



THE Westcliff Diary

September 2014

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No.73

WHSB finishes 3rd in Track and Field Cup National Finals

In Athletics, the School enjoyed another outstanding season, once again qualifying for the National Finals of the English Schools' Track and Field Cup Finals. The students performed exceptionally well in the Borough Athletics Championship, breaking a number of long standing School Athletics records. Our Junior and Intermediate Athletics teams performed well in the opening round of the English Schools' Athletics Track and Field Cup, and progressed to the East Anglia Regional finals. The Intermediate team achieved 452 points at the Regional final, and the Junior team gave a superb performance, scoring 513 points to finish in second place in the East Anglia Regional Finals, and progressing to the National Finals. The National Finals were held at Bedford International Stadium on the 5 July 2014.

Our team attended the National Finals and, despite the wet conditions, gave some outstanding performances in the track events, including a School record breaking time of 25.9 seconds in the 200m run from Oliver George, and an excellent 2.18 minutes 800m run from George Hays. Equally strong performances from Rotimi Osunsami, Kayode Omotoso and Oliver Johnson ensured our team was in 5th place after the morning's events. In the later field events, excellent performances from Tom Maynard and Oliver George in the Hammer, Oliver Johnson and David Olusina in the Shot Putt and Sytan McGee in the High Jump ensured the team were in a strong position indeed as the final events took place. A superb Long Jump (5.54m) from Micah Tsekeri ensured success in the competition and an excellent performance in the Relay added to our team's outstanding success.

Overall, our Junior team achieved an impressive 518 points giving WHSB 3rd place and its best ever performance in the history of the School in this competition. We are already looking forward to the competition next year with high aspirations.

At the Southend Borough Athletics Championships the School achieved second place. Our Year 8 team performed



exceptionally well in the track events, achieving a total of eleven medals. Gold medals were awarded to Micah Tsekeri (100m), Oliver George (200m), Oliver Johnson (300m), George Hays (800m) and Kayode Omotoso (80m Hurdles). In Year 7, Tamalore Mustafa won a gold medal in the 100m, and David Olusina achieved first place in the Shot Putt event. In Year 9, Ishmail Amoeteng won the 200m, whilst our relay team (Matthew Otoo, Toni Abatan, Ishmail Amoeteng and Andrew Gilbertson) were also awarded a gold medal. In Year 10, Aaron Mensah-Afoakwah won an impressive triple gold medal, having gained first place in the Triple Jump, 100m Hurdles and Relay. Amecca Abazie won the 200m event, and both Amecca and Aaron Mensah-Afoakwah were members of the Year 10 relay team alongside Sam Howlett and John Olusina. The relay team achieved a top place and broke our School record with a time of 47.2 seconds.

The performance of WHSB pupils in the School Athletics has been outstanding, and a number of records previously held have been broken. Tamalore Mustafa broke the record in the Year 7 100m, achieving a time of 12.6 seconds, whilst Micah Tsekeri broke the record in the Year 8 100m, with his time of 11.9

seconds. Oliver Johnson matched the School's record time of 39.8 seconds in the 300m, and Aaron Mensah-Afoakwah (Year 10) achieved the fastest time in the School's history for the 100m Hurdles event, with his time of 14.5 seconds.

WHSB is also proud that eleven pupils from WHSB represented the Southend Borough in the Essex Schools' Championship on Saturday 7 June 2014. An outstanding performance from David Olusina in Year 7 ensured he achieved second place in the Shot Putt event with a distance of 10.13m. David has subsequently thrown a distance of 10.62m to further break the previous School record of 9.66m.

We congratulate all our students on their outstanding achievements in these events.

HEADMASTER FROM THE DESK OF



Welcome back

It gives me great pleasure to welcome back all pupils and staff for the new academic year. Once again, our Westcliff Diary demonstrates the breadth of our corporate life and the wide range of opportunities available to pupils. Last year, our pupils enjoyed tremendous success across a range of extra-curricular fields, thanks to support and dedication of our staff and senior students who organize and oversee our enrichment activities. I am particularly delighted to see the developments within our thriving House programme.

The last edition of the Westcliff Diary launched the School's Learner Profile and this year we look forward to embedding this into teaching and learning across the School. We shall continue to aim to raise aspiration and set high standards, encouraging and supporting our pupils to unlock their potential and realize their ambitions.

As many will be aware, there are significant national changes planned for A Level and GCSE courses commencing in September 2015 and the School has begun to formulate its response to these developments. We shall be speaking to parents and pupils regarding these matters which we shall also cover in future editions of the Westcliff Diary.

In recent years there have been significant changes to how schools are funded. These changes, and the difficult economic climate, have created additional challenges for the School, however, we continue to ensure prudent use of the resources available to us. We remain in a sound financial position but we cannot be complacent regarding these matters. We hope that further funding reform will ensure a fair and equitable distribution of resources to all schools.

The School's Capital Development continues to make progress. The first phase of the Science Building will be completed in September, when our

contractors will hand back five laboratories to the School, and the remainder of the Science laboratories will be returned in November. The new Sixth Form building is also on schedule and due to be completed in March 2015.

The School and its pupils derive great benefit from our wider community and we are particularly grateful to the ongoing support of the Parents' Association and the Old Westcliffians' Association (OWA).

I look forward to welcoming pupils and parents to the many School events planned for this academic year.

Headmaster

Changes to Leadership and Management Structure

I have made a number of changes to the School's Leadership structure for the coming academic year in order to reflect the key areas for development at WHSB. Mr Wilkinson will be moving from his current post as Director of Sixth Form to take up a new post as Director of Studies. The increased demands placed on schools as a result of national developments in relation to the Curriculum, call for a high degree of expertise and we are pleased that Mr Wilkinson will be contributing to School leadership in this area. We are delighted to welcome our new Director of Sixth Form, Dr Machacek, who joins us from the Royal Grammar School High Wycombe. Dr Machacek will also be contributing to the teaching in the Physics Department.

We are pleased to welcome Ms Rankin, who joins us from Chelmsford County High School for Girls School. Ms Rankin is an experienced and accomplished Technology teacher and faculty leader. We are delighted to welcome Ms Rankin to our Senior Team as the Director of Lower School Studies.

We are also adding additional capacity to our support staff team and I am pleased to welcome Mr Partridge (Old Westcliffian) who joins us from the NHS. Mr Partridge has been appointed as Director of Resources and he will be leading on matters such as Human Resources and Facilities Management. Mrs Shirlin will continue as our School Bursar, and as a member of our Senior

Team, and she and Mr Partridge will be working closely together on matters related to the management of resources within the School.

I thank all members of the Senior Team for their continued support in relation to the leadership of the School and look forward to working with our new members of the team.

Public Examination Results 2014

This year Westcliff High School for Boys has enjoyed its best ever A Level results. 17% of our entries returned the top grade of A*, whilst 48% of all entries were graded A* or A. Many students achieved notable success including nineteen students who achieved two or more A* grades, with three of these students achieving four A* grades whilst a further six students achieved three A* grades. In all, fifty-six students achieved at least one A* grade, which is over a third of the entire year group. Our overall pass rate was 100%. The majority of students have achieved or exceeded their University offers, including nine students who have secured a place at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. At AS Level, our students also achieved sound results, with 40% of their examinations achieving the top grade. At GCSE, the proportion of A*/A grades was 72% with 35% of our GCSE entries being graded A*. We have many pupils who have performed at an exceptionally high level, including 99 pupils who achieved 8 or more A*-A grades and 41 pupils who achieved 12 A*-A grades. We congratulate all our students and give them our best wishes for the future.

Staff Changes for the Autumn Term

I would like to take this opportunity to update our School community with details of the staff changes for the Autumn Term 2014, and to offer our sincere thanks to those staff who are leaving us to pursue new opportunities.

Mr Grainger, Miss Rees, Miss Elliot, and Mr Jaconelli have given splendid service to the school in their roles as Teaching Assistants. We wish them well as they take up places in Higher Education in September.

Miss Riddell has been with us for just over two years and she has given valuable service in her role of Cover Supervisor and Publicity Officer. Having enjoyed her time at WHSB, she has

THE HEADMASTER FROM THE D

secured a teaching training place at a local school. Mrs Lawford, our Sixth Form Common Room Supervisor has given superb service and leaves to take up a promoted position at Sweyne School Sixth Form. We give both members of staff our best wishes.

Whilst Ms Aubeeluck, Mr Arnold and Miss Hurley have been with us for only a short time, they have made valuable contributions towards the teaching of Computer Science, Mathematics and History respectively. Miss Hurley also successfully took over the management of the Upper Sixth for two Terms. We thank them for their work.

In Science we say farewell to Mr Riley who made a significant contribution to the teaching of Science and Chemistry in particular and we give him our best wishes for the future. Dr Lillington will be moving to Westcliff High School for Girls and we give him our sincere thanks for his valuable contribution.

Mr M'Clelland leaves us in order to take up a position at a school in Guildford. He has made a considerable contribution to the development of German and has promoted new languages such as Portuguese. Dr McKerrow moves to an independent School in Devon, where he has gained promotion as the Head of History. We have felt the benefit of Dr McKerrow's fine intellect and passion for his subject. We wish both members of staff well.

Mrs Lewinton has given great service to the School during her 11 years at WHSB. Across her time with us she has

contributed to shaping our Pastoral structures and latterly Special Educational Needs provision. Recently, she took the decision to qualify as a teacher and she moves to an Independent School in London. She leaves with our very best wishes for the future.

