



To Vikoš with Dove

Very observant students of the School might have noticed that a very handsome sculpture of a Dove of Peace vanished from the cabinet at the front on the right hand side of the School Hall over the weekend of the 9 January 2016. Fine though the sculpture was, this is a moment of celebration, as that weekend (with help from a Boeing 737) it flew to the Czech village of Vikoš, where it was presented to the village's primary school on the occasion of its renaming.

The dove is the brainchild of the German artist, Mr Richard Hillinger, to mark the 60th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights in 2008. Mr Hillinger created 30 golden life-size peace doves, each one of them representing one of the Articles of the Declaration of Human Rights. These doves were presented to 30 specially chosen people and institutions, where they were held for a while, until they were passed on to further worthy institutions and people. It is the intention that, over time, the doves will circle the globe, 'flying from stopover to stopover', bringing their message of peace to wherever they land. The dove was presented to Westcliff High School for Boys in 2013 by Herr Burger, the Headmaster at Wilhelm-Conrad-Rontgen-Mittelschule in Germany. It was an immense honour for our School to be involved in this project. In his letter, Herr Burger emphasised the importance of us all working together to educate students regarding the importance of peace, international friendship and tolerance. Herr Burger is, of course, right to highlight this matter and these are values we promote strongly at Westcliff High School for Boys. The link www.richard-hillinger.de provides further details regarding the peace project. The Vikoš school was being renamed on the occasion of the centenary of one of the village's most honoured past citizens – MU Dr Karel A Macháček – indeed the celebration took place a mere two days before what would have been Dr Macháček's 100th birthday. He grew up in the town, attending the primary school, before progressing to the grammar school in the nearby town of Kyjov for his secondary education. He desired to be a doctor, but his training was cut short by the brutal events which included the closure of all Czech Universities on 17 November 1939. As a patriot, a keen proponent of academic debate, and a vice president of his student union, these events made a strong impression on him. He escaped his homeland to join the free armies of Europe and was part of the campaign to make 17 November International Students' Day. When the threat of an



invasion of Britain subsided, he led a campaign to allow medical and engineering students who were within a year of qualifying to finish their degrees at British universities, and then join the war effort in a more significant capacity. He graduated as a doctor, and served the remainder of the Second World War as a medical officer in the Royal Air Force.

Dr Macháček returned to Czechoslovakia in 1945, but when the country became communist in 1948, he escaped a second time. He settled, with his British wife, on Canvey Island and served as a GP there until his retirement in 1982. He lived to see the Velvet Revolution which returned democracy to Czechoslovakia – and subsequently was greatly in demand giving speeches to fill in much of the history which had not been told to Czech citizens for almost fifty years. It is significant that protests on 17 November 1989 were a pivotal moment of the Czechs regaining freedom. His part in educating Czechs of their history, and indeed in letting students know of the crucial importance of student protests in that nation's past, was formally recognized when he was made a Knight of the Medical Profession. Dr Macháček died in 2005.

When the Headmaster and other senior teachers heard this inspiring story, it was clear that WHSB was keen to develop links with the Dr Macháček Primary School. It is my hope that the dove of peace is the beginning of other Czech adventures for WHSB.

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

Student Profile: Alex Usher

A second student from Westcliff High School for Boys has been invited to join the National Youth Wind Orchestra after a rigorous auditions process. Clarinettist Alex Usher will be attending NYWO rehearsals at Radley College during the Easter period, leading to concerts in Chelmsford and Manchester in April.

Alex is also looking forward to participating in the National Youth Wind Orchestra's tour to Switzerland in the summer. Perhaps more exciting are the opportunities that come from being a member of such a prestigious group, with many former members of the Orchestra going on to become professional performers later in life.

Alex is currently studying GCSE Music and is one of the School's Organ Scholars, accompanying the hymns in our morning assemblies.



FROM THE DESK OF THE HEADMASTER



Staff Changes during the Spring Term 2016

There have been a small number of changes to staffing during the Spring Term 2016.

Mr Senior has been absent from School during the latter part of the Spring Term. Unfortunately, he has been diagnosed with a serious medical condition and we do not expect him to return in the near future. Mr Senior has demonstrated great fortitude in the circumstances and has worked with colleagues to reorganize the teaching of his classes. Miss Rankin, Director of Lower School Studies, has taken over Mr Senior's GCSE classes and the School has employed a specialist Electronics Technician to offer the pupils support. Temporary arrangements are in place to maintain the continuity of teaching and these will need to be reviewed following the departure of the public examination groups. All at the School wish Mr Senior well and we shall continue to do all that we can to support him at this difficult time.

Mr Cass, Head of Lower School, moves to the position of Assistant Head at Cornelius Vermuyden School, Canvey Island. He will leave us at the end of the Spring Term. We thank him for his service and congratulate him on his promotion. We advertised internally for the Head of Lower School and Mr Bleakley (currently

Middle School Progress Leader) has been appointed to this position. Mr Cass' classes will be covered by reorganizing teaching within the English Department.

The School was delighted to appoint Mr Stainer as our Facilities & Premises Manager. We are pleased to welcome Mr Stainer, who has already had a significant positive impact on the quality of provision. The School has also appointed an apprentice caretaker (Mr Palmer) and is currently seeking an additional caretaker. The School was also pleased to appoint Mrs Brown to the position of Catering Assistant in the new Sixth Form Coffee Shop.

Mrs Hammond, Mathematics Teacher, has taken maternity leave from the end of the Spring Term and arrangements have been put in place to ensure the continuity of teaching. The public examination groups and the majority of other classes will be taken by members of the Mathematics Department. There will be a further reorganization of teaching following the departure of the public examination classes. We give Mrs Hammond our best wishes.

Capital Development Projects

Following the news that the School had been successful in securing a further substantial grant, we have begun work on the internal refurbishment of the Science Building. A design has been agreed with the architect following consultation with the Head of Science and other senior Science teachers. We have retained the services of Barton Wilmore as our architect, as this project is essentially phase 2 of the complete project to refurbish the Science Building. We intend to move swiftly with the project to take full advantage of the summer holiday break for completing works. It is our aim to complete the project by the end of the autumn term to ensure staff and pupils have full access to facilities with the minimum of disruption. We anticipate the project will be completed in two sections, allowing the School to retain the use of at least five of the laboratories during the actual capital works.

I would like to thank the pupils, parents and staff for their forbearance in the face of some disruption.

Forthcoming Public Examinations

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

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

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

Pupil Premium Award

During February 2016, the School received a letter from Sam Gyimah MP, Minister for Childcare & Education, offering congratulations to WHSB on winning an award in the Pupil Premium Awards 2016. In his letter, the Minister noted that the School had received the award because it had made a significant positive difference to the attainment and progress of disadvantaged pupils since 2011. The Minister went on to explain that the award provided a great opportunity for the success of our pupils and the outstanding contribution by teachers, parents, governors and school leaders to be recognised and celebrated. We are pleased to have received the award, which we consider vindicates our approach to the management of the pupil premium cohort. Nevertheless, we are never complacent in relation to our capacity to make further improvements.

FROM THE DESK OF THE HEADMASTER

Visit of The Rt Revd John Wray, Area Bishop of Bradwell

Tuesday 10 May 2016

We are delighted to welcome back Bishop John to the School. Those attending the School's Annual Carol Service will be aware that the Bishop presided over the service and delivered a blessing at the end of the evening. Bishop John studied law at Lincoln College, Oxford and then trained for the

Anglican ministry at Fitzwilliam College and Ridley Hall in Cambridge. He is married to Gillian and they have four children. His interests include the theatre and walking. He was also a crew member in the 2009–2010 Clipper Round the World Yacht Race. In June 2014 he announced that he had been diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma and was about to undergo intense chemotherapy treatments. Almost a year after his diagnosis, he announced that his Myeloma was in remission after he underwent a Stem cell transplant, and that he would be fully resuming his duties as bishop.

Bishop John will be visiting some Sixth Form Religious Studies lessons to

discuss areas of Philosophy and Ethics with A Level students. He will also be providing the students with an understanding of the role of a senior member of the Church of England in modern society. This is a wonderful opportunity for the School to enrich the Religious Studies curriculum for our students in advance of their A Level examinations and we are most grateful to the Bishop for accepting our invitation to visit the School. We are also delighted to welcome the Revd David Pierce, Curate in the Parish of Westcliff St Peter with St Cedd and the Saints of Essex, who will join the Bishop for his visit to the School.

Headteacher

NEWS SCHOOL NEWS SCHOOL

Science Roadshow

The Science Roadshow continues to take Science into Junior Schools on a Wednesday afternoon as part of Sixth Form Activities. The aim is allow Year 5 pupils access to the disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and to demonstrate simple experiments to them. We have been into many schools before but I am pleased to say that this



year the following schools are new to the project: St. Helens, College St. Pierre and Richmond Avenue. It is a pleasure to take Science to budding new scientists and I hope we will see many of them at WHSB in September 2017.

*Mr D Despres
Teacher of Biology*

UCAS Programme

Thursday 16 June 2016

Continuing to build on a programme established over ten years to support applications to the most prestigious universities, the School will host its annual Oxbridge Conference on Thursday 16 June. Admissions tutors, academics, staff and students from Oxford and Cambridge will visit the School to talk to potential applicants on a range of issues. They will seek to demystify the application process and the notorious interview as well as providing concrete advice on the extra preparation expected over the Summer of those who would seek to study at these ancient institutions. This year we have already conducted a tour of Cambridge University for Year 11 boys and members of Year 12 who are new to the School, and attended an Oxbridge "Stretch Day" in Southend with ten of our Year 12 students. We are also pleased to have recommended students for the Cambridge Law Faculty Study Days, supported applications for the Cambridge University Student Union Shadowing Scheme, Sutton Trust Summer Schools, and encouraged participation through London University taster courses and various Masterclasses hosted by Cambridge University. In addition, across the current academic

year we have provided opportunities for the Sixth Form to hear from external experts about revision techniques and options for taking a Gap Year or studying abroad.

