



Westcliff High School for Boys

The Westcliff Diary

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FROM THE DESK OF THE HEADMASTER

WELCOME BACK FROM THE HEADMASTER

Our History

Welcome back to the start of a new term, and the beginning of an important year in the history of our School. As most in our community will know it is 100 years or so since some members of the local community came together to drive the creation of a new school. On the first day our School opened its doors, it was under the name of The Commercial School, based in a converted building in Victoria Avenue, Southend. This was a co-educational school for the town's rapidly expanding population. After just two years, the School's name was changed to Westcliff High School and, by 1926, the boys had moved to our present site to become Westcliff High School for Boys (WHSB), whilst the girls (Westcliff High School for Girls) remained at Victoria Avenue until the 1930s when they moved next door to our current site.

School Ethos

As Mr Herbert Glynn Williams, the first Headmaster, wisely noted in a special edition of *The Gateway* from 1926 (the antecedent to *The Westcliff Diary*), the early success of the School "could not have been achieved without the cordial co-operation of all who make up a School community. Governors, parents, staff and pupils have all worked splendidly in that spirit of comradeship and ignoring of self that is so essential" to build a successful School community. These words remind us that it is our School's ethos which fuels our strong sense of community and, ultimately, our identity as a School. That ethos and identity has continued to help shape the lives of generations of Westcliffians, and it is this that we come together to celebrate as we enter our Centenary Year.

Celebrating 100 Years

We are looking forward to an exciting programme of events throughout our Centenary Year. We have planned some superb Centenary-specific events to mark this special year, whilst others will reflect our usual, popular programme with an added Centenary theme. A copy of



our commemorative programme for the Centenary is included with this edition of *The Westcliff Diary*, and this outlines details of the various events planned for the year ahead.

You will be interested to see our aerial photograph of all the pupils and staff in the School in the centre of the Centenary programme, marking a special moment as a community. I wish to extend my thanks to all pupils and staff for their superb co-operation in enabling us to record such a splendid commemorative image. We have also included a word cloud which incorporates the names of all current pupils, Staff and Governors at the back of the commemorative programme. In designing the programme, we wanted to ensure that the involvement of all of the current pupils and staff in the School's Centenary Year was recorded for posterity. Copies of the photograph, or the word cloud, can be purchased by way of a memento of our Centenary Year and details of how to order these will be available on the School's website in due course. All profits from the sale of the photographs and/or word cloud will go towards the School's Centenary Fund which will be used to improve the School's sporting and recreational facilities.

The official launch of the School's Centenary will be held at the Cliffs Pavilion, Southend-on-Sea, on Saturday 1 February 2020 and we are looking forward to welcoming pupils from across the years, and other friends from

our wider School community. Those particularly interested in the School's history may like to know that the School celebrated its Jubilee (50 years) at the Cliffs Pavilion with a formal Dinner hosted by the Old Westcliffian Association. I am particularly grateful to Governors, staff, parents and pupils for the many hours of work invested in enabling the School to host what promises to be a fitting official launch to our Centenary celebrations.

The staff in our subject departments have also been working hard to prepare for the Centenary, and they will be incorporating Centenary-themed material and activities into lessons during the year. You will find some examples of this as you read through *The Diary*.

Support from our School Community

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Centenary Patrons, Lord Gold and Lord Petre, who have offered their support to our Centenary events, and to the principal sponsors of our Centenary Year, Paul Robinson Solicitors LLP. We have received so much support for our Centenary from other generous donors such as Rickard Luckin, Cadman and Mr Ian Francis, as well as many generous donations in the form of time or luxury raffle prizes. I would like to thank all these contributors for their generosity. It is their support which has enabled us to ensure we can make the Centenary Year really special for all.

It is with this in mind that I should also like to record my sincere thanks to the Old Westcliffian Association and the Parents' Association for their tremendous support and encouragement with the Centenary preparations. The Old Westcliffian Association has already agreed to donate a sum towards the development of the School's Centenary Archive Room, as well as providing funds to assist the rapidly expanding Combined Cadet Force (CCF).

The Official Launch

At the time of writing, there are a few places remaining for the Centenary launch but these are limited and bookings will close on 17 January, so please ensure you book via TicketSource if you would like to attend. I would like



to record my particular thanks to Mrs Mumford (Second Deputy) and Mr Partridge (Director of Resources & Support Services) for their support in co-ordinating the arrangements for the evening, including the associated materials. My particular thanks also to Mr Jeffreys, Mr Derrick, Mr Bleakley and Mr McGee, along with the co-contributors, for the tremendous work invested in planning and preparing for this special evening.

School History Book Launch and Centenary Lectures

I am delighted to inform you that Dr Alan White, former Deputy Headmaster of the School, is putting the finishing touches to his book covering the history of the School. The book provides a fascinating account of the formation and development of Westcliff High School for Boys, and the context within which it operated. It provides superb insight into those who pushed for the creation of the School and their successors who enabled it to thrive, even through the

dark times of the Second World War. It is a scholarly work which is accessible and beautifully crafted. Most importantly, it provides an insight into the people of the WHSB community across ten decades, helping us to understand their lives, their hopes and aspirations, their challenges and their successes. Copies of the book may be pre-ordered and details of how to do so will be available later this term. An event to launch the book, including an opportunity to attend a lecture by Dr White, will be held on 26 March.

For those with a taste for history, I would like to strongly recommend attendance at the Centenary Lectures, in particular the lectures to be given by Mr Andrew Baker, former Headmaster of the School. Mr Baker taught History and Politics for over 40 years and is the author of a number of books in the fields of History and Politics, and Education more generally. We are most grateful to Mr Baker for agreeing to contribute to our programme of Centenary events.

Centenary Archive

Work has already begun on the School's Centenary archive which will be housed in the School's new Centenary Room. The Centenary Room will provide a bespoke space to display artefacts and documents from the School's past, as well as providing a safe storage resource for all such items. Therefore, this will become an important educational resource for our pupils as they study the lives of their predecessors and their society across the last 100 years. I would like to thank all those people who have already kindly donated archive material to the School. Please contact Mrs Clarke or Mrs Weller in the School's Community Development Office (CDO) if you have items you would like to donate or lend to the School for a period of time. I look forward to providing further updates on the development of our archive and the Centenary Room as this project develops.

I look forward to seeing you during this term and hope you enjoy the events we have planned.



ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOUR

Whilst this is a special year, it is also business as usual. It remains important that pupils stay focused on their studies as important examinations are coming up. Most notably, Year 13 start their Trial Examinations at the start of this term. I would like to take this opportunity to remind the School community of the importance of maintaining good attendance and behaviour. Our statistics for both attendance and behaviour continue to exceed national levels and we work hard to maintain and, where possible, improve our performance.

Good attendance is important as the School's performance data shows a strong correlation between days missed from School and academic underperformance. As I have noted previously, I fully understand that any parents taking their child out of lessons on holidays have no intention of damaging their child's educational prospects but, unfortunately, our data indicates that is a likely outcome of their actions. It is simply not feasible to expect a pupil to easily make up time lost given the pace of the lessons at the School. Equally, prioritising holidays over School can send an unintended message to a pupil regarding the importance of school attendance.

The School is an orderly community and takes pride in the good conduct of the overwhelming majority of its pupils. In circumstances where there is a concern regarding behaviour, we believe the most effective means of helping a pupil to overcome difficulties is for parents and the School to work together to provide coherent and consistent guidance and support. It is important that issues are addressed in order that poor routines do not become habitual and so create a barrier which prevents a pupil from reaching his/her full potential.

Parents are welcome to contact the relevant Pastoral Team at the School if they wish to discuss any of these specific issues or are seeking advice.

SCHOOL NEWS

GCSE AND ADVANCED LEVEL TRIAL EXAMINATIONS

In just five months (approximately 16 School weeks) Year 13 and Year 11 students will commence their Public Examinations. Year 11 pupils have already received the results of their Trial Examinations, together with feedback from their teachers. It is important that this information is used to inform their revision plans. It is also vital for Year 11 pupils to understand that their GCSE grades this summer will be used by universities when considering any future application they make for a university place. Therefore, pupils considering competitive courses at the most prestigious universities must focus on obtaining Grades 8 and 9 in the GCSE Examinations. The matter of A Level options will be discussed this term and Year 11 pupils must not under-estimate the scale of the challenge presented by GCSE Examinations, and the need to reach their full potential next summer in order to provide a secure platform for Post-16 education.

Year 13 students will commence their Trial Examinations at the start of this term. The Phase 1 Report issued to Year 13 students in the Autumn Term demonstrated that a number of students had performed well; however, a significant minority had fallen below their target grades. The main reason for under-performance was insufficient revision, particularly of Year 12 material. It is vital that all students have a comprehensive set of notes which cover the entire syllabus for each of their A Level subjects. They should also have a

thorough knowledge of the structure and rubric of the examination papers, e.g. how many papers, the duration of the examinations and distribution of marks. Students frequently under-estimate the time needed for revision if they are to reach their target grades. As a guide, our students who do well are achieving 20 or more hours of independent study per week and this increases as they approach their examinations.

It is important for both Year 11 and Year 13 students to have a structured revision plan broken down into days and weeks. Revision does not require the use of a computer. The focus should be on the understanding and retention of knowledge, as well as practising past examination questions under timed conditions. I would encourage parents to discuss revision plans with their sons/daughters and assist them by ensuring electronic devices (mobile phones, laptops etc.) are set aside.

PUPIL PARTICIPATION

We continue to emphasise to our pupils the importance of participation. We were treated to some wonderful events and activities last term, and I would like to offer my thanks to all the talented pupils and dedicated staff who made this possible. I was also delighted to see so many pupils and their parents attending to show their support. This, too, is participation and an important means of contributing to the School community. There is much evidence to link participation with the development of self-confidence and a true sense of self-worth. In our experience this supports and enables academic achievement, and success at university and employment interviews, as well as being personally fulfilling and rewarding for the pupils

themselves. I strongly encourage all pupils to challenge themselves to actively engage in the School's extra-curricular programme and I would be grateful if parents could support that participation through encouragement and providing the necessary logistical arrangements.

MR MCGEE COMMISSIONED FOR BBC/S4C SCORE

At WHSB, we encourage our students to take an interest in the wider life of the School and their communities, and in activities beyond their subjects, and we are delighted that so many of our staff choose to do the same.

I would like to congratulate Mr McGee, our Director of Sixth Form and talented teacher of Music, on his recent commission to produce a score for a BBC/S4C programme which followed a Welsh brass band in its preparations for Christmas. The work, *Diweddglu Nadoligaid*, or *Festive Finale*, features a reworking of three traditional Welsh carols and is scored for brass band, youth wind band, recorder consort and choir. The performance was recorded on 12 December 2019 and broadcast on Christmas Eve.

Many of you will know Mr McGee, either from his teaching and pastoral work, or through the Sinfonia and other concerts and events. He is a member of our outstanding Music Department, led by Mr Derrick, and since joining the School in 2017 he has made a superb contribution towards widening opportunities for pupils. We were proud indeed to hear of his prestigious commission.

INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS AWARD

Westcliff High School for Boys is fortunate to enjoy a strong relationship with the Physics Department at The University of Cambridge and, through Dr Machacek, both he and Mr Dalby have been significant contributors to The Isaac Physics Project. Dr Machacek is a long time contributor to the project, co-authoring the A Level book. Through the School's associations, Dr Machacek and Mr Dalby have co-authored the GCSE book for the project and have also delivered a presentation at the Annual Isaac Physics Boot Camp at the University of Cambridge for the past few years.

Professor Mark Warner, Professor of Theoretical Physics at Corpus Christi College has delivered a lecture to pupils at WHSB, and in return for releasing our staff to contribute to the Project we are pleased to benefit from free Isaac Physics resources and materials.

The Isaac Physics resources and website are now used in 90% of schools where A Level Physics is taught. The project also supports new Physics teachers and non-specialists who are teaching outside their subject area and we are proud that that

Dr Machacek and Mr Dalby have made such a significant contribution to this worthwhile project.

On Tuesday 19 November 2019, Dr Machacek and Mr Dalby were invited by the Ogden Trust to attend the Annual Institute of Physics Awards evening, which took place at the Royal Lancaster Hotel in London. The evening was attended by some eminent, internationally recognised physicists. We congratulate Dr Machacek and Mr Dalby who were invited to support Professor Mark Warner and Dr Lisa Jardine-Wright,

who were receiving the Lawrence Bragg gold medal and prize for their work in setting up and directing The Isaac Physics Project.

With challenges such as climate change and over-population needing imminent solutions, there is no doubt physicists will play a key role in everyone's future. The Isaac Physics Project was well deserving of the gold medal (the highest medal of the Institute of Physics) which recognises its tremendous impact in increasing the numbers of young people choosing Physics as a career.



Left-to-right: Dr A Machacek, Mr K Dalby, Dr Lisa Jardine-Wright, Jennifer Crowter

THE WHSB PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to our Parents' Association who have, once again, worked tirelessly to provide the School with superb levels of support during the last term. The presence of our fantastic Parents' Association at our School events makes such a difference to the experiences of our pupils and guests and we are fortunate indeed to enjoy their dedicated input.

I know that members of the Parents' Association are so grateful to all those members of our School Community who have supported them at events during the Autumn Term. Over £400 was raised from the Parents' Association's sales of pre-show and interval drinks, ice-cream and confectionery, and holding a raffle across the three-night production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*. I understand that £400 was also raised through their serving of mulled wine and raffling a luxury Christmas hamper at the *Christmas with the Big Band* event. Through the generosity of the Parents' Association, the School has benefitted from many essential resources, such as our Minibus provision, without which the pupils would not have been able to access

many of the experiences and activities they currently enjoy.

In addition to supporting our entertainment events, the Parents' Association carry out sterling work in supporting our arrangements for events such as the Sixth Form Open Evening in November. They provide essential support at these events by serving refreshments, but also make an additional and valued contribution by talking to prospective students and parents, offering a further, helpful perspective. In December, we delighted to be joined by the Parents' Association for the School's Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols, during which they served complimentary mulled wine and mince pies. That was a wonderful occasion, and we are looking forward to working alongside the Parents' Association during 2020, our Centenary year. Please do get in touch with the Parents' Association if you would like to become involved as it is an excellent way in which you can offer support to your son's/daughter's School, and to make a notable difference to the experiences of our pupils and their School community (pa@whsb.essex.sch.uk).

STAFF CHANGES FOR THE SPRING TERM

We are delighted to welcome back Mrs Koutas, Teacher of English, from her maternity leave. We are grateful to Mrs Adams for providing cover during this period; she is a highly experienced English teacher who has previously taught at WHSB and she now leaves us to teach at another local school. We say farewell to Miss Hung who has returned to Hong Kong. We are most grateful to Miss Hung for her services as a Science teacher and we wish her well for the future. We hope to make an appointment shortly to replace Miss Hung. Mr Finnigan and Mr Turnpenny (both Old Westcliffians) who served as Teaching Assistants for one term left the School to commence training and Higher Education. We wish them every success with their endeavours.

I would like to take this opportunity to formally welcome Mrs Holley and Mrs Wells who joined the School in the Autumn Term as Sixth Form Pastoral Assistants, and Miss Grey who joined the administrative staff during last term. We also welcome Mr Stenhouse and Mr Sountharajah (Old Westcliffians) who return to the School for a year to work as Teaching Assistants.



SOUTHEND YOUTH MAYOR

I am delighted to congratulate Eugene Vlas on his election as Southend-on Sea's Youth Mayor (his term of office commenced on 6 November 2019). Eugene has already served as a member of the Borough's Youth Council since late 2016 having responded to an advertisement in the local newspaper inviting young people to apply.