Mr Broomhead has been a stalwart of the Languages department and an enthusiastic Head of French. He takes a keen interest in his students' progress and welfare and we thank him for his service and give him our best wishes for an enjoyable and relaxed retirement. Mrs Smith has taught Geography with great success for the last 13 years at Westcliff. She is a teacher of great distinction and she has been an enormous source of energy and creativity in the Geography Department. We offer her our thanks and best wishes for the future.

We are pleased to welcome a number of staff to the School. Dr Machacek, Ms Rankin and Mr Partridge join the School's Senior Team. Mrs Jennings takes up the position of Careers Adviser. Mr Doherty, Ms Gowler, Mr Wakeling and Mr Owen join the Mathematics Department. Mr Wightman, Mr Davey and Mr Tresidder join the Science Department, and Ms Toudic and Mr Honert join the Modern Foreign Languages Department to teach French and German respectively. Mrs Hedges, Ms Slater and Mr Neagus join the History Department. Mrs Hedges takes up the position of Acting Head of History during Mrs Robertson's period of maternity leave. Mr Sims and Mrs Ives join the Computing and English departments

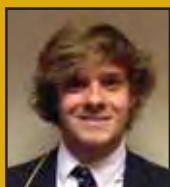
respectively. We are also delighted to welcome back Mrs Phillips to teach Geography (part-time).

Congratulations to our new Head Boy and Deputy Head Boys

I am delighted to take this opportunity to introduce our new Head Boy and his two Deputies to our wider School community. Our Head Boy, Louis Mayo, has been heavily involved with School Drama and has also chaired our successful Charity Week Committee this year. Louis has made an accomplished start to his tenure as Head Boy and we extend our best wishes to him in his new role.

Louis will be ably assisted by his two Deputies, John Tothill and Brandon Cozens. John is one of our most talented musicians at the School, and a stalwart of our extensive musical programme. John has also appeared on the WHSB stage and is an accomplished public speaker and debater. Brandon has contributed much to the development of our Combined Cadet Force (CCF) in his role as Company Sergeant. Brandon has demonstrated excellent leadership potential and has encouraged participation in the School's programme of extra-curricular activities. Each of these students has made a most valuable contribution to School life during their years at WHSB to date, and we welcome them to their new responsibilities and look forward to working with them.

Headmaster



**Louis Mayo
Head Boy**

Previous school:

St Mary's Junior School - Brentwood

Subjects at A Level:

History, English Literature, Geology, Religious Studies

The most positive aspect of being a student at WHSB:

The support and guidance provided by the School

What I would most like to achieve in my new position at WHSB:

Developing a dynamic and outstanding Prefect Body

My message to our new Year 7 pupils:

Participate and get involved in extra-curricular activities



**John Tothill
Deputy Head Boy**

Previous school:

West Leigh Junior School

Subjects at A Level:

History, Politics, Music, German

The most positive aspect of being a student at WHSB:

The commitment and dedication of the staff

What I would most like to achieve in my new position at WHSB:

Promoting stronger links with local primary schools

My message to our new Year 7 pupils:

Read regularly and widely



**Brandon Cozens
Deputy Head Boy**

Previous school:

Thorpe Greenways Junior School

Subjects at A Level:

French, German, Maths, Economics

The most positive aspect of being a student at WHSB:

The strong sense of community and identity at the School

What I would most like to achieve in my new position at WHSB:

Encouraging all pupils to participate in School activities

My message to our new Year 7 pupils:

Be ambitious and be prepared to work hard

Annual Service of Remembrance: Tuesday 11 November 2014

The Annual Service of Remembrance for the whole School will take place on Tuesday 11 November at 8.50am. The Service will run until approximately 9.40am and will include hymns, readings, prayers and music to remember the fallen. The Head Boy, Louis Mayo, will lay a wreath in memory of those from the School who gave their lives in both World Wars and in other conflicts. The School's Combined Cadet Force (CCF) will also participate in the arrangements for the Service. Parents are warmly invited to join us for the occasion, and for coffee in the Conference Room after the Service. Seating should be reserved in advance using the Diary electronic reply slip, or the enclosed reply slip if preferred.

Headmaster

Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children: Wednesday Afternoon Workshops



For the fifth year running, we are inviting Year 5 pupils from local primary schools to visit WHSB and take part in a variety of challenging projects. Primary school pupils will work with our Sixth Form students in a workshop entitled Sun, Heat and Light, undertaking a series of short hands-on experiments and activities in a range of subjects drawing on the central theme. The second offering, the Blitz Experience, is back by popular demand. Year 5 pupils will be whisked into a wartime world in the School Library. They will undertake an

air-raid drill, an evacuee lesson and have the opportunity to handle Second World War artefacts.

In the Summer term, we will be inviting Year 4 pupils to travel Around the World in 80 minutes. We will also be dispatching our Sixth Form students to a number of local primary schools to undertake our ever popular Science Roadshow.

These projects aim to provide exciting enrichment activities for younger pupils and offer our own Sixth Form students the opportunity to enhance their own public speaking skills. Last year, we visited more than fifteen primary schools with the Science Roadshow and welcomed in excess of 1000 primary school pupils to these events held at WHSB. We look forward to another successful programme of events this year. Further details are available on the School Website within the Community sub section.

*Miss S Sparks
Head of Geography*

Oxbridge Entrance



In June this year, the School hosted a highly successful Conference for potential Oxbridge candidates. It was attended by five academics from Oxford and Cambridge Universities, two current undergraduate Old Westcliffians (plus three more, courtesy of Skype) and 114 students from across local grammar and partner schools. We hope the information and advice so freely given on this occasion will significantly enhance the chances of students from WHSB in making successful applications to the Country's most prestigious universities this term. The School's programme of internal trial interviews will begin in October, with reciprocal arrangements with Westcliff High School for Girls undertaken in November.

In the New Year we will be taking a party of Year 11 English students to Oxford for a tutorial with Dr James Castell of Hertford College, whilst Dr Marcus Waithe of Magdalene College, Cambridge will be visiting WHSB to take a seminar on Victorian War Poetry with our Year 13 English Literature students.

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

Sixth Form Subject Masterclasses



Across a number of weekends between trial examinations and the start of AS exams during the last academic year, the School arranged for 34 of the, then, Lower Sixth students to attend Subject Masterclasses at Cambridge University. In July, three of our students also attended residential courses for Languages and Classics, run by Pembroke and St Catharine's Colleges, Cambridge. A number of our students also attended Subject Taster Days at Cambridge and London University. Furthermore, two WHSB girls attended a Pathways to Success residential event at Murray Edwards College aimed at inspiring academically successful young women to apply to Cambridge.

During the summer, some of our Sixth Form students attended residential courses run by the Sutton Trust and Eton College. These follow other students attending a Law residential course and the Senior Physics Challenge at Cambridge last term. In the coming term, four students will be attending residential A2 courses at Villiers Park. The School does much to promote these opportunities and the students gain immensely from such experiences.

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

Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children: Autumn Term 2014

Since its inception in 2010, the Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children (WCGC) has sought to challenge disadvantage and enhance social mobility. It has been most successful in providing encouragement, motivation and support for local Year 5 pupils who are wishing to apply to one of the four local Grammar Schools. This year, record numbers of pupils from the Priority Admissions Area (SS0-SS9) have achieved a place at WHSB and we remain committed to serving our local community.

This term the WCGC will continue to offer a free two-part 11+ programme for local Year 5 pupils (boys and girls). The Programme will launch with a day of fun activities designed to challenge and engage gifted pupils. This will include some formal 11+ preparation alongside other stimulating activities designed to develop the aptitudes and skills tested in the 11+ examinations. The second part of the Programme will consist of five one-hour weekly sessions giving pupils the opportunity not only to improve their academic achievement but also be fully prepared for the Grammar School selection process.

In addition to the 11+ Programme, the WCGC will also be running other activities for Year 5 pupils and further details will be available from the

School's website.

We very much look forward to opening our doors and welcoming talented local children to WHSB once again. Further details of the WCGC events can be obtained by visiting the Community section of the School website.

*Mr A Cass
Head of Lower School*

Helping Parents to Help Their Sons:

**Thursday 18 September
and Thursday 25
September 2014**

The relationship between home and school is central to a pupil's success. The Helping Parents to Help Their Sons evenings are designed to help parents understand how pupils may be helped in their studies, and the potential barriers to success that might be encountered. Our Year 7 evening will take place on Thursday 18 September and will comprise a series of short presentations covering English, Mathematics, Science, the Humanities and Modern Languages in addition to an introductory address from Mr Cass, the Head of Lower School. We hope this evening will enable parents to better understand the subject knowledge and skills essential for pupils to progress in these subject areas. The second evening will be offered to parents of Year 8 and 9 pupils, on an invitation basis, on Thursday 25

September. We hope that you will be able to support us on these evenings and help to foster further collaboration between home and the School.

*Ms K Rankin
Assistant Head*

Year 10 Education Evening:

**Tuesday 23 September
2014**

On Tuesday 23 September 2014, we shall be holding an Education Evening for all Year 10 pupils and their parents. The purpose of this evening will be to provide information, advice and guidance on how pupils might best negotiate studying for the GCSE examinations that they will be sitting in the Summer of 2016. Pupils embarking on their courses are more likely to maximise their potential and feel secure and confident if they are supported by their parents. Parents, in turn, can only be supportive if they appreciate the nature of the examination content and, in some subjects, the Controlled Assessments and coursework that their son will need to undertake during their time in Years 10 and 11. These, and wider considerations bearing upon GCSE success, will be discussed. The expectation is for a full attendance of both pupils and parents alike for what traditionally has been an educational and constructive evening.

