvignxz>

We wish all our pupils success in their sport this Term.

Mr M Fletcher, Director of Sport



Indoor Athletics Team

HOUSE EVENTS

It has been an incredibly active and dynamic start to the academic year for the House System, with thousands of House Points being awarded to pupils so far. House Captains, Vice Captains, House Representatives, and teaching staff have created a wide range of interesting activities for students to get involved with. I would like to take this opportunity specifically to thank the Heads of House: Mr Rayment, Mr Sexton, Mr Madrid, and Mr Marrant for all their hard work and dedication.

We already have many wonderful events planned for 2025 which include: House Beyblade, House Capital Cities, House Harry Potter, House Geography Quiz, House Robert Burns research, House Valentine's Day research, House Chinese New Year display, House Design a MFL poster, House Creative Writing, House Riddles, House Cryptic Clues, House Debating, House Chess, House General Knowledge, House Lord of the Rings, House Cooking, House Geographical Poetry, House Mother Tongue Language Display, and a range of House Sport opportunities.

See below a photograph of the 'House World of Wonder – Where on Earth?' presentations with Year 7 pupils – a fine example of participation in House events.

Please endeavour to participate in at least one event this coming Half Term. If you have any ideas for a House competition or would like to help run an activity, then please speak to a member of the House Team.

Mr R Barber, Senior House Coordinator and Senior Head of House



House World of Wonder – Where on Earth?

THE WHSB PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



Easyfundraising is a shopping directory listing some of the UK's favourite online stores including Amazon, John Lewis, Marks & Spencer and over 2,000 others. Just use the links on the Easyfundraising site whenever you shop online and, at no extra cost to you, the Parents' Association will receive a free donation of up to 15% from every purchase you make. It really is that simple, and it is completely **free** to register. You will not pay a penny more for your shopping when you use the Easyfundraising site. In fact, you can even **save money** as many retailers offer discounts, special offers and even 'e-vouchers' exclusive to Easyfundraising. If you shop online anyway, then why not raise valuable extra funds for us by using this fantastic scheme. All you need to do is visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk and, when you register, select Westcliff High School for Boys as the organisation you wish to support. <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/westcliffhighschoolforboys/>. The more members of our School Community who choose to support us in this way, the more money we can raise for the School. Our thanks in anticipation.



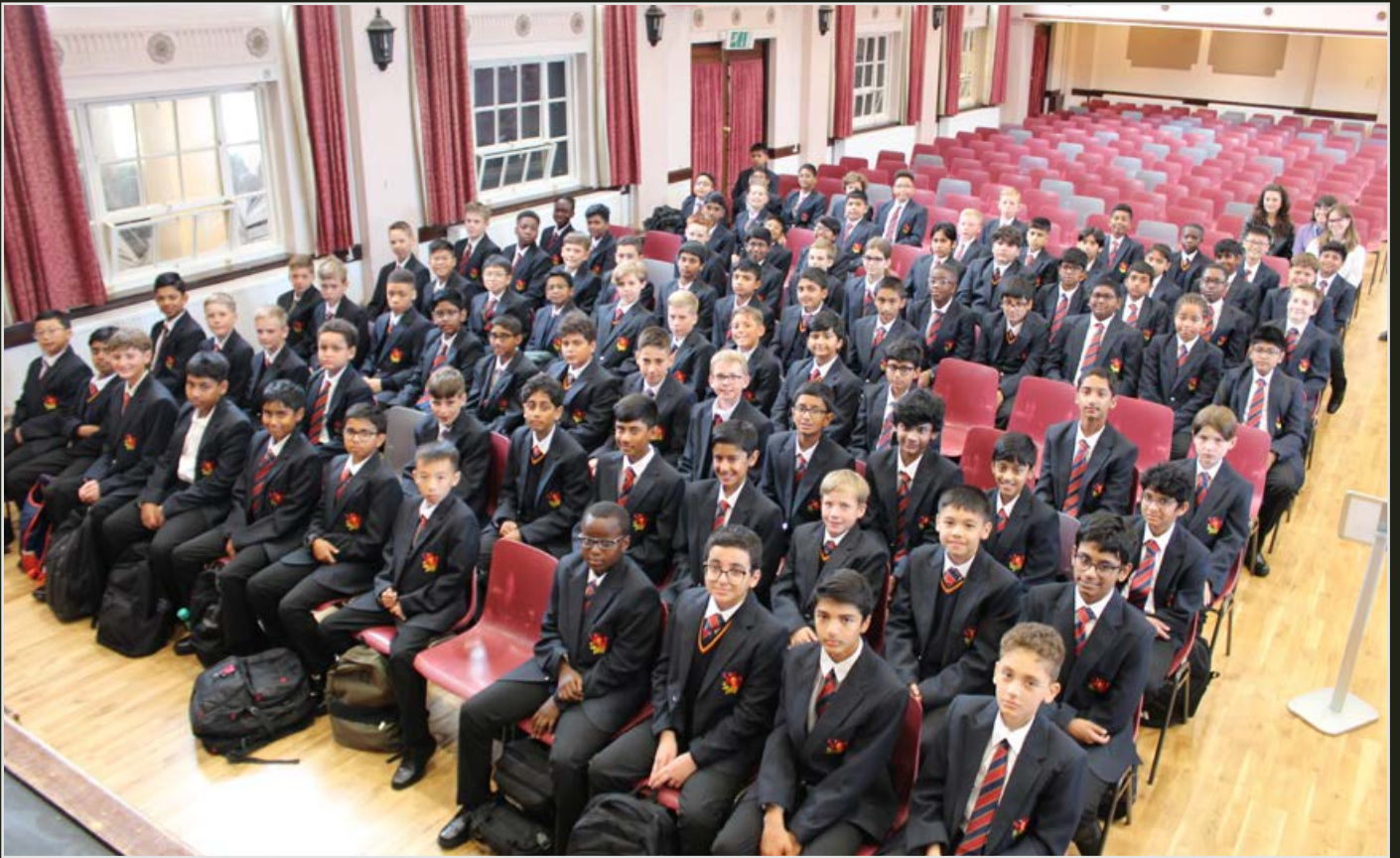
In consultation with a number of subject departments and extra-curricular clubs and groups within WHSB, the Parents' Association's Amazon Wishlist consists of a range of items that have been carefully selected by staff including books, art materials, and club resources, enabling parents, carers, and other members of our School Community to make voluntary contributions towards school supplies should they wish to do so. Items cost from as little as under £10 and will continue to be added throughout the School year as needed. Purchases can be dropped into the School Reception or delivered directly by Amazon to WHSB, with donations being made public or remaining anonymous, whichever is preferable. To view and make purchases for the School from the Parents' Association Amazon Wishlist, use the following link https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2AMHT2KY5NZ98?ref=wl_share.