As part of the election process, Eugene was required to outline his manifesto to the Youth Council prior to the members voting on his candidacy. As part of this speech, Eugene outlined his plans for the creation of a Charity Committee within the Youth Council, which would raise and donate sums of money to charities selected by the members of the Youth Council. He also envisaged the funds raised being used to support youth projects within the local community.

Eugene is also keen to provide another Music Mayhem festival following the success of last year's event. The festival offers local bands the opportunity to play music at a local venue. A date and venue have yet to be set although Eugene anticipates there will be significant support for the festival from local young people.

Included in Eugene's programme for his term as Youth Mayor is a commitment to work with local transport companies to explore lowering the price of public transport for young people. He has already had discussions with C2C and hopes to have discussions with the bus companies in the near future. Eugene is concerned that public transport prices remain far too high for young people.

Eugene also wishes to see an increase in the numbers of young people volunteering to join the Youth Council. He has already sought to improve the Youth Council's marketing strategy by redesigning its logo. He is also encouraging the Youth Council to do more to promote campaigns for improving the quality of life for all residents of the local area.

The School is proud of Eugene's election and service to the community and we wish him every success during his term as Youth Mayor.

Headmaster



PUPIL CARE PLANS

The School would like to ensure that parents are aware of the importance of updating Care Plans. If you know that your son/daughter has a specific illness or condition requiring a Care Plan, we would ask that you ensure that a copy of the Plan, and any accompanying medication, is provided to the relevant Pastoral Team.

When joining the School in Year 7, a Care Plan is usually received from a Healthcare Professional, if it has been provided by the Primary School. Medical issues should also be declared on the Pupil Information Sheets which are issued each year for updating during the Summer Term. These details remain on your son's/daughter's School file, unless we are otherwise informed.

Care Plans should list details relating to allergies, diabetes, recurring illnesses, or other conditions. As conditions change and adapt as your child grows, the School does need to be made aware of these changes. It is the responsibility of parents to provide these details and this will allow us to better assist pupils in the event of any medical situations.

*Mrs C Burden
TAA Supervisor*

YEAR 12 BREADTH STUDIES CENTENARY YEAR

Year 12 students have one period each week during which they have the opportunity to study and discuss topics and issues beyond the confines of their A Level subjects. During this lesson, students explore world issues and topical events, for example county lines, knife crime, and British culture and values. Learners also have the chance to gain additional certificates such as Open University Open Learn qualifications. These can add extra substance to their UCAS Personal Statement and Curriculum Vitae. In Breadth Studies, learners develop useful life skills, such as referencing, critical thinking, effective writing, researching and touch typing.

Throughout January and February, Breadth Studies will be commemorating the Centenary Year by undertaking Centenary-themed lessons.

Year 12 Breadth Studies students will research a decade in groups of four, and each is going to present one theme throughout the decade from the following:

- History, Politics and Social Issues;
- Art and Film;
- Music and Culture;
- Science and Technology.

Students will be encouraged to be critical and analytical throughout this process and use a range of sources, including books and journal articles. They are to develop their own question to be debated and answered. They can focus on global, national or local issues. Learners will then use this research to present their findings to an audience and the presentation will be followed by a Q&A session. This will act as a rehearsal for their EPQ viva presentations and it will be assessed using an adapted version of the Extended Project Qualification A04 assessment criteria.

EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION SUCCESS (EPQ) SUCCESS

The EPQ results in 2019 were again exceptional with 87% graded A*-A, and 100% A*-B. An impressive 45% of all grades awarded were A*. The EPQ dissertation is worth half an Advanced Level in terms of UCAS points and it has enabled students to access some of the top Russell Group universities.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the following staff that supported students last year with their dissertations: Mr Baggs, Mr Bleakley, Mr Cunneen, Miss Dolan, Mr Farrell, Mr Hudson, Mr Jeffreys, Dr Machacek, Mr Keenan, Mr Marriott, Ms Porter, Mr Sampson, Dr Shepherd, Mr Steel, Mrs Hammond, Mr Stevens and Mr Williamson. These staff gave up a significant amount of their own free time to support learners with this voluntary qualification and their subject specific support and guidance has been integral to the students' success.

The current Year 13 students have been putting the finishing touches to their EPQ dissertation over the Christmas holidays so that the written component of the dissertation is completed before the commencement of their trial examinations. Presentations and viva examinations will take place throughout the coming months.

If you are in Year 12 and are interested in this qualification, then please do not hesitate to make an appointment to come and see me. This should be of particular interest to you if you are thinking of applying for competitive degree courses, i.e. Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry, Law, Economics, Geography

and History, and also if you are thinking of applying to top Russell Group universities such as Oxford, Cambridge, University College London, Imperial, LSE and Southampton.

*Mr R Barber
Head of Breadth Studies*

PSHEE KEY STAGE 4 AND 5: CENTENARY ECO-COUNCIL

To commemorate the Centenary Year at WHSB, a Centenary Eco-Council has been created. The Council sits every Thursday lunchtime in E29 and is run by Sophia Jones (Year 13), supported by Maximilian Rowe (Year 9). The work of the Council builds on the PSHEE curriculum at the School and provides students with the opportunity to become actively involved in contemporary ideas. It explores environmental issues and discusses ways in which students can have a greater and positive impact on the environment and the world around us.

This Centenary Eco-Council also supports students in the development of their skills in public speaking, critical thinking, leadership, research and teamwork, as well as increasing their confidence and providing them with opportunities to make new friends. The Council also helps nurture links between older and younger students at the School. If you are interested in finding out more, then please come along one lunchtime. You will be very welcome!

*Mr R Barber
Key Stage 4 and 5 PSHEE Co-ordinator*



We are most grateful to the Principal Sponsor of our Centenary Year:



SCHOOL NEWS

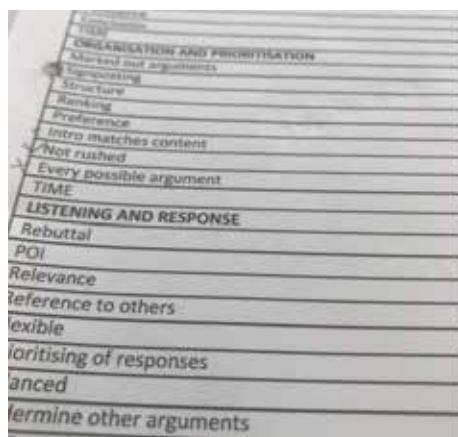


DEBATING

This is the main term for the various Schools' Debating Competitions entered by the School: the English-Speaking Union Mace, the Oxford Union Senior Schools' Competition and the Cambridge Union's Schools Competition. These are major national and international competitions and the standard of debating is high, and getting higher each year. We have also entered Years 7-9 teams in the International Competition for Young Debaters, held by the Oxford Union this year. We hope to organize our usual Debating Workshop this term, in School, with the ESU.

SCHOOLS' CHALLENGE QUIZ

We have been engaged in the opening rounds of the Schools' Challenge Quiz. However, the competition will heat up this term as we head towards the Finals and our usual rivalry with KEGS, SHSB and Bancroft's.



OXBRIDGE PROGRAMME

As part of the School's ongoing commitment to support applications to the nation's most prestigious universities, a 16th annual visit to Cambridge University is planned for this term. We hope to continue the successful format of combining a tour for Year 11 pupils with a meeting with an Admissions Tutor at Emmanuel College. A date has yet to be finalised but will be a Saturday in January or February. Once again, this visit will be run in conjunction with WHSG. A complementary trip to Oxford University is intended for late February/early March for Year 12 students.

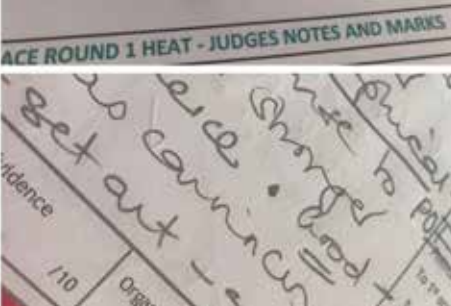
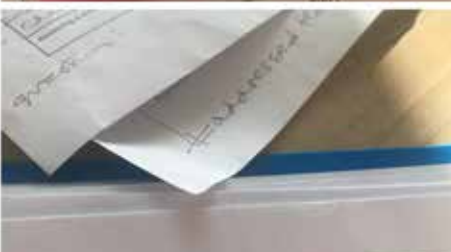
If you would like further details please see Mr Stevens in the first instance.

POLITICS TRIP

During the Spring Term, our Year 12 Politics students are planning to visit the Palace of Westminster under the auspices of the Parliamentary Education Unit. As well as visiting The House of Commons and the House of Lords, we will attend a workshop event focusing on the legislative process. This promises to be a most interesting and informative visit.

MASTERCLASSES

We have supported a number of Sixth Form students to make bookings on various university-level masterclasses or



"taster days" this term. Included amongst these are the excellent Villiers Park residential courses which enable some of our most able students to immerse themselves for four or five days in an academic environment, looking at topics beyond the A Level syllabus, surrounded by young scholars of similar intellect and disposition.

Students interested in Villiers Park courses should see Mr Stevens for further details.

PROFESSOR PETER MANDLER: EDUCATION LECTURE

Thursday 27 February 2020, 7.30pm

On Thursday 27 February, we are delighted to welcome Professor Peter Mandler (Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge) to the School. He is Professor of Modern Cultural History at The University of Cambridge, a former President of the Royal Historical Society, and the foremost authority on The History of Mass Education in Britain in the 20th Century. In support of our Centenary Programme, he will give an evening lecture on how popular demand for education, rather than politics and policy-making, has driven the course of Educational Reform in Britain since the Second World War: comprehensive reorganization, the growth of participation in post-compulsory education, the changing menu of subject choices for public examinations etc. Beforehand, after School, Professor Mandler will also be working with selected History students on aspects of historiography relating to social and cultural history. His latest book, *The Crisis of the Meritocracy: Britain's Transition to Mass Education since the Second World War* will be published in 2020 by Oxford University Press.

Mr R Stevens
Head of Politics



THE WESTCLIFF CENTRE FOR GIFTED CHILDREN PROGRAMME

The Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children (WCGC) programme continues to inspire more local pupils to consider a Grammar School education. Its current provision includes a series of Go for Grammar! events held on five different Saturdays across the academic year. Since its advent, local uptake of the 11+ has increased and WHSB has steadily increased the number of local pupils it admits each year and 2019 saw us fill all of our local priority area spaces for the first time in many years. With larger Year Group sizes than ever before, this represents the highest number of local pupils ever admitted into

WHSB and, to meet demand, the School has increased the proportion of spaces it allocates to the priority area 11+ passers to 80% of the cohort from September 2020.

The WCGC programme has evolved over time to meet the needs of the School and the local potential pupils it seeks to serve. We now offer all pupils a session in Modern Foreign Languages alongside English and Mathematics at every event, rather than providing a theme day only. This reflects a renewed Government interest in languages and it seeks to inspire children to communicate across language barriers. We have also introduced the offer of a multi-sports day each year, reflecting the School's growing success in local, regional and national sporting events.

The WCGC is now actively considering ways to reach out to even more local primary school children to encourage them to attend and be inspired by what the School has to offer. We will continue to work through local Primary School leadership teams, but we will also look at alternative ways to reach as wide an audience as possible, including use of the local press and Social Media. The WCGC Saturday programme will also continue to include up-to-date and useful, practical advice to maximise pupils' opportunities to reach their potential in the 11+ process.

Mr J Bleakley
Director of Lower School

GEOGRAPHY PROJECT AND LECTURES FOR OUR CENTENARY YEAR

Wednesday 12 February 2020, 7.30pm

Whether it be the pressures of plastic pollution, the threat of global warming, geopolitical tensions and conflicts, or the question of immigration, geographical issues are dominating the news more so than ever. The world is a dynamic place and the face of the Earth has changed immeasurably in truly fascinating ways since Westcliff High School for Boys was founded in 1920. Even a cursory glance at the local map and photographs here reveals the continuity and change of the Westcliff area itself over the past century.

Therefore, in order to celebrate the centenary of WHSB, the Geography Department will be taking a retrospective look at the last 100 years and analysing the changes that the world has experienced during this time. The Department will be co-ordinating a special set of lessons for all Lower School classes focusing on the physical, environmental and human changes that the world has witnessed during WHSB's history.

In the Centenary Lessons, pupils will be exercising their geographical skills by studying maps and graphs, looking at recent changes in atmospheric greenhouse gases and linking it to climate change. They will also look at border changes, migration and globalisation, and examine how these changes have influenced society and the School today. We are delighted that much of the research work needed for these lessons will be undertaken by Year 12 Geography Prefects, thereby developing their own knowledge and skills.

In addition, there will also be a series of mini-lectures on the evening of Wednesday 12 February 2020, starting at 7.30pm. Each lecture will tackle a specific aspect of world change, including globalisation, culture, climate change, urbanisation, threats to the environment and the world in numbers. In true geographical fashion, we will also look to the future and consider the role WHSB students have in shaping our global society.

All are welcome to this evening which is not to be missed. Students studying Geography at GCSE and A Level will also find the lectures helpful in relation to their studies.

Mr L Norman and Dr M Shepherd
Geography Department



TRIPS & VISITS

THE QUEEN'S GALLERY TRIP: A RETROSPECTIVE

On Wednesday 2 October 2019, Miss Price accompanied Sixth Form Art students on an educational visit to The Queen's Gallery at Buckingham Palace. The day was highly valuable, both in terms of further developing the students' drawing skills and their understanding of processes, and techniques used by Leonardo da Vinci.

During the morning, students took part in a life-drawing workshop run by the Gallery. They were challenged to draw directly from a live model, thus demanding they worked decisively with excellent skills of observation. Casey Children-Smith (Year 12) said, "It really pushed me out of my comfort zone; however the new techniques we learnt will help me to explore a greater variety of art styles". Life-drawing has long been a key element of an Art School portfolio when applying to university, so this experience and the drawings created will not only form valuable drawing experience, but will also support students in their applications for Art-related courses at university. James Higgins (Year 12) stated, "Whilst initially daunting, the life-drawing quickly became a useful and interesting task, followed by a Gallery visit which will help with our studies."

After lunch, students had the opportunity to visit the Leonardo da Vinci Exhibition, which displayed over 200 original drawings. This gave students the chance to acknowledge the materials and techniques used by the Great Master, using the experience they had gained in the morning. The students also selected drawings of particular interest, sketching them and making annotations which could be used to develop their own coursework projects. Isabel de Villiers (Year 12) commented, "It was really interesting seeing some of the great Leonardo da Vinci artwork. He is one of the greatest artists, so it was inspiring and interesting to learn about him and his art."

The Gallery staff remarked upon the exemplary conduct of our students and the wonderfully inquisitive nature they demonstrated during the visit. Miss Price



also noted, "It was a fantastic learning experience for all of the students involved and I saw students' confidence in drawing growing before my eyes." Litika Navti (Year 13) said, "The life-drawing was a great opportunity to look at art from a different perspective. The trip overall was very educational and inspirational".

Miss L Price
Lower School Art Co-ordinator

SKI TRIP 15-23 February 2020

The 2020 Ski Trip to Sestriere, Italy will soon be underway with accommodation booked at the Hotel Lago Losetta. This trip will provide 80 pupils, most of whom are beginners, with the chance to try a sport not offered in this country, whilst also immersing themselves in some Italian culture. Pupils will also have opportunity to try their hand at ice skating and curling.

