



THE Westcliff Diary

September 2015

T: 01702 475443

F: 01702 470495

E: office@whsb.essex.sch.uk

W: www.whsb.essex.sch.uk

No.76

New Sixth Form Building

It is some time since we received the good news from the EFA that our capital bid for £2.4 million to improve the Science Building and build a new Sixth Form Building had been accepted. Once we had the funding in place, the School moved quickly to draw up plans with our architect, Mr Tim Coel of Barton Wilmore, and apply for planning permission. The creative and exciting plans were accepted thanks to efficient preparatory work by Barton Wilmore's planning office and following a tendering process the School appointed a main contractor.

We are now approaching the end of this £4 million development. The external works to the Science Building are nearing completion and the contractor is applying the final finish to the Sixth Form Building. There are some final works to be completed around the site however we anticipate that we shall take possession of the Sixth Form building shortly.

The building project has fallen behind our original schedule but it shall be worth the wait. The Sixth Form will now enjoy outstanding facilities which include two state-of-the-art Science laboratories, four new Sixth Form classrooms, an ICT Suite and Study Room and a large open plan café and social space with a multi-purpose, double height Forum area. In addition, the Sixth Form Pastoral Team led by Dr Machacek, Director of Sixth Form Studies, will relocate to new office accommodation within the new Sixth Form Building.

The Sixth Form students and the Sixth Form Pastoral Team have been involved in the design and furnishing of the new building. Working together, we have sought to create a space which is akin to a modern university building and in order to provide our students with an experience which should ease their transition to the Higher Education environment.

The building will be managed by a Sixth Form Committee and the Sixth Form Pastoral Team and will be open to students from 7.30 am to 5.00 pm each day in the first instance. It is anticipated that the café will be able to offer hot and cold drinks as well as sandwiches, paninis and other snacks.

The new ICT Suite and Sixth Form Study Space will provide students with greatly enlarged and improved study facilities. Success at A Level requires students to undertake a significant quantity of independent study and this area will allow them to do so in a studios and comfortable environment. This space sits close to the School Library which also provides excellent independent study facilities for Sixth Form students. The School would like to thank the Parents' Association for the generous donation of £10,000 to provide high quality tables for the ICT Suite and Sixth Form Study.

The Sixth Form building will be brought into use in October and it is anticipated the official opening will take place later in the Autumn Term. The new accommodation has freed up space elsewhere in the School and this will be converted to classrooms and other accommodation in due course. The School would like to thank all those involved in the Capital Development Project, particularly Mr Jon Gershinson, Vice-Chairman of Governors, Mr Mike Westwick, Project Manager, and Mr David Partridge, Director of Resources and Support Services.

Headmaster

PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS 2015



This year WHSB has enjoyed superb A Level results. 17% of our entries were graded A* and 47% of all entries were graded A*/A. Thirty students achieved two or more A* grades and fifty-six students achieved at least one A* grade. The majority of students have achieved or exceeded their University offers, including seven students who have secured places at Cambridge University. The School also achieved a strong set of AS results including twenty students who achieved straight A grades in their four subjects. We also had our best ever GCSE results with 43% of entries graded A* and 75% of entries graded A*/A.

One-hundred and four pupils achieved eight or more A*-A grades and thirty-nine pupils achieved 12A*-A grades. Twenty-seven pupils achieved ten or more A* grades. We congratulate all our students and give them our best wishes for the future.

Annual Speech Day



The School's Annual Speech

Day will take place on Thursday 5 November in the School Hall. We are delighted to welcome Brigadier (Rtd) Rod Croucher CBE as our Guest of Honour.

Rod Croucher was commissioned into the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) in 1969, having taken his O-levels at Westcliff High School for Boys (1960 – 1965) and A-levels at Welbeck College (1965 – 1967). After reading Engineering at Cambridge University, he spent the early part of his career in Field Army appointments across the globe. He commanded the REME Workshop in Berlin and 7 Armoured Workshop in Germany from which he deployed to the Gulf War and was Mentioned in Despatches. This was followed by staff appointments in the UK including Director of Studies at the Royal Military College of Science/Cranfield University. His final Army appointment was as Director Electrical and Mechanical Engineering (Army), Head of REME (about 10,000 strong). He was awarded the CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2002. Brigadier Croucher left the Army in 2002 and joined The Nichols Group, a programme and project management consultancy where he successfully led major programmes. In 2011, he made another career change and ran the On Course Foundation, a Services' charity founded in 2010, which provides long-term benefits for wounded, injured and sick Servicemen, women and veterans. He retired in 2014 to pursue his passion for cricket and he is currently Chairman of the Middlesex Coaches Association. 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 Years 11 to 13. It is anticipated that we shall have over 900 pupils, staff and guests in attendance.

FROM THE DESK OF THE HEADMASTER

Welcome back from the Headmaster

I am delighted to welcome back all pupils and staff to what promises to be an exciting and busy academic year at WHSB. We shall have new facilities and the launch of new A Level and GCSE specifications in a number of subjects. The quantity and quality of extra-curricular and enrichment activities contained within this edition of the Diary continue to provide our pupils with an astonishing range of opportunities. I would like to record my thanks to the staff and senior students who generously give their time and talent to oversee and organize our enrichment activities. I hope that many parents and pupils will take advantage of the opportunities provided. At WHSB we expect pupils to participate in activities in order to help them develop their personal confidence and all the attributes of our Learner Profile.

The seven attributes of the Learner Profile are embedded in our everyday work at WHSB. The Learner Profile allows pupils, staff and parents to understand the purpose underlying our lessons and other activities. I encourage those new to the School in Year 7 and Year 12 to familiarise themselves with our Learner Profile. In my experience those pupils who are prepared to move outside of their comfort zone to try new activities and get involved, tend to reap a handsome reward in terms of personal development.

WHSB is a successful School, however we are not a complacent School. Each new academic year brings changes and this year the School looks forward to significant national changes in the curriculum. At GCSE Level, Year 10 pupils will be starting the new and more demanding GCSE specifications which will be graded on a 1 to 9 scale. This year also marks the beginning of national changes to the A Level qualification. In a number of subjects the AS qualification has been decoupled from the A2 qualification and so will not contribute to the final A Level grade at the end of the two-year course. At WHSB we shall continue to enter all students for AS examinations at the end of Year 12. These matters will be discussed at our Year 10 and Year 12 Education Evenings in September.

The School has already identified a number of areas for further development in its plans for the coming year. We shall be focusing on piloting changes in our assessment arrangements in the Lower School and reviewing our work in the area of assessment more broadly, looking at marking and feedback. The School shall also be implementing its response to the new OfSTED framework and launching its response to the Government's 'Prevent' strategy which is designed to counter the effects of radicalisation and prevent students from being drawn into terrorism.

The School's current capital project will soon be finished and within the academic year we shall be turning our attention to our next capital development. This year, the School successfully bid to become part of the Government's Priority Schools Building programme (PSBP2). The scoping study for the works has been completed and the School is now awaiting further details from the Government's surveyors. At present we anticipate funding for the second phase of our Science Building development. This will allow us to undertake a complete refurbishment of the interior of the Science Building, including all Science Laboratories. We also anticipate funding for extending and refurbishing the Technology Building.

Looking back across the last twelve months the School has enjoyed some splendid success. In extra-curricular activities, I would particularly like to commend the 2015 Charity Week Committee who raised over £22,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support and the Aaron Lewis Foundation, our Combined Cadet Force (CCF) on becoming an independent Contingent and members of the first XV on becoming the Essex Rugby Sevens champions. We look forward to further successes this coming year in the knowledge that such success is borne of a positive attitude, hard work and resilience. I encourage all pupils to take pride in their uniform, maintain excellent attendance and punctuality, set ambitious goals for the year and support your community.

School Attendance

The start of a new Academic Year provides an opportunity to remind parents and pupils of the importance of the continuity of education. The majority of pupils maintain splendid attendance records and both they and the School

take appreciable pride in their commitment. However, from time to time we have received parental requests for leave of absence, despite having thirteen weeks available when pupils are on School holidays. We understand that occasionally there will be an exceptional case to the general rule, however we wish to advise parents that requests for leave of absence for holidays will not be granted. We know that there is a strong correlation between good attendance and excellent educational outcomes, and maintaining outstanding pupil attendance remains a top priority. We are grateful for the continuing support of so many parents regarding the matter of attendance.

Staffing for the Autumn Term

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff who left us in August for their service to the School.

Mr Cooper, Mr DeLausen, Mr Bard, and Mr Economou have given splendid service in their roles as teaching assistants at the School. As former students they understand the ethos of the School and related well to the students. We wish them well as they take up places in Higher Education this September.

Ms Harper was with us for a year and she gave tremendous service in the role of Sixth Form Common Room Supervisor. Having enjoyed her time here, she has secured a cover assistant position at another local School and we wish her every success. We also give our very best wishes to Vic Collins and Oliver Carey for their tremendous service as peripatetic Music teachers.

Mrs Tickell served at the School in a variety of roles since 2007. The role we will most associate her with is that of Premises Officer. She played a significant part in the development and improvement of the School's facilities. She has taken a new position outside of education and we give her our very best wishes.

Miss Toudic, Mr Davey and Ms Hedges were with us for just one year. They have made valuable contributions towards the teaching of Modern Languages, Chemistry and History respectively. Ms Hedges also successfully took over the management of the History Department for just over two terms. We thank them for their work.

We also say farewell to Mrs Machacek

FROM THE DESK OF THE HEADMASTER

who kindly supported us when we had need of additional teaching in Geography. Her enthusiasm and kindness are much appreciated. Also in Geography we say farewell to Mrs Phillips who returned to WHSB after a career break. She moves to another local School where she takes a promoted position.

Mr A Phillips has moved to take up a position at a Grammar School in the North West of England nearer his home. He has made a considerable contribution to the promotion of English and has been a strong supporter of the extra-curricular life of the School. We wish him success in his new position. Mr Camillo, a talented musician and teacher, has moved to a School in London to take up a promoted position as Director of Music. We also give him our sincere thanks for his contribution to the very significant improvements we have seen in School Music.

Mrs Cavalier gave tremendous service to the School in her position as a German teacher. She contributed greatly to the development of languages in the School and was responsible, in large part, for the introduction of Latin into the curriculum. She also played a role in the introduction of Spanish to the curriculum. She moves to another local school and we give her our best wishes

Across 9 years, Mrs Robertson has made a significant contribution to the School. She joined as a member of the History Department and quickly established herself through her skill and aptitude. She has contributed to shaping the History

Department and latterly has led that Department. She moves on to take a position at a School nearer to her home. She goes with our very best wishes for the future.

We are pleased to welcome a number of staff to the School. Mr Manning takes up the position of Curriculum Co-ordinator and will teach Mathematics. Mrs Mason joins the Economics Department. Ms Isaac, joins the Science Department and Mr Dillane, an Old Westcliffian and former Head Boy, joins the English Department. Ms Ouali and Ms Lee join the Modern Foreign Languages Department and Ms Forde and Mr Goldsmith join the History and Music Departments respectively. We are also delighted to welcome Ms Hepworth to the School's support staff as an ICT technician and Mr Lilley and Mr Renshaw (both Old Westcliffians) join the School as teaching assistants.