The Parents' Association would like to thank all those who continue to support our operations in these and all other ways.

Mrs J Clarke, Head of Parents' Association



AUTUMN TERM 2024 IN PICTURES



Welcome to our New Year 7 Pupils



21 Gold, 45 Silver, and 57 Bronze Certificates in Senior Maths Challenge



Adventures at Nuclear Races



An Army Scholarship for Carter, Upper Sixth



Arkwright Engineering Scholarship for Leonard, Lower Sixth



Clark (Year 7) becomes PM of UK Children's Parliament



Dinner with Old Westcliffians



CCF at Remembrance Day Service at Southend's Cenotaph







CCF at Remembrance Day Service at Southend's Cenotaph



CCF Remembrance at Stow Maries Great War Aerodrome



CCF supporting Orpheus Singers' Remembrance Concert



CCF Ties Awarded for Exceptional Achievement



CCF Royal Navy Cadets in Trafalgar Day Parade, London







CCF Royal Navy Cadets in Trafalgar Day Parade, London





CCF Cadets' Training at Royal Navy's Phoenix Damage Repair Instruction Unit



CREST Gold Award and Industrial Cadet Gold Award for Engineering Projects







Enrichment Journalism Day





Enrichment Journalism Day



Enrichment Science Day



Enrichment Science Day





Fundraising Coffee Morning for Macmillan





Fundraising Coffee Morning for Macmillan



House Remembrance Poetry



Fundraising for Movember



Geography Trip to Norway



Geology Conference



Harveer and Yesh (Upper Sixth) shortlisted for John Locke Institute Global Essay Prize



House Basketball





Inter House Rounders



Jack awarded Young Journalist Award, Southampton Boat Show, with Published Article



LAMDA Awards and Drama Colours



Library Summer Reading



Maria (Upper Sixth) Celebrates Success in Mathematical Olympiad for Girls



Outstanding Success in The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition



OWA Presents Christmas Tree for 2024



Playing at the Old Westcliffians' Dinner



Royal Navy Cadets at Grange Waters



Royal Navy Cadets at Grange Waters





Senior Prefects



Sixth Form British Film Institute Conference



Sixth Form Music Trip to see the Aurora Orchestra



Sizewell B Nuclear Power Station



Annual Speech Day 2024









Annual Speech Day 2024



Summer 2024 Leavers Return to WHSB



Technology Club



Max (Year 9) receives Jack Petchey Achievement Award for dedicated contribution to 1476 Rayleigh Air Cadets