*Mr R Stevens
Head of Politics*

British Biology Olympiad 2016

The British Biology Olympiad is an online examination open to Sixth Form Biologists across the Country. In January of this year, the School entered twenty-four students spread across both years to compete with the best in the rest of the Country in this multiple-choice examination. Overall, seven thousand young people took part and our students were very successful with four being commended, three being highly commended, eight achieving a Bronze and six receiving a Silver Award. Special mention must go to Reece Carter who achieved the highest Gold accolade. Nationally, 32% of students achieved Bronze, Silver and Gold with only 6.6% being awarded Gold. Reece participated in the Level 2 examination in March and we are awaiting the results. We congratulate all who participated.

*Mr D Despres
Teacher of Biology*

Year 12 School Council

Over the last year and a half, the Sixth Form Pastoral Team have benefitted from feedback from student representatives. The form representatives chosen last academic year were particularly influential in advising on the function, layout, purpose and rules for the rooms in the new Sixth Form building – the minutes of their meeting can still be seen in some form rooms, and bear uncanny resemblance to the instructions in this year's Sixth Form Handbook. This year, Deputy Head Boy George Barnes has held regular Student Voice meetings with form representatives in Year 13.

After discussion within George's Student Voice meeting, and with members of Year 12, it became clear that more formal student representation was needed. Accordingly we shall now elect Year 12 students to a Sixth Form Council in the spring term, and they will serve for one year. During this time they will meet, they will give feedback on School proposals, create and implement their own initiatives and assist in improving the pastoral support for other students. We also hope that they may have leadership responsibilities for a School Council for all year groups at WHSB, as well as taking responsibility for the planning and operation of induction events in September.

I was pleased that fourteen Year 12 students stood for election, and at a 'Meet the Candidates' session in the Sixth Form Building one Tuesday lunchtime, candidates mingled and discussed their ideas with fellow sixth formers, with manifestos on display on the noticeboards. Polling was open from shortly after 8am on Thursday 3 March, and over 70% of the year group voted under the watchful eye of the Head Boy, Sam Thomas, and his hand-picked team of presiding officers. Students who voted ranked the candidates in order of preference, and a count was conducted immediately after polling closed at 1:50pm. I am grateful to all the candidates for their positive campaigns, and to the presiding officers and the Year 13 students who managed to conduct the count under the formal rules of the Single Transferrable Vote in less than 45

minutes. The candidates elected initially (the Council may choose to expand later in the Year) were Sharon Ogodo, George Cunniffe, Sam Jessep, George Mayson, Saul O'Brart and George Tothill. We wish them well with their responsibilities.

Dr A Macháček

Assistant Head:

Director of Sixth Form Studies

Year 12 Students Considering their Future

Thursday 23 June 2016



The summer is a crucial time for Year 12 students, as they make preparations for university or employment applications. For others, this is the time they wish to put detailed thought into constructing a Gap Year. The range of choice available to them is bewildering. At WHSB, there are advisers on hand at any time to assist a puzzled student with a query and certain events allow students to focus on researching those opportunities which are of most interest to them.

Once students return from their Study Leave after the AS examinations, their form tutor will introduce them to the UCAS website, which is used to make applications to British Universities, and to certain other institutions of higher education. They will have the opportunity to set up their personal details, and work towards the personal statement, which is the part of the process where the student explains to their future university the rationale for their choice and the skills and attitudes they bring to their application.

On Thursday 23 June, students will participate in two events. During the day,

travel will be arranged to transport them to the Essex UCAS Superfair which is to be held at the University of Essex campus in Colchester this year. At this event, our students will be able to speak to representatives of nearly all of the higher education institutions, and to collect prospectuses and hear talks on matters of importance. As a way of being able to make direct comparisons between competing universities and exploring the options available, this event cannot be beaten.

On that same evening, we strongly recommend that all Year 12 students, with a parent or guardian, attend our Higher Education information evening, which starts at 7:30pm in the School Hall. Here, not only will the application process and the options be explained, but helpful advice will be provided on how to choose the most appropriate course. There will be talks on apprenticeships as well as undergraduate study, and you will be able to hear from and draw on the experience and advice of the current Year 13 students. Extensive written information will be given out in WHSB's own Handbook to University Application, and the evening will be led by the Sixth Form team, including our very own expert on the Higher Education scene – Mr Stevens.

Friday 8 July is our Summer Enrichment Day. For Year 12, this is a day off the normal academic timetable, with talks and activities organized to assist them in preparing their application and furthering their research. Speakers will include Bradley Farrow from the University of East Anglia (speaking on Choosing a Course and also on Personal Statements); Holly Penalver from indiGO volunteers (speaking on Gap Years and volunteering experiences) and Daniel Keller from Unifrog who will explain a website which helps students select aspirational, but also 'safe', courses for which to apply. There will be time during the day in the School's computer rooms to test the software, research courses and, of course, continue with any applications started.

Students are also welcome to seek advice from staff at WHSB at any time. Their first port of call should be a subject teacher if the question is in relation to a university course in that subject; to Mr Stevens if it concerns the Higher Education scene, or Mrs Weller if a

student wishes to consider apprenticeships or any other kind of employment. Students often find chats with Mrs Weller helpful if they see themselves on a treadmill, and need a fresh perspective to help them choose the way forward. When it comes to post-18 choices, Hamlet had it right: "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy."

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

Enrichment Day

Friday 8 July 2016

The Summer Enrichment Day is one to look forward to for all year groups. Year 7 will be heading to the seaside with the Geography and Mathematics Departments to collect primary research on the beach. Meanwhile, back at School, Year 8 will be preparing for the highly anticipated House Drama competition. Year 9 will be split between the Battlefields trip and those who learn more about the Holocaust through a series of activities at School. Year 10

pupils will be involved in a PSHE day with presentations from the Amy Winehouse Charitable Foundation, whilst Year 12 will be preparing for their departure from the School with a UCAS and Further Education/Employment-themed day.

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

Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children

**Saturday 25 June 2016:
Languages Themed Day**

The WCGC Go for Grammar! Days have proved to be exceptionally popular, with over 600 pupils coming through the WHSB doors for their 11+ tutorial sessions and other lessons and activities, to encourage local Year 5 pupils to strive for a Grammar School education.

Our teachers have organised some fantastic activities for the primary school children, and our own Year 12 students,

as well as a selection of our CCF cadets and subject prefects, have had their inter-personal skills tested and developed whilst working with the younger pupils. The feedback from these days has been highly positive and future courses are heavily over subscribed.

The WCGC programme is specifically designed to encourage boys and girls from the borough of Southend and the wider priority application area to consider entry to the local Grammar Schools. The programme is heavily subsidised and there is no charge for those in receipt of pupil premium. WCGC was established in September 2010 and it encouraged the Local Authority and other schools to do more to encourage local children to give consideration to a Grammar School education.

I would like to thank all the staff and students who have helped with the previous four Saturday programmes and anticipate another success as we embark upon the Languages-themed day on Saturday 25 June.

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

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. 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 for all orders required before the end of this Summer Term, order forms together with payment must be handed in to the School Office no later than Tuesday 12 July 2016. The last day on which the shop will be open prior to the summer break is Thursday 21 July 2016.

The Uniform Shop will open at the end of the summer holiday, prior to the start of the Autumn Term 2016 on the following dates:

Date	Time
Wednesday 31 August	9.30am to 1pm
Thursday 1 September	9.30am to 1pm
Friday 2 September	9.30am to 1pm

Please note that the Uniform Shop is always very busy during summer holiday opening times prior to the start of the Autumn Term and your patience is appreciated. 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*

BEYOND WHSB: COMMUNITY OUT

Donations to the WHSB Pupil Fund

We should like to thank all those parents and guardians who have previously donated or continue to donate money to the School's Pupil Fund. As the degree of state funding for the School continues to decline, increasingly we shall be required to rely on our own resources and to identify funding streams which can be accessed to support the continuing development of the School and its students. WHSB's Pupil Fund, one such stream, enables the School to enhance students' experience within the educational environment. The Pupil Fund is used to assist with the provision of the multitude of extra-curricular activities and events which take place regularly after school and on enrichment days throughout the academic year.

Donations can be made in the form of one-off payments in cash or by cheque (payable to "WHSB") or by monthly standing order. If you would like to make a donation, are a current donor and wish to amend your donation, payment method, or wish to register with us for Gift Aid purposes, please contact Mrs Shirlin, the School Bursar. All donations and enquiries are treated in the strictest confidence. We are extremely grateful for any donation received, no matter how small or infrequent, at any time during the academic year.

WHSB Alumni Network Project

One key objective of our new Community Development Office is to develop a strong, diverse and flourishing alumni community. WHSB Alumni include all former students and past and present staff. We are looking to contact alumni who presently have no link with the School or the OWA and who would like to make contact, keep up-to-date with School news and possibly attend future School events. An Alumni Network Newsletter is planned together with future networking events enabling alumni to reconnect with one another as well as the School. If you or



someone you know would like to join the WHSB Alumni Network and/or join the OWA, please take a few minutes to register your details via the WHSB School website. Select the "Community" tab on the home page followed by "Alumni & Old Westcliffian Association". You will then be sent password information enabling access to the secure "Alumni" area of the School website. Further information can be obtained by contacting the Community Development Office via email; (community@whsb.essex.sch.uk). The WHSB Alumni Network is completely free to join and we very much look forward to hearing from you.