The Ski Trip for 2021 has also been booked and all places have now been taken. We shall be returning to Sestriere with a further 80 pupils who are looking forward to participating this invigorating winter activity.

Mr H Tresidder
Teacher i/c Ski Trip

YEAR 10 FIELD VISIT TO DORSET

14-20 March 2020

Geology fieldwork is an essential and compulsory requirement of the GCSE course. From Saturday 14 March to Friday 20 March 2020, Year 10 geologists will be undertaking field studies from a base in Swanage, Dorset. Visits will be made to iconic coastal locations such as Lulworth Cove, Durdle Door, Kimmeridge Bay and the Isle of Portland. A wide range of topics will be studied including minerals, rocks and fossils, as well as the folding and faulting of rocks in relation to plate tectonics. Man's impact on the landscape (following mining and quarrying) will also be considered. Such research will allow students to develop their knowledge and understanding of geology whilst gaining an enjoyment, interest and appreciation of an outstanding landscape fashioned largely by the rocks of Dorset.

Mr N Cooper
Head of Geology



Durdle Door, near Lulworth, Dorset



Kimmeridge Bay, Isle of Purbeck, Dorset

CHEMISTRY AT WORK 2019: A RETROSPECTIVE

On Wednesday 23 October 2019, selected Year 10 pupils attended the *Chemistry at Work* workshop at the Tilbury Cruise Terminal, organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry. It promised to be an eye-opening experience being led by a multitude of speakers in diverse areas of the industry.

The first talk was given by an employee of *Synthomer*. The company's focus revolves around polymers and their properties. At the top of their priorities was distributing these specialist polymers for particular scenarios. It became apparent during this talk (and throughout most of the presentations) that these jobs are in high demand, allowing the people who fill them earn a high income, even as a newcomer. While we were brought back to reality

having learnt that this required six years of study at university, it certainly opened up a new doorway for students who had never considered this as a potential career.

As all the schools rotated around the presentations, WHSB students attended a talk by Mr Gill who works at Basildon and Thurrock Hospital as a Pharmacist and he wanted to ensure that if we took anything away with us, it was that being a pharmacist does not always involve passing prescriptions to someone over a counter. A hospital pharmacist saves lives, prescribing the correct medication and taking away any unnecessary medication on a regular basis. We were shocked to hear of a situation in which an elderly woman arrived at the hospital on 45 different medications, but ended up leaving with just 10!

Ms Charlotte Rivas was next, a scientist



who had studied at Kings College focusing on the electromagnetic spectrum and how to incorporate this into medicine. She raised particular areas of interest, especially MRI scans and X-rays.

Later, we heard a presentation from Mr Michael Burcher who spoke about his career in Chemical Engineering. After discussing Brexit, he outlined some of the most ingenious and innovative ideas in his field to date. Mr Burcher wished to emphasize the wide scope of Chemistry; for example, from talking about dyes and how they were first discovered by William Perkin using vegetables, to building large structures like the Uranium Olympic Dam. This is an impressive career indeed.

Mr Rob Christie worked for *Johnson Matthey*, another Chemical Engineering company globally supporting other organisations. We learnt how taking on such a challenge would allow you to travel the world - Some of Mr Christie's friends worked for well-known oil companies and were earning high salaries and travelling the world.

Finally, before we headed back to School for the final lessons of the day, Ms Mona Soo, a former WHSG student, provided an insight into what it was like to be a consultant pharmacist. This was an enjoyable day which provided an excellent insight into careers in Chemistry. The trip would not have been possible without the planning and oversight of Miss Lo and Mr Willson and, on behalf of all the pupils who attended, I would like to thank them for their hard work.

Lewis Seal
Year 10

HISTORY TRIP TO IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM AND CHURCHILL WAR ROOMS

Saturday 21 March 2020

Next term, the programme of History Days Out will continue with our trip to the Imperial War Museum and the Churchill War Rooms. This series of trips, open to all pupils in the School, gives those pupils with a particular love of History, the opportunity to spend a Saturday in a place of significant historical interest.

The Imperial War Museum and the Churchill War Rooms are no exception. Founded as the Imperial War Museum

in 1917, this world famous museum was originally intended to record the civil and military war effort and sacrifice of Britain and its Empire during the First World War. The Museum's remit has since expanded to include all conflicts in which British or Commonwealth forces have been involved since 1914. The Museum now aims 'to provide for, and to encourage, the study and understanding of the history of modern war and 'wartime experience'. At the Churchill War Rooms, pupils can learn about the life of Winston Churchill, Britain's powerful former Prime Minister who led the country to victory in World War 2, discover what it was like in the British bunkers during the War and explore the Cabinet War Rooms and their secret passages.

The trip will cost £38 and payment should be made on *ParentPay* to secure a place (please note that once payment is made, refunds will not be possible). We hope you will support the History Department and encourage your son/daughter to join what should be a fascinating experience.

Mr B Jeffreys
Head of History



ART

IT'S ALL IN THE JOURNEY!

Art students at WHSB, at all levels, continue to wow and amaze.

During the Spring Term, we are eagerly anticipating the finalising of students' personal investigations. This year, once again we have an eclectic range of topics, from the folk art associated with rural Poland, how words and speaking disabilities can be articulated in paint, the quest for perfection in 'da Vinci's' studio, how woman and mother have had to fight for equality and recognition, Climate change and the curse of plastic and the organic elements of beauty.

As WHSB students know, Art involves a journey and at Westcliff we have trod many paths, barriers have been cast aside and art has found its voice.

Mr T Sinnott
Head of Art



Oliver McKenzie, Year 12



Noah Phillips



Litika Navti, Year 13



Dominic Morris, Year 13



Litika Navti, Year 13



Wiktor Lebiada, Year 13



Josiah Maggs, Year 13



Lizzie Irwin, Year 13



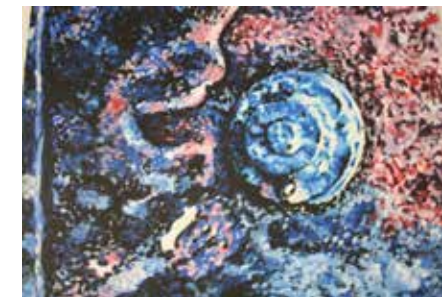
Recent A Level work



E28



Lewis Seal, Oliver McKenzie, Isobel Taylor



Samson Main, Year 12



Abigail Owolabi, Year 13



Litika Navti, Year 13



Isobel Taylor



Abigail Owolabi, Year 13



Lewis Nash, Year 12



Georgia Gonzalez

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

WARGAMING CLUB

The academic year 2018-2019 was a successful year for our Wargamers. Our fourth place position in the National Final for Schools' League spurred on the younger members of the Club to develop their knowledge and tactics to be able to compete to the same standard.

This academic year, we have appointed a number of pupils in roles of responsibility to allow more structure and to recognise their valuable contribution to the Club. Alexander Fall (Year 13) has been appointed as the Club Leader, donning the unofficial title of Lord of War, with Ellis Swindell (Year 13) appointed as Deputy Club Leader. Our Junior Ambassadors include Charlie Wright (*Chapter Master*, Year 11), Fenton Hopkins (*Shoutinal*, Year 10), Alex Crisp (*Morkanaut*, Year 10), and Tom Duddridge (*Da Warboss*, Year 9).

Following extensive advertising and promotion, it is pleasing to see a large number of Year 7 pupils joining the club, keen to learn from their older peers the variety of Wargames available. There are currently plans to organise teaching sessions in building and painting over the academic year to support our Year 7 pupils. The number of participants at Wargaming Club has increased extensively such that there are now four classrooms in action every Friday after School, including Mr Stevens running his *Dungeons & Dragons* campaign.

There is now an active noticeboard outside Room M2 for up-to-date information (including trips) and also a display board outside Room S3 highlighting the wonderful successes of the Club at competitions. In addition, a



reorganisation of the Wargame cupboard has allowed the equipment to become more accessible to all members.

On Tuesday 3 December 2019, eight pupils competed in the *National Warhammer 40k Kill Team Championships* at *Warhammer World*, Nottingham. The pupils were Alexander Fall (Year 13), Max Allsopp, Samuel Hughes, and Sean Wright (Year 12), Charlie Wright (Year 11), and Samuel Birdsall, Thomas Davis and Tom Duddridge (Year 9). This was a competition for individuals, however WHSB won the 'Best School' award; an award for the school demonstrating the best performance overall. Our congratulations go to Sean Wright for achieving first place in the Championships, as well as winning the award for the best painted Kill Team. His trophy is not the usual cup, and instead contains a Space Marine hand holding a chainsword weapon!

Miss E Lo
Teacher of Chemistry



CHESS SUCCESS

On Tuesday 12 November 2019, the WHSB A & B Chess teams hosted Brentwood School and Southend High School for Boys in a qualifier round for the Under-19 National Schools' Chess Championship.

The WHSB A team (Jonathan Cheung, Sri Nivasan Loganathan, Ihsaan Abdoul-Azis, Justus Genthe, Leonard Cheung and Sebastian Rapley-Mende) qualified after winning more than 50% of their matches whilst, unfortunately, the B team were unable to register enough wins on this occasion. The Regional round of this competition will take place in the Spring Term and at the time of writing we are awaiting further information.

The WHSB A team has also enjoyed success in the *Chess Problem-Solving Challenge* and has qualified for the second round of the competition.

The Junior Chess team will be visiting St Thomas More High School for the Junior Chess Tournament, whilst the Senior Chess Tournament will take place at Greensward Academy on Wednesday 15 January 2020.

This is the first time the School has been involved in multiple tournaments and much credit must be given to the pupils who have shown their willingness to be open to opportunities, and their commitment to weekly training sessions.

Mr K James
Key Stage 3 Science Co-ordinator



CHARITY YEAR

CHARITY UPDATE

Within two months of the creation of the WHSB Charity Committee for 2019/20, we have observed a phenomenal start. The support of the entirety of the School has been immense, and a huge thanks comes from the Committee to all students, parents and staff who have committed their time and resources to aid our ventures.

We began our schedule promptly, through serving refreshments at the WHSB Drama production of *Frankenstein*, across three nights. We sold soft drinks, popcorn and ice cream, which went down a treat with the audience before each show.

Our first set of day events took place on Friday 18 October, where we witnessed Head Shaving (and in some cases some eyebrow shaving!) which raised over £1,000 in sponsorship alone. We greatly value everyone's support. The lunchtime, however, saw the highlight event of the day: Teacher Sumo Wrestling, with star performances from Miss Bailey, Miss Wajgensberg, Mr Bleakley, Mr Tresidder, Mr Finnigan and Mr Turnpenny. The show was a spectacle, with the female teachers seeing Miss Wajgensberg take home the belt. A four-man tournament saw Mr Tresidder defeat Mr Bleakley and Mr Finnigan defeat Mr Turnpenny, leading to the subsequent final between Mr Tresidder and Mr Finnigan. Mr Tresidder was victorious, following a testing battle (and an impromptu asthma pump break).

This event was one filled with smoke and spotlights, creating a truly spectacular atmosphere for all involved.

Our next event was the Charity Quiz Night on Friday 15 November, with all 100 tickets sold. The event was hosted by Mr McGee, and organised behind the scenes by a team of diligent committee markers, refreshment sellers and technicians. This enjoyable night raised significant funds for our two causes: the *Ewan Lane Music Foundation* and *Gold Geese*, as we continue on our mission to ensure we do our very best for these charities this year.

On Thursday 12 December, Christmas Jumper Day took place with students wearing their favourite Christmas-themed jumpers for a £2 donation for the day. This was accompanied by Christmas Eating Challenges at breaktime, and Teacher Karaoke during the lunchtime. In the evening, we hosted the Lower School Disco in the Main School Hall.

We strongly encourage everybody to get involved in helping out with our packed programme of events throughout the year, as every single penny raised goes towards two worthy local causes.

The chosen charities for this year are the *Ewan Lane Music Foundation* and *Gold Geese*, two local causes. Our reason for choosing two local organisations is because the funds we raise will be able to be used to even greater effect than a national charity could, and we wanted



to concentrate on the local community in which WHSB resides during our Centenary Year.

The *Ewan Lane Music Foundation* is a cause dedicated to Ewan Lane, a previous student of the School from 2009-16. Ewan was a keen and talented musician, and was truly inspirational to those in the School. Sadly, Ewan passed away in November 2017, after which his family decided to establish a charity in his name. This excellent charity provides musical opportunities to disadvantaged young people in South East Essex, who would not otherwise have the chance. We aim to do Ewan and his family proud by ensuring this academic year's events run to their greatest potential, raising as much money as possible to bring music to even more young people.

Gold Geese is another recently-founded charity, focused on improving the lives of those suffering from childhood cancer. We were inspired to select this charity after the moving story of a boy in a local school, one close to many within our own community. It is wonderful to be able to observe such excellent work being undertaken in our locality, so we aim to help them as much as possible. The reasoning behind the naming of the charity is a truly emotive one: Gold is the colour for childhood cancer, and Geese are birds which fly long distances in flocks, together. The charity stands for a sense of togetherness, which is so essential during such difficult periods, and therefore we will do our best to help them in offering our support.

Ethan Locke
Year 12



CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

SENIOR HISTORY SOCIETY

The Senior History Society, which meets weekly, is open to all students in Years 11 to 13. There are debates and discussions on a wide range of historical issues, all of which are led by students. We are hoping to confirm some visits from Academics in the forthcoming term, so watch this space!

Mr B Jeffreys
Head of History

JUNIOR HISTORY SOCIETY

Junior History Society meets weekly on a Tuesday lunchtime in W24 and is open to all pupils in Years 7-10. Talks are given by older students and teachers on an exciting range of historical issues. Subjects to be

discussed in future months include Stalin, Shostakovich & Prokofiev, The Holocaust, The Israeli-Arab Conflict, Elizabethan Theatre, The Mods and Rockers in the 1960s and The Great Northern War. Mr Keenan might even give a brief history of Ipswich Town Football Club! Come along and find out more!

Mr J Theobald
Teacher of History

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

With the Silver Award participants having completed their Assessment Expedition in June, those pupils undertaking the Bronze Award did so in September. Since their Practice Expedition in June, the Bronze participants showed great growth with regards to both their navigation and camp

craft skills, and are to be commended for this.

All that remains for participants to do, at both levels, is to complete the other three sections (Skills, Volunteering and Physical) in order to complete the relevant award. The new tier also brings the opportunity for Year 9 pupils to apply for the Bronze award, for which I anticipate a high level of interest. Letters will be issued shortly.

Once again, the Bronze Practice Expedition will take place around Danbury, with pupils' assessment being near Roxwell. Silver participants will face more challenging terrain and navigation, firstly in the South Downs, before travelling to the Peak District for their assessment.

Mr H Tresidder
DofE Co-ordinator



CLUBS AND SOCIETIES 2020

This year, there are 43 clubs and societies to enjoy, the details of which are included below. Clubs and societies provide our pupils with opportunities to expand their experiences, knowledge and skills, whilst making friends and developing their confidence and teamwork. Pupils are advised that days and times can vary at short notice, so they should listen carefully to announcements in the daily registers for any amendments. Unlike many schools, in which charges may be made for these activities, our clubs and societies are free of charge and are run by staff and students on a voluntary basis and in their own time. Separate Sport and Music timetables are displayed on the Physical Education and Music Department noticeboards.