*Mr A Cass
Head of Lower School*

Dr Liam Fox at Speech Day

The School's Annual Speech Day will take place on Thursday 6 November in the School Hall. The Guest of Honour this year will be Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox MP. Dr Fox was born and raised in East Kilbride, Scotland and he studied medicine at the University of Glasgow. He became president of his University's Conservative and Unionist Association and took a keen interest in debating, in which he won national and international prizes and proving invaluable in preparing him for political life.

Dr Fox is a member of the Royal College of General Practitioners, and worked as a GP before becoming a Conservative Member of

Parliament in 1992. He has held high office in both opposition and government and he is patron of a large number of local organisations and charities.

In June 1993, Dr Fox was appointed Parliamentary Private Secretary to Michael Howard, then Home Secretary. In 1994, he was appointed an Assistant Government Whip, then promoted to the position of Senior Government Whip. He was also a Minister at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

In June 1997, Dr Fox was appointed Opposition Front Bench Spokesman on Constitutional Affairs and he later served as Shadow Secretary of State for Health before being appointed Co-Chairman of the Party in 2003. Dr Fox has also held the positions of Shadow Foreign Secretary and Shadow Secretary of State for Defence.

Having been appointed Secretary of State for Defence by Prime Minister David Cameron in May 2010, he later resigned and returned to the back benches. Since returning to the back benches, his work has included a focus on options for reducing our budget deficit and stimulating growth in our economy.

We are delighted to welcome Dr Fox as our Guest of Honour at the WHSB Annual Speech Day 2014.

Speech Day provides the School with an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of pupils throughout the School during the past academic year. The evening is a compulsory attendance for all pupils in Year 11 and above. It is anticipated that we shall have over 900 pupils, staff and guests in attendance.

OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

In discussions with the Headmaster, the Old Westcliffian Association has agreed that our annual newsletter will be incorporated within the Westcliff Diary which will be circulated to all OWA members. We hope this approach will bring the OWA and School closer together, enabling Old Boys to receive news about what is happening at the School whilst at the same time informing the School community about OW events and the achievements of its members. The Old Westcliffian Association will also produce six weekly news sheets between editions of the Westcliff Diary. With the establishment of the Alumni section of the School website, these are exciting times and we hope that the new developments will be favourably received by you all.

Terry Birdseye, OWA Secretary

President's Report 2014

It has been a pleasure to continue to serve as President of the OWA for the past year. When I was first elected I said that I felt that the OWA should be more than an organisation which holds a reunion dinner once a year. I hoped that the Association could engage more actively with the School to enable members to put back something of what we had gained during our formative years.

Last September I was pleased to be able to make a presentation of a cheque for £5,000 on behalf of the OWA to the School's newly created Combined Cadet Force (CCF) to help them buy much needed equipment. The CCF is the first venture of its kind since an Air Training Corps force was run in the School during the Second World War. I have now had the opportunity to see the WHSB CCF in action and have been immensely impressed by the commitment shown by staff and students.



I am reminded every time I go through the School's main entrance and see the foundation stone laid by Alderman Miles that our centenary is not far off. In the coming months the Association's Committee will be giving careful thought to ways in which we can contribute to that event, perhaps by funding a special centenary project.

Finally, we intend to do more to help OWs to keep in touch with one another. The internet now makes that easier than ever before. I am personally in touch with old classmates as far afield as Canada. The School now has a brilliant new website which will have a direct link to that of the OWA. This will not only benefit older members but also hopefully build our membership amongst the new generation who will sustain our Association for the future.

I hope to see as many as possible of you at our dinner in September.

David Norman MBE, OWA President

Honorary Secretary's Report

Well another year has passed and it is time to pen my annual report. The Association is in robust health but I must make a further appeal to your generosity. As mentioned by the President, we recently donated £5,000 to the newly formed Combined Cadet Force at the School. The cheque was presented to Captain Bleakley at one of their recent parades. In order to support the School in the future, we need your continued support and thank those of you who have already made donations.

My second appeal concerns the newsletter and the new Alumni section of the School website which is taking shape. We desperately need articles for the 2015 newsletters and our new website including photographs where appropriate. My thanks must go to the Headmaster and his team for getting the project underway. It will be a fantastic help to us in providing information to members and helping to make contact with members with whom we have lost touch.

Last year's annual dinner was a tremendous success. Our guest speaker was Peter Bone, MP for Wellingborough. As you know he has a reputation for speaking his mind and his thought-provoking talk was well received. On the night, we made him an honorary member and presented him with a tie, which he said he would wear at Prime Minister's Questions, so look out for it!

This year the Annual OWA Dinner will be on 12 September, again at the School. Our speaker will be David Simmons, Oxford Law graduate and an OW. He is a former BBC Radio One DJ, Radio Four science writer and presenter and globe-trotting executive with World Television news. It promises to be a great evening. Please try to come along. As the date is earlier this year it would be good to see some of our younger members including our School leavers.

We have formed a closer association with the WHSB Parents' Association and last year we offered their Christmas Puddings to our members. This was well received and we will do so again this year. Their annual Black and White Ball will be on 29 November and it would be great if we could make up a table. If you are interested, please let me know and I will start a list. I offer my thanks to the Headmaster and my committee for their support and to Alison Clarke our editor, who does such a superb job putting all my scribbling into some sort of order.

Lastly, my thanks go to you, the members. Please keep the articles coming and I wish you a happy and healthy year.

Terry Birdseye, OWA Secretary

Duke of Edinburgh Award at WHSB Silver Award

As previously reported in the Westcliff Diary, the first WHSB Duke of Edinburgh cohort of twenty-eight pupils completed their Bronze Award in September 2013. Twenty-four of these pupils then continued on to take the Silver Award and they have been working on their Physical, Volunteering and Skills components during the last ten months. Following a successful practice expedition in the South Downs in April, these pupils moved to their final assessment which took place in the Peak District late in the Summer Term. The group travelled to Derbyshire on Wednesday 2 July and spent the afternoon on an acclimatisation walk and camping together above Lathkill Dale. The assessment began officially on the Thursday when all groups started near Baslow, walked past Chatsworth House and then up Lathkill Dale to their campsites. Friday's activities took them south west and down towards the Dove valley and campsites in Beresford Dale. On Saturday, they all walked through Mill Dale and down Dove Dale to finish in Thorpe. On their return from the expedition, pupils were required to produce a short project based around the final expedition. At the time of writing, we are now awaiting the final assessor's reports for all sections and hope to issue our first Silver Awards later in the Autumn Term.



Bronze Award

The second WHSB cohort of thirty pupils embarked on their Bronze Award last September. These pupils have been working on the various sections included and the majority are now submitting their final reports. They all attended a highly successful practice expedition during the weekend of 17 and 18 May. The expedition started at Hatfield Peverill and pupils then walked to Danbury, where they camped, before returning to their starting point on the Sunday. The final assessment will take place in the Roxwell area, camping at Skreens Park, during the weekend of the 13 and 14 September. We hope to issue the second round of Bronze Awards later this term. We anticipate that many of these pupils will continue to further challenge themselves and participate in the Silver Award scheme.



Our third cohort of Year 10 pupils has been recruited this year and we hope they will be able to build on the success of the DofE scheme in the School into the future.

Mr D Despres
*Duke of Edinburgh
Coordinator*

CCF: A Review of the Year

We have had a remarkably busy 20 months since our establishment in October 2012. We celebrated particular successes last year, including our participation in 49 Brigade's annual Combat Cadet Competition, as well as taking 29 cadets on Summer Camp to Warcop in Cumbria and running three field days. Furthermore, we undertook a trip to the National Rifle Association Ranges in Bisley, participated in Southend's Remembrance Day Parade, and were centre stage during the School's Great War commemoration events.



Towards the end of last term, in order to celebrate our successes, we welcomed Col Peter Christian, Col Cadets of 49 Brigade. Col Christian inspected the Detachment at the CCF Passing Out Parade and was our guest of honour at our Annual Mess Dinner. We also were pleased to welcome Southend West MP, David Amess, as well as a number of other distinguished guests. The evening was a great success and enjoyed immensely by all who attended.



This year's Summer Camp was a particularly memorable event, where cadets made new friends and participated in a range of events, ranging from Gorge Walking and Gill Scrambling, to Watermanship exercises, gaining the HeartStart qualification, and live and blank firing among many others.

This term we look forward to another busy calendar, welcoming Miss Gowler, an alumnus of Welbeck Sixth Form Defence College, to our numbers.

From 25-27 September we will take away our entire Detachment to Mereworth Woods Training Camp in Kent to conduct a 48 hour Field Exercise, during which cadets will be taught and tested on their fieldcraft, patrolling, navigation, living in the Field and First Aid Skills. Closer to home, on Tuesday 11 November the Detachment will participate in the School's own Service of Remembrance, and they will again represent the School at Southend's Remembrance Sunday Parade.

Towards the end of the term we will again run a selection process to choose incoming cadets from Year 9 as we prepare to move towards independence. A busy term awaits.

Captain Bleakley

Your Place in the Cosmos and The Age of the Universe Lectures:

Thursday 25 September 2014

Professor Carolin Crawford, Astrophysics Fellow at Emmanuel College, Cambridge and member of the Institute of Astronomy, will be visiting the School on Thursday 25 September. Professor Crawford will be speaking to our Sixth Form Physics students from 3:45pm to 5:30pm about how detailed observations of galaxies, clusters, and the fine structures in the cosmic microwave background have refined the age of the Universe to 13.75 billion years, yet in the process have also revealed the unexpected presence of dark energy, causing a huge paradigm shift in modern cosmology. Professor Crawford will remain in School to give a presentation in the evening on the fascinating world of Your Place in the Cosmos. This second talk will be for a general audience and all are welcome. Places can be reserved through the Westcliff Diary electronic reply slip or on the enclosed reply form.