Sainsbury's Active Kids 2016: Voucher Collection



This year the Parents' Association are co-ordinating the collection of Sainsbury's Active Kids 2016 vouchers on behalf of the School. We are encouraging our School community, their family and friends to collect these vouchers which can then be exchanged for new items of sports equipment for the PE Department and for items used in Food Technology. Simply shop in Sainsbury's stores, petrol stations and online at www.sainsburys.co.uk and you will earn Active Kids vouchers for the money you spend on your shopping. In

Sainsbury's Locals, you will get one voucher for every £5 you spend. In the larger Sainsbury's Supermarkets you will receive one voucher for every £10 you spend. Please send your vouchers to the Parents' Association, c/o the Front Reception at the School, no later than 8th July 2016. Thank you for your support.

Discounted Adventure Island Wristbands



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

Pimm's Stall at the Summer Big Band and BBQ Event Friday 15 July 2016

We will be running our ever popular Pimm's Stall selling alcoholic summer punch and soft drinks at the School's annual Summer Big Band and BBQ event on Friday 15th July. We look forward to seeing you there.

TREACH AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

WHSB Sports Day: Cake Sale Thursday 7 July 2016

The Parents' Association will be represented at WHSB's Sports Day on Thursday 7 July, serving refreshment, providing complimentary fruit and selling quality, tray-baked cakes. All proceeds go to the School.



Old Westcliffian Association Annual Dinner 2016 Friday 9 September 2016

Our Annual Dinner last year was a very happy event with 97 attending with a good mix of ages, including some ladies, who now comprise a growing number of our members.

This year our Dinner will be, as usual, in the School Hall on Friday 9 September. Our speaker will be Martin Townsend, editor of the Sunday Express. Tickets are priced at £28 or £16 if in full time education. Application forms are in our annual newsletter or contact me. These evenings are always very enjoyable events, so if you have not been before, why not come along and experience it for yourself?

The Association was well represented at the funeral service, on 26 February, of Jeffrey Winslow, a Mathematics master at Westcliff for thirty-two years. I feel

privileged to have known him. He was a gentleman and a gentle man. After I had left school, our paths crossed several times and we became friends, and although I had lost touch with him in his latter years I have extremely fond memories of our association. I must, here, pay tribute to Father John McCollough's outstanding eulogy to Jeffrey.

The Association is open to current and past members of staff and governors, and past pupils. Life membership is moderately priced at £10. Details may be found on the School website or by contacting me.

On the school website you will find a link to the OWA, where there is some interesting information, including back issues of the annual newsletter. Please contact me if you would like your own copy of the newsletter.

If you would like to join us, you will find a warm welcome and if you are interested in helping to run the association, I would be pleased to hear from you.

Mr T Birdseye, Honorary Secretary
terry.birdseye@gmail.com

WHSB Garden Party in Celebration of Her Majesty's 90th Birthday Party

Sunday 12 June 2016 (from 12.00pm in the School Grounds)

The first School event arranged by our new Community Development Office, supported by the Parents' Association and Young Enterprise Sixth Form students, is a Garden Party to celebrate Her Majesty's 90th birthday. Bring your own picnic baskets, seats and blankets and enjoy the atmosphere of a royal birthday celebration in the grounds of the School. The event promises an afternoon of nostalgia and entertainment featuring a display of classic and vintage vehicles, retro dance demonstrations, jazz from WHSB's musicians, cricket, afternoon tea, and refreshments including Pimms. Also on sale will be ices, soft drinks and snacks plus wristbands for inflatables for younger children.

The event aims to bring together the current School and wider community: families and friends, Old Westcliffian Association Members and Alumni together with our new Year 7 2016 intake, this year's WCGC 'Go for Grammar!' Year 5 local primary school pupils and their families and our neighbouring residents. Tickets are £1 for adults (free for under 16s and over 65s) and must be booked in advance at <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/>.



CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Chess Club Update

ECF National Schools Team Chess Challenge

Due to the recent popularity and expansion of chess at the school, WHSB has started to enter teams into national competitions for the first time in several years. Two teams from WHSB recently participated in the ECF National Schools Team Chess Challenge competition at King Edward VI Grammar School in Chelmsford. The WHSB teams were much younger and more inexperienced than many other teams participating.

The B team comprising of Andrew Twimasi (9S), James Scarsbrook (8S), Brooklyn Murali-Madhu (8E) and Janan Jeyaradnam (7E) faced teams from Sevenoaks, New Hall and KEGS. For an inexperienced team, they performed well with James Scarsbrook victorious on two occasions. The A team comprised of Jonathan Cheung (7W), Finlay Cameron (8C), Prem Ravichandran (8W) and James Glenister (7C) and faced teams from New Hall, KEGS, Sevenoaks and Southend High School for Boys. James Glenister shone, claiming two victories over New Hall and KEGS. For many, the competition provided a first opportunity for pupils to play chess in a serious competition using chess clocks.

It is a testament to the WHSB teams that several much older students from other schools (including the eventual competition winners) credited our pupils for being exceptionally talented at their young age. Chess is becoming increasingly popular at WHSB and we look forward to participating in more national competitions in the future. Should the current cohort of chess players maintain their interest for years to come, I am sure WHSB will be looking forward to vying for some more chess trophies in the future.

Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge 2016

During the Spring Term, twenty-eight students of the chess club have been competing against each other over seven weeks in the Delancey UK Schools Chess Challenge. This national competition involves over 2,000 schools and results in the best chess players of each school meeting in first regional, and then national finals. Ten students from WHSB have qualified for the next round, the Essex Megafinal in May (should they wish to participate). All students should be congratulated for their qualification, but particular mention should go to Jonathan Cheung 7W who won all seven of his games to qualify with ease. I would like to personally thank all students who have participated in the competition and wish the ten students who have qualified the very best of luck in the Megafinal. If you missed out this time, the Delancey Chess Challenge will be back next year!

The Future of the WHSB Chess Club

Due to the increasingly popularity of chess this year (as well as our participation in national competitions), the Chess Club is investigating the possibility of using a second room for some of our best players who wish to practice for competitive competition. These selected players would train in silent competition conditions, practice with chess clocks, discuss tactical manoeuvres and extend their chess knowledge to better prepare them for the calibre of national competition. If this is not for you, do not worry, the chess club will continue to maintain the friendly, relaxed atmosphere where players can talk and play for a bit of fun!

The chess club runs every Thursday lunchtime in M5.

Mr C Doherty
Teacher of Mathematics

Debating

The English-Speaking Union's School Mace Debating Competition drew to its conclusion last term. The School team of George Tothill and Hasan Sarfraz (both Year 12) fought their way through three qualifying rounds to be one of four teams contesting the East of England Regional Final. Though they were unable to claim the title, losing out to last year's National Finalists, they performed admirably and will have another chance next year.

We were also represented once more, for the 9th time in the last ten years, at the Oxford Union's International Finals Day on Saturday 12 March. Our Year 11 pairing of Ross McIntyre and Joel Kunadu qualified from a tough Regional Round and then debated four times in Oxford against the best teams from the UK as well as qualifiers from Ireland, Canada, Hong Kong, the Netherlands and Slovenia amongst others.

This term we will be asking the English-Speaking Union to come into School to run a debating workshop day for our junior debaters and to work with our more experienced teams to hone their skills.

Supreme Court Debate Day: Citizenship Friday 15 July 2016

On Friday 15 July we have been invited to take part in a Debate Day at the UK Supreme Court. We will be looking to take to London a party of Year 10 and Year 12 students with an interest in politics, law and current affairs. The Supreme Court is the highest legal authority in the land and cases before it form the basis of Debate Days in which students work with barristers and solicitors to argue both points of law and wider issues involved.

Mr R Stevens
Head of Politics

CLUBS & SOCIETIES

Politics Society: Mock EU Referendum 2016

Thursday 23 June 2016

Following the success of our Mock General Election last year, the School will be holding its own European Union Referendum on Thursday 23 June. We will be running a series of lunchtime debates and panel events in the Westcliff Theatre, involving staff and pupils, on topics such as the economy and sovereignty and we shall be inviting members of the School to come and listen, ask questions and discuss what will be one of the most important questions of our lifetimes.

Mr R Stevens, Head of Politics

Foreign Film Society

As part of the WHSB Learner Profile, students must aim to become Globally Aware. This got me thinking: what can we do to achieve that? It is quite difficult to keep track and learn about international affairs and more specifically to learn about the cultures of people in other countries. One way of doing this is through film and, combined with a passion for languages, I had the idea to create a lunchtime club to share this learning experience. With the support and encouragement of Mrs Williams, we selected some of the best foreign films that would provide a glimpse of a country's culture, history and traditions, as well as broaden our own knowledge of foreign languages.

The society met for the first time on Tuesday 26 January, and has since been a success! We have just finished *Lucie Aubrac*, a French film chronicling the true story of Lucie and her husband's adventures during the French Resistance in World War II. The film gave us a glimpse of French history and the resistance from the inside, and demonstrated how the revolution was a step forward for gender equality in France as many women were granted key roles for the first time in the management of the revolutionary groups. Currently, we are watching *Cinema Paradiso*, an Oscar-winning Italian film revolving around a filmmaker recalling his

childhood, when he fell in love with the movies at his village's theatre and formed a deep friendship with the theatre's projectionist. We hope that it will provide us with a taste of the Italian culture and language. As always, we encourage all students and staff to join us on Tuesdays in the Lecture Theatre for weekly showings of the films – an unmissable cultural experience!