Mr R Barber
House System Co-ordinator

Society/Club	Day	Time	Location	Years	Leader
Monday Morning Meditation	Monday	8.20am	SF12	All	Mr Dalby
Gospel Choir	Monday/Tuesday	Lunch	Theatre	All	Sixth Form students
Concert Band	Tuesday	1.00pm	M18	All	Mr Derrick
Astronomical Society	Tuesday	1.00pm	SF12	All	Mr Dalby
Health Care & Medical Society	Tuesday	1.00pm	W31	Sixth Form	Miss Lo
Computer Security/Antivirus Club	Tuesday	Lunch	W11	All	Jake Pilkington
The Society Discussion Meetings	Tuesday	Lunch	E29	All	Mr Finnigan
KS3 Creative Writing Club	Tuesday	Lunch	E29	Years 7-9	Miss McGowan
String Ensemble	Wednesday	1.00pm	M18	All	Mr Derrick
Motorsport Society	Wednesday	Lunch	T4	All	William Farmer
Debating Society	Wednesday	Lunch	S14	All	Muhammad Ibrahim
Model United Nations	Wednesday	Lunch	W7	Sixth Form	Mr Sampson
Countdown Club	Wednesday	1.00pm	E9	All	Stanley Upton
Junior Countdown Club	Friday	1.00pm	E9	Years 7-9	Jonathan Huggett, Niall Ivie
Boxfit	Wednesday	3.35pm	Small Gym	Years 8-11	Dr Francis
Chess	Thursday	Lunch	S14	All	Mr James
Physics Support Clinic	Thursday	1.00pm	SF12	All	Mr Dalby
Brass Ensemble	Thursday	1.00pm	M18	All	Mr McGee
CCF	Thursday	4.00pm	Playground	Years 10-13	Mr Bleakley
Robotics Club	Thursday	Lunch	W11	All	Jack Thorn
Engineering Society	Thursday	Lunch	S17	Years 10-13	Mr Hudson
Marvel Club	Thursday	Lunch	W31	All	Mr Yeo
Boxfit	Thursday	Lunch	Small Gym	Years 8-11	Dr Francis
Cyber Discovery Club	Friday	Lunch	W11	All	Devan Chauhan
Wargaming Club	Friday	3.35pm -5.00pm	M2	All	Miss Lo
Eco Salvage Crew	Thursday & Friday	Lunch	T1	Years 7-9	Mr Moore
Environmental Council	Thursday	Lunch	E29	All	Mr Barber, Sophia Jones
Lower School Study Room	Every day	Lunch	E24	Years 7-9	Form Captains
Key Stage 3 Science Club	Wednesday A	Lunch	S13	Years 7-9	Mr Marriott
Technology Club	Tuesday & Thursday	Lunch	T1	Years 7-9	Mr Moore
GCSE/A Level Technology Club	Monday, Weds & Friday	Lunch	T1	Years 11-13	Mr Moore
Geology Club	Wednesday B	Lunch	W31	Years 7-9	Mr Marlow
Latin Club	Tuesday & Thursday	1.00pm	W7	Years 7-9	Mr Sampson
KS3 Creative Writing Club	Tuesday	Lunch	E29	Years 7-9	Miss McGowan
Screenwriting Club	Tuesday	Lunch	E20	Sixth Form	Mr Keenan
Makaton Club	Monday	Lunch	W28	All	Ethan King
Psychology film club	Thursday	1.00pm	SF13	Sixth Form	Ms Wajgensberg
Classic Film Club	Friday	3.40pm	W31	Years 7-11	Mrs Cook
First Aid Club	Friday	1.00pm	E8	All	Mr Barber/Samuel Knight
Music Appreciation Society	Thursday	Lunch	E24	All	Niall Ivie/Stnley Upton
Junior History Society	Tuesday	12.50pm	W24	Years 7-10	Dr Theobald
Psychology Society	Fridays week B	1.00pm	SF13	Sixth Form	Ms Wajgensberg

STEM

STEM ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING ARKWRIGHT ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIPS

It is a fantastic time at the School for those interested in STEM-related careers and we continue to see a significant trend in popularity. The number of students choosing to select STEM-orientated options at GCSE and A Level has increased dramatically and attendance at extra-curricular activities is also proving most popular.

On 16 October, a large number of students from Mr Hudson's Engineering Society enjoyed an evening at Ford Dunton at an IMechE seminar on *Additive Manufacturing and the Advantages of 3D Printing with Metals*. It was most pleasing to see our students confidently posing questions to industry professionals, which did not go unnoticed by senior figures at the event. Should students wish to take part in any future events, they are encouraged to attend the Engineering Society meetings held on Thursdays for further details.

As part of the Engineering Education Scheme (EES), our highly successful teams, Blakiston and Asclepius MK I, have also been awarded individual Gold CREST certification. The award requires students to make an original contribution to a STEM field of study from a project of at least 70 hours. This recognition rounds off a fantastic year in the EES after Team Blakiston's triumph in June at the Manufacturing Technologies Association's National Technology, Design & Innovation Awards. This year, we are fortunate to have been able to field



another two teams who have been busy investigating and designing in preparation for the forthcoming two-day workshop at Cambridge University. Both teams have shown much early promise and are eager to emulate their predecessor's successes.

The Arkwright Scholarship is the most prestigious of its type in the UK. The selection process is rigorous, involving written application, aptitude testing and formal interview. Mr Moore has initiated the application process for prospective Year 11 pupils, who will find out shortly if they have met initial shortlisting requirements. Further information can be found at <http://www.arkwright.org.uk>.

Within the Lower School, Mr Moore continues to run Technology Club during lunchtimes each week. Pupils are welcome to develop their current classroom project or realise independent projects of their own. We are also currently planning for another Lower School event for the forthcoming Enrichment Day during the Summer Term.

I look forward to reporting on the progress of these events, societies and projects later in the academic year.

Mr C Wright
Head of Design & Technology



CHEMISTRY MASTERMIND/ TOP OF THE BENCH COMPETITIONS

Last academic year, four pupils competed in the *Chemistry Mastermind Competition* and, after winning the Essex Regional Final, WHSB finished in 7th place at the National Final of the *Top of the Bench Competition*. The team consisted of Ethan King and Bhavy Metakar (Year 10), Nivasan Loganathan (Year 11) and Sri Loganathan (Year 12). After being so close to a prize, this spurred the team on to train this academic year's team.

This academic year's team includes Gerald Ayittah and Sam Kasakaitis (Year 9), Jamie Stead (Year 10) and Zeeshan Hossain (Year 11). They have all given up their lunchtimes for a month with the aim of furthering their Chemistry knowledge beyond GCSE and Advanced Level standard. Our Sixth Form Chemistry prefects have been invaluable in their contribution towards teaching the team a variety of A Level topics, including tips and tricks on how to remember so much information.

After successfully qualifying for the postal round on Wednesday 20 November 2019, Dr Alan Osborne from the Royal Society of Chemistry hosted the quarter-final, testing the WHSB team to the limit. At the time of writing, we are waiting to hear whether the team has progressed to the semi-final.

I would like to thank the current WHSB team, and the former team for their continued dedication towards Chemistry, and our Sixth Form helpers: Aman Dhanju, Greg D'Silva, Athaven Sukunathan, and Clarence Zwengunde (Year 13), together with Sailesh Kandasamy, Vickyat Ravula, Sarah Rehman, Stanley Upton and Jesper Wong (Year 12).

Miss E Lo
Teacher of Chemistry

ENGLISH COMPETITIONS

The English Department is working hard this year towards its objective to support as many pupils as possible in entering more writing competitions. Already, we have seen our pupils enter three competitions, with further opportunities available as 2020 begins. Pupils as WHSB have traditionally achieved a high level of success in the 'Essex Young Poet' competition and this year we were proud to celebrate the impressive achievements of our Lower School pupils in that competition.

Towards the end of the last academic year, WHSB entered a large number of poems written by our Key Stage 3 pupils, with all Year 7 pupils being asked to contribute. The theme was Mental Health and the boys tackled this important issue with sensitivity, honesty and compassion.

WHSB pupils won two of the three top awards and three Highly Commended results in the Age 11 and Under category; a significant achievement for the current Year 8 pupils in their first year at the School.

Our winners were:

Category: 11 and Under:
2nd prize: *Mental Health* by Bethel Asiriawa
3rd prize: *Breathe* by Ebraam Abdel-Malek

Highly Commended:
This is Who I Am by Harveer Bausa
Autism by Sarat Bhat
Everyone Has Mental Health by Quinn Williams.

Following Ebraam Abdel-Malek's reading to the School of his poem entitled, *Breathe* on *National Poetry Day*, all the boys



THE LITERATI: ENGLISH AT WHSB

ENGLISH: THEN AND NOW

The Westcliff Centenary celebrations in Lower School English will focus on Lower School pupils using poetry to articulate the theme of change over time. Poetry writing has been a core part of the WHSB English tradition over the past 100 years. Pupils will be given a modern platform upon which to express their views - the now embedded Lower School 'Poetry Slam' format that gave rise to top quality performance poetry in 2018/19.

The WHSB English Centenary Slam will feature the best poems produced in Key Stage 3, with emphasis on performance alongside well-crafted, personal verse. The performances will be judged by a range of staff and pupils (hopefully, past and present) to find the very best Centenary poem. It is hoped that this poem will be performed in Assembly or as part of the myriad of celebrations occurring through the year. What better way to capture the spirit of the last 100 years of WHSB than through its future?

The Middle School, by extension, will experience English as taught 'then' in replication lessons and English as taught 'now' with a focus on the changing dynamics of education.

World Book Day will also be themed around the Centenary, with a range of activities such as a reading challenge based on novels from the last 100 years, a literary tea party and an expanded literary treasure hunt.

In addition, the English Department will host six Literati Book Club events throughout the year. Each term, we will read and discuss a significant text from the past century, beginning with *The Mysterious Affair at Styles* by Agatha Christie (1920) published in the year WHSB was founded. Christie's first novel also launched one of her best-loved characters, the moustachioed Belgian detective, Hercule Poirot. Upon publication, it received rave reviews, with *The Times* declaring: 'The only fault this story has is that it is almost too ingenious.' It was the start of an impressive career; Christie is now the bestselling novelist of all time, with over 4 billion book sales under her belt. We will then move four more significant British texts of the last 100 years before ending with a book yet to be published, from 2020. Staff, students and parents all welcome.

Miss S McGowan
Head of English

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

MOTHER TONGUE, OTHER TONGUE COMPETITION

The Modern Languages Department was delighted to celebrate pupils' considerable success in this year's *Mother Tongue, Other Tongue Poetry Eastern Region Competition*. This Competition is organised every year by Routes into Languages East in partnership with Cambridge University's Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages, the Cambridge University Bilingualism Network and Murray Edwards College, Cambridge. Routes into Languages works to promote the take-up of languages through co-operation between universities, schools and colleges in England.

We publicised the Competition in Summer Term 2019, and we were delighted to receive more entries than last year, which were exciting to read. In September 2019, we were informed that seven of our pupils had been shortlisted for their poems which were original compositions in French, German and Spanish. Our poets were Quinn Williams, Ali Sharief, Alexius Brown, Ethan King, Gavin Simon, Mathew Pearman and Pravara Kulshreshtha. At the celebration event, which was held on 16 October 2019 at Murray Edwards College, Cambridge, we had a clean sweep in Years 7-10 with Quinn, Ali, Ethan and Mathew winning the Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 competitions respectively. Congratulations to all of our shortlisted pupils, and to the winners!

Mrs J Williams
Senior Teacher: Staff Tutor



VOCAB EXPRESS: LEAGUE OF CHAMPIONS

Pupils from Westcliff High School for Boys announced themselves spectacularly on the global stage by winning the Genius Cup in this online Modern Foreign

Congratulations to the top 25 pupils who won the Genius Cup:

Ebrahim Khan, Yuvraj Kambo, George Odina, Oliver McCarthy, Hamzah Malji, Rudra Patel, Nivasan Loganathan, Yash Patel, Santhosh Surenthiran, Ryan Jakhu, Nathaniel Iews, Alfie Risk, Pravara Kulshreshtha, Ethan Okai, Dihein Nambukara-Thanthrige, Amir Grant, Kelechi Oguledo, Feranmi Fisayo, Ayman Sharif, Harish Naguleswaran, Aidan Riglin, Joshua Gray, Harshan Aravinthan, Bhavy Metakar, Ronnie Hardy.

The next Vocab Express competition will be in March; further details will follow once the dates of the competition have been announced by the organisers. We have a Genius Cup to defend and we hope that even more pupils will join in and earn points for the School and for themselves. Top pupils receive certificates and Amazon vouchers from the organisers, and badges and House points or Senior Commendations from the School.

Ms J McKeown
Head of Modern Foreign Languages



JUVENES TRANSLATORES 2019: EUROPEAN COMMISSION TRANSLATION COMPETITION

We were delighted to be able to take part in the *Juvenes Translatores* translation competition at the end of November 2019. We entered the draw and were randomly selected as one of the 73 schools in the United Kingdom to participate. Students born in 2002 were eligible to enter, and the School was permitted to have up to five competitors. All Year 12 and 13 Modern Languages students took a selection test using a past paper from the EC JT competition website (including those born in 2001 and 2003 so that they could also benefit from the challenge) and on the basis of their translations, the following students were successful in being chosen to represent the School:

Spanish - Tumi Akintemi, Benjamin Johanson and Nicholas Kersch-Hunt
French - Jonathon Huggett
German - Zachary Ward

It was very pleasing that students took the opportunity to prepare for the competition by translating past papers from the website; those students who are interested can find the 2019 papers and past papers in the 24 languages of the European Union on the JT website at: <http://ec.europa.eu/translatores>.

For the first time in the competition, students had to type their translations online rather than write them by hand. They had two hours to complete the task and could use paper mono and bilingual dictionaries, but no online translation tools. It was very intense for the students and quite exhausting, but they all finished, proof read and submitted their work within the two hours. We await the results at the end of January but we are already very proud of the hard work and dedication the students have shown, as well as the skill they have demonstrated in translation.

Ms J McKeown and Mrs J Williams
Modern Foreign Languages Department



SLICES OF PI: MATHEMATICS AT WHSB

STEP/MAT CLUB FOR SIXTH FORM STUDENTS

The Mathematics Department is pleased with the increasing number of Sixth Form students who regularly attend STEP (Sixth Term Examination Paper) Club during lunchtimes. They have been working through some STEP questions to stretch their ability in Mathematics. The Department would like to thank all the students who have contributed to the Club, especially to Adam Whittaker who is now the appointed STEP guru.

The STEP Club aims to prepare students for university entrance papers, and it is not limited to those studying STEP. For anyone interested in the MAT (Mathematics Admissions Tests), Oxford's entrance paper, then they may wish to find and talk to Alex Fall or William Skeldon as they both sat the MAT this year.

STEP is an examination used by Cambridge colleges as the basis for conditional offers. They are used not only by Cambridge, but also by Warwick, and many other university Mathematics Departments recommend their applicants practise on the past papers even if they do not take the examination.

There are three STEPs, called papers 1, 2 and 3. Papers 1 and 2 are based on

the Core A Level syllabus, with some minor additions, and Paper 3 is based on a 'typical' Further Mathematics syllabus. The questions on Papers 2 and 3 are supposed to be of a similar level of difficulty and are more challenging than those on Paper 1. Each paper has 13 questions, including three on mechanics and two on probability/statistics. Candidates are assessed on six questions only.

From the point of view of admissions to a university Mathematics/Science/Engineering course, STEP has three purposes. First, it acts as a hurdle: success in STEP is thought to be a good indicator of potential to do well on a difficult course. Second, it acts as a preparation for the course, because the style of Mathematics found in STEP questions is similar to that of undergraduate Mathematics. Thirdly, it tests motivation. It is important to prepare for STEP (by working through old papers, for example), which can require considerable dedication. Those who are not willing to make the effort are unlikely to thrive on a difficult Mathematics course.