Mr R Stevens, Head of Politics & Higher Education Coordinator

Year 8 English Civil War Day:

Friday 21 November 2014

On Friday 21 November the School plays host once more to the Past People re-enactment group for a day of lectures and artefact handling relating to the English Civil War. In addition to putting on the armour and equipment of a 17th Century soldier, learning pike drill, practising how to fire an artillery piece and hearing a lecture from one of the country's leading military historians, there will be professional re-enactors "in character". This will provide an opportunity to question and explore what it was like to live and fight in the Civil Wars and to find out more about what motivated participants in this extraordinary "war without an enemy".

Mr R Stevens, Head of Politics & Higher Education Coordinator

Andrew Robertshaw: Year 9 Eyes Deep in Mud and Bombs, Bullets and Bayonets Lecture:

Thursday 11 December 2014



On Thursday 11 December our favourite military historian, Mr Andy Robertshaw, star of numerous TV history and archaeology documentaries and Military Advisor on Spielberg's Warhorse, will visit the School to take Year 9 students through a presentation on the soldiers experience of the First World War. As usual on such occasions he will remain in School to present a talk in the evening at 7.00pm. This will be entitled Bombs, Bullets and Bayonets and will look at the weapons of trench warfare. If you want to take aim with a Short Magazine Lee-Enfield, heft a Mills bomb or examine the business-end of a sword-bayonet, this is your opportunity!

Mr R Stevens, Head of Politics & Higher Education Coordinator



A Day in Toy Making: Saturday 15 November 2014

Our popular Saturday Craft Days for the Lower School continue in November. On this occasion, the focus will be on toy making and pupils will develop their craft skills in the marking out, cutting and finishing of wood. The day is open to all pupils in Years 7 to 9 and participants will have the opportunity to build a scaled replica Model Cadillac. The essential materials used are pine and mahogany and the length of the finished vehicle will be 290mm. The charge of £42.00 for each pupil is inclusive of materials which, barring catastrophes, ought to afford a splendid model, finished and polished for pupils to take home. Early booking is advised.

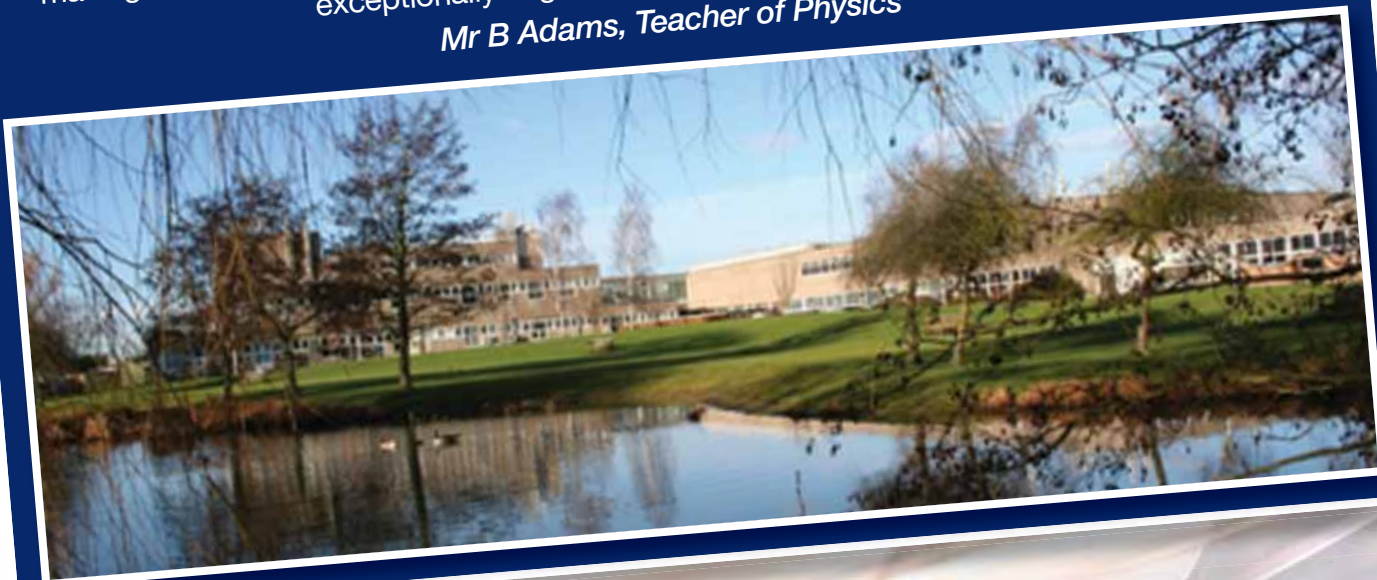
Mr N Senior, Head of Design & Technology



Physics at Work 2014: Tuesday 23 September 2014

On the 23 September 2014, fourteen pupils from Years 10 and 11 will have the opportunity to visit the Cavendish Laboratory, University of Cambridge where they will receive presentations and demonstrations of state of the art physics applications from industry and academia. They will have the opportunity to talk to some of the researchers and explore with them how they go about making new and useful technologies from basic scientific principles. We look forward to an exceptionally engaging and thought-provoking day.

Mr B Adams, Teacher of Physics



Enrichment Day Friday 26 September 2014



Year 7 Dover Castle Day

On Friday 26 September the whole of Year 7 will be visiting Dover Castle. This is an outstanding historic site, spanning 1000 years of British history, as well as showcasing the change nature of fortification through the ages. From the Roman "Pharos", through Norman ring-work and Henry II's great stone keep, to the bastions and covered ways of the gunpowder age and, finally, to the gun emplacements and command posts of World War II, Dover has a powerful story to tell. We are sure that our Year 7 pupils have a fascinating day in store.

Mr R Stevens

*Head of Politics & Higher Education
Coordinator*

Year 11 Trip to Walton-on-the- Naze



An innovation to the Enrichment Day programme, this day gives GCSE pupils an opportunity to practise data collection

and field study skills at Walton-on-the-Naze. All Year 11 pupils will spend the day completing three short fieldwork investigations, each with a different theme: Biology, Geology and Geography. All pupils will take part in all three activities, regardless of their option choices; the lessons learnt will be of value to all. Biology will focus on the differences in vegetations within a microclimate using quadrats, Geology will focus on rock composition, including the famous fossil content of the area and mass movements; Geography will focus on man's management of coastal processes and the implications for coastal settlements. This is an excellent opportunity for pupils to gain hands-on experience and put theory into practice.

Miss S Sparks

Head of Geography

Year 12 Geography Visit to Brentwood and Leyton



Year 12 Geographers will be using the September Enrichment Day to undertake the annual Urban Settlement trip where they will carry out data collection in inner city and suburban sites along a transect. We will be using Leyton, an area of East London which borders the 2012 Olympics site, and Brentwood as our fieldwork sites. Once back at School the empirical data will be used to prepare for the fieldwork unit of the AS examination. Students will spend the day studying demographic and environmental conditions in contrasting areas, focusing on how the structure of the population affects service provision.

Miss S Sparks

Head of Geography

Trip to the London Buddhist Centre:

**Saturday 18 October
2014**

On the 18 October 2014, Miss Cook and Mr Halsall will take a group of fifteen pupils from Year 9 to the London Buddhist Centre in Bethnal Green. This will be our third visit, and it is primarily aimed at pupils who have clearly demonstrated that they are among our most able in Religious Studies. However, other students may apply to join the trip if it is not filled.

The day is directly linked to the students' curriculum, and it will comprise a mini-Retreat, where pupils will build upon their Year 9 studies in the first half term, learning how Buddhist teaching is lived out in an urban and diverse community. The London Buddhist Centre exists to promote Buddhist philosophy and ethics, but there is no intention to persuade anyone to join them.

There will be a preparatory seminar prior to the visit, and some extension work arising from it.

Mr M Halsall

Head of Religious Studies

Trip to CERN, Geneva:

**Monday 27 and Tuesday
28 October 2014**

At CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, physicists and engineers are probing the fundamental structure of the universe using some of the world's largest and most complex scientific instruments. Physicists study the basic constituents of matter and conduct experiments in which particles are made to collide together at close to the speed of light. This process gives the physicists clues about how the particles interact, and provides insights into the fundamental laws of nature. Last year, the School ran a very successful and popular trip to the CERN facilities for Year 12 students. This year, we shall be returning during the October half-term. This trip presents a fantastic opportunity to see how cutting-edge physics research is carried out first-hand. The



trip includes a guided tour of key CERN facilities by researchers who actually work there. We will also have the opportunity to enjoy fine Swiss cuisine at the famous CERN canteen. A trip to Geneva would not be complete without a tour of the UN Headquarters and a chance to explore the city.

The trip is open to any Physics students in Year 12, however spaces are very limited. We have space for ten students only, although the possibility exists for repeat trips later in the year if demand is high. The trip will cost £350.00, which will cover transport, accommodation for two nights, food and all visits. If you would like to secure a place, cheques for the full amount must be submitted to Mr Dalby by Friday 19 September. The ten students will then be randomly selected and the cheques returned to the unsuccessful applicants. We look forward to another engaging visit.