Daniel Pereira, 9E

Robotics and Programming Club

Robots are becoming increasingly relevant in the modern world, with uses in industry, aerospace and space exploration, let's not forget the humble Mars Rover. And what is perhaps its most revolutionary application, the self-driving car, is nearly before us with many new vehicles already employing elements of autonomy. In the spirit of this new world, WHSB's own Robotics Club has been building its own robot using a second generation Lego Mindstorms robotics kit which has been customised with the LeJos firmware for improved control with a high level programming language.

The hardware consists of multiple sensors including, but not limited to, two light sensors and a colour sensor for navigation. A modular design means sensors can be easily added or removed. The robot is being designed to compete in the UK Robocup competition in which we intend to participate next year. The robot follows guidelines set out in the rules and carries out tasks in competition with other robots. Programmed in Java, the robot is able to survey a disaster site by following an algorithm designed and programmed by team members. The robot has a list of "behaviours" which run in response to certain criteria. For example when nothing unusual or dangerous is happening, the robot drives forward. When the robot hits a wall, it turns 90° and then the drive forward behaviour takes over again. When sensors detect a casualty, the robot will leave supplies to help the person survive and will call nearby rescuers, by means of a simple



beeping noise. Further developments to the algorithm have been planned, including a behaviour to navigate a gap in the road, which will require a search routine to successfully overcome the gap without getting lost.

The club currently has three members: James Holley (7C), Finlay Cameron (8C) and Murray Stenhouse (8C). However, more members are needed at Key Stage 3 with the necessary drive and aptitude.

If you have an interest in programming or robotics or simply want to be a part of a new and exciting technology field, please see Mr Rahman in E15 at lunchtime.

Daniel Pereira, 9E

Algorithms Society



For a field that has only gained momentum in the last few decades, Computer Science has had a very long history. Euclid described the greatest common divisor algorithm in 300BC. Leibniz documented the binary number system in the 1600s. Victorian computer scientists, Charles Babbage and Ada Lovelace, came tragically close in the early 1800s to building the first ever computer; the Analytical Engine. Computer Science is a vast field, of which Computer Programming is only the tip of the iceberg. At Algorithms Society, which is held in E15 every Friday Lunchtime for Years 10-12, we take a hands-on programming approach to exploring the diverse field of Computer Science. We tackle everything from simple algorithms that sort and search through large datasets to more advanced algorithms involved in creating elements of artificial intelligence. In addition we cover the intermediate and advanced knowledge required in the Java programming language to be able to program these algorithms. Later we hope to cover other interesting topics such as functional programming, formal logic and finite automata.

Mr R Stevens, Head of Politics

CCF AT WHSB: FORWARD MARCH

The Spring Term was another successful one for our Combined Cadet Force. We took our nearly one hundred cadets to the ACF's Cadet Training Centre, Cherry Tree Camp, in Colchester where they undertook a number of training activities including live firing at Fingringhoe Ranges. The CCF also entered a team in 7 Brigade's annual cadet military skills competition, Combat Cadet, at STANTA training area in Thetford. In addition to these activities, the Headmaster was invited to speak to the National CCF Headmasters' Conference at Welbeck Defence Sixth Form College, and I, as Contingent Commander, have been invited to sit on the national CCF Association Executive Committee, which meets a number of times per year. We look forward to a successful and eventful Summer Term with another busy programme of events.



Year 9 Living in the Field Weekend

15 to 17 April 2016

In a new addition to our annual CCF calendar, our Year 9 cadets will join Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School cadet recruits in a Field Training weekend at Mereworth Woods Training Area. During the weekend cadets will have the opportunity to learn how to build effective bashas (bivouacs), pack and care for their personal kit, wash in the field, cook in the field, set up harbour areas for a platoon and other aspects of living in the field. In addition, they will be taught elements of navigation, apply their first aid training, and learn some basic tactical skills. Our own NCOs and adults will join with those from TWGGS in delivering training to both sets of cadets.

Exercise Welbeck Leadership Challenge

22 to 24 April 2016

Once again, we have applied to enter a team in the Welbeck Leadership Challenge at Welbeck Defence Sixth Form College, in which we were Bronze medalists last year. Should we be selected to compete, our team of Year 9

and 10 cadets will engage in a number of activities testing their military knowledge, teamwork, fitness, communication, leadership, navigation, observation and First Aid skills. It promises to be a rewarding experience for all involved.

Year 9 Skill at Arms Training Days

19 to 20 May 2016

In order to ensure that Year 9 cadets are safely qualified using the Cadet General Purpose Rifle, it is the Contingent's intention to conduct two days' worth of off timetable training for Year 9 cadets so that they are able to pass their Weapon Handling Test and safely use these Rifles at Summer Camp.

Annual Passing Out Parade and Mess Dinner

24 June 2016

As part of our annual programme we will again hold a passing out parade and mess dinner. Our guest of honour for these events is General Ranald Munro CBE. It is an honour that such a distinguished and senior military figure has agreed to join us as we make awards

CCF AT WHSB: FORWARD MARCH

to cadets and recognise achievements across the year.

As we have grown in size we have outgrown the capacity to hold our dinner using the Dining Hall staff, as in previous years, so this year we are using external caterers. While this will, unfortunately, increase the cost of the Dinner, it is hoped that we are therefore able to enjoy a particularly special event at which parents, cadets and friends of the CCF are able to celebrate the continued successes of our Contingent.

Summer Adventure Training Field Day

25 June 2016

We will this year, for the first time, extend our annual Adventure Training Field Day to the whole Contingent. This year, cadets will undertake many requirements of the Army Proficiency Certificate syllabus, in addition to other personal development activities at Stubbers Adventure Centre in Upminster. We will undertake Sailing, Kayaking, Canoeing, Climbing and many other exciting

activities. As Contingent Public Funds cannot cover the cost of this activity this year, there will be a charge associated with this event, which will undoubtedly prove to be an enjoyable follow-up to our Parade and Dinner the night before.

CCF Central Summer Camp

2 to 9 July 2016

CCF Summer Camp is the climax of the year's training and this year we will bring, for the first time, the whole Contingent on our Summer Camp to Nescliff in Shropshire. The camp will allow cadets to put into practice all that they have learned this year as they are trained by regular and reserve forces, as well as Cadet Force Adult Volunteers. It is likely that the camp will involve days training in fieldcraft, adventurous training and watersports, navigation, rangework and live firing, a blank firing exercise and many other opportunities which we, as a contingent, do not have the capacity to deliver ourselves.

*Captain J Bleakley
Contingent Commander, WHSB CCF*





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Mr Andrew Robertshaw on The Battle of the Somme

Thursday 5 May 2016

On Thursday 5 May, Andy Robertshaw will be back with us to take us through the military significance of the Somme, just in time for the 100th Anniversary. The battle is so often portrayed as a disaster, emblematic perhaps of the “lions led by donkeys” narrative of the Western Front, but more thoughtful scholarship reveals that the fighting on the Somme was a product of the technology and operational problems of the Western Front and many of the important “lessons learnt”, on a necessarily hard “learning curve”, eventually helped to bring the British Army to battlefield success in 1918.

Professor Andrew Lambert on The Battle of Jutland

Thursday 26 May 2016



On Thursday 26 May we are pleased to have Britain’s foremost naval historian, Professor Andrew Lambert (Department of War Studies, King’s College, London) back in School to talk about the Battle of Jutland. This titanic sea battle – the greatest clash of battleships in history – pitted the Royal Navy’s Admiral Sir John Jellicoe’s Grand Fleet against the Imperial German Navy’s Hochseeflotte under Admiral Reinhard Scheer. On the outcome of the battle rested the entire course of the First World War; as Churchill pithily



Mr Andrew Moth, Criminal Justice Presentation and Exercises

Friday 15 July 2016

On Friday 15th July, a former teacher and member of the Governing Body at the school, Andrew Moth, will be returning to give a presentation to members of the Lower Sixth about the operation of the criminal law and in particular, the Magistrates' Courts. Mr Moth has been a Magistrate in Cornwall for the past twelve years and chairs Courts in Truro and Bodmin. During his time as a Magistrate, Mr Moth has been involved in a number of high profile cases. He will discuss what the criminal justice system is trying to achieve and how it works and, in particular, speak about the role of Magistrates Courts. Students will be given a variety of exercises to undertake which will simulate the work which a Magistrates' Court undertakes and help them to understand the day-to-day issues and problems which arise. A variety of actual cases will be discussed in groups and students will be invited to give their views on the most suitable sentence following the guidelines which a Court has to use. We are very pleased and fortunate that Mr Moth has kindly agreed to return to create and deliver a bespoke programme for our students. Our students are sure to enjoy a highly informative and stimulating event.

Plato invented Conceptual Art

Art, Craft and Design Exhibition evening:
Tuesday 5 July 2016

I am frequently asked 'What is Art?'. Is there a definitive answer? Outside the world of Key Stage 3, GCSE and A level a 'blank' canvas can sit alongside a 'da Vinci'; both are valid statements but so different. Here at WHSB the Art Department has become an oasis of curiosity. This year we have continued on

our journey of discovery and personal enlightenment. The strength of the work we do is built on the foundations of drawing and recording, both in a traditional way from direct observation sketches to the use of proportion grids and photographic sources. The department insists on work that is truthful, honest and meaningful, and we adhere to Plato's notion that the strength of the idea is manifestly more important than the mere process of imitation.

During the Summer Term our Advanced Level Art students are required to create an exhibition of their work. The work featured here is part of this process and will be on show throughout the summer term. Some of this is shown publically in the Humanities Forum while we also have a permanent set of Installations that the students have created in E27. This, and other work, will be part of the annual Art and Technology evening on Tuesday 5 July and it promises to be as competitive in sophistication, skill and diversity as any leading London Art Gallery.