Annual Service of Remembrance

Wednesday 11 November 2015

The Annual Service of Remembrance for the whole School will take place on Wednesday 11 November at 8.45am. The Service will run until approximately 9.40am and will include hymns, readings, prayers and music to remember the

fallen. The Head Boy, Sam Thomas, 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's electronic reply slip, or by contacting the School if preferred.

Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols

Monday 14 December 2015

We warmly invite you to join us for our traditional service of Lessons and Carols which will feature some of the Christmas season's well-known Carols. It will be an opportunity for pupils, parents and staff to join as a community and sing together in what promises to be a rousing 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 Diary's electronic reply system or by contacting the School if preferred.

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, Sam Thomas, has been heavily involved with School Drama (on and off stage) and has also chaired our successful Charity Week Committee this year. Sam is already a commanding presence in the School and has all the qualities of an outstanding Head Boy. Sam will draw on the support of his two Deputies, Alexander Kelly and George Barnes. Alexander is one of our most talented musicians at the School, and enjoyed success as the Conservative candidate in the School's Mock Election last May. Alexander has also appeared on the WHSB stage and is an accomplished public speaker. George has contributed much to the development of School sport and given exemplary service to School activities. Each of these students has made a most valuable contribution to School life during their years at WHSB to date, and we give them our best wishes with their new responsibilities and look forward to working with them.

Headmaster

Head Boy: Sam Thomas

Previous School:
St Michael's School, Leigh
Subjects at A Level:
Art, English Language & Literature, Psychology, Religious Studies

The most positive aspect of being a student at WHSB: The opportunity for students to take leadership roles

What I would most like to achieve in my new position at WHSB: To strengthen the links between Year groups in the School

My message to our new Year 7 pupils:
Set yourself high personal and academic goals and work towards them.



Deputy Head Boy: Alexander Kelly

Previous School:
St Michael's School, Leigh
Subjects at A Level:
Biology, Chemistry, English Literature, Religious Studies

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: Developing a dynamic School Council

My message to our new Year 7 pupils:
Remember there is always support for you – just ask.



Deputy Head Boy: George Barnes

Previous School:
West Leigh Junior School
Subjects at A Level:
History, Politics, English Literature, Religious Studies

The most positive aspect of being a student at WHSB: The enormous range of opportunities provided

What I would most like to achieve in my new position at WHSB: Further strengthen communication between staff and students

My message to our new Year 7 pupils:
Immerse yourself in as many School activities as possible.



Home-School Communication: The Introduction of Schoolcomms

We have recently begun using a system called Schoolcomms to allow better communication between School and home. We began a trial of this electronic communication system in the Spring term and you may have already received a number of e-mails from us advertising Westcliff Diary events. This trial proved successful and the engagement from parents was extremely positive.

For Schoolcomms to be truly successful it is vital that we hold up-to-date contact details (particularly e-mail addresses) for all parents in the School; currently we have e-mail addresses for 67% of the first named contact for our pupils. The majority of communication that we send out will be by e-mail as this is the most cost-effective method, although we may also use text messages occasionally.

Schoolcomms allows us to send targeted messages to relevant parents and we will increasingly replace paper letters with e-mail communications. This will be a gradual process but we hope that parents will find this move beneficial.

In conjunction with Schoolcomms, we are also able to provide the School Gateway portal and app. The portal (which can be accessed at www.schoolgateway.com) and the app (which can be obtained from the App Store or Google Play) will allow you to view your child's attendance record, timetable and House Points total.

Over time, we will be replacing ParentPay with Schoolcomms as a payment method for school trips and visits as you will then only need one set of account details and we can e-mail a payment link to the relevant parents.

In addition, it is now possible for parents to register pupil absences through the School Gateway website or app.

We trust that you will support us in this important step forward in our school communication and would welcome any feedback that you have. Feedback can be sent to Mr Partridge.

*Mr D Partridge
Director of Resources &
Support Services*

Careers Support and Guidance Engineering Evening Lecture: 14 October 2015

In March, we were delighted to welcome local speakers to our WHSB Science Evening. These included Steve Johnson (Old Westcliffian) from IPECO, Sarietha Kumar, Renal Consultant at Southend University Hospital, and a number of apprentices from Eurostar. Each guest spoke eloquently and inspirationally to their audience, giving us all an insight into the peaks and troughs of their career paths to date. Following the success of this evening, and subsequent feedback from the parents and students in attendance, we have been encouraged to host an event specifically focusing on Engineering. This event will take place on 14 October 2015 in the Main Hall from 7.30pm. A cross section of equally fascinating guests will speak and will offer their own reflections on the wider world of work within the Engineering sector. Tickets can be reserved by using our online ticketing service, Ticketsource. We look forward to seeing you there.

Employability Masterclass

In July, we hosted an Employability Masterclass for Year 10 pupils. The Employability Masterclass day was designed specifically for Year 10 pupils in preparation for work experience and the world of work in general. Its aim was to arm our pupils with an understanding of what may be expected of them at interviews and in a professional working environment. This was run by the Essex-based team from Young Enterprise in conjunction with the Jack Petchey Foundation.

Work Experience Placements

The majority of Year 11 pupils participated in a work experience placement during July. The programme was managed in-house at WHSB and it covered a variety of work places. The main objective was for the pupils to understand the soft skills required by future employers, for example, punctuality, team work and using their own initiative, rather than actually being able to perform a specific job role. We hope this has opened up a number of opportunities for our pupils, as well as introducing them to some key contacts that may be able to assist them in years to come. We will be operating the

same programme once again with next year's Year 11 cohort and would encourage any parents able to offer placements to contact Mrs Weller.

*Mrs N Weller
Sixth Form Careers Advisor &
Work-Related Placement Co-ordinator*

Sixth Form Education Evening: Success at AS Level

Tuesday 29 September 2015

The transition to the Sixth Form presents new challenges and opportunities to students. In many subjects, the concepts are at a considerably higher level than at GCSE and, in addition, the increased freedom in Sixth Form life requires a greater degree of maturity and focus on the part of the student. To help parents support their daughters and sons through this transition, the School is organizing a Sixth Form Education Evening. We strongly encourage all Year 12 students to come with a member of their family (or more) to this event.

During the evening, there will be presentations from the Headmaster, Mr Williamson (the Year 12 Progress Leader), Year 13 students and me. These talks will make clear the structure of the academic year, the expectations of the School, and will explain the support available to our Sixth Form students. Advice on setting up good study habits, and other practical tips for a successful Year 12, will be shared.

So, if as a parent of a Year 12 student, you are keen to meet our staff and to find out the structure of the year, this is the opportunity to have your questions answered. We believe that as a result of coming you will be in a much stronger position as you guide, encourage and support your son or daughter through their AS and A Level courses.

While tailored specifically for Year 12 students and their families, other members of our School community are welcome if they think they would find the information useful.

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

Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children: Go for Grammar!



The Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children (WCGC) continues to encourage more priority area children and their parents to give consideration to selective education.

92% of boys who attended a WCGC event in Year 5 and sat the 11+ test in September 2014, passed the test. This is an incredible achievement and one we wish to expand upon. The academic year of 2015/16 will see the programme extend to five Saturday events, each with a different theme. Mathematics and English 11+ preparation will feature alongside a House Event on each occasion and the other activities will be grouped in subject areas, with Science, Creative, Languages, Humanities and the Combined Cadet Force all designing bespoke lessons and developmental activities.

The aim of the program is to encourage more local pupils to 'Go for Grammar!' and the taster days will hopefully give them a positive experience of the grammar school lifestyle.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my gratitude to the staff and WHSB students who will be giving up their time on these Saturdays to give the pupils an experience to remember.

*Miss K Rankin
Director of Lower School Studies*

Masterclasses

A group of Year 13 students will be attending residential courses at Villiers Park, Cambridge in October. They will be examining the Mathematics of Chaos and

also studying Astrophysics. On Friday 6 November we will be taking a party of Year 11 English students to Oxford for a university-style lecture and tutorial with Dr Catherine Redford, Hertford College. A number of the then Year 12 students have already attended Subject Masterclass days at Cambridge University between trial examinations and the start of AS Examinations and one of our physicists secured a place on the Senior Physics Challenge residential course at the University of Cambridge's Cavendish Laboratories. In July, two WHSB girls attended a Pathways to Success residential event at Murray Edwards College aimed at inspiring academically successful young women to apply to Oxbridge. We also had students experience Subject Taster Days, primarily at London University.

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

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ)

Year 12 students are offered the opportunity to carry out an Edexcel Level 3 Extended Project Qualification. This is a self-led project which encourages students to carry out independent research on a topic of their choice. Students choose a project topic in an area or field of study relevant to their own personal interests or career intentions.

Students are mentored throughout the project by a teacher who is an expert in that particular subject, and are assessed on their ability to plan, manage, complete and evaluate their project. The focus is on independent learning and the expectation is that this will total approximately 120 hours for the duration of the project, the completion date of which is January 2016. The method of assessment is by a 5000 word dissertation and an oral presentation.

The EPQ at WHSB has produced some excellent results with 82% graded A*/A and 100% A*-B in 2014. Past project titles have included "Have the IMF and World Bank been forces for good in the MINT countries?", "How might we best improve our current chemotherapy treatments for cancer?", "Does Boethius' reconciliation of God's omniscience preserve human free will?" and "When did

the Roman Republic become an empire?".

Universities think highly of this qualification because it recognises critical thinking and analytical ability. This project carries up to 70 UCAS points, depending on what grade is achieved, and it can be used towards a points offer from a university. Some universities offer an alternative lower offer for candidates achieving high grades in the EPQ. It is also a valuable part of a personal statement and a valuable way for students to demonstrate a wide range of skills whilst increasing their knowledge base. This qualification is particularly relevant to students thinking of applying to study the following subjects at Oxford or Cambridge, or at another Russell Group university: Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Law or Economics.

Students who are interested should see Mr Barber for further details on how to apply.

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

Primary Schools' Outreach Programme

In what is now a longstanding tradition and part of our Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children (WCGC) programme, we will be inviting local primary schools to join some of our Sixth Form students on Wednesday afternoons for a packed session of activities aimed at providing stretch and reducing the gap between Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 curricula. Year 5 pupils will be invited to our School to take part in the 'Deep Blue Sea' workshop, whilst the Science Roadshow will visit them on their own sites. Both events use short hands-on activities and experiments to help the younger pupils access new concepts. Then, in the summer term, the WHSB students will be inviting Year 4 pupils in to school to travel 'Around the World in 80 Minutes'. We have found in the past that the three projects are hugely valuable as they not only excite younger pupils about the opportunities they will encounter at secondary school, but they also offer our own Sixth Form students the chance to enhance their own public speaking skills.

*Miss S Sparks
Head of Geography*

WHSB Uniform Shop

The School provides uniform through its own shop. This arrangement has existed for a number of years and parents appreciate its convenience. We have found that by selling uniform and certain books, bags and other essential items for school in-house we can offer a convenient location, a personal service and keep prices at a competitive level. An order form and price list detailing items and sizes available are downloadable from the school website under the Uniform Shop sub-heading within the Secure Parents' Area.

This term, the Uniform Shop will be stocking a number of new lines and memorabilia including: WHSB school scarves; skirts for Sixth Form girls; and a high quality sports rucksack to complement our existing range of sports bags. In addition, WHSB mugs, memory sticks and Size 2 footballs will be available to purchase.