Mr K Dalby
Acting Head of Physics

Visit to the Archaeology Department at University of Cambridge

Over three days in early June, eight members of Year 9 took part in a unique initiative organised by Cambridge University's prestigious Division of



Archaeology. The Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA) was founded to raise the aspirations, enthusiasm and attainment of pupils with regard to higher education. While HEFA is primarily aimed at developing learners' teamwork and independence, it also directly informs an ongoing research project at the University into rural communities and settlements.

For the first two days, we worked in small groups to undertake our own archaeological excavations in gardens, as guests of local residents within the village of Daws Heath. Fuelled by copious snacks, we battled through the rain on the first day and then the humid heat of the second, and were encouraged by experts (including a presenter from television's Time Team) to characterise buried artefacts and uncover the history beneath our feet. The third day was spent at the Division of Archaeology in Cambridge analysing the excavation results in learning sessions which provided us with an inspirational and positive experience of higher education. As just reward for our hard work, we were able to sit at top table for a free lunch in college.

While there was little monetary value to our finds, it was fascinating to hear how the pieces of pottery and glassware from the Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and Victorian periods tied in with what we know about the history of our corner of the County. The pursuit requires that we produce a full written report on our

findings, which will be formally assessed by members of the University in line with standards set by the OCR examination board. The School looks forward to continued involvement with the HEFA and interested students in the current Year 9 should keep their eyes open for notices after Christmas.

Dr D Martindill
Second in Science Department

Year 7 Activity Day at East Mersea:

Saturday 27 September 2014

As is customary, on Saturday 27 September 2014 Mr Cass will take Year 7 pupils to the Essex County Council Youth Camp at East Mersea for a day of teambuilding activities. Whilst the chief purpose of this trip is for all pupils to have an enjoyable and positive experience, it also represents an important opportunity for them to become better acquainted with fellow pupils in their Forms, Houses and Year Group. Parents should note that this Activity Day will expose pupils to a



variety of exciting and challenging tasks (including abseiling and climbing) and pupils will, therefore, need to dress comfortably and appropriately. A change of clothing is also advisable.

Mr A Cass
Head of Lower School

The new academic year will be a busy one for the English Department, with a huge variety of extracurricular opportunities open to pupils of all year groups. For information on our upcoming trips and visits, please see the notice board by E9 or the Latest News section of the School website.

NaNoWriMo: National Novel Writing Month



It will soon be the time of year when National Novel Writing Month is upon us. NaNoWriMo, which takes place this November, is an annual novel writing project with participants, both professional and amateur, from all over the world. The general gist? Set yourself a target; then see how much of a novel you can write in one month. That's it! Last year the English Department was very excited to promote this event for the first time, with supervised writing and typing sessions available during lunchtimes throughout November, thanks to the support of Miss Elphick. This year, NaNoWriMo has launched a Young Writers' Programme which we would urge all students to try out. Students of all year groups are encouraged to explore the new writing tools and young writers' community available online at <http://ywp.nanowrimo.org/>. As an exercise in creativity, imagination and dedication, NaNoWriMo is an opportunity not to be missed.

Intervention and Mentoring

Mr Phillips' popular Lower School Grammar Club will continue to run this year and is open to all pupils in Years 7 to 9. It is aimed particularly those who find that their writing levels for spelling, punctuation and grammar fall below those of their levels for content. Please see the English notice board by E9 for further details. English mentoring will also be available again this year. If any pupil would either like to receive English mentoring or

become an English mentor, they should see Mrs Koutas or Ms Mackay in the first instance.

Reading, Research and Enrichment

As in previous years, the Sixth Form English library will be open during selected lunchtimes for Sixth Form students to undertake independent research. Now benefitting from a range of new titles selected to support studies of both Literature and Language & Literature, it is anticipated that all students will make use of this excellent resource to enhance their Advanced Level studies. As independent research is a requirement of mark schemes for all English coursework units, students are encouraged to record details of their research throughout the year. The Independent Study Record proforma is available to download via Fronter.

Launching for the first time this year will be a Book Club for each year group in Years 7-10. Each club will be headed by a member of the English Department and initial meetings take place this term for students to vote for the title of the book they most want to read. Following the format of a traditional book club, they will then have a few weeks to complete their reading of the text before reconvening to share their thoughts in a lunchtime session. Please note that as the selection of titles is pupil-led, the School library is unable to stock multiple copies of each book. Pupils are instead advised to make use of their local library or purchase a copy of the book selected by their group. In instances where a student would like to participate and is unable to finance the purchase of their own copy, they should speak to the English teacher in charge of their group, as the School may be able to offer some support.

Finally, all year groups should see the School website for new recommended reading lists. All pupils are advised to read for enjoyment for thirty minutes a day to support skills in English, and across the curriculum. Any pupil who wishes to recommend a book title to be added to the departmental reading lists should pass on the relevant details to their English teacher.

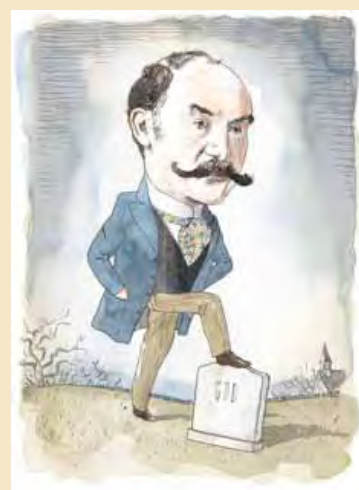
Mrs G Koutas, Head of English

Poetry in Performance Club- Thomas Hardy Production:

**Wednesday 10 December
2014**



In the latest Poetry in Performance (PIP) Club production, Mr Allan-Smith, with boys and girls from the School, will be exploring the life and works of the famous novelist and poet, Thomas Hardy. Scenes from his novels have been adapted for the evening and they will be performed by PIP club members in a series of short episodes with appropriate music and



contemporary costume. The three featured novels, *The Mayor of Casterbridge*, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* and *Jude the Obscure*, will seek to capture some of Hardy's own deeply conflicted views about social class, women and religion in late Victorian and Edwardian

England as well as take the audience back in time to the remote landscapes of Wessex and the biographical scenes of his Dorset childhood. Recitations from his poems written in the last 15 years of his life, after his first wife Emma died in 1912, will be given by students from across the School. They will be accompanied by various solo instruments and sounds echoing the controversial themes and tensions in his verse.

*Mr J Allan-Smith
Second in English*

Sixth Form Essay Competition: Avalanche, Flood or Wildfire



Students in Years 12 and 13 are once again invited to take part in the School's Sixth Form Essay Competition. This is a magnificent opportunity for all students to write a 2000 word essay on a title set by the adjudicator, Mr Allan-Smith, who will announce the prize winners in January 2015 in Main School assembly. Last year's winners, John Tothill, Syon Lee and James Snell, received cheques for £80, £40 and £20 respectively for three superb essays on the title Should We Care?, which will all be published in the forthcoming issue of Tabula for you to enjoy.

This year, in a distinct change of course, the adjudicator has decided to put a more creative spin on the task by offering three titles, all connected with natural disasters. Entrants will be required to develop a powerful and compelling narrative around any one of the following topics: Avalanche, Flood or Wildfire. Letters will go out shortly to all members of the Sixth giving further details of the competition. All are, as usual, encouraged to take part.

*Mr J Allan-Smith
Second in English*

Essex Poet of the Year Competition 2014

Poetry writing is rapidly becoming a hallmark of the School's wonderful mix of creative skills. Our fifth batch of entries for the Essex Poet of the Year Competition was despatched in July. The memorable poems produced over the years for this competition remain a lasting record of the talent and enthusiasm of so many of our students. Last year's entries brought a myriad of accolades to the school,



with eight students being awarded high placings or commendations. The best poems will be mounted and displayed near the Main School Office for you to read and they will also be published in our school Journal, Tabula, later in the year. Prizes will also be awarded to the winning entrants in a Main School Assembly in October. This is a great opportunity for budding poets from Year 7 to 10 to prove their versifying skills against tough competition from other Essex schools. Results will be announced in mid to late September.

*Mr J Allan-Smith
Second in English*

The Return of Tabula

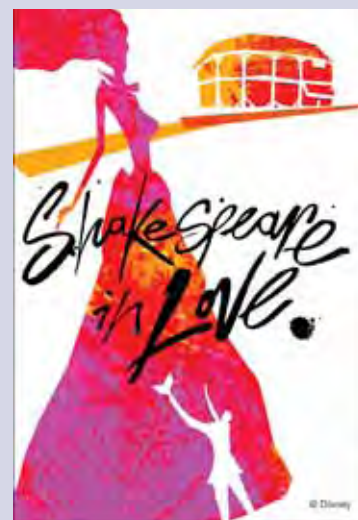
The School journal, Tabula, is back! We plan to bring out the next copy of this journal at the start of the Spring Term, and would be very pleased if students would consider writing stimulating and scholarly articles. Articles or essays will be substantial pieces (1000-2500 words) whilst reviews of books, systems or technology should be shorter (300-500 words). Possible areas of interest for articles include Foreign Languages; Current affairs; Business; Art; Creative writing; Linguistics; Technology/Scientific Innovation/Mathematics; Travel; Film; Books. There are a number of possible formats that could be employed including travelogues, interviews, review, academic essays, pieces of creative writing,

poetry, graphic narrative, photo-essay. This list is not exhaustive. Electronic copy should be sent to either 08SnellJ@whsb.essex.sch.uk, 08KaminskiR@whsb.essex.sch.uk or mackayh@whsb.essex.sch.uk by Friday 10 October at the latest. We look forward to receiving your entries.