We have two students, Adam Whittaker and Zachary Ward, who are sitting STEP this year, so if you require any information about the STEP papers then please find and talk to them.

INTERMEDIATE MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE

Thursday 6 February 2020

The Intermediate Mathematics Challenge takes place on Thursday 6 February 2020. All Year 11 pupils will be able to participate in this national competition that will test their problem solving abilities. Previously, we have experienced a great deal of success in this competition, and we wish to highlight specifically that success has come from pupils across the whole ability range. Due to the nature of this competition, we have many pupils who are challenged by their normal academic studies and who succeed in the IMC because they are able to showcase their problem solving ability.

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

FMSP MATHEMATICS FEAST (YEAR 10 TEAM CHALLENGE)

We are hoping to build a team or two to take part in the Annual Additional Mathematics Support Programme (previously FMSP) Maths Feast this year. Teams will be made up of four Year 10 pupils, and they will tackle a variety of interesting problems in unfamiliar circumstances. In previous years, pupils have been asked to complete Cross Numbers, Relay rounds and Origami rounds. Miss Dole will be running the preparatory sessions across the Spring Term. All pupils who have an interest in Mathematics, not simply those who want to join the team, are welcome to join. The teams will be selected from those who attend, primarily based on dedication to the competition and their skill at problem solving.

Mr M Dowding
Head of Mathematics

SET THEORY

This mathematics article is about the concept of sets and their recursively referential properties, but for readability, the concept of thoughts is used as a metaphor.

Thinking is something that binds us together, or at least I think so. As you are reading this, every living person, animal and maybe even computer is "thinking" about something, depending on how flexible your definition of thought is. Thinking is such a powerful tool that you can think about your own thoughts, or the thoughts of others. The act of thinking about thinking even has a name: "Philosophy". There is really only one problem: What is thought? Some define thought as the processing of information; others define it as to generalize, or to forget a difference. Few can agree, and it is often joked about how philosophy, despite existing since the dawn of humanity, only has one axiom: Descartes' "I think therefore I am". Let us add some more.

If we want to be able to treat thoughts as logical objects, we will need to define basic logical operations on them. The most basic is equality: what does it mean for two thoughts to equal each other? Thoughts usually have subjects, but here we consider only the thoughts that are about other thoughts. The most simplistic definition of thought equality might be that two thoughts are equal if and only if they are about the same things. In mathematical language, this is written as follows:

$$1. \quad \forall x \forall y (x = y \leftrightarrow \forall u (u \in x \leftrightarrow u \in y))$$

This is just a more compact way of writing: "For all thoughts 'x' and 'y', x = y if and only if for all thoughts 'u', u is a subject of the thought x if and only if u is a subject of the thought y".

Mathematicians call this statement the Axiom of Extensionality. This is good and all, but so far we have not even deduced formally that a thought exists, meaning that we have nothing to use this new axiom on. Let us define a new axiom which ensures the existence of a thought satisfying a given property:

$$2. \quad \exists x (\forall u (u \in x \leftrightarrow P(u)))$$

This means "There exists a thought 'x' such that for all thoughts 'u', u is the subject of x if and only if a given condition P(u) holds" in mathematical language. Thought theorists might call this "the Axiom Schema of Naïve comprehension". Why 'naïve'? Because it causes a



contradiction: Let's say that the property P(u) was "u is not a thought about itself". By naïve comprehension, there exists some thought X such that for all 'u', X is a thought about u if and only if u is not a thought about itself. However, since this is valid for all thoughts 'u' it is also true for X. Thus, X is a thought about X if and only if X is not a thought about itself, which is a logical contradiction: X is an unthinkable thought. Since each of our steps was completely logical, the only explanation was that the original axiom is inconsistent. This sort of proof by contradiction was first popularized by Zeno around 500BC. We'll redefine the axiom as follows:

$$2. \quad \forall y \exists x (\forall u (u \in x \leftrightarrow (u \in y \wedge P(u))))$$

In everyday language this means "For all y, there exists an x such that for all u, x is a thought about u if and only if y is a thought about u and P(u) holds". This axiom basically states that given a thought Y, there is a thought about those subjects of Y which satisfy the given condition. Thought theorists call this the Axiom Schema of Separation, because it guarantees the existence of thoughts by hitching on the fact that the subjects of Y are thinkable thoughts themselves. This axiom is good and all, but we have lost the ability to prove the existence of any thought, but at least we kept the ability to refine a thought to satisfy a given condition. We will need to supplement this axiom with another to prove thoughts even exist in the first place:

$$3. \quad \exists x (x = x)$$

This basically just means that there exists a thought. From just these axioms we can derive an interesting result: By axiom 3 we know that there exists some thought X. Using axiom of separation with an obviously false condition such as a thought u does not equal itself, we obtain the thought 'Ø' such that for all thoughts 'u', Ø is a thought about u if and only if X is a thought about u and u is not

equal to itself. Hence, it is clear that Ø has no subjects (it is not about anything), which may be surprising depending on your philosophical viewpoint. We can do better. Let us prove that Ø is the only thought about nothing. Let us assume for contradiction that there exists another thought A which is not about anything. Axiom of Extensionality states that two thoughts are equal if all their subjects are equal, so A = Ø since both A and Ø have no subjects. Hence, Ø is the only thought not about anything.

To summarize, we have (given our axiomatization is consistent) proven that some thoughts are unthinkable, that there is a thought which is not about anything, and that there is only one such thought. Throughout this article, I have talked about thoughts, but that is just an analogy for a deeper mathematical concept, set theory, which studies objects which can contain one another, like thoughts, and the way they behave. The purpose of set theory, and by extension all of mathematics, is as an analogy for entities in the real world.

Problems for the reader

Key Stage 3: What is the sum of $1 + 2 + 2 + 3 + 3 + 4 + 4 + \dots + 34 + 34 + 35 + 35 + 36$?

Key Stage 4: Sophie sat several spelling tests during the last school year. In the penultimate test she scored 98, and her average (mean) score for the year increased by 1. In the last test she scored 70, and her average (mean) score decreased by 2. How many tests did she take in total?

Key Stage 5: Find all real values of x such that:

$$(2x^2 - 5x + 1)^{\sin^2(\pi x) + \sin(\pi x)} = 1$$

where the angles are measures in radians.

Adam Whittaker
Year 13

MATHEMATICIAN SPOTLIGHT:
LEONHARD EULER

Leonhard Euler (1707-1783) was a Swiss Mathematician, physicist and engineer who made varied and numerous advances in many branches of Mathematics, such as calculus, graph theory and, more generally, mathematical notation. He laid much of the foundation for several recent mathematical topics, such as topology, analytic number theory, fluid dynamics and music theory. He was one of the most prominent and well-known mathematicians of the 18th century and is held as one of the greatest in history, filling over 92 volumes of books with his work.

Basel Problem (1735)

Euler was one of the first to prove that the infinite sum of the reciprocal square numbers had a limit, and that the limit was quite a nice expression.

$$\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^2} = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \left(\frac{1}{1^2} + \frac{1}{2^2} + \frac{1}{3^2} + \dots + \frac{1}{n^2} \right) = \frac{\pi^2}{6}$$

This was solved by his use of the power series, using the Maclaurin expansion of sin(x) as well as a forced factorisation of sin(x) and then comparing the cubic term. Those studying Further Mathematics in Year 12 or 13 may be asked to learn this proof themselves.

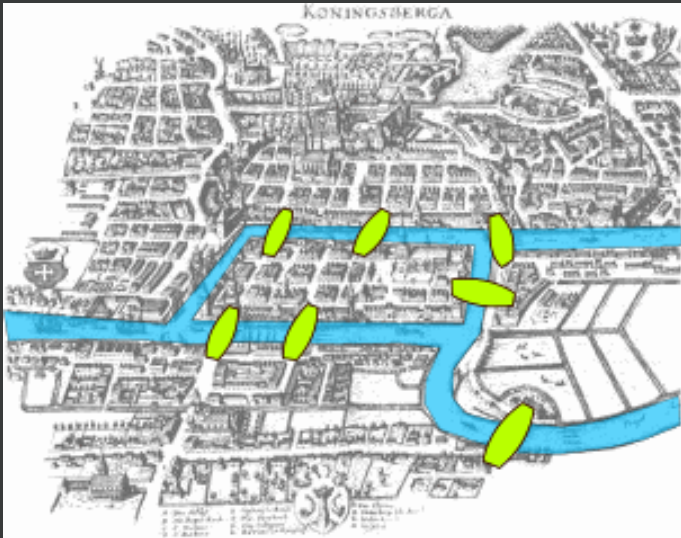
Euler Identity (1748)

While researching imaginary numbers, Euler also came up with “the most remarkable formula in mathematics” (Richard Feynman) which links together five of the most fundamental constants in mathematics. Again, Year 12 and 13 Further Mathematics students will be using this identity when they study imaginary numbers.

$$e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0$$

The Seven Bridges of Königsberg (1736)

The city of Königsberg in Prussia (now Kaliningrad, Russia) was set on both sides of the Pregel River, and included two large islands—Kneiphof and Lomse—which were connected to each



other, or to the two mainland portions of the city, by seven bridges. The problem was to devise a walk through the city that would cross each of those bridges once and only once.

By way of specifying the logical task unambiguously, solutions involving either reaching an island or mainland bank other than via one of the bridges, or accessing any bridge without crossing to its other end are explicitly unacceptable. Essentially, you must travel every bridge once and end up on the other side of the river.

The difficulty Euler faced was the development of a suitable technique of analysis, and of subsequent tests that established this assertion with mathematical rigor. The solution to the problem was obvious to a number of people, but there was, at that point, no mathematical way of expressing it.

To start you off, Euler pointed out that the choice of route inside each land mass is irrelevant. The only important feature of a route is the sequence of bridges crossed. This allowed him to reformulate the problem in abstract terms (laying the foundations of graph theory), eliminating all features except the list of land masses and the bridges connecting them. In modern terms, one replaces each land mass with an abstract “vertex” or node, and each bridge with an abstract connection, an “edge”, which only serves to record which pair of vertices (land masses) is connected by that bridge. The resulting mathematical structure is called a graph, where a lot of the irrelevant information is removed to make a clearer picture.

The solution of this problem will not be spoiled in this article. If you are interested in checking your solution then there are plenty of resources available on the internet, or you can come and talk to your Mathematics teachers.

Mr M Dowding
Head of Mathematics

THEATRE CLUB
WORKSHOP AND
PERFORMANCE OF
RICHARD III

Thursday 6 February 2020, 3.45pm and 7.30pm

On Thursday 6 February, Westcliff Boys' Theatre Club welcomes to the School award-winning actress Emily Carding for what promises to be a memorable performance. Emily joined our actors recently during the rehearsal process for the School production of *Hamlet*. Drawing on her significant experience, including performing at the Globe



Theatre, Emily delivered an outstanding workshop on the challenges of performing Shakespeare. Emily returns to the School on 6 February 2020 to present her one-woman performance of *Richard III*. This production has won awards on both the Prague and Edinburgh Fringes and was described as an 'innovative, daring re-imagining' by *Broadway Baby* in a five-star review. Emily will also be giving Theatre Club members an after School workshop which will run from 3.45pm to 5.00pm, with the performance taking place at 7.30pm. The evening performance is open to all and tickets are available on *TicketSource* for what promises to be an incredible evening of theatre and Shakespeare.

THEATRE CLUB TRIP TO
ROYAL CENTRAL SCHOOL
OF SPEECH AND DRAMA

Next term, the Theatre Club will be visiting the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama to watch the School's Musical Theatre BA students stage their

Industry Showcase performance in the Embassy Theatre. The Royal Central School of Speech and Drama is widely regarded as one of the top drama training institutions for those wishing to work in the theatre-related industries. It is located in Swiss Cottage, north London, in a hub of a vibrant local community of arts organisations. Our students will be visiting the school to look at its facilities, meet its staff and watch students performing a full musical theatre production just prior to entering the industry as working professionals, to an audience packed with casting directors and industry professionals.

Mr B Jeffreys
Director of Drama



PRODUCTION OF THE
LION, THE WITCH AND THE
WARDROBE

Wednesday-Friday, 18-20 March 2020, 7.30pm

As we celebrate 100 years of The Westcliff Schools, next term WHSB's Music and Drama Departments are proud to bring you our trademark 'mash up' performance of *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*, exploring the events and culture of a variety of decades from the School's history.

The great C S Lewis' fable of *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe* is the first published and best known of the seven chronicles of Narnia. Starting in wartime Britain, most of the story is set in Narnia, a land of talking animals and mythical creatures that has fallen into the grip of the cruel and oppressive White Witch. Narnia has become a land where it is always winter but never Christmas. Four children from our world enter Narnia through a wardrobe and work with the Son of the Emperor across the Sea, the Great Lion, Aslan, to fulfil a prophecy and deliver Narnia from the Witch's icy clutches.

Alongside the drama, our Show Orchestra

also returns with the greatest hits of the 1960s and 1970s as we bring a Classic Rock twist to our Narnia. Step with us from the world of the 1940s into the world of the 1960s and 1970s, with Beatles outfits, psychedelic costumes and plenty of hair. Listen to the wonderful music of David Bowie, Queen and Led Zeppelin, together with the equally

beautiful language of Adrian Mitchell, all coming together to tell this legendary children's story of sacrifice and triumph over evil and death. Tickets are available on *TicketSource* and all are welcome.

Mr B Jeffreys
Director of Drama



COMBINED CADET FORCE

COMBINED CADET FORCE: CONTINGENT UPDATE

The Spring Term brings another busy term for the School's Combined Cadet Force as we induct new cadets into both the Royal Navy and Army Sections. At the same time, the Contingent endeavours to deliver a quality experience for our cadets. None of the experiences and opportunities which we are able to afford our cadets would be available to them if it were not for the extraordinary dedication and efforts of our Contingent staff. In particular, the Officers commanding the Royal Navy Section and Army Section, Lt Hill and Capt Baggs respectively, do a superb job in creating a varied and exciting training programme, meeting the demands not just of WHSB but also of the Ministry of Defence single service requirements. In addition, our excellent School Staff Instructor, RSM Lyne, provides invaluable assistance, expertise and a level head in supporting the cadets and assisting with the governance and administration.

The work of the Contingent has been rewarded with the highest grade in our Annual Assurance Report Inspection for the 2018/19 academic year. This has complemented the recently returned Inspection Report from our Biennial Inspection in April last year, which reflected most positively on WHSB's CCF.

The Contingent has also taken part in the Cadet Vocational Qualification Organisation (CVQO) BTEch programme

for the first time. In less than one year, Captain Baggs has supported more than 20 of our senior cadets in achieving Level 2 BTEch Diplomas in Teamwork and Personal Development in the Community.

As we look forward to this Centenary Year, we are pleased to welcome 2nd Lieutenants Steel and Rusby as our newest Commissioned Officers in the Army Section following their successful completion of the CCF Basic Course at Frimley Part Cadet Training Centre. As part of the Contingent's Centenary celebrations, it is our plan to run an Adventurous Training Camp in Capil Curig, Wales, during the first part of the Easter holiday. The event will be open to both Royal Navy and Army cadets. It will mean that, within the space of 12 months, the CCF will have run events in each of the home nations of the United Kingdom – Ballykinler in Northern Ireland (April 2019), Barrybuddon in Scotland (July 2019), Friday Wood near Colchester (October 2019 and January 2020), and Capil Curig in Wales (April 2020). Details of this camp are, at the time of writing, still being finalised and will be published in due course.