Pupils can hand in their orders to the School Office. These will then be prepared for collection as soon as possible. The shop, located in the East Basement, is open for purchases to be made by parents and pupils on Thursday afternoons from 3.45pm to 4.45pm during term time. Please note that the Uniform Shop is always very busy at the start of the Autumn Term and your patience is appreciated should there be any delay to orders being processed.

Queries regarding uniform orders should be directed to Mrs Clarke in the Uniform Shop via email
clarkej@whsb.essex.sch.uk

Mrs J Clarke
Uniform Shop Manager

Old Westcliffian Association

This year our Annual Dinner will be held on 11 September 2015 in the School Hall. Our speaker will be Nigel Holdcroft, a local solicitor, former leader of Southend Borough Council and Old Westcliffian. These are always jolly occasions and, by the time that this Diary is in print, there will, hopefully, just be time for you to let me know if you wish to attend. Tickets are priced at £27.50, or £16 if in full-time education.

Membership of the Association is open to past pupils and current and past teachers, governors and those associated with the administration of the School. Details may be found on the School website or by contacting me. The lifetime subscription is £10. You will receive a warm welcome.

In our annual newsletter, last published in June, you will find news of what our members have been up to over the years, as well as other interesting articles. Please contact me if you have difficulty in obtaining a copy.

We continue our cooperation with the Parents' Association and collaborate whenever possible. I have periodic meetings with their Chair, Jemima Clarke, and I am very grateful for her assistance.

Lastly, I issue my perennial plea, not just for new members, but for people to come forward to help run the Association. We desperately need an injection of new blood!

Mr T Birdseye
Honorary Secretary

Year 10 Education Evening: Successful Study Strategies at GCSE

**Tuesday 22 September
2015**

Pupils, the School and parents all have a significant role to play in ensuring that progress and attainment is maximised throughout the Middle School years and that this ultimately leads to success at GCSE. Taking the pupils' role first, they will be more motivated with their studies if they have chosen a goal for which they will aim. This may take the form of pursuing Higher Education at university, entering a career or apprenticeship, or gaining admission to the Sixth Form to study at Advanced Level. Whatever it is that they are targeting, it will help them to focus on their work and give them a sense of purpose for doing well. Concentration and paying attention in lessons is, of course, essential to grasp the concepts and thoroughly understand the subject material that is being covered. Self-discipline and personal organisation are

necessary attributes to ensure that homework and revision assignments, which support the work that is being done in the School, are completed by the deadlines set. Finally, taking pride in the presentation of their material and themselves creates a good impression.

Subject teachers will obviously teach pupils the topics that they need to know to cover the various specifications, and the Pastoral Team, based in the Middle School Pastoral Office, are on hand to monitor the pupils' progress. We will provide a variety of support measures and guidance if it is felt that a particular pupil needs these for any reason to help them get back on track and meet their target grades.

A very important aspect of preparation for GCSEs is, of course, an organised constructive revision programme and we advise them on strategies to maximise the efficiency of their revision time. Parents can play an important role here as well by ensuring that there is somewhere where their son can work at home; an environment conducive to study in which he is not allowing his concentration to be disturbed by the distractions of social media, text messages, MP3 players, computer games and the like. Providing encouragement and showing an interest in his studies is also motivating and if you wish for any advice on any aspects of study strategies for GCSE, please contact the Middle School Pastoral Office.

Mr A Farrell
Head of Middle School

Oxford Success for Alex Read

Alex Read, one of our Year 13 students from the last academic year, participated in the Keble Essay Competition for Theology and Religion, a prestigious opportunity for our talented philosophers to compete with the very best entries that Oxford University naturally attracts. His essay, titled *Does It Make Sense To Pray?*, was commended by Dr Sarah Apetrei, the Director of Studies in Theology and Religion at Keble College, as "provocative and generally well-written, concluding boldly that orthodox Christian theology does not offer a satisfying account of petitionary prayer". Whilst this piece did not win the prize, it was graded in the high 2:1 bracket (one grade lower than the highest grading for an undergraduate degree) and that was before Alex had even sat his A2 Level examinations. Alex was rewarded with an invitation to Keble



College for their open day and garden party, and the satisfaction that students at this school can achieve academic excellence recognised by a world-class university college.

I hope that Alex's success inspires others to participate in the many opportunities for enrichment and research in their broader studies in Philosophy of Religion and Religious Ethics.

*Mr M Halsall
Head of Religious Studies*

Sixth Form Institute for Economic Affairs (IEA) Conference

Monday 12 October 2015

The WHSB Economics Department will play host to the Institute for Economic Affairs Sixth Form Conference on 12 October 2015. Speakers for 2015 are yet to be confirmed, but last year's speakers included Dr Andrew Sentance, CBE, a former member of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee and Dr Kristian Niemitz, Senior Research Fellow at the IEA. This is a one day conference during which Sixth Form Economics students will attend a variety of lectures on contemporary economic affairs. It promises to be an exceptionally informative day for all.

*Mr P Cunneen,
Head of Economics*

Oxbridge

In June, the School hosted a highly successful conference for potential Oxbridge candidates. It was attended by Admission Tutors from Oxford and Cambridge Universities, current undergraduate Old Westcliffians and around 100 students from across local Grammar and Partner Schools. The information and advice so freely given on this occasion should significantly enhance the chances of individuals 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.

*Mr R Stevens,
Higher Education Coordinator*

Helping Parents to Help Their Sons

**Thursday 17 September and
Thursday 24 September 2015**

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 faced. Our Year 7 evening will take place on Thursday 17 September and will comprise a series of short presentations covering a range of subject areas 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 Thursday 24 September. This evening will be focussed on the additional challenges faced by pupils in Year 8 and will help to prepare Year 9 students for their impending GCSE options. We hope that you will be able to support us on these evenings and help to foster further collaboration between home and the School.

*Miss K Rankin
Assistant Head: Director of Lower School
Studies*

Duke of Edinburgh Award at WHSB

The Duke of Edinburgh programme at WHSB is in its fourth year. The benefits of this National Scheme are widely recognised, and successful completion of the higher levels can lend weight to university applications. Participants develop their sense of responsibility, they

improve their problem solving, presentation and team work skills, and one of the most important aspects is developing the ability to learn from, and give to, others in the community. Indeed, the values espoused by the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme sit remarkably well alongside our own Learner Profile.

Silver Award

Whilst we usually have high numbers of participants in the Scheme, the number of pupils completing their Bronze Award last year was relatively low, and only fourteen students continued onto the Silver sections. However, any students who have not completed their Bronze Award can still do this if they finish the relevant sections. The current group has been working on the Award and all attended a very successful Practice Expedition in the South Downs in April. The Assessment then took place in the Peak District in July after the GCSE examinations. The group travelled up on Wednesday 1 July and spent the afternoon on an acclimatisation walk and camping together above Lathkill Dale. The Assessment officially began on the Thursday and both groups started near Baslow, walked past Chatsworth House and up Lathkill Dale to their separate campsites. Friday took them south west and down towards the Dove valley and campsites in Beresford Dale. On the Saturday, they all walked through Mill Dale and down Dove Dale to finish in Thorpe. All aspects of the Silver Award should have been completed by now and the Assessor's reports for all sections obtained; we hope to issue the Awards later this term.

Bronze Award

The Bronze Award is the first step of the Duke of Edinburgh programme, and thirty pupils were taken onto the Bronze Award last September. All pupils are to be congratulated on a very successful Practice Expedition on the weekend 9-10 May. They started at Hatfield Peverill in good weather and walked to Danbury, where they camped, before returning to Hatfield on the Sunday. The final Assessment will take place in the Roxwell area, camping at Skreens Park on 25-26 September. We plan to issue the Awards later this term and hope that the students will continue onto the Silver Section.

Another group of Year 10 students will be recruited this year and we hope they will be able to carry on our success with the Duke of Edinburgh scheme in the future.

*Mr L Despres,
Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator*

CCF FRONT AND CENTRE CCF

CCF Passing Out Parade and Mess Dinner



On Friday 25 June the CCF held its annual Passing Out Parade and Mess Dinner. This event represents the highlight of the CCF annual calendar and is an opportunity for parents, cadets and friends to join together to mark and celebrate our achievements across the year. We were most fortunate to welcome two very distinguished guests at these events. First Col (Hon., ACF) Shaun Bailey inspected the Contingent and made awards to a number of cadets. Col Bailey is a former cadet and was a pioneer of the Cadet Expansion Programme when he worked with Michael Gove, then Education Secretary, as a Special Advisor to the Prime Minister. Col Bailey is also Chairman of the Cadet Bursary Fund charity, established to support state school CCFs. During the parade, Col Bailey made the first award of 'The Brett Boots', a trophy bequeathed by our first School Staff Instructor, RSM Kevin Brett. This was given to Cpl Monty Clark for his exceptional First Aid Instruction during our inauguration event. Col Bailey also awarded Sam Turnbull (Year 13) promotion to the position of the Contingent's first ever Cadet Regimental Sergeant Major. In addition the following awards were made:

- Champion Year 12 Non-Commissioned Officer, Cpl Jack Confrey
 - Champion APC(A) Cadet, Cpl Hassan Sarfraz
 - Champion APC Cadet, L/Cpl Matthew Clark
 - Champion Recruit, Cadet Victor Popoola.
- The parade was followed that evening by our Mess Dinner, at which our Guest of Honour, Brigadier (Retd.) David Short, General Secretary of the CCF Association,



joined the Headmaster, Contingent Commander and Cadet RSM in making speeches. We were pleased to welcome at the event many honoured guests, including Col Bailey, Sir David Amess (Southend West MP), Lt Col John Seaman (Contingent Commander, Brentwood CCF) and Maj Peter Mills (OC C-Coy, Essex ACF), as well as the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the School's Governing Body. The Dinner was a particularly poignant occasion, as we bade farewell to a group of Year 13 cadets who were members of the founding cohort of 25 cadets. It provided a moment for reflection regarding the remarkable impact that the CCF has on its members, as younger cadets embraced their older counterparts to bid them farewell. We give our best wishes to our departing cadets.



Finally, at the end of Summer Camp, which took place from 4 to 11 July, amidst stiff competition, Billy Warby was promoted to be our new senior cadet at the rank for WO2 with an appointment as Company Sergeant Major.

CCF Field Day, Mereworth Woods Training Area, Kent

Thursday 24 – Saturday 26 September 2015

The CCF will hold its Field Day from Thursday 24 September to Saturday 26 September 2015. This will consist of a 48 hour field training exercise in which cadets from Years 10-13 will undergo a variety of training activities included in the CCF Army Syllabus. Cadets will leave School

on Thursday afternoon and travel to Mereworth Woods Training Area in Kent where they will set up their platoon harbour areas, which consist of sleeping shelters which they have to build. They will then undergo a night navigation exercise through the area. In the morning cadets will have a series of lessons, including section battle drills, ambush drills, camouflage and concealment, a sniper stalk, first aid and a leadership exercise. They will then move into the practice phase of the exercise which will involve a series of scenarios which cadets will have to respond to, including blank firing exercises. On Friday evening they will conduct close target recces and need to defend their platoon harbours from attacks. On Saturday morning cadets will undertake a platoon level ambush and a navigation exercise.