As a taster, themes explored this year have been as wide-ranging as Faith Beswick's What are you looking at? In which she deals with the stereotypes and misconceptions that are often associated by appearance; her art is a symbiotic marriage of fabric sculpture, printing and painting. Heather Murray created a corridor of anxiety, in which one comes face to face with our fears. Ayomi Ono uses his appreciation of Spiritualism and, in particular, the religion Ifá. Louis Tuck's work is brave and clinical; he leads us through his world of tones in his portrayal of hypochondria. Jack Browning examines how we use intuition as a creative inspiration. Penny Sucharitul has executed a number of delightful oil paintings such as Venus in the undergrowth. Jack Drummond's work is some of the best and challenging I have seen in thirty years of teaching - his theme is summarised as Looking back in Anger! These students have created work which demonstrates how Art can be substantial, academic and profound.

remarked Jellicoe was the one man "who could lose the war in an afternoon". In the 100th anniversary year for the Somme, join us to examine the really important battle of 1916.

Dr Marc Morris on Castles with Year 7 and A Great and Terrible King: Edward I

Wednesday 6 July 2016

Due to ill-health we were deprived of the opportunity to hear Dr Marc Morris – historian, author and TV presenter – back in December so we are pleased to have rescheduled him to come into School on Wednesday 6 July to talk to Year 7 pupils in the afternoon about the history and development of castles, from the Norman motte-and-bailey to the great concentric Welsh castles of Edward I. 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.

Mr R Stevens
Head of Politics

Mr T Sinnott
Head of Art

TRIPS & VISITS TRIPS & VISITS

Isle of Arran Trip

**Saturday 25 June to
Friday 1 July 2016**



Between Saturday 25 June 2016 and Friday 1 July 2016, Year 12 geologists will be visiting the Lochranza Field Studies Centre, Isle of Arran. This will be the thirtieth consecutive year the School has travelled to Isle of Arran. From this location it will be possible to study, in a relatively small area, many topics of interest to geologists including the geological origin of rocks and their plate tectonic relationships, fossils, folding and faulting and much else besides.

For part of the time students will be collecting scientific data related to the opening of the North West Atlantic approximately 65 million years ago. Isle of Arran is considered to be a world-class location for geological studies and is very much at the heart of the two-year Advanced Level course.

Students will also develop many transferable skills during the week such as numeracy, report writing and team work, as well as developing a much greater knowledge and understanding of field geology within an outstandingly beautiful mountainous geographical setting.

Mr N Cooper, Head of Geology

Duke of Edinburgh Award: An Update

**Bronze Award
25 and 26 June 2016**

A new Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Group started in September last year and these students are busy working towards their practice expedition which will take place between 25 and 26 June 2016. In preparation for this they carried out a



supervised day walk around Hockley and Rochford to hone their navigational skills. However, the expedition is only one part of the Award and the other sections, Skills, Volunteering and Physical must be completed in the relevant time periods. It is these areas which are often neglected. Future applicants should take note that the Award is not easy and requires a significant input of time and effort.

**Silver Award
15 to 17 April 2016**

**(assessment in the Peak District
from 13 to 16 July)**

We are in the process of developing a Silver group for this year. We are taking only twelve pupils, because others have yet to complete their Bronze Award, and at the time of writing, some vacancies remain. However, we are working towards expeditions with a Practice in the South Downs booked for 15 to 17 April inclusive and an assessment in the Peak District from 13 to 16 July.

Mr D Despres, DoE Coordinator

Year 7 Visit to Southend

**Friday 8 July 2016
(Enrichment Day)**

On the 8 July Enrichment Day Year 7 will be undertaking the annual fieldtrip to Southend. The trip is a long-standing tradition at WHSB and something of a rite of passage. The day will be spent learning about Southend's history as well as how the coast and tourism shapes Southend's economy. Pupils will undertake practical fieldwork, learn how to complete field sketches and interview members of the public. The boys will be spending the Summer Term studying Coasts and Tourism in preparation for the trip and will complete projects in both Geography and Mathematics upon their return. The trip will also provide a solid foundation for studying Settlement at the start of Year 8 Geography in the Autumn Term.

Miss S Sparks, Head of Geography

CERN 2: The Return to CERN

Monday 25-26 July 2016

The Year 12 Physics trip to CERN in the autumn term was a huge success, but unfortunately there were fewer spaces available than students who wished to attend. By popular demand, we have decided to run a second trip, which will take place after the summer term has ended. We will be departing from the school early on Monday 25 July and returning late on Tuesday 26 July.

Letters will be available for collection from the start of the summer term, and the payment of £350 will be due by Friday 15 April. Ten participants will then be drawn at random from those who have paid, and the cheques returned to those who are unsuccessful. This trip will be open to Year 12 physicists in the first instance.

Great War Battlefields Tour

8 to 11 July 2016



A party of forty-four Year 9 pupils and staff will participate in this year's annual visit by the History Department to the battlefields of the First World War.

The highlight is expected to be the visit to the Somme battlefield, just a few days after the centenary commemorations. The disastrous events of 1 July 1916, when the British offensive was repulsed at the cost of sixty thousand casualties, are well known. There is less familiarity with what happened thereafter, and we will take the opportunity to study the battle in its wider context. In addition, time will be spent in the vicinity of the Belgian town of Ypres, which acquired its own notoriety with the Battle of Passchendaele in 1917, as well as the battlefields to the north of Arras. The four days will also allow pupils to reconsider the leadership qualities of Field Marshal Douglas Haig, and the

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justification with which his critics condemned him as nothing more than a callous 'butcher'.

Mr D Maughan, Head of History (Acting)

History Trip to Berlin: Retrospective

On 14th February 2016, fifteen pupils, accompanied by three teachers arrived in Berlin to explore some of the defining landmarks of a city that has been the centre of so much change and conflict over the last century. We transferred to our hotel in Alexanderplatz, home of the famous East German TV Tower, the second tallest structure in the European Union. We then visited the Reichstag and the Brandenburg Gate by night. Both of these structures need to be seen, the former's dome – designed by Lord Norman Foster and built 1992-99 – providing views across all of Berlin and sight of the German Parliament itself, and the latter being a symbol of both unity and division across time.



On our second day, we travelled to Oranienburg to visit the Sachsenhausen concentration camp. While not primarily an extermination camp on the lines of Auschwitz, it was still the location of untold suffering and thousands of deaths, and it was a moving experience; a legacy of man's capacity for inhumanity. Back in central Berlin, we visited the Topography of Terror, built on the site of the Gestapo, SD and SS headquarters. It now acts as a memorial to the victims of state oppression. In the evening, we visited Checkpoint Charlie, the point where foreigners could cross the Wall during the Cold War and enter East Berlin. There is now the Mauer Museum, which is dedicated to the Wall and those who tried to cross it. The ingenuity and bravery of those who tried to defy the East German prohibition on free movement was extraordinary.

On our third day we visited Wannsee, the site of the January 1942 Conference to

decide the Nazis' "Final Solution to the Jewish Question". Here the murder of 6 million people was planned, and the people who planned it and the correspondence between them are displayed. In the afternoon we visited the Jewish Museum, a very unusual building designed to make the visitor feel uneasy. The three axes of Continuity, the Holocaust, and Emigration intersect at strange angles, and lead to exhibits such as the Garden of Exile and the Holocaust Tower. The building contains 'Voids', referring to the gap left in German society by the loss of the Jews. We also went bowling on that night, which certainly lightened the mood.

Our fourth day started with the Deutsches Historisches Museum, a massive building housing some 900,000 objects, spanning German history from before Charlemagne to the Communist era. We also visited the DDR Museum, an interactive museum of East German life, including a full recreation of an East German household. In the afternoon, we first saw the Kaiser-Wilhelm Gedächtniskirche, a church bombed by the RAF in WWII and preserved in that state as a memorial to the destruction of war. The group was then free for the rest of the afternoon to explore the Ku-Damm, one of the most famous avenues in Berlin, which has been referred to as the German Champs d'Elysee.

Our final day was spent mostly travelling, but we could not leave Berlin before we went to the Pergamon Museum. This museum is truly incredible, housing art and artefacts from Babylon, Assyria and the Islamic world, and it is the most visited art museum in Germany. The Pergamon Altar and the Ishtar gate are, by themselves, worth the visit, but the stunning Islamic exhibition and other artefacts, such as stele from Nineveh and Persepolis, make the museum truly worth visiting. This museum perfectly rounded off a truly memorable trip, from which both historians and linguists gained a real insight into Germany's capital.

Joseph Bills, 12I

Trip to Oxford University for BEBRAS finals

Across the 16 and 17 January, earlier this year, five talented Westcliffians attended an exclusive invitational event at the

University of Oxford's Department of Computer Science, at Hertford College, following their exceptional performances in the UK Bebras competition, a national competition that encourages abstract, computational thinking among younger generations. Thanks to the performances of Peter Eriksson (7W), Nivasan Loganathan (7N), Alfie Risk (7S), Alexandre Monk (10C) and Sebastien Mok (13G), Westcliff High School for Boys has now been inducted into the Bebras Hall of Fame, and these five students have placed themselves amongst the very best computational thinkers in the Country. During the visit, these students were able to experience academic lectures of the highest quality, to explore Hertford College, and finally to take part in the second stage of the Bebras competition. A particularly strong performance by Alexandre Monk, 10C, in this second stage of the competition saw him finish fourth in his age group; a result that led to special recognition in the awards ceremony that followed.