*Mr J Allan-Smith
Second in English*

Visit to the Noel Coward Theatre Shakespeare in Love: Wednesday 24 September 2014

On Wednesday 24 September 2014, as part of our drive in the English Department to keep our students aware of some of the greatest productions going on in the West End, we will



be taking a 49-seater coach to the Noel Coward Theatre to see Lee Hall's (The Pitman Painters, Billy Elliot) stage adaptation of Shakespeare in Love. It will carry us through time back to Elizabethan England and into the tormented mind of the Bard himself. Lonely, debt-ridden and thwarted by writer's block, we see Will Shakespeare at the beginning of his career in the stews and squalor of the London streets. Enter Viola de Lesseps, a voluptuous young noblewoman, for whom Will needs a lot of Will-power to resist! Their illicit love becomes a scandal and even Queen Elizabeth is drawn in. Out of this turbulent, exciting affair comes the greatest of all love stories, Romeo and Juliet. The trip has already been advertised to the School and we regret that no further tickets are available.

*Mr J Allan-Smith
Second in English*

Slices of Pi

The Mathematics Department are running a series of exciting competitions and trips, as well as offering the usual support to pupils of all ages and attainment. To see the most up-to-date information on the provision we offer, please see the notice boards in the Maths block foyer or visit the Latest News section of the School website.

Results of the Junior Mathematics Challenge

In May, all pupils in Year 8 took part in the Junior Mathematics Challenge (JMC). They managed to achieve 112 certificates in total, beating last year's record of 105, which was impressive indeed. Last year there were more gold certificates, but overall this year's cohort performed better and many pupils were delighted to receive their certificates at the end of the summer term. Congratulations, in particular, go to James Ashkettle who was invited to take part in the Junior Mathematics Olympiad on the back of his exceptional performance in the JMC.

Think Maths

On Wednesday 14 April 2014, Katie Steckles, a representative from Think Maths, visited the School to speak to Sixth Form students about the fourth dimension. This talk introduced our Sixth Form mathematicians to the idea of a 4th dimension by considering the third dimension: if you picture the shadow a cube makes when it is moved around and opened up you can appreciate what is called a 2-dimensional shadow of a 3-dimensional object and gain some information about the properties of the shape; likewise, we can see the 3-dimensional shadow of a 4-dimensional object and gain some knowledge about its properties.

Katie used a lot of analogies and metaphors to make this topic accessible to the Sixth Form students. She began by introducing the study of topology via a 1-dimensional object, the Möbius strip, then moved on to a 2-dimensional object, the square, which increased to a 3-dimensional object, the cube, and then on to the 4-dimensional object, the hypercube.

This was a thought-provoking and accessible lecture which the students thoroughly enjoyed, and we hope to offer a similar talk from a representative of Think Maths again this academic year.

Events in the Autumn Term

Every year our Advanced Level students sit the Senior Mathematics Challenge (SMC) in order to show their skill and aptitude at solving problems that they would not usually encounter in their studies. This year the Senior Mathematics Challenge falls on 6 November 2014. As usual, all of the Year 13 Mathematicians and the Year 12 Further Mathematicians will be entered, competing nationally to showcase their ability. We hope that we can improve on our impressive score from last year of 12 gold, 33 silver and 48 bronze certificates. Astonishingly, 8 out of the 12 gold certificate winners last year were also invited to compete in a follow-on round; we hope we shall see more outstanding performances again this year.

The Senior Team Mathematics Challenge will once again be taking place this year, where a group of our four best Sixth Form students team up to compete against other Schools in the region. Students are challenged in a way that the current curriculum does not; their problem solving and time management skills are tested by tasks such as relays. Last year we managed a respectable 5th place; this year we are hoping to get into the top 3. We will be taking a team of two AS students and two A2 students, and will be inviting students shortly to take part in competitive trials to be selected to represent WHSB.

For the younger years, we also have two new clubs running this year. The Lower School Mathematics Club will be running on a weekly basis for pupils in Years 8 and 9. It is open to all pupils who are interested in problem solving, across a range of different maths topics. For further information please speak to Miss Kittle who will be running the club, or see the display boards in the foyer of the Mathematics block. Likewise, there will be a Middle School club and students in Years 10 and 11 are invited to attend. The clubs will be meeting once a week at lunch and will be tackling some interesting questions while building on a variety of problem solving skills. For pupils who are considering taking Advanced Level Maths or Further Maths this will be particularly appealing. For further information please speak to Miss Dole who will be running the club, or see the display boards in the foyer of the Mathematics block.

*Mrs A Marsh
Head of Mathematics*

Current Affairs Club

With a new year comes the latest instalment of Current Affairs Club, with a new range of exciting topics for coverage. Pupils in Years 8-10 have the opportunity to grapple with topics they might not otherwise study through this engaging forum. Topics cover many areas such as politics, the weather, natural disasters, development and conflict. The club runs every other Thursday lunchtime in E4 and new members are always welcome. Please see Miss Dolan or Mr. Shirlin for more details.

Miss F Dolan
Teacher of Geography

Debating Society

The School's competitive debating calendar starts as ever with the prestigious English-Speaking Union Schools Mace Competition. As in previous years the School has entered a team of two Sixth Form debaters for this challenging competition, in which we have been Eastern Region Runners-up a number of times across recent years. The Cambridge Union Competition is also due to start this term and we will be fielding the maximum entry of teams from Year 11 to Year 13 as well as preparing teams for the Oxford Union Competition after Christmas. We shall continue to offer a programme of Debating Workshops for some of our younger and most able students.

Mr R Stevens
Head of Politics & Higher Education Coordinator

War Games Club

The regular Friday after-School meetings will continue this year, running from 3:35pm until 4:55pm in M2 and M3. In addition, the Saturday Big Game Day continues as a regular feature of the Club's calendar with one held every half-term, although this year we intend to try holding the day at a professionally-run Wargames Centre in Hockley. We will also hold our annual Painting competition at the end of this Term.

Mr R Stevens
Head of Politics & Higher Education Coordinator

English Clubs and Societies

The Poetry in Performance (PIP) club will continue to meet during Thursday lunch times in E10 and we look forward to welcoming new members this year. New Year 7 pupils are particularly encouraged to attend.

Also on Thursday lunch times the new, student-run Creative Writing Club, masterminded by Liam Smith (11E), will meet in E20. The club is open to all pupils in Years 7-11 to come along and test out their writing skills, to share ideas for their work and to benefit from a written or visual stimulus for anyone suffering from the dreaded writer's block. Budding authors and poets are also encouraged to bring in longer pieces of work in order to benefit from peer feedback. There will be monthly writing competitions on a specified topic or genre, with winning entries receiving a house point or senior commendation.

Mrs G Koutas, Head of English

Politics Society

The annual trip to the Palace of Westminster by the Politics Department will take place on Tuesday 16 September 2014. This visit will provide a most valuable opportunity for students of AS Level Politics to look at Westminster from the inside, to see the House of Commons and House of Lords, to gain some sense of the size and grandeur of the Palace, to visit rooms used by General, Public Bill and Select Committees, to speak to Members of Parliament and others working in the Palace and pick up some sense of the nature and style of our parliamentary life.

Mr R Stevens
Head of Politics & Higher Education Coordinator

Medical Society

The student-led Medical Society will be seeking out medical practitioners and constructing a programme of talks and discussions, following on from our Medical Mini-Conference in July. We will be running a set of practice MMIs on Wednesday 10 September using Old Westcliffians currently studying Medicine at University. This will be followed immediately on Thursday 11 September with more formal panel interviews conducted by a range of hospital consultants, surgeons and GPs to whom we are indebted for their willingness to help our students meet the truly daunting challenge of securing a place at Medical School.

Mr R Stevens
Head of Politics & Higher Education Coordinator

World War I Exhibition: A Review

We commemorated the Centenary of the Great War on Friday 4 July by inviting Mr Andrew Robertshaw to present a series of stands, manned by costumed re-enactors, to demonstrate some of the experiences of serving men and women. There was a recruiting tent, manned by a Company Sergeant Major who encouraged, exhorted and where necessary cajoled our pupils to "do their bit" whether for reasons of patriotism, adventure, peer pressure or the attractions of "three square a day" and a smart uniform. Similarly, the Army Service Corps and Royal Army Medical Corps were represented through a field kitchen – complete with authentic Soyer Stoves used by the British army from Balaclava to Basra – and a field hospital. The weapons and equipment of war were not neglected either; on display were a Vickers Mk1 machine-gun, Lee Enfield rifles, Mills bombs, wire-cutters, a working WW1 motorcycle and – perhaps in pride of place – a replica 4/5ths size Mark IV Male tank.

Across the day the exhibition was visited by hundreds of our students, a cohort from Westcliff High School for Girls, as well as all those who will be joining Year 7 this Term. The latter also benefited from the CCF putting on a set of "Command Task" activities. A thoroughly enjoyable day, and historically hugely informative too thanks to the professionalism and excellence of Mr Robertshaw's team.

Mr R Stevens
Head of Politics & Higher Education Coordinator



The London Symphony Orchestra at Barbican Hall, London:

Thursday 16 October 2014



Westcliff High School for Boys is delighted to offer students, staff, parents and friends of the School, the opportunity to see the world class London Symphony Orchestra perform Bartók's Violin Concerto No 1 and Act 2 from Tchaikovsky's famous ballet, The Nutcracker. The orchestra will be performing at the Barbican Hall, located in Europe's largest performing arts centre. Sir Antonio Pappano will be conducting, with the amazing young Dutch violinist Janine Jansen providing an emotional and virtuosic centrepiece performance.