CCF in Remembrance Events



The CCF will take part in a number of Remembrance Events this term including, once again, acting as a Guard of Honour for the School's own Remembrance Service on 11 November 2015. As well as joining the Southend Remembrance Day Parade on Sunday 8 November 2015, it is also the CCF's intention to also be part of Services of Remembrance at a number of local Primary Schools that week.

Recruiting from Year 9

The CCF looks forward to recruiting a new intake from Year 9 this academic Year. A meeting for parents of interested potential cadets will take place on Thursday 22 October 2015. In addition, the CCF will hold taster sessions for interested parties on Thursday 12 November from 4.00pm to 6.00pm. Pupils who choose to join the CCF will be issued uniform shortly thereafter, ready for their first parade later in November.

Captain J Bleakley
WHSB Combined Cadet Force

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION NEWS

New Parents' Meet & Greet Evening

Monday 7 September 2015

On Monday 7 September 2015, the Parents' Association warmly invite parents and guardians who are new to the School to a Meet & Greet evening for those whose sons and daughters have joined Years 7 and 12 this September. The evening provides the opportunity for parents and guardians to meet others from their locality as well as those of other students in their son's or daughter's Form. Following the informality of the first part of the evening, the Parents' Association Annual General Meeting will be held, which we very much hope that you will attend. The informal Meet & Greet part of the evening will run from 6.30pm until 8.00pm. There is no charge to attend but places should be confirmed for catering purposes using the WHSB electronic ticketing system at <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/>. We look forward to meeting you.

Parents' Association Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Monday 7 September 2015

All parents and guardians of students at WHSB are invited to attend the Parents' Association AGM on Monday 7 September at 8.00pm. A summary of our fundraising efforts over the previous year will be communicated together with a presentation of our accounts and the voting in of Committee post-holders for the present academic year. There is no charge to attend but places should be confirmed using the WHSB electronic ticketing system. We look forward to seeing you.

Parents' Association Annual Winter Ball

Saturday 28 November 2015

Saturday 28 November heralds the Parents' Association Annual Winter Ball, which is undoubtedly the highlight of our fundraising calendar. Guests are welcomed into the School Hall, which is transformed into a

sparkling venue for the evening, with a drinks reception and canapés whilst a pianist plays. A professionally-catered, waitress-served dinner follows, then the evening culminates with 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 £45 per head and seating is in tables of eight to ten. Booking forms for this Parents' Association fundraiser will be processed directly by the Parents' Association. An Invitation to this year's Winter Ball, which contains a booking form, has been distributed along with this edition of the Westcliff Diary. To obtain tickets, please complete and return the booking form together with payment, indicating clearly if you wish to be seated with friends, if you require the vegetarian option or have specific dietary requirements. We look forward to welcoming you to this black tie occasion – an event not to be missed, and which raises thousands of pounds for WHSB.

Fundraising Christmas Puddings

Following their success over the last two years, we are delighted to be able to offer again for 2015 award-winning Christmas puddings from the Ultimate Plum Pudding Company. This fully accredited Cumbrian company has been making puddings for 25 years for some very 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 easyfundraising site whenever you shop online and, at no extra cost to you, the PA will receive a free donation of up to 15% from every purchase you make. It really is that simple and it is completely FREE to register. You will not pay a penny more for your shopping when you use the easyfundraising site. In fact you can even SAVE MONEY as many retailers offer discounts, special offers and even '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!

100 Club Monthly Prize Draw

Our Parents' Association 100 Club was established in December 1996. Since its launch, the PA 100 Club has raised thousands of pounds, enabling the Parents' Association to provide many items beneficial to the School and its students. We would like to thank all those members of the PA 100 Club, both past and present, for their support over the years. 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 become involved. For a monthly contribution of just £5, members of the 100 Club (who must be associated with the School) are entered into a monthly draw to win a cash sum, currently in the region of £150. Lucky winners will be sent a cheque by our PA Treasurer. If you would like to join the Parents' Association 100 Club please contact the Parents' Association via email: pa@whsb.essex.sch.uk. Registration forms and instructions can also be downloaded from the School website 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 on the School website or email us at pa@whsb.essex.sch.uk. Alternatively, you can contact us via the School Office.

*Mrs J Clarke
Chair of Parents' Association*

EVENTS, LECTURES & TALKS



Professor Crawford Lectures: *The Search for Dark Matter and The Science and Beauty of Nebulae*

Thursday 17 September 2015

Professor Carolin Crawford, Astrophysics Fellow at Emmanuel College, Cambridge and member of the Institute of Astronomy, will be in School on Thursday 17 September 2015. Professor Crawford will be speaking to Sixth Form Physics students from 3.45pm to 5.30pm about dark matter. Unlike the stars and galaxies, dark matter does not give off any radiation – we can only detect it through its gravitational pull. It accounts for a quarter of the Universe, yet we do not yet understand that of which it is made. The search for a better understanding of dark matter is carried out both out in space and deep underground; it is where astrophysics meets particle physics. The Science and Beauty of Nebulae is about interstellar space - not truly a vacuum devoid of matter, but

inhabited by vast thin clouds of gas and dust that appear as glorious and complex structures. It will showcase some of the most spectacular images of these 'nebulae', including many taken with the Hubble and Spitzer space telescopes. We shall look at them with new eyes, dissecting the pictures and learning how to 'read' what they tell us about the turbulent story of the birth and death of stars. Indeed, revealing the science behind the beauty. This second talk at 7.30 pm will be for a general audience and pupils, parents and friends are warmly invited to attend the evening lecture by booking through the online ticket system.

Tickets are priced at £2 for adults with no charge for pupils.

Year 7 The Norman Conquest and A Great and Terrible King: Edward I

Thursday 10 December 2015

On Thursday 10 December, Dr Marc Morris, historian, author and TV presenter, will be in School to talk to Year 7 pupils in the afternoon about, arguably, the seminal event in English history, namely the destruction of Anglo-Saxon England by Guillaume le Bâtard and the imposition of Norman rule. In the evening Dr Morris will still be in School, taking us through the life and times of King Edward I who, as the "Hammer of the Scots" and conqueror of Wales, did more than perhaps any other medieval ruler to forge the idea of Britain, but who also left us an enduring monument to love in the Eleanor Crosses. Pupils, parents and friends are warmly invited to attend the evening lecture by booking through the online ticket system.

Tickets are priced at £2 for adults with no charge for pupils.

Year 8 English Civil War Day

Friday 20 November 2015

On Friday 20 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 for Year 8. 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 also be professional re-enactors "in character" to question and to 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".

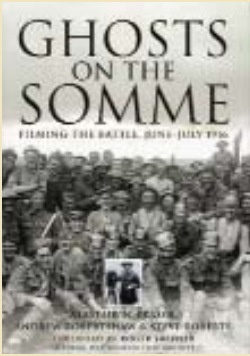


Year 9 Eyes Deep in Mud and Ghosts of the Somme: Filming The Battle of the Somme 1916

Thursday 17 December 2015

On Thursday 17 December, our favourite military historian, Mr Andy Robertshaw, star of numerous TV history and archaeology documentaries and Military Advisor on Spielberg's Warhorse, will be in School to take Year 9 through a presentation on the soldiers'

EVENTS, LECTURES & TALKS



experience of the First World War. As usual on such occasions he will stay to present a Humanities College talk in the evening at 7.00pm. This will be entitled Ghosts of the Somme and will look at the filming of the famous War Office silent movie The Battle of the Somme 1916 which was released in cinemas in August 1916 whilst the battle still raged. Seen by an estimated 20 million citizens across 6 weeks – box office that puts Harry Potter to shame – this official war documentary broke new ground both in cinematography and government use of information and propaganda. This talk is something of a prelude: in May 2016, Mr Robertshaw will be back with us to take us through the military significance of the Somme, just in time for the 100th anniversary.

Tickets are priced at £2 for adults and free of charge for pupils.

Mr R Stevens

Head of Politics & Higher Education Coordinator

Sixth Form Philosophy and Ethics Conferences

Friday 27 November 2015 and Friday 12 February 2016

Winter sees the onset of the conference season for those studying AS and A2 Philosophy and Ethics. These national conferences, led by some leading figures in our most prestigious and popular universities, are specifically aimed at enriching the curriculum taught in school. On Friday 27 November 2015, Mr Halsall will take the Year 12 sets to London, to Dr Peter Vardy's Being and Nothingness Conference. Dr Vardy provides incisive and insightful reflections on key aspects of the curriculum, delivered with great energy and enthusiasm. This conference will provide an opportunity to review some AS principles, and how they relate to A2 units, such as the Design and Cosmological arguments for God's existence, as well as show how this provides a pointer for studying the Attributes of God after the AS examinations.

On Friday 12 February 2016, Miss Braiden will take the Year 13 set to London, where they will learn about and reflect on issues entitled All You Need is Love. Within the proximity of (St) Valentine's Day, students will reflect on AS learning in Kant's Categorical Imperative, alongside the influence of Joseph Fletcher and his situationist approach to morality. The focus will impact on issues relating to sexuality and reproduction, and the complex issues which arise in our 21st Century context. This is directly related to the A2 Ethics examination.

These lectures and debates are designed to give students an opportunity of university-style teaching, and provide significant stretch and challenge beyond the classroom. It is expected that all Philosophy and Ethics students attend these conferences, and it should encourage students to consider university studies in Humanities generally. This is the eighth year that we have been supporting these events.

Mr M Halsall, Head of Religious Studies



Dr Rosie Wyles: Medea and the Staging of Greek Drama and Wicked Women: Dramatic Virtues

Thursday 12 November 2015

On Thursday 12 November, Dr Rosie Wyles will be in School. In the afternoon she will talk to Year 10 Classical Civilization pupils about their set text Medea, its staging and the City Dionysia. In the evening she will deliver a lecture on how women are portrayed in Greek tragedy and how characters such as Medea and Clytemnestra have been perceived in both ancient and modern drama. Those who heard Dr Wyles speak on previous School occasions, on such topics as TV and film tropes and their origin in Greek literature, will know to expect an entertaining and provocative presentation.

Mr R Stevens, Head of Politics & Higher Education Coordinator

A Day in Toy Making

Saturday 21 November 2015

The Design and Technology Department's ever popular A Day in Toy Making for the Lower School returns in November. On this occasion, pupils will develop their craft skills in the marking out, cutting and finishing of wood. The day is open to all Key Stage Three pupils and participants will have the opportunity to build a scaled replica vintage Jaguar Sports Car. The essential materials used are pine and mahogany and the length of the finished vehicle will be 320mm. The charge of £42 for each pupil is inclusive of materials. Finished models can then be taken home and displayed with pride. Early booking for this event is advised and places can be reserved using our online ticketing service.

Mr N Senior

Head of Design & Technology

TRIPS & VISITS TRIPS & VISITS

Higher Education Field Academy: Archaeological Dig in Hadleigh



On the 13-15 May 2015, nine pupils from Year 9, supervised by Mr Neagus and Mr de Lausun, along with pupils from other local schools, participated in a three-day trip with Cambridge University as part of their Higher Education Field Academy (HEFA). The aim was to carry out a number of small archaeological digs as part of a wider research project being conducted by the University. On the first and second days, we were divided up into groups, and after a briefing from an archaeologist, were given the task of completing our own excavation. We found ourselves digging in gardens in the area (with permission of course!) for the next two days. We were all amazed at just what we found: artefacts dug up included pottery, glass and remnants of ancient settlements. We had to comprehensively record our findings and, on the third day, we travelled up to Cambridge University to examine our findings. Here we were given a tour of Trinity Hall (one of the Colleges at the University), where we were treated to a delicious lunch in the old hall, as well as being given a lecture about university life. Overall the trip was thoroughly enjoyable and we developed a much broader understanding of archaeology, which we hope to develop further in the future.