"Making it through to the next round of the Bebras Challenge was a great experience, especially getting to see Oxford University, and understanding what it would be like as a computer scientist, as well as taking the test." (Peter Eriksson, 7W)

"After making it through to the next round of the Bebras Computational Thinking Challenge, we went to the Department of Computer Science at Oxford University to spend the day. There were various lectures on the history of computer science, algorithms, logic and applications of programming throughout the day, before we took the challenge. This consisted of many complex questions inspired by topics in computing, which aim to test problem-solving and logical thinking skills. It was not only challenging, but also very interesting and a great learning experience." (Sebastien Mok, 13G)

The UK Bebras competition will return in the autumn term of the next academic year, and is open to Computing students across all years.

Liam Smith, 12A and Hashan Punchihewa, 12G

Slices of Pi: Mathematics at WHSB

The Mathematics Department is 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, pupils should see the noticeboards in the Mathematics block foyer.

Pi Day!

As usual, the Mathematics Department celebrated Pi Day (on March 14, with inter-schools competitions beginning at 3:14pm), which involved raising money for the NSPCC, and competing against local secondary schools in various competitions. Pupils took part in various activities including:

- A poster and art competition (organised by Mr Rahman) which was displayed at the Forum in Southend, and judged by Rachel Riley from Countdown.
- Countdown number competitions, where pupils were prepared by Mrs Wimsett.
- Reciting Pi: Mr Doherty advised students and held a competition in School to find our best competitors to send.
- Piems: poems following a pattern determined by Pi. Mr Allan-Smith helped to guide pupils towards some excellent entries.
- Rubik's Cube competition, where the club run by Mrs Hammond and 7C were instrumental in putting a team together to take to Southend High School for Girls.
- Go competition: Mr Manning prepared pupils in the game Go and organised our team.
- SET and Sumaze competitions: Mr Wakeling introduced Sumaze to our pupils and chose our best SET players to go forward.
- Pie baking: these were sold for charity after the event, but students produced some fantastic sweet and savoury pies to celebrate Pi Day.
- Mobius Strip Workshop for Primary Pupils were run by our Sixth Formers, as were Lateral Thinking Puzzle Competitions and a Pi Quiz.
- Treasure Hunt in School: Miss Dole again ran the treasure hunt in School where pupils had to pay to take part, with money going to the NSPCC.
- Project Euler Competition: Mrs Wimsett held an honorary Project Euler task for the Lower School.

All students had the opportunity to take part in a range of activities to suit their strengths, and we all enjoyed the day greatly. The results of the competitions will be announced in the next Westcliff Diary.

UPPER SCHOOL EVENTS

Architecture Workshop

Wednesday 22 June 2016

On Wednesday 22 June, all Year 12 Mathematicians will participate in the Architecture Workshop. During the workshop, students will be given the opportunity to work in teams to create large free-standing bridges using limited resources: merely dowel rods and elastic bands.

The workshop provides an opportunity for students to apply their logical and mathematical skills to a practical challenge, working collaboratively as a team on a small scale project. The workshop also provides an insight into elements of the mechanics module students will study in Year 13 and will be particularly valuable for students wishing to study engineering in the future. The Mathematics Department fully anticipates that all students participating will have an enjoyable experience.

In previous workshops, the bridges produced by the students involved have varied in creativity, innovation and success – from incredible structures to peculiar calamities! The Mathematics Department looks forward to witnessing the efforts of the current Year 12 cohort in June.

Project Euler

A number of Sixth Form students have relished taking part in the Project Euler Club running on Thursday lunchtimes in M20. Last year's members were joined by some enthusiastic new and talented problem solvers and programmers to solve, in some cases, the first 50 problems; this represents an outstanding level of achievement. There are currently 533 problems to solve on Project Euler, so more than enough to challenge any budding programmers and mathematicians. New members are always welcome – just turn up and take part. There was a special Project Euler task for Pi Day this year which also allowed members of the Lower School to take part.

STEP Club

The STEP club has been running as part of the Sixth Form activities in order to better prepare those students seeking to take the STEP examination for entry to Cambridge, Warwick and other universities, or simply to improve students' understanding of Mathematics. Students have been learning to use skills from Mathematics in a broader context and improving their problem solving ability. The club has looked at various topics which arise in STEP papers, including: intelligent representations of problems, proof by induction and contradiction, logic statements, and differentiation. If this is something you would be interested in, please see Mr Dowding.

Senior Team Mathematics Challenge

On the 2 February 2016 the Senior Mathematics Team represented WHSB at the National Final of the Senior Team Mathematics Challenge. This event was in a similar format to the previous regional final in which the team did so well, except the questions were significantly harder. The team did well overall, for their first time at the national event, and has gained experience in the difficulty of questions that may be asked.

As part of this competition, the team had to generate a poster on the Kirkman Schoolgirls problem, where they had to explain methods for partitioning sets of girls to adhere to a set of conditions. In the Schoolgirl problem, fifteen girls were to walk in groups of three for seven days. The students had to generate a way in which this could happen, such that no girl ever walked with someone with whom they had previously walked. As well as this, they had to explain the generalised idea, called a Steiner system, and find interesting ways in which to display solutions to this problem. The team did very well, with the poster being one of the better ones on the day, but unfortunately they did not win the competition on this occasion.

Slices of Pi: Mathematics at WHSB

Number Theory Workshop

In January, Katie Steckles from Think-Maths ran a Number Theory Workshop for selected Year 12 mathematicians to show them one branch of Mathematics they would encounter if they study the subject at University. She began by examining three particular numbers referenced in an episode of The Simpsons: 8191 - a Mersenne prime number which is one less than a power of 2 and prime; 8128 - a Perfect number for which its proper factors sum to itself; 8208 - a Narcissistic number for which the sum of its digits rose to the power of the digits is itself. The students were then guided through an investigation into the relationship between Mersenne primes and Perfect numbers. This topic had recently been of interest in the Mathematics community after a new 49th Mersenne prime, which is 22,338,618 digits long and the largest prime known so far, was discovered earlier that month. Euclid's theorem proves that there are infinitely many primes and so the race is now on to find the 50th Mersenne prime. The general public can help with the search by joining the Great Internet Mersenne Prime Search. Students enjoyed the workshop and we will look to offer something similar to Year 12 next academic year.

MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENTS

Year 10 Trip to the University of Essex

On Monday 21 March, thirty Year 10 students attended an event entitled Taking Maths Further! at the University of Essex. The event was run by the Further Mathematics Support Programme and students had the opportunity to listen to a number of speakers as well as take part in a number of workshops.

Ben Sparks ran a session entitled 'Where do numbers come from?' which was a whistle-stop tour of some of the exciting parts in the development of number. Ben Sparks is a renowned Mathematics speaker who specialises in the development of number and encouraging young people to become interested in how Mathematics has developed, and the

session did not disappoint.

Dr Chris Saker lead a session: 'Social Networks; close friends or strangers', where he showed pupils how Mathematics can help us to understand how closely-related people are in large social networks, and how big a party has to be in order for us to be certain that we have a group of mutual friends or strangers there.

Professor Edward Codling's interactive experiment explored how decisions are made in groups of animals and human crowds entitled 'The maths of crowds; group decision-making in humans and animals'. This considered the Mathematics behind how a flock of birds or a school of fish decide where to move, and whether two wrongs really make a right.

For those who enjoy applied Mathematics, Dr Andrew Harrison's session on the shortest distance between two points separated in space and time provided an introduction to Einstein's theory of gravity, which is now over 100 years old.

Intermediate Mathematics Challenge Results

The Intermediate Mathematics Challenge took place on Thursday 4 February and this year saw the inclusion of those students in the Year 10 A band as well as all students in Year 11. A large number of students were very successful in the challenge this year, with 20 achieving Gold, 52 Silver and 68 Bronze. We had a total of 14 students across the two years who achieved the score necessary to access the Pink Kangaroo follow-on round, and Oliver Vickers accomplished the most impressive result needed to reach the hardest round, the Maclaurin Olympiad. Congratulations to all who took part, and we will report the results of the follow-on rounds in the next edition of the Westcliff Diary.

LOWER SCHOOL Rubik's Club

Rubik's Club is a pupil-led club, supervised by Mrs Hammond in the Mathematics department. It is a club for Key Stage 3 pupils who are interested in learning, practising, and competing in

solving Rubik's cubes. These range from the standard 3x3 cube we are all familiar with, to other variations, including shapes which are not cubes at all. Pupils in 7C have been the driving force behind the club and they share algorithms and tips to solve types of Rubik's cubes quickly and efficiently. Our best solvers also represented the School against other local secondary schools on Pi day at SHSG. At the time of writing we do not have the results but we will report them in the next Westcliff Diary.

Junior Team Challenge

The Junior Team Mathematics Challenge took place on Tuesday 15 March, with Mrs Hammond having trained her team of William Skeldon, Peter Simon, Sammy Joujou and Jake Pilkington on Thursday lunchtimes leading up to the competition. This is a national competition, testing the mathematical skills of the brightest Key Stage 3 pupils and pitching them against other schools. Bancroft's School hosted the Essex regional competition, where various rounds tested the team who had to work in pairs or as a group to provide accurate solutions in timed conditions. At the time of writing the results of this competition are unavailable but they will be reported in the next copy of the Diary in September.

Junior Mathematical Challenge Thursday 28 April 2016

The Junior Mathematics Challenge will be taking place on Thursday 28 April 2016 and will see all of our Year 8 and Year 7 students competing nationally to test their mathematical problem-solving skills. Certificates are awarded to the top 40% of candidates in a 3 : 2 : 1 ratio for Bronze, Silver and Gold respectively, with those scoring very highly being invited to the follow-on round, the Junior Olympiad. We expect great success this year, and are entering Year 7 for the first time as a result of the change of syllabus we implemented in September to allow for more development of problem-solving skills at the start of the year.