Bartók's Violin Concerto No 1 was written in 1908, and was dedicated to the violinist Stefi Geyer, with whom Bartók was deeply in love. It may have been because of her rejection of both him and the concerto that the work was not published until 1959, 14 years after the composer's death.

Act 2 of Tchaikovsky's The Nutcracker is astonishing, in that listening to it is almost as though one was hearing a 'greatest hits' selection of the Romantic period.

The event is open to all, and is recommended to all Music GCSE and A Level students. The School is offering tickets (including travel) priced at £23 for both students and adults. Booking for this event will close on the 12 September.

Mr T Derrick, Director of Music

Westcliff Sinfonia Autumn Concert:

Thursday 20 November 2014

This term the Westcliff Sinfonia will be presenting another challenging programme of diverse music from across the classical repertoire. After performing Johann Strauss' Blue Danube so successfully in the spring, the ensemble will look to another work by the master of waltzes and polkas: Emperor Waltz was a diplomatic tight-rope walk for Strauss, who had to write a piece to satisfy the vanity of both Kaiser Wilhelm II of Germany and Franz Josef of Austria. The piece was successful, being described as a 'toast of friendship' extended by Austria to Germany.

Next on the programme will be Vivaldi's

elegant Oboe Concerto in A minor, performed by soloist George Tothill and conducted by Deputy Head Boy, John Tothill. This is an excellent opportunity to see two talented brothers lead our vibrant orchestra, and is not to be missed.

The evening will end with Sibelius' Karelia Suite: a set of pieces that are not intended to dazzle audiences with virtuosic technique, but rather to capture the sense of naivety found in the folk music of Finland's Karelia province. This was Sibelius' favourite province in his native country, and as such there is an affectionate quality to the music here. Unfortunately for the composer, the first performance was marred by an unruly and noisy audience, meaning that he "couldn't hear a single note." I am sure that the Westcliff audience will be more appreciative of this wonderful masterpiece.

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

Mr T Derrick, Director of Music

Autumn Chamber Recital:

Thursday 9 October 2014

The School is delighted to continue its termly Chamber Concerts this year. These splendid evenings feature short solos and ensemble performances from the best of both our younger and our more experienced musicians. The concerts always include a diverse range of instruments and music for the audience to enjoy. A number of those performing will be studying Music for the Public Examinations and the concert will provide an excellent opportunity to gain further experience of performing before a live audience. Please join us for what promises to be a highly enjoyable evening of music. Tickets are priced at £3 for adults and without charge for pupils.

School Choir at St Mary and St Michael Church Carol Service:

Friday 5 December 2014

The Music Department are proud to inform readers that the Church of St Mary and St Michael in the heart of London's East-End have invited our Choir to sing at their annual candlelit Carol Service. This large Gothic-Revival Church, affectionately known as the Cathedral of the East-End was

designed by architect, William Wardell and was built in 1856. One of Wardell's notable designs, along with St Patrick's Cathedral and St Mary's Cathedral in Australia, the Choir of Westcliff High School for Boys will stand alongside the congregation of this Parish and sing some of the most-loved Christmas Carols by candlelight.

This free event will take place on Friday 5 December 2014 and will commence at 7.00pm. Parents are encouraged to attend to support our pupils. This will be an event not to be missed.

Mr A Camilo, Assistant Director of Music

Christmas with the WHSB Big Band:

Friday 12 December 2014

Join the WHSB Music Department for a night full of jolly jazz and Christmas crackers, sure to get you into the festive spirit. John Chapman and Zac Barrett will lead the Big Band and Junior Jazz Band respectively in a variety of Jazz, Swing and Blues favourites, in addition to some traditional Christmas melodies. As in previous years, guests are invited to bring their own food and drinks to enjoy while sitting with their friends at tables in the Main Hall. This hotly anticipated event has only approximately 360 tickets available due to the hall's seating capacity, so in order to accommodate as many as possible, each family is limited to a maximum of six tickets. Reserve your tickets at a price of £8 for adults and £5 for pupils.

Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols:

Monday 15 December 2014

We warmly invite you to join us for our traditional service of Lessons and Carols which will feature some of the season's well-known Carols and nine readings telling the Christmas story. The readers will be drawn from across the School. It will be an opportunity for pupils, parents and staff to join as a community and sing together in what promises to be a splendid evening. Following the Service, those in attendance are invited to partake in mince pies and coffee in the Humanities Forum. Parents are invited to join us and seating should be reserved in advance using the electronic Diary reply system or the enclosed reply slip.

Mr A Camilo, Assistant Director of Music

WHSB PARENTS' ASSOCIATION EVENTS

Meet and Greet Evening for New Year 7 Parents:

Monday 8 September 2014

On Monday 8 September 2014, the Parents' Association warmly invite parents to a Meet and Greet evening for new Year 7 parents. The evening provides the opportunity for parents to meet others, especially those in their son's Form. Following the informality of the first part of the evening, the Parents' Association Annual General Meeting will be held. Parents will be able to hear a summary of our fundraising efforts over the previous year, a presentation of our accounts and elect in Committee post-holders for the present academic year. This informal evening will run from 6.30pm until 8.00pm and there is no charge to attend. We look forward to meeting you.

Annual Winter Ball 2014:

Saturday 29 November 2014

Saturday 29 November heralds the Parents' Association Annual Winter Ball, which is undoubtedly the highlight of our fundraising calendar. A sparkling reception is held in the Humanities Forum, where guests enjoy a welcome drink whilst listening to a pianist. The School Hall is transformed into a beautiful venue, where a professionally catered four-course waitress service dinner is served followed by dancing to a live band with carriages at midnight. A professional photographer will also be on hand to capture the moment. Tickets are priced at £40 per head and seating is in tables of eight to ten; at time of booking, parents are asked to clearly indicate if they wish to be seated with friends and if they require the vegetarian option. We look forward to welcoming you to this black tie occasion – an event not to be missed!

Fundraising Christmas Puddings

Following their success last year, we are again delighted to be able to offer the award winning Christmas puddings from the Ultimate Plum Pudding Company for 2014. This fully accredited Cumbrian company has been making puddings for



almost 25 years for some prestigious retailers, some very fine hotels, and for many fundraisers. Their puddings are absolutely top of the range products which you will not find in the supermarkets. They come nicely wrapped in shiny red foil with our own WHSB label in traditional, non-alcoholic and gluten free varieties. They can be ordered through the Parents' Association and your order will be given to your son or daughter before the end of term. We highly recommend that you give yourself a treat or use them as Christmas gifts and support the School in the process. Further information detailing how they can be ordered will follow and all proceeds go to the WHSB Parents' Association funds. Deliciously good sense!

Shop Online and Raise Funds for the School



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

online anyway then why not raise valuable extra funds for us by using this fantastic scheme. All you need to do is visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk and when you register, select Westcliff High School for Boys as the organisation you wish to support. Our thanks in anticipation!

The 100 Club

The 100 Club was established in December 1996 and since its launch has raised thousands of pounds, enabling the Parents' Association to provide many beneficial items for the School and its pupils. In the last three years, the Parents' Association has donated an incredible £17,000 to the School across several departments plus a further £4,000 on the new Cricket Score Box, presented in honour of Mr Baker's retirement in 2012. Projects funded outside of departmental budgets include: a piano and musical instruments for the Music Department, digital image transfer equipment for the Technology Department, a contemporary library resource for the Sixth Form, new football and basketball kits for the PE Department and sound and light equipment that is used for the multitude of events that take place in School throughout the year. With the passing of each school year, the Parents' Association loses members of the '100 Club' as their sons and daughters leave WHSB. Therefore it is vital for new members to get involved. For a monthly standing order contribution of £5 members, who must be associated with the School, are entered into a monthly draw to win a cash sum, currently in the region of £150. If you would like to join the '100 Club', please contact our Parents' Association Treasurer at pa@whsb.essex.sch.uk or via the School Office. Joining forms and instructions can also be downloaded from the School website within the Secure Parents' Area under the Parents' Association sub-section followed by the Parents' Association '100 Club'. Thank you for your support. Finally, we always welcome new members to our Committee and in particular those parents who are new to the School this September. You can find out more about the WHSB Parents' Association within the Secure Parents' Area of the School website under the Parents' Association sub-section. Alternatively you can contact us via the School Office.

Jemima Clarke
Chair of Parents' Association

The House System: A Review

Since the beginning of the Spring Term, many new events have been introduced in order to broaden the influence of the House System. These events, such as House Golf, House Chess, and House Music, have been well supported and added to the calendar of annual House events.

Looking back across the last academic year we have completed House competitions in Football, Rowing, Art, Chess, Rugby, Netball, Geography, Modern Foreign Languages, Table Tennis, General Studies, Cricket, Spelling, Public Speaking, Badminton and Cookery. We extend our thanks to the Year 13 students who have led the Houses over the past year, as they depart for university, and congratulate our new appointments. This academic year, James Lee will lead Harrier House (supported by vice captains Alex Law and Kwame Kwaasi) whilst Osprey House will be captained by Alex Rumbold (assisted by Callum Bartlett and Liam Igoe). Merlin House Captain will be Jack Walker with vice captains Lorna Maclean and Ade Thompson, whilst Kestrel House will turn to Alex Morris who will be assisted by Dylan Galligan and Matthew Callcut.

The House System remains an integral part of life here at WHSB. We are always looking for ways to improve the system and exploring new avenues in order to encourage all pupils to participate in as many of the House events as possible. Last year's competition was very close indeed, hinging on the results from both Sports Day and the House Drama competition. In the latter competition, Osprey House emerged victorious after a fantastic performance of an abridged version of Shakespeare's *Twelve Night*. After the inclusion of House Points and Senior Commendations, Osprey House also secured the Academic Cup. Overall, the Phoenix Cup was awarded to Osprey House, although the competition was very closely fought all year. We thank everyone involved and look forward to new events and exciting competitions this academic year.