Marcus Kelly and Harvey Burton, 9W

Physics Visit to CERN

Thursday 29 – Saturday 31 October 2015

As in previous years, Physics students in Year 12 will have the opportunity to visit the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN in Geneva during the Autumn Term. Previous participants have said that this is the most enjoyable part of their Advanced Level studies and a very worthwhile experience.

The LHC is the world's largest man-made piece of physics apparatus. It straddles the border between Switzerland and France, with a diameter of 8.6km (5.3 miles). The main tunnel for the LHC is 27km (17 miles) long and 175m (574 ft) deep. CERN is home to thousands of scientists and engineers studying all aspects of physical science (chemistry and physics), as well as the four experiments that make use of the LHC.

One of the experiments, named LHCb (the b stands for 'beauty'), investigates when charge-parity conservation appears to be broken. Students in Year 12 learn about charge conservation in particle interactions in the Autumn Term. This important principle is used to determine the types of particles produced in an interaction, yet at high energies it appears to break down. This is one example of how the work done at CERN continues to shape our understanding of reality and is at the cutting edge of scientific research.

This year, the number of student places available has been doubled to twenty. Students who take part in the trip will get to explore the two world-class museums at CERN before being taken on a private tour of several key facilities. The facilities seen on the tour vary from year to year. Additionally, students will get to enjoy a tour of the United Nations Headquarters and be treated to a walking tour of Geneva by night.

The cost of the trip is £350, which includes all travel, food, accommodation and tours. We will leave on Thursday 29 October and return on Saturday 31 October, staying for two nights in the Geneva Youth Hostel. Due to the short

amount of time between the start of term and the school trip, we will need reply slips and cheques before Friday 11 September. Letters are available from Mr Dalby and should be returned to him as soon as possible. At the end of Friday 11 September, twenty students will be randomly chosen from the list of applicants and the unsuccessful applicants' cheques will be destroyed. Unfortunately, we will not be able to accept late applications.

*Mr K Dalby
Head of Physics*

Enrichment Trip to the London Buddhist Centre

Saturday 10 October 2015



On Saturday 10 October, Mr Halsall and a colleague from the Religious Studies department will take a group of fifteen students from Year 9 to the London Buddhist Centre in Bethnal Green. This will be our fourth visit, and it is primarily aimed at students who have clearly demonstrated that they are our most able students in Religious Studies, and therefore attendance on the trip is by invitation. Others, however, may apply to join the trip if there are places remaining.

The day is directly linked to the curriculum, where students will build upon their Year 9 studies in the first Autumn half term, learning how Buddhist teaching is lived out in an urban and diverse community such as East London.

The London Buddhist Centre exists to promote Buddhist philosophy, ethics, and

TRIPS & VISITS TRIPS & VISITS

mindfulness, but there is no intention to persuade anyone to join them.

This has proved to be an invaluable opportunity for pupils to extend their learning beyond the classroom, and regardless of the faith background or none, all have learned something about themselves.

*Mr M Halsall
Head of Religious Studies*

Visit to the Goodwood Festival of Speed



Three of our Lower Sixth students spent a day at the Goodwood Festival of Speed as guests of the Bloodhound Project. We participated in a *Design and Build a*

Rocket Car challenge which was then tested on a 20m test track, our two cars coming second and last in our heat. We then had the chance to discuss some of the physics and engineering aspects of the Bloodhound design, and materials and aerodynamic aspects to the design were on show, as well as a 3-D printer producing miniature Bloodhounds in turquoise polymer. We were then free to look around the motor racing and production car exhibits in the rest of the event. This has helped the students with their future career choices, as well as seeing some of their Advanced level Physics at work. We extend our thanks to the Bloodhound Project for their invitation.

Thomas Mansfield & Charles McGee, Yr 12

Year 12 Geology Visit to Folkestone, Kent

Friday 9 October 2015

On Friday 9 October 2015, Mr Cooper will lead a Year 12 field day to study the



geology of the coastline in and near Folkestone. The aim of the trip is to introduce AS geologists to field techniques with a view to describing and identifying the Folkestone Beds, Gault Clay and Chalk. From such studies, the rocks can be interpreted in terms of their origins, not least from their rich fossil content such as ammonites. The three rocks represent a marine sequence in the region of 100 million years old, which have since been uplifted to form land by the Alpine Orogeny (still going on as Africa collides with Europe). The Mediterranean Sea is being eradicated but not for a few million years yet!

The Chalk at The Warren, near Folkestone, will also be investigated with respect to engineering geology techniques related to slope stabilisation so that the infamous collapse of the Dover to Folkestone railway line in 1915 will not be repeated.

Mr N Cooper, Head of Geology

THEATRE, LITERATURE & POETRY

Poetry in Performance (PIP) Club

Wednesday 25 November 2015

Our Poetry in Performance Club has already been working for a number of weeks rehearsing for this term's event.

This November, the Club plans one of its most exciting performances to date.

The theme of ECHOES will be running through the evening. We will draw on dance and song, live music and poetry recitation, art and photography, to explore the images associated with mirrors and resonances and how they form ever-changing patterns in our daily lives. Light and sound effects will add to the experience of the evening as we explore dreams and memories, premonitions and supernatural impressions through the solo and group performances of boys and girls in the School. Get ready for a weird and wacky evening!

As on previous occasions, the Main Hall will be the stage for the event in front of an audience seated in the round to enjoy what we hope will be a wonderful evening of entertainment and fun. Tickets can be reserved through the online ticketing service and are priced at £5 for adults and £2.50 for students.



*Mr J Allan-Smith
Second in English*

THEATRE, LITERATURE & POETRY



Sixth Form Essay Competition: The Supernatural

This year's Sixth Form Prize Winning Essay Competition will reveal the very best of the School's creative talent, or so the English Department hopes, with its theme: The Supernatural.

Students from across the Sixth Form are once again invited to put pen to paper and produce a 2,000-word essay in this, our seventh year for the Competition. The topic dares you to open creaking doors into the world of hauntings, exorcisms and other strange phenomena and disturbances to ordinary human lives. Last year's winning entries struck gold with some super-subtle stories crafted in the creative mental thoughts of Adam Solomon, Meghan Thomas and Ben Wimsett on the theme of Natural Disasters. The shift from natural to supernatural this year will stimulate many Year 12 and Year 13 boys and girls to their best efforts yet, with the challenge set before you to achieve some truly startling effects. The trick will be to keep your writing grounded in plausibly real human situations, whilst slowly shape-shifting the

reader's response into a sense of the supernatural 'other'.

Prizes of £80, £40 and £20 to the top three writers will be awarded in an Assembly in January. The deadline is set for 27 November 2015 for completion of all submissions.

Mr J Allan-Smith, Second in English

Key Stage 3 Drama Society

In the two years that I have worked at Westcliff High School for Boys, I have seen some wonderful productions. I was blown away by the drama, tension and passion of William Coussen's production of 1984; I was by far the loudest laughter at the Richard Wells' rendition of Dad's Army, struggling desperately not to cry as Thomas Mann and John Tothill recreated, most hilariously, the roles of Godfrey and Jones; I tapped my foot and sang along to Henri de Lausun's Little Shop of Horrors, amazed by the set and the musical sophistication; and most recently, I waited on the edge of my seat to find out who the murderer was in Angus Easner's production of Agatha Christie's A Murder is Announced. I have enjoyed every production, and the only thing I wished while I was watching, was that the Lower School could also participate.

Drama is not offered as a subject choice to pupils, but that does not mean that there are not budding actors in Key Stage 3. The KS3 Drama Society hopes to cultivate the talent that goes unnoticed and unrecognised and offer these pupils a place to shine.

Starting from September 2015, the Key Stage 3 Drama Society will meet every Tuesday afternoon. Pupils will be given the opportunity to develop their improvisation, dramatic and comedic skills, working independently, with partners or as a group to prepare performances. The Key Stage 3 Drama Society will also harness the artistic and musical talents of the group, requiring pupils to design sets, lighting and support the group with musical performances.

This is a new endeavour for the School and I am certain there will plenty of interest. I look forward to meeting the first ever members of the Key Stage 3 Drama Society in September, and to creating our own memorable performances.

Miss A Elphick, Year 9 Progress Leader



Essex Poetry Competition 2015

Once again, we enter the new academic year with a marvellous outburst of creativity from our pupils. Over fifty poems have been sent off this year from our young versifiers in Years 7–10 to the Essex Poetry Competition. We hope to repeat last year's successes, when our Year 10 boys swept the board in the under-16 category. Their poems, and others that won through in strong placings and commendations, have been published on the English noticeboard in Poetry Corner for you all to view and enjoy. Winners of this year's competition will be announced in early September and they will be called up to read their poems in front of an audience of over 200 at an award ceremony in early October at the Cramphorn Theatre in Chelmsford.

Mr J Allan-Smith, Second in English

TIES CLUBS & SOCIETIES CLUB

Schools' Challenge Quiz

The School will be entering the Schools' Challenge Quiz for the thirteenth successive year. The competition uses a University Challenge format with a team drawn from Year 10 and the Sixth. It is now four years since we reached the Regional Finals - losing to a strong team from Westminster School - and since then we have rather lost ground on some of our local competitors including KEGS, CRGS and SHSB. Maybe this year will spark a comeback!

Politics Society

The annual trip to the Palace of Westminster by the Politics Department will take place this term. We are fortunate that Sir David Amess' office were willing to help us arrange a tour of the House of Commons and House of Lords. This visit will provide a very valuable opportunity for students of AS Level Politics to look at Westminster from the inside, to gain some sense of the size and grandeur of the Palace, to visit rooms used by General, Public Bill and Select Committees, and pick up some sense of the nature and style of our parliamentary life. Later in the year, we will be back at Westminster with aspiring Sixth Form lawyers to take part in a new series of debates hosted by the Supreme Court.

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

The Tolkien Society

The Tolkien Society will continue to meet this term on Fridays Week B, at 1pm in W2.

This term we will be taking an in-depth look at Tolkien's ideas of JOURNEY AND QUEST, two key aspects of his mythology, inspired by both biblical and medieval characters. There are key turns in Tolkien's writings when events both great and small change the course of people's lives, as they do for each of us. Tolkien's works offer much more than an engaging tale: he transports the reader into worlds and situations which have a reality of their own, and speaks to each successive generation.



The Westcliff High School for Boys Tolkien Society can now be found on Facebook, with interesting articles, film clips, and Tolkien-related links. All staff and students are welcome to attend all or some of our meetings.

Mr M Halsall, Head of Religious Studies

Debating

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. Under the ægis of the Humanities College we will continue to offer a programme of Debating Workshops for some of our younger gifted and talented students. We have been invited by the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom to take part in a special Magna Carta Debate on Friday 25 September. In addition to debating in Court 1, the largest courtroom in the magnificent Supreme Court building on Parliament Square, we will have a tour, take part in a quiz and prepare material with practicing lawyers. We will therefore be looking to the top of the School to provide an eager group of debaters, History and Politics students, aspiring lawyers and politicians.