*Mrs A Marsh
Head of Mathematics*

MUSIC AT WHSB MUSIC A

Concert Trip to the Royal Festival Hall, London

Thursday 23 June 2016

The WHSB Music Department will be leading a trip to the Southbank Centre to watch a performance of one of the UK's finest orchestras, the Philharmonia, playing an exciting and varied programme. The evening will begin with Arvo Pärt's *Fratres*, a piece of Music from the late 20th Century that experiments with minimalism and stillness, aiming to explore the composer's view of "instant and eternity struggling within us."

The concert will also feature two works by Beethoven: His Piano Concerto No. 4, performed by Martin Helmchen, and

Symphony No. 6. Both works were originally premiered in 1808 at a concert which also contained the Fifth. Beethoven himself was the original soloist for the concerto, his encroaching deafness not yet affecting his ability to perform with an orchestra.

Symphony No. 6, often given the title 'Pastoral', shows Beethoven at his most playful, depicting a walk through the countryside complete with birdsong, storms and folk bands. It may have been inspired by Beethoven's time in the country town of Heiligenstadt where he was advised to recuperate in the hope of recovering his failing hearing. It was here that Beethoven wrote of the depression and humiliation that resulted from his condition, writing that "someone standing next to me heard a flute in the distance and I heard nothing, and someone standing next to me heard a shepherd singing and again I heard nothing."

This is a splendid opportunity for all our students and/or their parents to experience a world-class orchestra in a superb venue. Of course, this will also be of particular interest to students studying Music for GCSE and A Level, as well as students in Year 9 who have been studying Beethoven and Minimalism this year.

Tickets will cost approximately £30, including travel. Booking closes on Friday 22 April.

Summer Band and BBQ

Friday 15 July 2016

Join the Westcliff Big Band and other music groups in ushering in the summer with lively music and delicious food. The performers of this anticipated



AT WHSB MUSIC AT WHSB

annual event will entertain the crowd with a selection of jazz and swing favourites, while hot dogs and burgers are flipped on the grill. After a long academic year of working and studying hard, students, parents and staff are encouraged to let off some steam by hitting the dance floor and enjoying themselves, in what is sure to be an unforgettable evening's entertainment.

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

Summer Sinfonia

Wednesday 7 July 2016

This year's Summer Sinfonia concert falls on the centenary of the Battle of the Somme, one of the largest and bloodiest battles of World War 1 in

which over a million men were wounded or killed. The battle started on July 1 1916, ending in November of the same year. As such, the Sinfonia will be playing a variety of works by British composers in order to reflect on the sacrifice and courage of the men who gave their lives during this period.

Among these men were a range of artists whose blossoming careers were tragically cut short, such as composer George Butterworth, widely considered to be one of the most promising composers of his generation.

Butterworth was killed during the Battle of the Somme, shot by a sniper while holding a captured German position. The Sinfonia will be performing his Shropshire Lad, A Rhapsody for Orchestra.

Audience members can expect to hear works by prominent composers of the time, such as Elgar's Enigma Variations,

particularly the sombre yet uplifting Variation IX: Nimrod, and A Solemn Melody by Walford Davies, Director of Music for the RAF during World War One.

The Westcliff Choir will also be joining the Sinfonia in singing a medley of popular songs of the day, some made famous by the Richard Attenborough film Oh What a Lovely War, in Tunes from the Trenches. These include 'It's a long way to Tipperary' and 'Land of Hope and Glory.'

Tickets are priced at £5 for adults. This concert is free of charge for pupils.

*Mr T Derrick
Director of Music*



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT REVIEW

English Language and Literature Trip to Oxford

5 February 2016

The group of Year 11 English pupils assembled at the front of the School at 07.15am and boarded the minibus, led by Ms Elphick and Ms Dolan. After a short three hour journey, we met up with the three WHSB old boys, currently studying at Oxford, for a coffee break before being guided to our destination, Hertford College.

We were given an Oxbridge-style tutorial session with Dr Catherine Redford, who is an expert and experienced researcher in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*. There was a group discussion over the differences between the original manuscript and the changes made by Percy Shelley, and an in-depth analysis of a brief extract of the text.

After the tutorial the group sat down to lunch in Hertford's dining hall among current students at the college and spoke with our tour guide about life at Hertford College.

We were then shown around the various parts of the College, including the student accommodation, library, tutorial rooms and the College bar. We were told in detail about the working lives of an Oxford student and shown Hertford bridge, which features in many films and TV series as a famous Oxford landmark. Finally, the group heard from the Admissions Fellow and a handful of existing students currently studying at Hertford, Corpus Christi and other Oxford Colleges about entry to Oxford, the admissions and interview process, and life at Oxford. The Oxford students provided interesting and valuable information in a question and answer session and we were given information on specific courses just before it was time to leave.

The trip was, overall, an interesting and exciting insight into life in higher education and it provided much needed motivation for us to do well in the upcoming GCSE examinations and to achieve our potential.

George Thirtwall, 11N

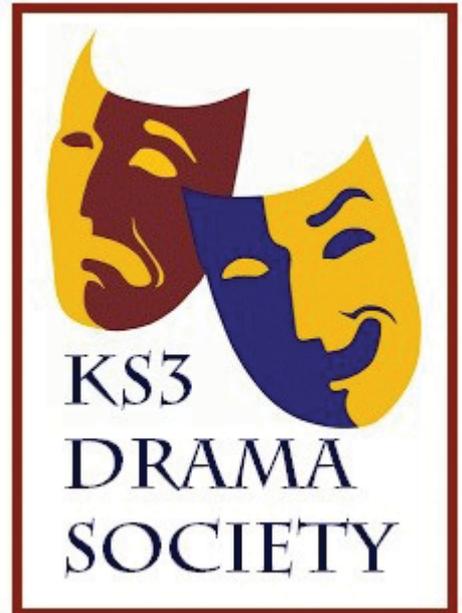
Key Stage 3 Drama Society: War Horse at the New London Theatre

On Thursday 26 November 2015, the Lower School Drama Society led a cohort of Key Stage Three pupils to the New London Theatre, to watch the dramatic adaptation of Michael Morpurgo's best-selling war novel, *War Horse*.

As soon as the coach arrived at the West End, we were met with dazzling billboards plastering the sides of every building. "War



Horse, a triumph of theatricality, 5 stars" one read – instantly, we knew we were in for a treat. The City of London was buzzing with excitement, and we hurried to get to our seats. Simply put, the set was a work of art. Almost semi-circular, the stage enveloped the audience for full immersion, and a projection of a scrap of parchment above the stage provided intricate illustrations of the action below. As the lights dimmed, the audience hushed and the play opened with the narrator singing a folk song, setting the sombre scene and foreshadowing many of the events to come. But, by far the best aspect of the play was yet to enter: the puppets! However, *War Horse* was not your typical puppet show; as the play progressed, the life size puppets blurred into living, moving, breathing animals as the audience was immersed by the scenes, gasping as the horses neighed and galloped and rearing onto their hind legs, towering above the onlookers below in a mighty display of strength and emotion. Needless to say, the talent of the puppeteers provided an awe-inspiring show to all in the audience, even causing us to question at times if they were puppets at all – their subtle movements and perfectly portrayed mannerisms were enough to strike amazement into our eyes.



A celebration of art, music, writing and drama, this outing was a breath-taking experience for all who attended. It has enlightened us to the beauty and talent found in acting, and it is fair to say that we are all extremely eager to return to the magic of the theatre!

Daniel Pereira, 9E

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT REVIEW

Visit to the Noel Coward Theatre: A Review

The trip to the Noel Coward theatre in the West End to see A Christmas Carol at the end of January took 45 Year 7 boys and four members of staff to rare heights of fancy as Scrooge, played



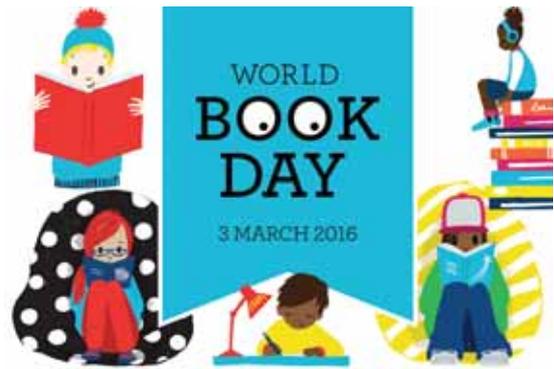
by a very genial Jim Broadbent, took us into the surreal world of Christmases past, present and future. He soared and flew with false legs through cold, starlit sets and backstage mechanisms that whirred and clicked, leaving the audience amazed at what theatre, including a puppet theatre to represent Bob Cratchit's family, can do. This was a production enjoyed by all who attended.

*Mrs H Mackay
Key Stage Three English Coordinator*

World Book Day celebrations: Ten Reasons to Read

To mark the occasion of World Book Day (3 March 2016), Mr Allan-Smith led an inspirational Assembly during which he spoke about his own love of reading and he encouraged the pupils to consider its benefits. He presented the many reasons why we should all read, and he encouraged pupils to find time to engage in this valuable activity every day. This article is an abridged version of part of the Assembly.