We are delighted that the CCF will also contribute to the School's own Centenary celebrations at its Centenary Year Launch Gala Dinner on Saturday 1 February 2020.

ROYAL NAVY SECTION

Our Royal Navy Section has bid to conduct two events this term. The

first of these is a visit to the Damage Repair Unit (DRU) and conducting Royal Navy Firefighting in January. The DRU comprises a simulated sinking ship in which cadets must plug a hole in a room rapidly filling with ice-cold water. Firefighting involves the use of various facilities which would be used by sailors to control fires at sea and on land. The second event will be a mini-camp to the Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, where the Royal Navy trains its regular and reserve forces officers. Confirmation of the details of these events are, at the time of writing, awaited from the Royal Navy Headquarters and these will be published in due course.

The Royal Navy cadets continue to undertake a range of field trips to locations across the country to earn qualifications in a variety of leadership and water-sports based activities.

ARMY SECTION

The focus for our Army Section this term will be training our new intake in Skill at Arms, with a camp to take place early in the term, subject to confirmation of accommodation from the Army, and this will allow cadets to be trained in the safe handling and use of the Cadet General Purpose Rifle.

It is also our hope that we shall once again visit the Royal School of Military Engineering Boat School in Chatham before the end of the term.

*Maj JJ Bleakley
Contingent Commander*



REMEMBRANCE EVENTS IN 2019

Saturday 9 November 2019 marked the start of Remembrance for the CCF this year and, as is only fitting for a cadet force, we had a number of services to attend or to support. The first of these was the Orpheus Singers' Annual Remembrance Concert where we assisted by selling programmes and collecting donations at the end of the Concert.

The following day was the Annual Remembrance Parade and Service at the Cenotaph in Southend, during which we marched along the seafront together with other Contingents and took part in the Annual Service with a standard bearer presenting a flag. At 11.00am, there was a two-minute silence and when the Service was over we marched back past the Southend Mayor and other dignitaries. It is pleasing to see that even 100 years since the first Remembrance Day in 1919, we are still holding Services and taking time to reflect on the consequences of war.

On Monday 11 November 2019, the CCF provided the Guard of Honour in the Main Hall for the School's Remembrance Service and then went to take part in Services at Hamstel Infant and Junior School and Edwards Hall Primary School. I went to the Service at Edwards Hall during which we marched on, gave readings of various war poems, and then took part in command tasks with some of the Year 5 and Year 6 pupils. We demonstrated First Aid, semaphore, and working together to solve problems; all this took place against a backdrop of learning about the Army and the World Wars.

Overall, this year's Remembrance period has been a good opportunity to give back to the community and honour and remember those members of our Armed Services who died or were affected by war as well as those currently in service.

*Cpl Adam Lunniss
Year 12*



COMBINED CADET FORCE

CCF APC CAMP: RETROSPECTIVES

After the disappointment of not being able to go on the 2019 Summer Camp due to high demand and limited places, the Year 10 Army Cadets were very excited to hear about an upcoming trip exclusively for Year 10, with Sixth Form Cadets to help.

On 26 September 2019, we set off by coach after School, the anticipation of the days ahead filling the air. After two hours of travelling, we arrived at a familiar sight, Cherry Orchard Camp, where we had stayed once before for weapons training. We alighted the coach, bags in hand and were led to our accommodation for the next night. We put our bags down and headed back outside to have some much-needed food in the mess hall. After a filling meal of meat, roast potatoes and vegetables (or pasta for the vegetarians), the Year 12 cadets taught us how to pack our Bergens (our large packs for expeditions) as we were heading out on a long trek the following day. Once we had finished, we relaxed and played some games before heading to our bunks to get some sleep before the long day ahead of us.

We were woken up early in the morning to prepare for the expedition. Once we were dressed, we ate breakfast in the mess hall and gathered into the groups we had been sorted into the night before and prepared ourselves. The first group set off and then, 5 minutes later, my group started walking. Our first task was to rendezvous with Lt Tresidder and, after going the wrong way at first, we reached the rental van in about 30 minutes and found out we were the first group to arrive, much to our surprise! After collecting our ration pack and refilling our water bottle we set off again, our next task, or so we thought, to find the campsite and with it, Maj Bleakley. Again, we managed to find the next location in a matter of 30-40 minutes, but we were met with disappointment as we had missed out a crucial point and, once again, we started trekking, our feet slowly going numb and our backs aching. Eventually, we made it, having completed everything required. Much to our horror, however, we found out there was more work to be done, and we set off with the Cadet Commander of the trip, Cpl Oliver Whitear, to learn about setting up a harbour area. After this, we finally had a small reprieve where all we had to do was wait in a small forest clearing for other groups to arrive. We were waiting for the best part of an hour

for all the groups to trickle in, one by one, however there was still no sign of the first group!

*Alejandro Gustafson
Year 10*

We were the first group which left to complete our expedition and what we did not realize at the time would be one of the most challenging tasks we would ever have to face. The previous night we had mapped out a route but then, as we were travelling, we marched along in staggered file into a military training ground and encountered a platoon of adults who briskly marched past us, demonstrating how far we still have to grow with the CCF. Later on, further down the road we bumped into Maj. Bleakley who told us



that we had taken a wrong turn which was a little worrying, but he was simply testing our abilities to improvise, as we had veered off our intended route. When we managed to regain our bearings and form a second route, once again disaster struck and we were told by a member of the public that we were not able to go down the path we had planned as that would mean crossing some private land. We returned to our starting point and once again set off on our quest to try and find our route; it took us around two hours to find our way to the first point and Lt. Tresidder, but we had a far bigger problem. We were blocked by Mother Nature, as we encountered a river, and this took more time as we attempted to find our way through. Fortunately, we encountered a group of other people who helped us find our way to a bridge and, once we crossed, we reached Lt. Tresidder.

We collected our ration packs and started again. We were very far behind but seeing Lt. Tresidder provided us with a glimmer of hope and we continued on our way. We continued down our path and saw another group; it was the second group and we were so excited as we thought we had finally caught up and were only one group behind. We were not there yet, however, as we had to make a lap of a field and talk to AUO. Steel and Maj. Bleakley. We were about to start our lap when we met two other groups who were both finishing, and we realized that we were very late indeed, and had greatly underestimated the size of the field. We spent around half an hour travelling around the field to finally join the other groups and set up our bashers (a waterproof sheet which we would tie to a tree and sleep under) and sat down to enjoy dinner from our ration packs.

After a filling meal, we were called out

into the open field, outside the tree line in which we had set up camp. We were then instructed on how to execute a Close Target Recce which is a strategy used by the army to gather intelligence on an enemy. We learned about the various stages and then, after much practice, set off in groups to complete our own operation. After completing our mission, we headed back to HQ and under our bashers for some much-needed rest. In the morning, we woke up, donned our boots and had breakfast. After we had dismantled our campsite and packed everything up, we set off again.

For our final tasks during the camp, we had to complete three activities:

- Orienteering - A kind of treasure hunt, using 6-figure grid references to find paper punches;
- Marching formation training with

- Sixth Form cadets;
- Battlefield tactics with Maj Bleakley.

After all these tasks were complete, we walked back to the original compound and boarded the coach to return to School.

Overall, my experience on the camp was wholly enjoyable and if I had the opportunity to do it again, I would take it up in an instant because, even though it was trying at times, I learnt a lot about the more complex parts of the CCF curriculum and had a great deal of fun as well.

*Shaun Ekiyoyo
Year 10*

ROYAL NAVY SEAMANSHIP AND NAVIGATION

Since I joined the Navy Section, I have had some great experiences, and this term has been no exception. We hit the ground running in September, quickly refreshing ourselves with drill and getting back into the routines. The following week, we faced a challenge involving two teams, each with a leader (one being myself) and that challenge was to build a tower out of spaghetti and marshmallows; my team fell short, however we all had a fantastic time making and then eating our towers at the end.

This term, I also visited Portsmouth to participate in a Seamanship and Navigation course which saw me navigating out of Portsmouth Harbour

and then setting off for the Solent. I was away on this course for six days during the half term break and it was definitely the best thing I have ever done during a half term. I arrived at HMS Excellent, which is the base on Whale Island, to meet the crew I would be working with and we became very good friends over the following six days. We were instantly good friends and the skipper decided later that day that we would leave HMS Excellent early to perform a night passage across the harbour to moor up for the night. From there, we stayed on these boats for six days, leaving in the evenings to explore the various places that we had visited in our group of three. The boats we stayed on have recently received a £1million refurbishment with the engines and computer systems being the main focus of that investment; needless to say, I considered it only right that I reached

the full speed permitted as soon as I took control of the helm! The week was an incredible success which saw me gaining many qualifications and it was a sad moment for everyone when we parted ways at the end of our time together.

The Seamanship and Navigation course is just another excellent example of the incredible things the Navy Section does and we have just received our course list for this next academic year. I plan to attend many more, including one as early as February 2020 when I hope to go to Scotland.

*Billy Wallace
Year 10*



OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

OWA UPDATE

On Friday 6 September 2019, we held a very successful Reunion Dinner. Our guest speaker was Roger Buxton, former BBC Essex sports presenter, who, after a very amusing speech, proposed the toast to the School. The Head Boy, Benjamin Johanson responded. We had 93 attendees, spanning the generations, with our eldest member attending the School from 1943 to 1951. We were joined by many younger OW's, some of whom had not long left School.

I must thank all those people who contributed to the evening's success, including the School's Community Development Office Team, which includes Mr Partridge, Mrs Clarke and Mrs Weller.

At our forthcoming Reunion Dinner on Friday 4 September 2020, our guest speaker will be Alison Griffin, Town Clerk and CEO of Southend-on-Sea Borough Council. Why not put this date in your diary and, if you have not joined us before, make this the year when you give us a try? I guarantee that you will not be disappointed.



We are looking forward to the ongoing celebrations in this Centenary Year of the School and have been pleased to be able to donate £1,500 towards the Centenary Room to display various artefacts recording the School's history through the years. We are also intending to make a further donation of £1,500 to the CCF, which we consider to be a very worthy project in helping to build character and responsibility in preparation for adult life.

OW membership is open to past students and current and past members of the School's staff. Our subscription rates are free to students from Year 13 to the end of their full-time education, £10 to age 30 and £20 from age 31. This is a one-off payment. New members would be most welcome.

I thank my committee for their help and encouragement and the Headmaster for his constant and dependable support, not just to the OWA, but to me personally.

Terry Birdseye
terry.birdseye@gmail.com

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

DONATING TO THE SCHOOL'S PUPIL FUND

We should like to thank all those parents who have previously donated or continue to donate money to the School's Pupil Fund. Government funding for schools has been reducing in real terms across a number of years and, in order to maintain educational provision, it has become increasingly necessary for schools to seek alternative sources of income. This income is required for the purposes of covering day-to-day expenses incurred in supporting the delivery of education to the highest standards, as well as providing the pupils with high quality extra-curricular opportunities. Donations to Westcliff High School for Boys' Pupil Fund are used to support many activities for pupils including the maintenance of a broad curriculum in circumstances where many schools have been forced to reduce or remove provision we consider to be important in supporting a pupil's development. Other areas enhanced by the Pupil Fund are Engineering, Computing, Sport, Music, Drama and the School's Combined Cadet Force. Equipment in classrooms, laboratories and around the School site are also supported by the Pupil Fund.

If you are able to assist, further information, together with standing order and Gift Aid Forms, is available at www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/finance. Donations can be made by online banking and submission of a standing order form. We are also able to accept cash, cheque, ParentPay or bank transfer directly, preferably accompanied by a Gift Aid form (if applicable).

We understand that some parents, alumni or other supporters may wish to donate a sum for a specific activity or award. Should you wish to specify the area in which your donation should be used, please do not hesitate to contact Mr D Partridge, Director of Resources & Support Services or the Headmaster through Mrs Robinson, the Headmaster's Personal Assistant, to arrange a meeting or conversation to discuss your donation. All donations and enquiries are treated in the strictest confidence. We are most grateful for any donation received. Thank you for your support.

NEW ALUMNI OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

A key aspect of the CDO's ongoing remit, working alongside the Old Westcliffian

Association (OWA), is to develop a strong, diverse and flourishing alumni community. WHSB Alumni includes all former students and staff, past and present. Last summer, we were delighted to welcome to the School's alumni community another record number of students leaving Year 13, following their A Level examinations, as signed-up members of the School's Alumni Network. An informal get-together for this Year Group, who left School in 2019, was arranged in December to provide them with the opportunity of meeting up with their contemporaries and members of staff. The event also provided the opportunity for the collection of A Level Examination Certificates. For those ex-students who have yet to collect their A Level Examination Certificates, they may be collected from Reception during Term Time, by prior arrangement with Mrs Economou, Examinations Officer. Please contact her by emailing economoua@whsb.essex.sch.uk.

If you, or someone you know, would like to join the WHSB Alumni Network and/or join the OWA, please take a few minutes to register your details via the School website. Select 'Community' from the Main Menu followed by 'Alumni & Old Westcliffian Association'. For further information, contact Mrs Clarke or Mrs Weller in the Community Development Office on 01702 475443 or via email

(community@whsb.essex.sch.uk). The WHSB Alumni Network is completely free to join and we look forward to hearing from you. In addition, you can follow WHSB on *Facebook* and *Twitter* where you can find out about the latest developments and events taking place at the School. The OWA also has accounts on *Facebook* and *Twitter* where you will have the opportunity to network and keep in touch with other members of the School's Alumni Community.

WCGC GO FOR GRAMMAR! 11+ FAMILIARISATION PROGRAMME

Another year's schedule of events eagerly anticipated is the WCGC Go for Grammar! 11+ Familiarisation programme. Year 5 boys and girls living within the priority catchment postcode location of SS0-SS9 are invited to attend one of the many activity days on offer this year. The themes available are Leadership & Adventure, Creative, Humanities, Science and Multi-sports, which we always hope will appeal to a large cross section of pupils within our local junior school community. The children are welcomed into our School to get a flavour of life in a Grammar School, as well as having fun with new and familiar faces. Our team of prefects and Sixth Form students are on hand throughout the day to assist every group of children, and staff supervision is also in abundance. Once again, we have been overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and request for places from parents of pupils in our local primary schools. We look forward to seeing many of these pupils at future WHSB events, and hopefully gaining a place in a local Grammar School when that time comes.

SCIENCE ROADSHOWS FOR LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS

The new academic year has once again launched the incredibly popular WHSB Science Roadshows, whereby our team of enthusiastic Sixth Form students attend a variety of local primary schools, spreading the word about the exciting world of Science. Each year, we are always inundated with requests to demonstrate the weird and wonderful experiments to the current Year 5 children and this year has proved to be no exception. Dr Machacek and his trusted team have already thrilled, entertained and educated Chalkwell Hall Junior School, Earls Hall Primary School and Bournes Green Junior

School, to the delight of all the boys, girls and staff present. In addition to their introduction to Senior School Science, the pupils were also keen to hear about life in a local Grammar School and what subjects our Sixth Form Students had chosen to study and why. The key to the Science Roadshow's success appears to be the relationship between the WHSB pupils and the younger children, who are inspired by what they can possibly achieve if they try their best at school. Inspiring young minds is the main focus at each event. In 2020, the team will be presenting to five more primary schools, located between Rayleigh and Thorpe Bay.

PRIMARY SCHOOL OUTREACH AND CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

At the end of November, tremendous things were in store and wonderful surprises awaited one very lucky school. All Year 5 pupils at Darlington Academy were invited to attend a special preview of the WHSB Drama Department's production of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, prior to the public performances. On the afternoon of Wednesday 27 November 2019, 111 children accompanied by 20 members of staff, were entertained by the talented actors on stage, re-enacting Roald Dahl's famous story about Charlie and his Golden Ticket. A thoroughly appreciative audience gave a standing ovation and a rapturous round

of applause when the show concluded, after nearly two hours on stage. All the pupils enjoyed a fabulous afternoon.