Current Affairs Club

Current Affairs Club is back for the academic year 2015/16 and will focus on everything from politics to the environment. Students across all Year groups may attend in order to encounter themes they might not otherwise study through this engaging forum. The club runs every other week at lunchtime in E4 and new members are always welcome. Please see Miss Dolan for further information.

WHSB 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 in September using Old Westcliffians currently studying medicine at university. This will be followed by a day of 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.

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENTAL R

Urban Studies Day and Enrichment



Once again, it has been a busy year with students in all Key Stages being provided with fieldwork and extra-curricular opportunities to practise their geographic skills. The Autumn term saw the Year 12 Geographers enjoy an urban studies day in Brentwood and Leyton, collecting data which was then used for their Unit 2 Skills examination this summer. Although some were nervous about surveying members of the public, all rose to the challenge splendidly. The Year 11 students also headed out for some practical Geography, taking part in an Enrichment Day programme which combined Geography, Biology and Geology studies at Walton-on-the-Naze, giving them an opportunity to see theoretical models applied to real life situations.

Barcelona Residential Trip

Our highlight of the Spring Term was the Year 13 Barcelona residential trip; the students spent four days completing urban, river and coastal studies in preparation for the Unit 4 skills examination in the summer. We had fantastic weather and the feedback from students was very positive. Back at School we were very grateful to the Geography prefects for running the Annual Fair trade Café, with proceeds sponsoring SOS Ghana scholarships. Year 11 pupils also completed further fieldwork in the form of a microclimate study of the School site using weather equipment.

Geology-Geography Trip to Iceland

Easter brought the joint Geology-Geography trip to Iceland and 40 students from Years 10-12 took part in a whirlwind tour of the south of the island including the Golden Circle, the Laki lavas, the site of the Eyjafjallajökull eruption and, the highlight for many, lava tube caving. The students' behaviour throughout the trip was exemplary and the information gathered will assist with GCSE and Sixth Form studies.



The Summer Term

In the Summer term it was the turn of the youngest students to gain fieldtrip experience, with Year 7 embarking on the traditional Southend Fieldtrip. This allows the opportunity not only to learn more about the local area and to practise key geographical skills, but also to gather data which is used to support a statistics module in Mathematics back at School.



At the time of writing, Year 8 are preparing for their Enrichment Day event on climate which will entail microclimates fieldwork of the School site, map skills practice through orienteering and a mock IPCC climate change debate run by Dr Nicola Ranger, a meteorologist and former government climate change advisor. We are especially excited about Dr Ranger's visit, as with Geography being on the Russell Group's 'facilitating subject' list of A Levels, opportunities to explore where further Geographic study



can take students is hugely beneficial. Over 85% of Year 11 take Geography as a GCSE and we are keen to encourage talented students to pursue A Level Geography. The House Geography competitions also fall in the final half term of the academic year for Years 7-10, as does the Year 9 SETSA Geography competition. Much is at stake in this competition as we not only took the title of Borough champions last year, but our three teams took a triple first place ahead of all other schools.



Examination Preparation

Aside from the extra-curricular programme, the Department has also been busy with examination support and stretch, with GCSE lunchtime revision sessions running since November. In addition, Easter revision day sessions were held for all three examination year groups and were well-attended. KS3 pupils have been participating in the ongoing House Map Challenge and we have seen a marked improvement across the year in place knowledge through a combination of map practice and encouragement to stay abreast of current affairs. I am delighted in the number of students in the lower school who have a good grasp of global geopolitical issues.

Enrichment Day: Brentwood and Leyton Field Trip

Friday 25 September 2015



Year 12 Geographers will be using the September Enrichment Day to undertake our annual urban settlement trip to carry out data collection in inner city and suburban sites along a transect. We will be visiting Brentwood and Leyton, an area of East London which borders the 2012 Olympics arenas, as our fieldwork sites. Once back in 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

The Year Ahead

We continue to place a strong emphasis on Continuing Professional Development for our Geography teachers: we are proud to have completed the Prince's Teaching Institute Schools' Programme, which takes three years, and have now moved on to the Associate Department scheme. Through this programme, we are able to access high-quality CPD opportunities for our staff, and we have been able to implement strategies discussed and resources provided in the classroom.

There are still challenges to be tackled and this forthcoming year will see an overhaul of Key Stage Three schemes of work to update our curriculum for the introduction of the new GCSE and A Level courses, as well as stronger use of the Departmental Monitoring scheme. With two fieldtrips in this first half term alone, however, I have no doubt the Department will continue to play a memorable role in our students' education.

Miss S Sparks, Head of Geography

GCSE Fieldwork Skills Trip

Tuesday 22 and Wednesday 23 September 2015

Across two days, the Year 11 Geographers will each complete a day fieldtrip to Walton-on-the-Naze as part of their Geography coastal studies. The trip offers an opportunity to practise data collection and field study skills and the data collected will be used to complete a controlled assessment which accounts for 10% of the overall GCSE grade. Pupils will be investigating the effectiveness of coastal management strategies at Walton, they will be encouraged to offer opinions on possible improvements and finally they will consider whether the reduction in erosion rate is worth the economic cost. This is an excellent opportunity for pupils to gain hands-on experience and put theory into practice.

Miss S Sparks, Head of Geography

Geography Lecture at the Royal Geography Society

Tuesday 22 September 2015



The Royal Geographical Society works to address contemporary challenges faced by society and the environment and has been promoting geographical knowledge since 1830. Miss Sparks and Miss Dolan will be taking a group of Sixth Form students to a lecture entitled 'Not just Economics: What we know about why social inequality persists' by Professor Danny Dorling of The University of Oxford. The talk will consider the chasm between the most developed countries and the least, seeking to explain why these disparities exist and in what ways they are made manifest. The role of the modern geographer's role in finding solutions will also be examined. We hope that our Geography students will find the talk stimulating and that it will challenge some perceptions they may currently hold.

Miss F Dolan, Second in Geography

Primary School Programme

Our links with local primary schools have been further strengthened with Geography taking part in the Autumn Term WCGC day and a strong showing for the subject in the Wednesday Afternoon WCGC programme where local Year 5 students visit the school and are taught through interactive experiments and activities by Sixth Form students. We are also hosting the Borough's Year 5 SETSA Geography competition once more, which is a fun afternoon for competitors and our Sixth Form helpers alike.

SLICES OF PI: MATHEMATICS AT

Colleagues in 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 Mathematics block foyer or the latest news section of the website.

Hannah's Sweets

The Edexcel GCSE Non-Calculator paper caused an internet storm in June, when pupils across the country used the hashtag #edexcelmaths to express their dismay at the difficulty of the paper. At WHSB, there were no such histrionics, as our pupils filed out of the Examination Hall, mostly reporting confidently that the examination went well. While social media called on Edexcel to drop their grade boundaries (showing a lack of understanding about the way in which grade boundaries are determined), several of our pupils came along to the Mathematics block to check that their solutions were correct. The Telegraph called the problem, known as Hannah's Sweets, the 'GCSE maths problem that had students going crazy with frustration'. The following week, we worked through this problem with pupils in the Lower School with few difficulties. It is a relatively standard GCSE problem, although at the A* end of the spectrum, and we use similar questions on our unit tests.

*There are n sweets in a bag.
6 of the sweets are orange.*

*The rest of the sweets are
yellow.*

*Hannah takes at random a
sweet from the bag.*

She eats the sweet.

*Hannah then takes at random
another sweet from the bag.*

She eats the sweet.

*The probability that Hannah
eats two orange sweets is $\frac{1}{3}$.*

Show that $n^2 - n - 90 = 0$.

The solution is left to the reader. Anybody wishing to check their answer, or requiring some help with finding the solution, please see a member of the Mathematics Department.

Year 12 Engineering Mathematics Challenge

In June, thirteen Year 12 students embarked on the Engineering Mathematics Challenge provided by the University of Bristol. This annual competition aims to challenge Year 12 students to apply their mathematical knowledge to a real world problem. This year, students had to design a comfortable seat for commercial space craft. The brief required students to consider the challenges posed by dynamic space travel whilst also ensuring the forces subjected on passengers did not jeopardise their comfort and safety. The students worked in three groups to generate three different designs. The students had just two weeks to complete a ten page report. All students should be praised for their significant effort and ingenuity in the ideas generated. At the time of writing we do not know the outcome of the competition but we look forward to hearing how their designs were received.

Year 7 Enrichment Day

Year 7 were treated to a Mathematical Enrichment Day in July, with three different sessions on the day. In the first session, the Happy Puzzle Company came in to work with Year 7 on 3D puzzles and challenges. All of the activities look easy to begin with, but reveal hidden difficulties when you start tackling them. The aim of the session was to encourage problem solving skills and perseverance, and all pupils enjoyed the challenges.

Pupils developed their construction skills in the second session. They first experimented by completing a series of computer challenges which required them to use problem solving skills and their knowledge of constructions. In the second half of the session, pupils created a complex geometric pattern using just a pair of compasses. This was a challenging task, but pupils left the session having a better understanding of the importance of accuracy in their constructions and their implementation to the patterns they see around them in daily life.

Finally, pupils investigated the nature of fractal geometry and how the study of this area of Mathematics has led to breakthroughs in Geography, Science and Technology. Pupils worked together to build an impressive fractal tetrahedron which has been on display in the Mathematics block.

Mathematics Inspiration Lectures

On Monday 29 June 2015, 32 Year 9 pupils and six gifted Year 8 Mathematicians attended Mathematics Inspiration Lectures at Bloomsbury Theatre in Central London. The lectures aimed to reiterate the real life applications of Mathematics to pupils using exciting practical demonstrations. The lecture included a presentation by the Visual Effects Supervisor from Passion Pictures who is responsible for numerous computer animations, including the notorious Aleksander the Meerkat. Students found the lectures a truly interesting experience and feel they have a broader understanding of the application of Mathematics to the world around them.

For three years now, we have taken groups of AS and A2 students to a series of Mathematics Inspiration talks at one of

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the London Universities. These talks have ranged from Chaos theory to Computer Programming, but have all presented their materials in an engaging manner and highlighted the applications of Mathematics. These talks demonstrate to students some of the reasons why they may want to pursue the study of Mathematics at University, as well as being immensely enjoyable in their own right. We plan to offer this trip again this term and will publish further details when they are provided to Schools.

Architecture Workshop



On Wednesday 17 June 2015, all Year 12 Mathematicians participated in an Architecture Workshop held in the gymnasium. Students who participated in the Workshop in previous years have thoroughly enjoyed the Workshop, so the Mathematics Department were pleased to run the workshop again this year. The Workshop required students to work together in groups to design and build a bridge using limited materials, guidance and resources to solve a bridging problem. Students had to use problem-solving skills, mechanical knowledge, intuition, innovation and had to

demonstrate their ability to work effectively in groups. Students also developed an understanding of the different forms of bridges and their advantages and disadvantages structurally. Once again, students found the Workshop an enjoyable and worthwhile experience. We look forward to continuing to offer the Architecture Workshop to students in the future.