Mr D Shoesmith

Coordinator of House Activities, Participation and Provision

House Map Championships

A notable emphasis has been placed in Government literature regarding the importance of place knowledge. The Geography Department is responding to this by laying down the gauntlet to the pupils in the form of a year-long House competition. Pupils are encouraged to go the website geography-map-games.com and attempt a range of the quizzes. Pupils who can beat the current Key Stage high score in their House will have their name displayed on the championship board.

*Miss S Sparks,
Head of Geography*

House Spelling Bee

Now in its third year at WHSB, the increasingly popular House Spelling Bee will run again this year and will be open to all in Years 7-11. This year, the English Department is also excited to announce the return of House Writing competitions for Years 7-10. Pupils who are interested in taking part should forward their name to their year's House representative at the earliest opportunity and should check their House notice board regularly for further details.

*Mrs G Koutas
Head of English*

SCHOOL SPORT Review of the Cricket Season 2014

As we look back to the Summer Term, we can reflect on a very successful cricket season for our pupils. A notable performance came from Year 7, with the team reaching the Essex Cup final and we are optimistic for this team, which comfortably beat St. Martins School in the semi-final of the competition. Unfortunately, our Year 8 team lost to the Bancroft's team in the quarter-final, however Bancroft presented strong competition. Our Year 8 team now look forward to victory in the local competitions. As our Year 9 team look forward to the Essex Plate competition, they stand every chance of defending their title from last year. The Year 10 team must also be congratulated for winning the Essex Plate competition last September (the final was delayed due to weather) and, whilst they were not able to match their performance this season, we recognise that WHSB has some talented cricketers at present and we anticipate further success in the seasons ahead.

Team	Played	Won	Lost
Year 7	9	8	1
Year 8	6	4	2
Year 9	7	4	3
Year 10	4	3	1
Total	26	19	7

*Mr A Pickering
Year 9 Progress Leader*

WHSB First XI v Champion School: A Victory for WHSB

WHSB played Champion School, Upminster in the Essex Play Off final following both teams' success in their respective Division 2 Essex titles. In what proved to be a difficult start, both teams struggled with their performance. As the first half of the match progressed WHSB began to create opportunities for counter attack, however Champion School were the first to deliver an impressive goal just prior

THE HOUSE SYSTEM SCHOOL SP



to the half-time interval. The second half of the game followed a similar pattern, but midway through the this half, a superb free kick taken by Daniel Gammaldi brought WHSB level with its opponent. WHSB's team continued to apply pressure, with some excellent performances from Damola Akinyemi and Callum Foakes, who brought our team close to winning the game. The match ended with a 1-1 draw and was followed by extra time. Throughout extra time WHSB were the dominant team and despite the excellent performance by the Man of the Match, William Simpson, he was denied a goal by the Champion School goalkeeper. The WHSB defence remained firm with strong performances by Elmo Osman and Robert Young, our outstanding defenders. The game went to penalties, and both teams scored their first penalty, and both missed the goal with their second attempts. With the scores tied at 2-2 following three kicks by each team, WHSB scored their fourth penalty bringing their score to 3-2 ahead. Further excitement ensued when Kieran Dillane, our superb keeper, crucially saved Champion School's last penalty. Finally, Liam Igoe took an excellent penalty kick to secure a 4-2 victory for WHSB on penalties, making them the Essex Play Off Champions. This was an exceptional result and a fitting end to seven years of School football for many of our Year 13 leavers. We look forward to another successful season next year with a number of excellent Year 12 players promising a strong team.

Mr D Phillips
Head of Physical Education

Essex Cup Final WHSB First XV v Robert Clack School

On Wednesday 30 April, Westcliff High School for Boys First XV Rugby Team reached the Essex Cup final. It had been an unpredictable season for the team, and across the year they faced problems with injuries which left two players having to miss the entire season. The students that formed our squad performed exceptionally well, overcoming the significant obstacles to reach the final. During the season there were some excellent performances against some strong opposition. In the semi-final WHSB defeated SHSB 41-0 and progressed to the final where they faced Robert Clack School.

The final was a close game with the score being 0-0 at half time. Robert Clack School then began to dominate the match and they scored the first points of the game early on in the second half. WHSB responded immediately with a try, however our opponents remained the dominant team.

Although the score was 15-5 to Robert Clack School with only 10 minutes remaining, WHSB scored to close the gap, demonstrating some excellent teamwork. Robert Clack School scored again just before the final whistle, winning



the game with a score of 22-10. We congratulate our team on their excellent achievements during the year and we look forward to this season with confidence.

Mr D Shoesmith
Second in Physical Education

Sixth Form Girls' Netball at WHSB

The Sixth Form Girls' Netball Club has gone from strength to strength since its inception in 2012 and this is set to continue in this academic year. As an ever increasing number of girls join the Sixth Form WHSB, Miss Braiden and Miss Dolan look forward to welcoming many new students and to improving performances in the future.

Miss F Dolan
Teacher of Geography

WHSB Student captains Under 18 Essex Rugby team

We are delighted to report that on the 13 April 2014, Blaine Webber (Year 13) was given the honour of captaining Essex against Hampshire at Thurrock RFC. The School was strongly represented in the game, with three other members of our First XV, namely Callum Bartlett, Kwame Kwaasi and Ade Ogunlaja, making their debuts for the side. Essex faced strong opposition from Hampshire, who had won against Sussex in the previous week. This was evident in the first half as the Essex side went into the break at half-time trailing by 18-0. However, Essex rallied in the second half and fought back to achieve a lead of 19-18. Unfortunately, the Essex side was unable to maintain this momentum and the Hampshire side emerged as the victors with a score of 26 points to 19. Despite the result, we congratulate our students on their excellent achievements and look forward to the season ahead.

Mr D Shoesmith
Master i/c Rugby

CALENDAR FOR THE AUTUMN TERM 2014

AUTUMN TERM 2014

Wed 3 September
Thur 4 September
Mon 8 September

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY AUTUMN TERM BEGINS

Year 7 Meet & Greet Evening at
6.30pm followed by Parents'
Association AGM

Fri 12 September

OWA Dinner 6.15pm for 7.00pm
Duke of Edinburgh Bronze
Assessment Weekend at
Skreens Park

Mon 15 September

German Exchange Briefing
Meeting, Westcliff Theatre, 7.30pm

Tue 16 September

Year 12 Politics Students visit
Palace of Westminster

Thur 18 September

Helping Parents Help Their Sons,
4.00pm-6.00pm (Year 7)

Fri 19 September

German Exchange Students arrive
11+ Entrance Examination

Sat 20 September

Tue 23 September

Year 10 Education Evening 7.30pm
Physics at Work Exhibition

Wed 24 September

Theatre Visit to Shakespeare in
Love, depart 5.00pm

Thur 25 September

Helping Parents Help Their Sons,
4.00pm-6.00pm (Year 9)
CCF Field Day
Professor Crawford Lecture on
Your Place in the Cosmos,
7.00pm-9.00pm

Fri 26 September

Sat 27 September

Tue 30 September

ENRICHMENT DAY

Year 7 visit to East Mersea
Year 12 Education Evening –
Success at AS level, 7.30pm
Year 12 Geology Field Day in
Folkestone

Tue 7 October

Thu 9 October

Thur 16 October

Autumn Chamber Recital 7.30pm
Visit to Barbican Centre to see
LSO

Fri 17 October

Sat 18 October

Issue of Reports for Year 11
Year 9 G&T Pupils visit the
London Buddhist Centre

Wed 22 October

Open Day for Year 6 Passes only,
2.30pm-4.00pm
Open Evening for Year 6 Passes
only, 7.00pm-8.30pm

AUTUMN TERM 2014

Fri 24 October

Issue of Reports for Years 7, 12
and 13

27-31 October

HALF TERM

Year 12 Physics visit to Cern,
Geneva

Mon 3 November

Thur 6 November

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
Annual Speech Day 7.45pm
Senior Mathematics Challenge

Mon 10 November

Tue 11 November

Wed 12 November

Year 13 Parents' Evening,
4.00pm-6.00pm
Annual Service of Remembrance,
8.45am

Sat 15 November

Mon 17 November

Thur 20 November

Fri 21 November

Mon 24 November

Sat 29 November

Mon 1 December

Fri 5 December

Mon 8 December

Wed 10 December

Thur 11 December

Friday 12 December

Mon 15 December

Wed 17 December

Thur 18 December

Fri 19 December

Sixth Form Open Evening for
External Candidates, 7.30pm
A Day in Toy Making
OWA Meeting, 7.00pm
Autumn Sinfonia Concert, 7.30pm
Issue of Reports for Years 8-10
Year 8 English Civil War Day

Year 12 Parents' Evening
Parents' Association Winter Ball
7.00pm-12.30am

Year 11 Trial Examinations
(1-5 December)

Choir visit to St Mary & Michael
RC Church, London

Year 7 Parents' Evening,
4.00pm-6.00pm

PIP Thomas Hardy Production
Andrew Robertshaw lecture
Christmas with the Big Band,
7.30pm

Annual Festival of Lessons
and Carols

CHRISTMAS LUNCH
Year 11 Geologists visit the Earth
Galleries, London

Issue of Reports for Years 12
and 13

AUTUMN TERM ENDS 3.00pm