Year 7 Activity Day, Thriftwood



A trip to Biology Live London



Pilot training for WHSB's RAF Cadets; Gliding with 615 Volunteer Gliding Squadron at RAF Kenley

CHRISTMAS WITH THE BIG BAND









FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS





THE BOX OF DELIGHTS

















CALENDAR FOR SPRING TERM 2025

Monday 6 January	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY	17 – 21 February	SPRING HALF TERM
Tuesday 7 January	SPRING TERM BEGINS, 8.40am	17 – 22 February	Sixth Form History Trip to Germany
7 – 17 January	Upper Sixth Trial Examinations begin	19 – 22 February	Sixth Form Physics Trip to CERN
8 – 9 January	Lower Sixth Engineering to Cambridge University	Monday 24 February	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
Tuesday 14 January	Chess Tournament, St Thomas More High School	Thursday 27 February	Sixth Form Maths Fest
Wednesday 15 January	Year 11 Taster Sessions	Monday 3 March	Year 9 Phase 2 Report Issued (Full Written)
Thursday 16 – 17 January	Jack Petchey Workshops		Lower Sixth Parents Evening, 4.00pm – 6.00pm
Tuesday 21 January	Year 11 Phase 2 Report Issued (Full Written)	3 – 8 March	National Careers Week
Wednesday 22 January	Chemistry Lecture with Alex Baker	Wednesday 5 March	Aersopace Careers Programme in School
	Year 11 Entry to Sixth Form Evening, 7.30pm – 9.00pm	Thursday 6 March	Year 9 Options Carousel
Thursday 23 January	Spring Chamber Recital, 7.30pm – 9.00pm		Spring Sinfonia Concert, 7.30pm – 9.00pm
	Chemistry Olympiad Examination		International Women's Day Assembly and Activities (8 March)
Friday 24 January	GCSE and A level Art to Saatchi Gallery and V&A	10 - 18 March	Year 7 Charity Week
	Lower Sixth Phase 2 Report Issued	Tuesday 11 March	Year 10 Phase 2 Report Issued (Data Only)
Monday 27 January	Holocaust Memorial Service	Wednesday 12 March	Careers Evening (Media, Publishing, Languages), 7.00pm – 8.30pm
Tuesday 28 January	ESU Debating	Thursday 13 March	Year 9 Options Evening, 7.30pm – 9.00pm
Wednesday 29 January	Intermediate Maths Challenge		GCSE PE Moderator in School
	Careers Evening (STEM), 7.00pm – 8.30pm	Friday 14 March	Year 11 Phase 3 Report Issued (Targeted)
	USP Assembly to Year 11	15 – 19 March	Year 10 Geology Trip to Dorset
Monday 3 February	Year 11 Parents Evening, 4.00pm – 6.00pm	Monday 17 March	Year 9 Parents Evening, 4.00pm – 6.00pm
Friday 7 February	Upper Sixth Phase 2 Report Issued (Full Written)	19 – 21 March	Performances of Madness of George III, 7.30pm – 9.00pm
	Charity Events	Thursday 20 March	Intermediate Maths Kangaroo Challenge
Saturday 8 February	CCF Royal Navy Nuclear Bunker and High Ropes	Friday 21 March	Year 7 Phase 2 Report Issued (Full Written)
	WCGC Go for Grammar! Lively Laboratories	Saturday 22 March	KS3 History Trip to Dover Castle
8 – 14 February	CCF Field Days	Monday 24 March	GCSE Music Recordings
10 – 11 February	Year 9 Immunisations	Thursday 27 March	Team Maths Challenge
10 – 16 February	National Apprenticeship Week	Friday 28 March	Year 8 Phase 2 Report Issued (Data Only)
Wednesday 12 February	National Apprenticeships: Morgan Stanley		Upper Sixth Phase 3 Report Issued (Targeted)
Friday 14 February	Lost Property Reclaim		Charity Events
	Parents' Association Cookies and Treats Sale	Thursday 3 April	Lost Property Reclaim
	First Intuition Apprenticeship Presentations	Friday 4 April	SPRING TERM ENDS, 2.45pm
Saturday 15 February	7W Form Trip to Kingpins	Tuesday 22 April	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
15 – 21 February	Spanish Trip to Almeria and Cordoba	Wednesday 23 April	SUMMER TERM BEGINS
15 – 23 February	Ski Trip to Folgaria		

Tickets for all Westcliff Diary events can be purchased via TicketSource at
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/westcliff-on-sea/westcliff-high-school-for-boys/>



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/WHSforBoys



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@WHSforBoys



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Westcliff High School for
Boys