Year 7 Southend Trip



On Thursday 4 June, the whole of Year 7 went to Southend for a Mathematics and Geography field trip. The Mathematics portion of the day focused on data collection to later be used for statistical analysis in the classroom. The pupils were given zones of the high street where they needed to track the number of people entering and leaving. There was also a questionnaire to be carried out and by the end of the day every pupil had gathered the confidence to ask at least one member of the public. We were fortunate with the weather and it was an enjoyable day for all involved.

Junior Mathematics Challenge and Junior Kangaroo

In the Summer Term, every pupil in Year 8 participated in the Junior Mathematics Challenge. We are happy to announce that six pupils performed at such a high level they were invited to participate in the



follow-on round, the Junior Kangaroo, a record for WHSB. In total, Year 8 attained 14 Gold certificates, 47 Silver and 46 Bronze, with Michael Teare managing the top score. Other Junior Kangaroo qualifiers were William Skeldon, Fope Oguntuga, Peter Simon, Warwick George and Daniel Oyegoke. At the time of writing, we are eagerly awaiting the results of the follow-on round.

Mentoring Schemes



The United Kingdom Mathematics Trust produces mentoring materials for Schools to use with their pupils. The materials are aimed at gifted and talented Mathematicians who perform particularly well on problem solving tasks, such as the JMC/IMC/SMC. This year, we have five small groups in the Lower School working with Sixth Form Mathematicians on the Junior Mentoring Scheme. We also have groups in the Middle and Upper School working with members of staff on the Intermediate and Senior Mentoring Schemes. These pupils will be extending their mathematical thinking and reasoning beyond the constraints of the syllabus and learning to look at



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problems in different ways. We hope that they will enjoy the scheme, and hope to see some good results in the Mathematical Olympiads this year. If any pupil has not been invited to join the scheme but would like to do so, please see Mrs Marsh in the first instance.

Preparations for Team Challenge Events

Preparations are beginning for the Mathematical Team Challenge events this year. Mr Dowding will be organising his team for the Senior Team Challenge, which involves two students from Year 13 and two from Year 12, representing the School in the regional round of the competition which takes place in October. Miss Dole will be putting together the Year 10 Team, consisting of four pupils in Year 10, who will be competing in February. Mrs Hammond will be setting up the Junior Team with two pupils in Year 8 and two in Year 9, who usually compete in March. We hope to have the same success we have had in previous years. If any pupil wants to find out more about taking part in a Team Challenge, please see the relevant member of staff.

Senior Mathematics Challenge

This term, all Year 13 Mathematicians and Year 12 Further Mathematicians will be sitting the Senior Mathematics Challenge. The paper is a 25 mark multiple choice examination, testing problem-solving skills. Last year, the School achieved 12 Gold certificates, 37 Silver certificates and 44 Bronze certificates, with 7 students managing to get through to the follow up Senior Kangaroo round. We hope to better these results this year and all students are encouraged to work on past papers and other materials to prepare for the challenge.

Curriculum Changes

We have changed our Year 7 Scheme of Work this year to incorporate the explicit teaching of problem-solving strategies, loosely based on George Polya's famous book *How to Solve it*. With the changes to both GCSEs and A Levels, it is more important than ever that the KS3 syllabus is providing pupils with the opportunity to tackle extended problems and communicate their solutions effectively, with less emphasis on repetitive practice.

At Advanced Level, we are preparing for a significant change in our provision, with plans to offer Cambridge Pre-U Mathematics and Further Mathematics, starting teaching in September 2016. For those unfamiliar with the Pre-U qualification, it is an alternative to A Level which is designed to better prepare students for University education. The grading of Pre-U is in nine parts with the top three being Distinction 1–3. D2 is equivalent to an A* at A Level. We still plan to offer the standard A Level Mathematics as well as Pre-U.

Roger Crouch

Currently Dean of City University, London, Professor Crouch is an Old Westcliffian who studied Mathematics, Further Mathematics and Physics while at WHSB. He went on to train and work as a Structural Engineer before returning to academia at Durham University where he was Head of Engineering and Computing Sciences. Professor Crouch has fond memories of his time at WHSB and has offered to speak to our students about the fundamental role of Mathematics and career choices in STEM subjects. We hope to have him visit this term to speak to Year 12 students who are considering their future careers.



Mentoring, Classroom Assistants, Help Clubs, Maths Angels

We continue to provide support for pupils in Mathematics in the usual ways. We set up one-to-one mentoring for pupils with able mathematicians in the Sixth Form. These meetings usually take place during lunch at a mutually convenient time, and can be used to consolidate understanding of any topic, or go over difficulties that have arisen from set tasks or unit tests. Any pupil who would like a mentor should see Mr Doherty.

We also arrange for classroom assistants to work with individuals in class, or small groups who would benefit from some additional support. This can be particularly helpful to classes who are beginning a new and challenging course, such as Year 10. Any Sixth Form student who would like to be a classroom assistant (this can be your Wednesday afternoon activity) should speak to Mrs Snell.

Our help clubs continue to run this year, with staff available during four lunchtimes each week to help pupils with any topics in which they would like to reinforce their understanding. Any problems with homework or classwork, unit tests or revision can be brought along. Full details will be published in the Mathematics block, in registers, and on noticeboards.

We are still working in partnership with the SHSG Mathematics Department to provide Maths Angels for online mentoring in the evenings. This valuable scheme also works in alliance with the Southend Young Carers Association and the pupils who volunteer to be a Maths Angel are actively involved in helping disadvantaged young people in our local area. Both Joseph Bills and Dovydas Dambrasukas have been highly praised by Mrs Imbush (who runs the scheme) for being dedicated mentors. If any pupil in the School would like to know more, please contact Mrs Marsh in the first instance.

MUSIC AT WHSB MUSIC AT WHSB

Opera Trip to the Coliseum, London *La Bohème* by Puccini

Thursday 12 November 2015

The WHSB Music Department invites you to experience a brilliant new interpretation of one of opera's most popular and unforgettable stories.

The moment Mimì knocks on the door of her neighbour Rodolfo sparks the start of a journey which will take the couple – and the audience – through the full range of human emotions. From the irrepressible joy of their burgeoning love affair through to the unbearable heartbreak at their separation by death, only the stoniest of hearts could fail to be moved by this timeless story.

This is a visually stunning, contemporary production from sought-after Australian director Benedict Andrews. Puccini's soaring vocal lines and beautiful orchestration will be conducted by Italian repertoire specialist Xian Zhang. Singing Mimì will be the brilliant soprano Corinne Winters, alongside lyric tenor Zach Borichevsky as Rodolfo.

This event is open to all students, parents, staff and friends of the School. It is highly recommended for any students taking GCSE or A Level Music, or those students in the Lower School considering continuing the subject beyond Year 9. Tickets are £28, including travel by coach. There is limited availability for this event, and tickets must be reserved by Wednesday 9 September.

Autumn Sinfonia Concert Thursday 19 November 2015, 7.30pm

The first Westcliff Sinfonia Concert of the year promises to be an excellent example of the orchestra's capabilities, demonstrating the group's ability to present a diverse and dramatically varied programme. The evening will begin with a thrilling interpretation of Beethoven's *Coriolan Overture*. This piece is often said to be inspired by Shakespeare's play, *Coriolanus*, and it is easy to see why: the character of the eponymous Roman general is clearly reflected in the controlled fury of the declamatory opening theme,

while there is a clear sense of pride-without-bombast in the major second subject that quickly transforms into a tragic yearning. However, while Beethoven's work is an apt companion to Shakespeare's tragedy, it was actually written for Austrian playwright Heinrich Joseph von Collin's play of the same name.

The following work, *Matinées Musicales* will allow the Sinfonia to approach a favourite of the orchestra, Rossini, from the twentieth century perspective of Benjamin Britten. This suite of reworks of the famous Italian opera composer was Britten's opportunity to have some fun and it shows, with the cheeky March working in counterpoint with humorous Pantomime.

Gounod's *Faust Ballet Music* was included as part of his Opera based loosely on Goethe's famous story of the scholar who made a pact with the Devil, and as such it is a wonderful opportunity for the Sinfonia to show off its dramatic 'chops.' The work presents a series of waltzes and other dances, with the graceful forms always underpinned by a seething malevolence that often bubbles to the surface.

Tickets are £5 for adults (including a programme) and free of charge for pupils and they can be reserved through our online ticketing service.

Autumn Chamber Recital Thursday 8 October 2015, 7.30pm

The Chamber Concerts are always a wonderful opportunity to sample the breadth and quality of music produced by the students of WHSB, and this evening will be no exception. A varied programme of performances will include Westcliff Choral Scholar Jacob Gough, Alex Usher playing Rachmaninoff on the piano and Ewan Lane presenting one of his innovative and experimental compositions, in which the guitar is used as percussion as much as it is for harmony and melody. Alongside these performers will be regulars such as violinist Niam Chauhan, Edward Renshaw providing more aural acrobatics with his Tuba, and the String Group.

Tickets are £5 for adults (including a programme) and free of charge for pupils.

School Choir at the Church of St Mary and St Michael Carol Service

Friday 4 December 2015

After the success of last year's performance, the WHSB Choir has been asked to return to St Mary and St Michael Church in London to sing at their annual candlelit Carol Service. We invite you to join the Choir and the congregation of the Parish to sing a collection of Christmas carols in the large Gothic-Revival church, known as the Cathedral of the East End.

This free event will take place on Friday 4 December 2015 and will commence at 7.00pm. Parents are encouraged to attend to support our pupils.

'Messiah'

Saturday 5 December 2015

Southend Bach Choir will be giving a performance of Handel's great oratorio on Saturday 5 December 2015 in the School Hall. Doors open at 6.45pm, and the concert starts at 7.30pm. Tickets, priced at £12 for adults and £5 for students/children, are available on the door or in advance by calling 01268 772842. Visit www.southendbachchoir.org.uk for more information.

Christmas with the Big Band

Friday 11 December, 7.30pm

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 it is recommended that you book your tickets early. You can reserve your tickets at a price of £8 for adults and £5 for pupils using our online ticketing service.

*Mr T Derrick
Director of Music*

The House System: A Review of the Year

Since the beginning of the summer term many House events have taken place, such as Golf, Badminton, Cricket, History, Table Tennis and, at the time of writing, we still have Drama and Sports Day to come.

Across the year we have completed House Football, Rowing, Chess, Rugby, Netball, Geography, MFL, Table Tennis, General Studies, Cricket, Spelling, Public Speaking, and Badminton Competitions. We are now at the time of year where we thank the Year 13 students who have led the houses over the past year and we also appoint our new house captains.

The House System remains an integral part of life at WHSB and the aim to improve it and to encourage all students to participate in as many of the House events as possible is still one that is very much being worked towards. This year's competition is very close and the final results may be dependent upon the outcome of both Sports Day and the House Drama competition, and this emphasises the importance of the students' participation in all such events.

At the time of writing, the positions are: 1st Harrier (1983 points), 2nd Osprey (1975 points), 3rd Merlin (1854 points) & 4th Kestrel (1845 points).

Well done to all our students on their individual and team contributions.