VINTAGE UNIFORM PROJECT

Thank you to all those members of the School's Alumni Community who have responded to our request to source items of vintage uniform in preparation for the School's Centenary in 2020. A vast array of photographs, detailing uniform worn throughout the decades together with actual garments, has been received to date for which we are extremely grateful. Please do keep them coming!

Mrs J Clarke and Mrs N Weller
Community Development Office



THE SCHOOL ARCHIVE

Work is now well underway to catalogue the multitude of documents, items and memorabilia contained within the School's Archive. The Community Development Office team, assisted by Year 12 History students, have been collating and cataloguing material collected by the School and donated by past pupils over the last 100 years. The aim is to curate a varied and interesting collection of material for display in the School's Centenary Room throughout 2020. Ultimately, it is hoped that a virtual archive of digitised photographs, accessible via the School website, will become available. This will open up, to a much wider audience, a visual history of Westcliff High School for Boys throughout the decades.

To donate to the School's Archive Collection or to provide an item on loan for temporary display please contact

Mrs Clarke or Mrs Weller in the School's Community Development Office. Thank you for your support (community@whsb.essex.sch.uk).



PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



'100 CLUB' FOR 100 YEARS OF THE SCHOOL

A big 'Thank You' to all parents who are new to the School and who have signed up to our Parents' Association 100 Club monthly prize draw. For a monthly contribution of just £5, members can win a cash sum, currently in the region of £80. The more members we have, the more money the monthly cash prize will be, so please do consider joining if you have not done so already.

Having lost many contributing families of Year 13 pupils in the last year, following their son's/daughter's departure from the School, we currently have less than 100 members. Our aim for the School's Centenary Year is to recruit new joiners to our 100 Club – the more the merrier! Members can be parents, relatives, alumni, Friends of the School, and indeed anyone who has an interest in WHSB. Some parents remain members of the PA's 100 Club even after their son/daughter has left as a way of maintaining another connection with the School. It is also

COME AND JOIN US!

As the School celebrates its first 100 years in 2020, we look forward to supporting its various events throughout the Centenary Year. These include the Centenary Ball at The Cliffs Pavilion on Saturday 1 February and the joint Garden Birthday Party with Westcliff High School for Girls on Saturday 20 June. This is a great time to become involved with the Parents' Association and if you would like to join us, we would love to hear from you. Everyone is welcome to attend Parents' Association meetings, the dates of which are included in the termly calendar section on the back cover of The Westcliff Diary. If you would like to find out more, please come along to one of our meetings or email us (pa@whsb.essex.sch.uk). We look forward to hearing from you.

Mrs J Clarke
Parents' Association Chair



possible for families to take out more than one share at £5 each. Joining forms for the 100 Club can be downloaded from the Parents' Association section on the School website, or you can contact the PA by e-mail (pa@whsb.essex.sch.uk) for further details. Once again, thank you for your support.

ONLINE SHOPPING WITH AMAZON SMILE AND EASYFUNDRAISING

Using Amazon Smile (<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/>) and Easyfundraising (<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/>) when shopping online, is one of the easiest ways to help the Parents' Association raise money for the School. Please take a few minutes to register Westcliff High School for Boys' Parents' Association as the charity you wish to support and each purchase you make (where relevant)



will generate a donation. Your online shopping will not cost you a penny more.

SPRING TERM PARENTS' ASSOCIATION BAKE SALE

This fundraiser will take place in the Screens Area on Thursday 13 February 2020 at morning break and lunchtime. Quality bakes, seasonal treats and WHSB Centenary sweets will be on sale.



CAREERS UPDATE

The new academic year began with a flurry of activity in the Careers Department. Alongside launching the annual Year 11 Work Experience Programme for Summer 2020, we have also encouraged Year 12 students to participate during their School holiday as well. The appetite for work experience has grown in popularity year upon year and it has now been recognised as a fundamental part of our students' preparation for their future. In addition, we are trying to educate pupils that using their own initiative in sourcing and securing work placements (rather than relying on the Careers Department) is vital to demonstrate to future employers that they have the right attitude. To date, we have already been offered a number of placements from local Barclays Banks, Primary Schools, Ford Technical Centre, Apollo Dental Health Clinic, as well as some local and City-based financial institutions. In such a competitive market place and it is difficult to secure the most relevant positions required, especially in London, and therefore if any parent is able to offer work experience lasting a week or more to any of our pupils, ideally within Finance, Engineering, Law, IT, Media or Medicine, please contact me directly via the following email address: wellern@whsb.essex.sch.uk.

We are delighted to announce the Careers Evening schedule for the coming year. Our guest speakers, the majority of whom are either past pupils, parents or local professionals willing to volunteer their time in order to support the School, are always pleased to attend these events to share their wealth of experience with our audience. Our timetable of Wednesday

evening events, each held between 7.00pm and 9.00pm, is as follows:

- 29 January 2020 - Careers in Law, Finance & Army Intelligence
- 25 March 2020 - Careers in Medicine
- 22 April 2020 - Careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths)

On 4 December 2019, we were pleased to welcome back a number of friends of the School to talk at the Careers in Engineering & Architecture evening. Engineering has, historically, been one of the core career pathways for our pupils, but in recent times Architecture has also proved to be a popular choice. We were delighted that an award-winning ex-pupil, Richard Cottrell, could join us to share details of his excellent career to date.

In addition, within the current political climate which is attracting much attention and interest, Politics is an area our pupils are eager to explore. In response, we are planning to host our first political afternoon in the New Year with guest speakers in attendance and a selected audience of students who have expressed a desire to pursue this career path. Ben Williams OBE, former Chief of Staff to the Leader of the Liberal Democrats (Tim Fallon) will be our Guest of Honour, supported by other guests keen to debate and work with the pupils at WHSB.

Following the overwhelming success of the Capital Experience trip in London 2018, we received an invitation to return at the beginning of December. Around twenty Year 12 Economists were invited to join approximately 1,200 other students from around the UK at the Dominion Theatre to hear motivational speaker, Action Jackson, who spoke

CENTENARY COMPOSITION COMPETITION RESULTS

At the beginning of 2019, students were encouraged to submit compositions to the Music Department themed around the School's Centenary Year. Three compositions in particular stood out, and these will be performed live at concerts throughout the year:

Alexander Marshak (Year 12) has submitted a romantic waltz in the style of Chopin. It has a doleful, reflective character, due in large part to its minor key and lyrical melody, but Alexander takes advantage of Rondo form to explore a range of other moods and compositional

techniques. The piece will be performed in a forthcoming Chamber Recital.

George Odina and Ethan Okai in Year 8 have submitted a 'Theme and Variation' for modern chamber ensemble, which cleverly traces the School from its inception to today. Its use of changing keys, timbres and time signatures to reflect the changing times make it a particularly successful composition. The piece will also be performed in a future Chamber Recital.

'The Journey' by Edoardo Chidichimo (Year 13) makes use of a full symphony orchestra to give the impression of constant forward momentum. His use of rhythm and timbre are particularly impressive, and the work as a whole

CAREERS

eloquently on the importance of effective communication in order to progress in life. The audience was encouraged to actively participate and interact during this session. The afternoon activities were all based at a wide variety of London organisations, each hosting individual schools, giving students experience of the professional environment, how their business operates and how to maximise networking opportunities.

During a busy start to December, the Young Enterprise Christmas Trade Fayre concluded the first week at the Southend Victoria Plaza. WHSB representatives from both Year 12 teams organised a stand each with their own individual choice of products to sell to the general public. In competition with other local secondary schools, WHSB pupils were professional in their execution and provided a high standard of customer service. They spoke clearly and knowledgeably about their items for sale, the price point decided upon and environmental impact. In the New Year, each team will hopefully have raised enough funds to support and manufacture their main product idea which will be taken to the wider UK market for distribution. If any parents feel they can assist these teams in any way with advice and/or guidance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs N Weller
Work Related Learning Co-Ordinator & Careers Advisor

MUSIC AT WHSB

displays a maturity and confidence that make it worthy of performance by the Westcliff Sinfonia. This piece will be performed in the Centenary Autumn Sinfonia Concert.

Scores of the winning pieces will be displayed in the Centenary Room, along with scores for other Centenary compositions completed by Mr Derrick and Mr McGee.

Mr T Derrick
Director of Music

MUSIC AT WHSB

MUSICOLOGY SEMINAR

Tuesday 24 March 2020, 3.45pm

In the next instalment of our seminar programme, Mr McGee will examine the connection between music and emotion, looking at just what it is within music that inspires us, moves us and alters our mood. Is it mechanical, chemical or contextual? This seminar will seek to explain some of the possible reasons for why humans can experience emotions as extreme as elation and sorrow, all within a few bars of music.

Mr A McGee
Director of Sixth Form

SPRING CHAMBER RECITAL WITH CENTENARY FANFARE

Wednesday 22 January 2020, 7.30pm

Our first Centenary event of the year will feature the School's finest soloist and



small ensembles performing challenging repertoire from across a range of musical styles. The Brass Ensemble will open proceedings with a Centenary Fanfare written for the School by Mr McGee, and will be followed by students, including Grade 8 pianist Edoardo Chidichimo, Year 12 percussionist Roxanne Watts, and the Westcliff Choral Scholars. The String

Ensemble will also give a performance, fittingly featuring over 100 strings!

Mr T Derrick
Director of Music

SPRING SINFONIA CONCERT WITH CENTENARY COMPOSITION

Thursday 12 March 2020, 7.30pm

This year's orchestral programme features original music composed especially for the Centenary Year. The first Centenary Sinfonia Concert begins with a celebratory overture composed by Mr Derrick, inspired by British composers of the 20th century. The piece sees a stately academic march evolve into an exciting blend of lively melodies written to evoke nostalgia and which look to the future. Strauss' famous Blue Danube Waltz will follow, written in the 1860s but made famous in the 1960s by Stanley Kubrick's seminal movie 2001: A Space Odyssey. The concert's second half will feature Saint-Saens' playful, Carnival of the Animals, featuring the ethereal Aquarium, magnificent Royal March of the Lion, and the elegiac Swan. Lumbye's thrilling Champagne Galop will close the concert. Join us for this exciting start to a year of orchestral celebration.

Mr T Derrick
Director of Music



SUMMER MUSIC TOUR TO NEW YORK: A RETROSPECTIVE

Last summer saw the Music Department embark on its first tour for a number of years, with New York being chosen as the destination. This ambitious project was organised by Mr McGee with the invaluable support of Mr Derrick, Mrs Mumford, Miss Dolan and the Finance Department.

The party departed from Gatwick on the morning following the break-up of School for the summer, laden with equipment, music and expectations. Upon arrival we went straight to the hotel to drop off baggage before hitting the town. That day saw us taking in the Empire State Building and the bustle of Times Square before excitable students and exhausted staff headed back to our hotel, situated on a little street called Broadway.

Day Two featured our first concert in Washington Square Park, but before that there was more to see and do. From the hotel, we travelled to the bottom of Manhattan and took the ferry to see the Statue of Liberty. For those of us who grew up in the 1980s and 1990s, seeing this symbol of the nation that had dominated pop culture of the time was truly inspiring. We returned to the hotel and collected our equipment before heading into 'Friends' territory to play our first show. A large crowd gathered and the students were greeted with enthusiastic applause. A highlight for many was the arrival of a YouTube celebrity who filmed the group, with the video being seen over 400,000 times at the last check!

Day Three took on a significantly more



sombre tone as the group visited the 9/11 memorial and museum at Ground Zero. The students, as one might expect, demonstrated the very best of WHSB as they toured the site, pausing to reflect on the events of that day and taking time to learn about the attack. This was balanced with an enjoyable walk along the High Line, a raised walkway that afforded students a fantastic view of the city.

Day Four featured one of my highlights of the trip, a performance on the flight deck of the Essex class aircraft carrier, USS Intrepid. There was something very special about performing the theme to Top Gun on a carrier in the shadow of an F-14 Tomcat (Tom Cruise's jet in the film) and large crowds greeted the students who, again, played fantastically well. That evening saw most of the group relaxing in Central Park. I say most, as Mrs Mumford and I decided to cycle the park's perimeter on hired bikes.

Day Five was our last in the city and featured a concert at the UN Headquarters. After a few hours experiencing the very best of organisational, we were permitted to enter and played in the shadow of a building rich in history and significance.



We then departed for the airport and, after a mostly comfortable flight (I do not wish to experience an aborted landing again!), we were back on terra firma.

I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to the staff who made this trip so successful. Their energy, enthusiasm and resourcefulness was invaluable. I would also like to make a few special mentions in terms of students who were stars on the trip.

Niall Ali and Niall Ivie were instrumental in the smooth setting up of the hired equipment and were always on hand to help out. Oliver Northfield demonstrated his skills in looking after and supporting the younger pupils throughout the trip, proving himself to be an excellent role model. Dexter Legon's boundless enthusiasm kept all of us sane as fatigue set in, and I will finish by saying thank you to all the students who took part for their hard work and energy during rehearsals and the tour itself. Planning for the next one starts now!

Mr A McGee
Director of Sixth Form

THE HOUSE SYSTEM

HOUSE SYSTEM UPDATE

The first term of this academic year was busy and productive for the House System. Mr Lilley has been appointed Head of Kestrel House and he has made an excellent start; his enthusiasm and commitment has been appreciated by all.

House activities taking place so far this year have included: House Harry Potter, Countdown, Cross Country, Centenary Poetry, Rubik's Cube, Creative Writing, Poetry Slam, Centenary Christmas Cards, Basketball, Spelling, Impressions, Flags, Vocab Express, MFL Posters, Christmas Carol Quiz, Marvel, Chemistry, Dodgeball, Tug-of-War, Football and Rugby.

We will be commemorating our Centenary Year with a wide range of themed events throughout the year. Forthcoming Centenary-based events include, House:

Games, including House egg and spoon race, House three legged race, House sack race, House photography competition

about the School, House piggy-in-the-middle, House rap competition (themed around the last 100 years), House spelling competition (written on slate with chalk), House snakes and ladders, House croquet, House jack and ball, House cup and ball and House Great Gatsby game;

Cooking – school dinners from the last century. Ideas include: apple crumble, corned beef and potato pie, spam fritters, spotted dick, Lancashire hot pot, cottage pie, shepherd's pie, jam roly-poly, mince, onions and potatoes, liver and bacon, treacle pudding, rice pudding, sticky toffee pudding and semolina;

Dominos;

Old-fashioned card games (*Crazy Eights, Sip, Snap Snorem, Rummy, Pig, Beggar My Neighbour, War, Rolling Stone, Neighbour, Cheat, Split and Old Maid*);

Boules;

Handwriting competition, using fountain pens and blotting paper;

Films from the last 100 years quiz;

Long division competition;

Art, themed around the last 100 years;

History quiz covering the last 100 years.

To commemorate this special year, a new House Scoreboard has been installed, together with a large House Captains Board displaying the names of the House Captains each year. We will be selecting new House Captains for the academic year 2020-2021 in the Summer Term. If you would like to be considered for these positions, then you should get involved with as many House events as you possibly can.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Rayment, Mr Sexton, Mr Lilley, Mr Yeo, Miss Lo, Mr Atkinson, the Physical Education Department, and all the staff and students that have helped support the House System so far this academic year.