*Mr D Shoesmith
Coordinator of House Activities,
Participation and Provision*

House Maps Championships

Government publications regarding Geography teaching have placed a notable emphasis on the importance of place knowledge. Past Borough Geography competitions have proved that our students have a good working knowledge of country locations, but for those wishing for further practice the Geography Department highly recommends the website geography-map-games.com. The site allows pupils to record their scores for accuracy and speed in locating countries within a region, allowing them to compete against their peers and family members. The Department will be running competitions throughout the year, with House points at stake for Key Stage 3 challengers.

*Miss S Sparks
Head of Geography*

Year 8 Cricketers Compete in the National Cup

Following their success in the Under-12 Essex Cup Competition last summer, our Under-13 Cricket team was granted the chance to represent Essex in this year's David English Bunbury National Cup. Their campaign began with a trip to Kimbolton School in Cambridgeshire. On a slow, low early-season wicket, runs were difficult to come by, with Kimbolton restricted to 90 runs from their 25 overs. A nervous WHSB managed to reach the target with around two overs to spare, with Klain Fernando just short of a half century.

In the last 32 stage, the team was drawn against Trinity School, Croydon – last year's Surrey champions. Another away trip, to an equally impressive facility, saw our boys trying to beat the rain. Our team struggled somewhat with batting, managing 111 runs from their 30 overs. Klain Fernando, once again, giving an impressive performance, scoring 66 runs. Rain then intervened, eventually providing Trinity with an adjusted score of 89 to win from 24 overs. Despite a slow start, WHSB managed to remain in the game by taking six wickets. However, their efforts ultimately fell short, with Trinity's opening batsman carrying his bat for an impressive 40 runs. Notable performances in bowling came, again, from Fernando with 2-6 from 5 overs, and Matt Mohan with 2-17 from his 5 overs.

Whilst it is regrettable that the team were unable to progress against opposition that they know they could have beaten on an alternative day, they should take heart from some fantastic performances in a national competition, proving their value as one of the best 32 teams in the country, and one of the best 8 in a strong South-East region. Congratulations to all involved.

*Mr L Groves
Teacher of Physical Education*

School Sport: a Review of the Summer Season

The School produced another strong performance in this year's Southend Borough Athletics Championships finishing in 2nd place. Notable performances in Year 7 came from Joseph Fisher who won Gold in the 100m (with a time of 12.46s) and Long Jump competition (with a jump of 5.19m), breaking the Borough's records in the process. Commendation must also go to Nathaniel Familusi, who won Gold in the Shot Put.

In Year 8, WHSB dominated the track with Arunan Sivabalan

THE HOUSE SYSTEM SPORT AND

being placed 2nd in the 100m, Tamilore Mustafa securing Gold in the 200m, with a Borough record time of 25.21s, whilst Udo Abazie secured Silver in the 200m. Success Ariyibi and David Olusina came 2nd and 3rd respectively in the 300m, whilst Sam Ayanbadejo came 2nd in the 800m. Seth Mokoulu gave a strong performance in the Hurdles to win Gold and equal the School record, and the Year 8 team also won Silver in the relay.

In Year 9, Micah Tsekeri won Gold in the 100m, Tom George won Silver in the 200m and Oliver Johnson achieved Gold in the 300m. The Relay team won Silver and Rotimi Osunsami also won the Silver in the Hurdles with a time of 11.6, breaking the School Relay record.

In the field, Micah Tsekeri won Silver, Rotimi Osunsami and Neil Patel Silver and Bronze respectively in the Triple Jump, and Oliver Johnson won Silver in the Shot Put. Oliver Gravett won Gold in the Javelin, along with George Haye.

In Year 10, the Bronze award was an impressive theme on the track for Andrew Gilbertson in the 100m, Ismail Amoeteng in the 200m, Ayo Ojo in the 400m and Matthew Otoo in the 400m Hurdles. Toni Abatan did achieve one better and secured Silver in the 100m Hurdles, as did the Relay team who also came second. Leron Hunt St. Rose won Gold in the Triple Jump, as did Ayo Ojo in the Long Jump, whilst Toni Abatan achieved Bronze in the High Jump. In the Throwing events, Chris Rossell came 2nd in the Hammer and Matthew Otoo 3rd in the Discus to round off a successful Borough Sports.

Nine pupils from WHSB represented Southend Borough in the Essex Schools' Championships on Saturday 13 June. The most impressive performance came from Oliver Johnson in Year 9 who won the 300m title in a time of 38.2 seconds, Joseph Fisher in Year 7 also ran impressively in qualifying for the 100m final, only falling a little short in the final, finishing in 5th place.

Both the Junior and Inter teams were in action again this year in the National Track and Field Cup Competition. The Junior team performed superbly in the first round, scoring 474 points and qualifying for the Regional 'A' final. This performance was matched by the Inter team who scored 479 points and also qualified for the Regional 'A' final. The Junior team scored 484 points in the Regional Final, placing them fourth in East Anglia but, unfortunately, due to some below par performances in the field, they missed out on the National Final qualification this year. The Inter team had a better day, scoring 512 points, and they were unfortunate to narrowly miss out on the National Finals.

In Cricket, it has been a mixed year with successes in some year groups and disappointments in others. Year 7 made it into the quarter finals of the Essex Cup, and whilst they lost against Bancroft School, at the time of writing, they are hopeful of winning the local competitions after an impressive win against Southend High School for Boys. The Year 8 team (currently the Essex Cup Champion) is now set to play the semi-final against Saffron Walden and hopes to retain the title. The Year 8 team also reached the last 32 of the National Cup this year, losing out to Trinity School, Surrey. It was a fantastic performance and the boys should be very proud of their achievements. With a few games remaining, the Year 10 team is striving to win the local League and Cup competitions. Klain Fernando and Viraj Khagram are to be congratulated on being selected to represent Essex, and we look forward to following their progress.

We also look forward to the commencement of the Winter Season and a full programme of Football and Rugby fixtures. We wish our teams well for the forthcoming season.

*Mr D Phillips
Head of Physical Education*

House Golf Event : A Review

The House Golf Event was reformatted this year with Lads and Dads competing in Texas Scramble and Golfer Putter Pairs as well as a staff competition played over 9 holes at Garons Park Golf Complex on Friday 12 June. Before the first tee-off, Osprey and Merlin had the edge over Harrier and Kestrel through sheer number of participants. Teeing off in glorious sunshine, it seemed that the forecasted thunderstorms may hold off until we were all back in the clubhouse, but that was not to be and nobody, except Mr Shoesmith (in his buggy) managed to stay dry. Our duos battled through the rain in order to win points for their House total in each of the competitions, as well as the Longest Drive and Nearest the Pin bonus points. Overall, Kestrel were disappointed with fourth place. George Earl's efforts for the long drive saw him ending up in the ditch, but the Long Drive bonus points rescued Harrier as they achieved third place. The competition was dominated by the Merlin and Osprey teams, with outstanding performances from Mr Phillips for Osprey and Marcus Kelly and his Dad representing Merlin. In the end it was Osprey who were the overall winners of the competition.



*Miss K Rankin
Director of Lower School Studies*

AUTUMN TERM 2015 CALENDAR

AUTUMN TERM

Wed 2 Sept

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

Uniform Shop open 09:30am-1.00pm

Thurs 3 Sept

AUTUMN TERM BEGINS 8.45am

Mon 7 Sept

Year 7 Meet & Greet followed by PA's AGM 6.30pm

Fri 11 Sept

OWA Dinner 6.00pm

Thurs 17 Sept

Years 12 and 13 Prof Crawford Lecture 3.35pm

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

Professor Crawford Lecture on The Science and Beauty of Nebulae 7.30pm-9.00pm

Tues 22 Sept

Year 11 Geographers visit Walton on the Naze 8.00am depart

Year 10 Education Evening 7.30pm

Sixth Form Geography Lecture, Royal Geographical Society

Wed 23 Sept

Year 11 Geographers visit Walton on the Naze

Thurs 24 Sept

Helping Parents Help Their Sons (Year 9) 4.00pm

PA Theatre Trip: And Then There Were None CCF Field Day, Mereworth Woods, Kent

24-26 Sept

Fri 25 Sept

ENRICHMENT DAY

Fri 25/26 Sept

Bronze DoE Assessment 8.30am depart

Tues 29 Sep

PA Meeting 7.30pm

Sixth Form Education Evening 7.30pm

Thurs 8 Oct

Autumn Chamber Recital 7.30pm

Fri 9 Oct

Yr 12 x 9 Geology - Folkstone - N Cooper 8.30am depart

Sat 10 Oct

Yr 9 Enrichment Trip - London Buddhist Centre

Mon 12 Oct

Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA) Conference 8.30am-4.30pm

Wed 14 Oct

Science & Engineering Evening Lectures 7.30pm

Fri 16 Oct

Year 13 Phase 1 Reports Issued

Wed 21 Oct

Open Day for Year 6 Passes only 2.30pm-4.00pm

Open Evening for Year 6 passes only 7.00pm-8.30pm

Thurs 22 Oct

CCF Meeting - Parents of potential cadets Year 9 7.30pm

Fri 23 Oct

Year 7 & 12 Phase 1 Reports Issued

AUTUMN TERM

26-30 October

29-31 Oct

Mon 2 Nov

Thurs 5 Nov

Fri 6 Nov

Mon 9 Nov

Wed 11 Nov

Thurs 12 Nov

Fri 13 Nov

Thurs 19 Nov

Fri 20 Nov

Sat 21 Nov

Mon 23 Nov

Wed 25 Nov

Fri 27 Nov

Sat 28 Nov

30 Nov-4 Dec

Fri 4 Dec

Mon 7 Dec

Thurs 10 Dec

Fri 11 Dec

Mon 14 Dec

Wed 16 Dec

Thurs 17 Dec

Fri 18 Dec

HALF TERM

Year 12 Physicists visit CERN, Geneva

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

Annual Speech Day 7.45pm

Year 11 Phase 1 Reports Issued

Year 13 Parents' Evening 4.00pm-6.00pm

Annual Service of Remembrance 8.45am

CCF Taster Sessions for interested parties 4.00pm-6.00pm

Dr Rosie Wyles - Women in Greek Tragedy 7.30-9.00pm

La Bohème, The Coliseum, London departs 4.45 pm

Year 8 Phase 1 Reports

Autumn Sinfonia Concert 7.30pm

Year 8 English Civil War Day

Year 9 Phase 1 Reports Issued

A Day in Toy Making 9.00am-4.00pm

Year 12 Parents' Meeting 4.00pm-6.00pm

PIP Club Evening 7.30pm

Year 10 Phase 1 Reports Issued

Year 12 - Being and Nothingness

Conference, London

PA Winter Ball 7.00pm

Year 11 Trial Examinations

School Choir, Church of St Mary &

St Michael Carol Service 7.00pm

Year 7 Parents' Meeting 4.00pm-6.00pm

Dr M Morris Lecture, The Norman Conquest

for Year 7 2.00pm-3.35pm

Dr M Morris Lecture, King Edward I 7.30pm

Geology Conference 8.30am-4.00pm

Christmas with the Big Band 7.30pm

Year 12 Phase 2 Reports Issued

Carol Service 7.30pm

Christmas Lunch 12.50pm-1.50pm

Year 11 Earth Galleries

Year 9 - Eyes Deep - Andrew Robertshaw

2.45pm-3.35pm

Andrew Robertshaw - Filming the Battle of

the Somme 7.30pm

Year 13 Phase 2 Reports Issued

AUTUMN TERM ENDS 3.00pm