Mr R Barber
House System Co-ordinator



SCHOOL SPORT

SPORTING OVERVIEW

The Autumn Term was fast-paced, with plenty of pupils seizing the opportunity to represent the School across a multitude of different sports on both weekdays and Saturdays. The pupils have had an excellent term in terms of attendance at extra-curricular sports practices. There have been fixtures on Saturdays where 100 WHSB pupils have put their School first and competed against other established schools producing some excellent, memorable moments. It is pleasing to see the progress of the Saturday sport programme at WHSB; annual fixtures are becoming more embedded and, as a result, rivalries are being established.

Year 7 pupils have made a fantastic start to their time at WHSB. Participation, which has a direct impact on performance, has been superb. They have had the best ever extra-curricular attendance for sport, followed closely by Year 8 pupils. The WHSB Learner Profile encourages pupils to be *Open to Opportunity*; this is an element that Year 7 have truly embraced. It is easy to forget the challenges that the transition from primary school can bring and the pupils have shown a great deal

of organisation and have been *Effective Communicators* with both their peers and the Physical Education staff.

These pupils have demonstrated unrivalled commitment to the after School extra-curricular offer and the Saturday sport programme. The enjoyment that they show has been incredibly satisfying for the Department to witness. Even those pupils who live locally, and whose parents support them at matches, still wish to travel back to School by bus so that they can spend more time with their teammates. They are developing a culture of hard work, loyalty and respect for each other that generates enjoyment for themselves, their Year Group and their sport. It is a powerful combination

and one that supports them in making progress in all of their sports.

Year 8 pupils have started where they finished in Year 7, demonstrating excellent commitment to practices and competitive fixtures. The highlight of the term was the Year 8 Rugby team being crowned Essex Cup Champions. This was a great achievement and the first time in 15 years that the trophy has been retained by the same school; an excellent achievement for the Rugby group. The reason why 'group' has been used as opposed to 'team' is that it is not just the 18 players that made up the squad for the Essex Cup that enabled the School to be successful; it is the strong numbers that attend practices that drives everyone to perform to a



higher standard. Without the excellent attitude of all involved in Year 8 Rugby, the award of Essex Champions would not have been possible. It is important that the momentum that has been created in Rugby is transferred through to Basketball and Football.

The Rugby Tour to Paris was an enjoyable experience for all pupils and staff. The tour is another example of how sporting traditions are becoming more embedded in the culture at WHSB. The Year 9 team members conducted themselves, and represented our School, brilliantly. They illustrated the importance of being *Globally Aware* and communicated with their opponents in French, which was impressive to see. The pupils hopefully gained the understanding that sport is so much more than just the playing of the game; the memories and the camaraderie that is created through sport is something that makes sport so special.

Last term, our pupils in Year 9 realised that when a team generates a strong reputation for itself (the reputation they so thoroughly deserved through their commitment, attitude to training and their representation of their School last year) that the opposition raises its game during every match, as it is effectively their final. The nature of team sports means that a team is only as strong as the weakest link. With a slight decline in training attendance, the cohesion of teams has been affected. However, like any strong

group, the 'sporting cultural architects' have stepped up and made the necessary recalibration, and performances and attitudes have begun to return to the levels demonstrated during these pupils' time in Year 8. Their National and County Cup Basketball campaigns have started in a most positive manner.

A special moment in the School Rugby calendar came in the final block fixture of 2019 against Gravesend Grammar School. Saturday 23 November came on a momentous day for Westcliff Rugby Football Club; WRFC was originally formed as an Old Westcliffian Rugby Club. It was therefore a very fitting 'curtain raiser' on the final Saturday of the original clubhouse's existence for WHSB to play three matches at the Club. All three teams were victorious with outstanding performances from all of the pupils. This was only the start of a fantastic day for WRFC, with its First team being victorious in a match against Redruth in National 2 South, and WRFC II beating local rivals, Southend Rugby Football Club. The historic link between WHSB and WRFC is important and evident in recent times with the energy and expertise contributed by Mr Marrant to both communities. We are pleased to see the Westcliffian community of past and present sharing their passion for Rugby.

Our Senior Boys' swimming team achieved a place of 30th in the country which was an outstanding achievement,

and one that ensured that the team had another experience of competing at the Olympic Aquatics Centre in Stratford. Unfortunately, Jack Turrell was unable to compete, but we offer our congratulations to Sam Miller, Jonathan Cheung, Henry Ferries and Samson Main who competed. This team finished in seventh place as Intermediate Boys two years ago, and performed brilliantly to qualify for the ESSA National Medley Finals. The team consisted of all pupils eligible to compete in next year's competition as well. Our Junior Boys and Intermediate Teams gave an impressive performance in the Regional Round of the competition but missed out on qualification for the Finals. Again, pleasingly, all teams consisted of pupils that will be eligible to compete next year in the same categories in which they competed this year.

The Autumn Term is always a busy time of year with the performances determining the commitments for the Spring Term, with fixtures in the knock out stages of the competitions taking place. As a Department, we are looking forward to seeing how pupils perform in these high-pressure situations. Dealing with pressure is an important life skill for pupils to learn and is one of the many reasons why sport can effectively support the development of pupils as they move through their schooling at WHSB.

Mr T Morrish
Director of Sport

SCHOOL SPORT

BASKETBALL

The 2019 Basketball season has started particularly well, with all our Year groups winning 66% of their games overall. For the first time in the School's history, we have entered all four eligible Year groups into the National Cup Competition, and some excellent Basketball is already in evidence. Our pupils have fully deserved the additional Basketball provision due to recent success and are clearly relishing the opportunity to play to a higher standard. We are also proud to note that the participation levels from pupils in the Lower School have been outstanding.

The Year 7 Basketball team members have developed significantly as a team, refining their skills and talent as the year progresses. The pupils have been open to

all opportunities given, which has secured their significant improvement since the beginning of the academic year. Daniel Osei-Poku, Henry Murrell and Rajat Negi in Year 7 have given outstanding performances, demonstrating that if one has a strong work ethic and puts the School and one's Team first, results and success will soon follow. The performance of our teams in Years 8, 9 and 10, has also gone from strength-to-strength, with both Year 8 and Year 10 teams aspiring to win the Essex Cup 'winners shield' and the Year 9 team dedicated towards defending their title. All of these teams are currently unbeaten in all competitions. Bradley Aseidu, Temitayo Samuel and Al-Ameen Salaam have been outstanding players for the Year 8 team, whilst Daniel Eze, Noah Louis and Tom Gribbon have continued to develop into superb Basketball players, possessing the ability to transform a game through determination and a strong desire to win.

Our teams in the Sixth Form have enjoyed access to more Basketball this year. The separation of the Under-17 and Under-19 National Cup competition, has allowed more Basketball to be played during the academic year. This positive development is in addition to the Under-18 Essex Cup competition in which our boys are seeking to defend their title once again. We have already seen some excellent Basketball, with players such as Demi Adeyeye and Joe Dunbar demonstrating impressive talent and skill.

Basketball has become an integral part of Physical Education provision at WHSB and it continues to grow along with the rest of our sport. It is important to reflect on how far the pupils have come with regard to their own development, and how much of this is due to their continued commitment and determination.

Mr T Morrish
Director of Sport

RESULTS - AUTUMN TERM 2019

The table below lists the results, by Sport, of each of WHSB's teams during the Autumn Term (up to 28 November 2019).

Rugby

Year	Played	Won	Lost	Draw	Pts For	Pts Against	Pts Diff	Win %
7	14	8	4	2	460	250	210	57%
8	22	16	5	1	660	300	360	73%
9	11	8	3	0	421	143	278	73%
10	6	1	4	1	100	151	-51	17%
1st XV	4	4	0	0	138	14	124	100%
Total	57	37	16	4	1,779	858	921	65%

Basketball

Year	Played	Won	Lost	Draw	Pts For	Pts Against	Pts Diff	Win %
7	3	2	1	0	132	94	38	67%
8	2	2	0	0	88	35	53	100%
9	2	2	0	0	180	69	111	100%
10	1	1	0	0	71	26	45	100%
11	2	0	2	0	89	123	-34	0%
U17	1	0	1	0	69	73	-4	0%
U19	4	3	1	0	328	219	109	75%
Total	15	10	5	0	957	639	318	67%

Football

Year	Played	Won	Lost	Draw	Goals For	Goals Against	Goal Diff	Win %
Year 7	10	1	7	2	16	29	-13	10%
Year 8	8	4	4	0	29	20	9	50%
Year 9	2	1	1	0	11	6	5	50%
Year 10	5	0	5	0	12	21	-9	0%
Year 11	4	1	3	0	6	12	-6	25%
2nd XI	4	2	2	0	12	9	3	50%
1st XI	6	1	5	0	18	27	-9	17%
Total	39	10	27	2	104	124	-20	26%

UNDER 13S ESSEX CUP 2019

On Wednesday 16 October 2019, the Year 8 Rugby team travelled to New Hall School for the final rounds of the Essex cup.

Coached by Mr Marrant and with a strong squad of players, the team had won the first round without conceding a try and were confident when heading into their pool games during the early afternoon. Firstly, the team faced a strong KEGS team but emerged victorious, winning 35-0 with tries from Al-Ameen Salaam, Joe Baverstock and others to support the team. Next, the team came up against the Coopers' Company and Coborn School and with the assurance of their previous victory they were confident they would do well. The match concluded 20-0 in WHSB's favour meaning they only needed to beat local rivals, Southend High School for Boys. Westcliff took an early lead, with tries from Temitayo Samuels, James Rodgers and Simbo Femi, and continued to remain ahead, winning the match 30-0.

These superb results meant that the team was to go through to the semi-final against Brentwood School. The last time these teams met in the Essex 7s final, Brentwood won by one point and, not wanting to repeat history, co-captains, Freddie Dawson and Sam Nash, gave an inspiring team talk with further encouragement coming from James Rogers and Ruben White; the team was ready to play the match. With an early try from Al-Ameen Salaam, Westcliff took the lead until Brentwood fought back and managed to score two tries placing them ahead before the whistle blew for half time. Following encouragement from Mr Marrant during the half time, Westcliff understood they had to score twice to win, and following another superb team try the scores were equal at 10-10. With seconds left remaining before the end of the match, and with Brentwood School taking possession of the ball, the situation looked bleak. However, the WHSB squad does not give up and an impressive tackle from

Daniel Ajayi, and Sam Nash taking possession of the ball from the player, he was able to score the winning try under the posts to secure a place for this team in the final.

The squad was making excellent progress, and the work ethic of its members makes it a truly special team. In order to become the Cup champions, it was necessary for the team to play Woodlands School. Our team knew this game would not be easy for either side; tries come from both teams and it was a closely-fought game. The WHSB were committed to beating their opponents and applied all they had learnt, and played at a high level. There were tries from both teams and the points swung from one side to another, with the score at half-time being 10-10. All agreed, it was going to take a very special effort to win this competition. Westcliff's forwards had dominated the scrum all day and an opportunity to secure the ball in its team's favour gave Simbo Femi the chance to take on and push through the defence! Having secured this excellent opportunity WHSB applied further pressure, and a final and impressive effort from all the players ensured the School team retained the ball and went on to win the game, and ultimately the Essex Cup.

This achievement in winning the competition, and in retaining the Shield for the second time, consecutively, was well deserved. Not only had this team secured an historical result for the School, but WHSB is also the first school to win the tournament in consecutive years.

This Year 8 team demonstrates that hard work and a positive attitude towards training and games deliver results.

Freddie Dawson
Year 8





CALENDAR FOR SPRING TERM 2020

Mon 6 January	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
Tue 7 January	SPRING TERM BEGINS, 8.45am
7 - 10 January	Year 12 Formative Assessments
7 - 16 January	Year 13 Trial Examinations
12 - 13 January	CCF Royal Navy Firefighting School
Tue 14 January	<i>The Woman in Black</i> at the Palace Theatre, 8.00pm
Wed 15 January	Junior and Senior Chess Tournaments
Thu 16 January	Year 8 HPV Vaccinations
Sat 18 January	WCGC: Humanities Day, 8.30am
Mon 20 January	Year 8 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm
Wed 22 January	Year 11 <i>Dead End</i> PSHE Performance, 8.45am
	Spring Chamber Recital with Centenary Fanfare, 7.30pm
Thu 23 January	Year 11 Entry to Sixth Form Evening, 7.30pm
	Parents' Association Meeting, 7.30pm
Fri 24 January	Year 11 Phase 2 Reports issued
Mon 27 January	Holocaust Memorial Services, 8.45am
Tue 28 January	Year 11 A Level Taster Sessions, 1.55pm
Wed 29 January	Careers in Law, Finance & Army Intelligence Evening, 7.00pm
Fri 31 January	Year 12 Phase 2 Reports issued
Sat 1 February	Centenary Ball at The Cliffs Pavilion, 6.00pm
Wed 5 February	Mr Andrew Baker Lecture: Britain's post-war revolution; can you believe it?, 7.30pm
Thu 6 February	Intermediate Mathematics Challenge
	<i>Richard III</i> Drama Workshop, 3.45pm
	Production of <i>Richard III</i> , 7.30pm
Fri 7 February	Charity Activities Day
Mon 10 February	Year 11 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm
Wed 12 February	Centenary Geography Lecture, 7.30pm
Thu 13 February	Year 9 Phase 2 Reports issued
	Year 13 Phase 2 Reports issued
	Parents' Association Valentines Sales, 12.50pm
15 - 23 February	Ski Trip
17 - 21 February	SPRING HALF TERM
Mon 24 February	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

Tue 25 February	Year 10 <i>I'm Drowning</i> PSHE Performance, 2.00pm
Thu 27 February	Prof Peter Mandler Lecture: Demand for Education and its Reform in Britain, 7.30pm
Mon 2 March	Year 12 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm
Tue 3 March	Parents' Association Meeting, 7.30pm
4 - 5 March	Jack Petchey's Speak Out Challenge
Thu 5 March	Year 9 Options Evening, 7.30pm
Sat 7 March	WCGC: Science Day, 8.30am
Thu 12 March	Spring Sinfonia Concert with Centenary Composition, 7.30pm
Fri 13 March	Year 10 Phase 2 Reports issued
14 - 20 March	Year 10 Geology Field Visit to Dorset
Mon 16 March	Year 9 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm
18 - 20 March	Centenary Rock Narnia: <i>The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe</i> , 7.30pm
Sat 21 March	History Days Out Trip to Imperial War Museum & Churchill War Rooms
Fri 20 March	Year 11 Targeted Reports issued
Tue 24 March	Musicology Seminar, 3.45pm
Wed 25 March	Year 10 Visit to MoD/QinetiQ
	Careers in Medicine Evening, 7.00pm
Thu 26 March	National <i>Warhammer</i> 40k Kill Team Championships
	Year 9 Vaccinations
	Book Launch: Westcliff High School for Boys A Centenary History, 7.30pm
Fri 27 March	Year 7 Phase 2 Reports issued
	Charity Activities Day
29 March - 6 April	German Exchange
Sun 29 March	Didi Drama Workshop, 10.00am
Mon 30 March	Year 10 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm
Tue 31 March	<i>Warhammer Age of Sigmar</i> Grand Tournament
Thu 2 April	Year 8 Phase 2 Reports issued
	Year 13 Phase 3 Targeted Reports issued
2 - 7 April	Centenary CCF AT Camp
Fri 3 April	SPRING TERM ENDS, 2.45pm
7 - 9 April	Year 12 Physicists visit CERN
Mon 20 April	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
Tue 21 April	SUMMER TERM BEGINS, 8.45am

Tickets for all Westcliff Diary events can be purchased via TicketSource at <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/>



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