It is widely recognised that regular reading leads to an increased vocabulary which in turn can lead to improved empathy. Furthermore, we can easily understand that reading can improve our focus and concentration given the requirement for long periods of attentiveness. In addition, it is widely acknowledged that reading makes you more intelligent and more imaginative. Research has shown a clear link between the number of books in the home and academic success. In addition to increased



intelligence, there is the added benefit that reading can increase the retentive capacity of our minds, it can improve our memory, and of course if we read we have more to contribute to discussions. However, you might be surprised to know that research completed by the NEA (National Endowment for the Arts) showed that people who read for pleasure are three times as likely than those who do not to perform volunteer and charity work. Readers are active participants in the world around them. Moreover, a study by consultancy firm Mindlab International at the University of Sussex showed that reading reduces stress. Subjects only needed to read, silently, for six minutes to slow down the heart rate and ease tension in the muscles. This is particularly poignant in uncertain economic times when we are all craving a certain amount of escapism. Finally, of course, reading is great fun!

D.H. Lawrence said that you can shed your sickness in books. People who do not respond to conventional therapy, or do not have access to it, can externalise their feelings by engaging with a fictional character, or be stimulated by the rhythms of poetry. The Get Into Reading Project, organised by the Merseyside Care Mental Health Trust, focuses on reading poetry with dementia patients, some of whom have lost all sense of who and where they are, but who can recite poetry or recall stories learned at school 80 years before. Reading books does this, giving you an opportunity to hold a thought together through time. The late Oliver Sacks, who worked with patients suffering from severe Parkinson's disease, said that the recollection of such stories read and enjoyed during childhood allowed "people who could not utter a syllable to speak and sing". D.H. Lawrence agreed that good books and exciting tales can be a form of therapy, bibliotherapy. Prose not Prozac is the next prescription from your GP. Literature....not lithium.

It is no coincidence that Apollo is the God of both poetry and healing; hospitals and health sanctuaries in ancient Greece were invariably situated next to theatres, most famously at Epidaurus, where dramatic performances were considered part of the cure. Alan Bennett refers to that same sense of theatre in The History Boys where Hector describes how, in the presence of great literature, "it's as if a hand has reached out and taken our own".

Given all of these benefits, we hope that all pupils in the school have spent their £1 Book Voucher. We look forward to hearing our pupils' reviews of their new books.

*Mrs J Williams, Acting Head of English
Mr J Allan-Smith, Second in English*

HOUSE SYSTEM SPORT AND THE

SCHOOL SPORT: A REVIEW OF THE WINTER SEASON

Year	Rugby						Football			
	P	W	D	L	PD	P	W	D	L	GD
7	16	8	1	7	-89	7	2	2	5	-9
8	11	2	1	8	-92	6	1	1	5	-22
9	11	6	1	4	+127	11	6	1	3	7
10	8	5		3	+270	11	6	1	4	13
11	3	1		2	-29	7	1	1	5	-5
1st Team	14	8	1	5	+25	19	11		7	1
2nd Team						16	7	1	8	3
Total	63	30	4	29	+213	77	34	6	37	-12

The School's performance in the 2015-2016 rugby season has been rather mixed. There have been inconsistent performances from all year groups and problems arising from injuries to key players. The beginning of the year saw the 1st XV lose in the first round of the NatWest cup whereas the Year 10 team recorded a win in their first game of the season. The Year 7 and 9 teams' seasons started with some promise although the Year 8 team struggled to find good form. Unfortunately, the Year 9, 10 and 11 teams were all knocked out of the Essex Cup at the quarter final stage. At the time of writing, the 1st XV are the School's only team with the opportunity of winning silverware this season in the 15-a-side version of the game. The 1st XV have reached the Essex Cup semi-final and we hope to bring news of success in the next edition of the Westcliff Diary. To date the 1st XV side has finished runner-up in their 7-a-side competition and other year groups still have a number of fixtures to play including 7-a-side competitions for Years 9, 10 and 11.

In Football, the Year 7 and 8 teams were knocked out of all three cup competitions. Nevertheless, commitment to training has remained high in these Year Groups, which is exceptionally pleasing. Years 9, 10 and 11 have all enjoyed good cup runs this season, but unfortunately only Year 10 remain fighting on two fronts, with Year 9 and 11 both eliminated in closely-contested quarter-final fixtures in the Essex and South-East Essex Cups respectively. The Sixth Form teams have made progress across the season, but have both struggled to find consistently good form. The 2nd XI has progressed from an initial five game losing streak to surge into third place in their league, with an outside chance at a play-off spot if they win their remaining fixtures. The 1st team has given some impressive performances, including a five game winning streak before Christmas, but has lost games against key opposition recently to leave them adrift of the play-off places in fourth position. It should be noted, that the style of football used by both School teams has allowed them to dominate games, even in fixtures where they have ultimately lost. We look forward to the return of both Cricket and Athletics in the Summer Term. In Athletics, the School will once again, enter the National Track & Field Cup competition and will endeavour to reach the National Finals with both our Junior (Year 7 and 8) and Intermediate (Year 9 and 10) teams. In Cricket, we will compete in the Essex Cup competition in all age groups and the

Year 9 team will look to complete a hat-trick of wins in the competition having been crowned champions for last two years.

Mr D Phillips, Head of Physical Education

Annual Swimming Gala

On Wednesday 2nd March a group of boys in years 7 to 11 took part in the annual Swimming Gala held at Garon Park, Southend. The boys did incredibly well and, between them, they secured



Gold medals in 5 events, Silver in 6 events and Bronze in 2 events. Special congratulations go to Billy Lo in Year 10 for winning Gold in the Champion Boy Event. Well done to all competitors.

Tennis Training Day at Loughborough University

On Wednesday 16 March, the School's Tennis Ambassadors (Jack Burden, Kieran Williams, Lucas Hilsum and Nirav Doshiwent) went on a trip to Loughborough University for a national training day to enhance our skills for the role. During this day we developed ideas to get the School into tennis.

We discussed different ways in which we could get every pupil to realise how much fun tennis is, including activities such as a House competition, a club (after School or at lunchtime), and tournaments within the School to run alongside real tournaments, for example our own version of Wimbledon. Whilst there we also looked at objects we could introduce to help launch the scheme, including an artificial wall on the playground and painting mini-courts on the playground. We were also

THE HOUSE SYSTEM SPORT AND

introduced to new mini-games within the game of tennis, such as King of the Court, 3 verses 3, and simply keeping a rally going. Altogether it has been a very enriching experience for us.

WHSB attends an England Rugby Squad training session

Ahead of England's Six Nations opening game against Scotland on 6 February 2016, newly-appointed England head coach Eddie Jones held an open training session for fans to see him put his side through its paces. Led by recently appointed captain Dylan Hartley, the England squad trained at Twickenham on Friday 29 January in front of nearly 16,000 school students and members of the public.



The School was delighted to provide an opportunity for pupils in Years 7-9 to join the spectators and observe approximately ninety minutes of world class training followed by the chance to meet some of the players and obtain their autographs. It was a wonderful day and the pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Mr L Groves, Tour Organiser

THE HOUSE SYSTEM: SPRING TERM REPORT

At the time of writing, three House competitions have taken place so far in the Spring Term with three more to be completed. Kestrel House has taken the lead as the competition gathers momentum. Kestrel House produced solid performances in the University Challenge quiz, Basketball competition and Table Tennis tournament. Harrier House has slipped to third place with disappointing results in all events this term. Osprey House has had a slight dip in performance but remains in a position to make up the necessary ground next term. Merlin House are also in a position to overtake Harrier and jump into third place following the Easter break.

From April to July there will be a significant number of events for all year groups. Pupils should regularly check the House noticeboards as well as notices in the registers.

Participation remains the focus for this year with points being awarded for each participating pupil in each event. With the competition often being separated by a narrow margin these extra points could make the difference in deciding the final positions. House Badminton and Short Tennis will provide an opportunity to increase participation. Merlin House and Harrier House should look to take advantage of these opportunities to help close the gap on both Osprey House and Kestrel House. The current standings are: Kestrel (2980 points), Osprey (2788 points), Harrier (2549 points) and Merlin (2524 points).

Mr D Shoesmith, Coordinator of House Activities

House Golf

The House Golf Event was reformatted last year with Lads and Dads competing in Texas Scramble and Golfer Putter Pairs, as well as a staff competition played over nine holes at Garons Park Golf Complex.

To encourage more participants, we have created an additional format, so there will be three competitions. Two competitions will be played over nine holes which need a pupil and an adult known to them, but even though the headline is Dads and Lads, it could just as easily be Mums and Sons, Grandads, Uncles, or a family friend. The new competition will be 'Senior Singles' and this will be suitable for any player in Year 10 or above to compete in matchplay to represent their House.

The event will take place at Garons Park Golf Complex on Friday 17 June. Tee-off times will be from 4.30pm.



Golfer and Putter Pairs

This competition will require one golfer, who will take all shots onto the green, and a non-golfer 'Putter' taking all putts. This is a great opportunity to involve non-golfers.

Texas Scramble Pairs

This competition will be for pairs of golfers who make their way around the course, but only using the better ball. Both players take a turn from the better ball lie. Both competitions will be determined using the Stableford Points system, with the lower golfer's handicap being used to calculate the points.

Former pupils, their parents, members of the OWA and other members the School community are also welcome to join the event and represent their House. To take part, they must have a School-aged player in their pair, but this does not need to be a member of the School.

Senior Singles Matchplay

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

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

The cost of this event is £12 per head and will include Tea/Coffee/Squash and Biscuits at the end of the round. Please use the TicketSource booking system to indicate your participation. I look forward to seeing you there.

Miss K Rankin, Assistant Head: Head of Lower School Studies

SUMMER TERM 2016 CALENDAR

SUMMER TERM

SUMMER TERM

Mon 11 April	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
Tues 12 April	Summer Term begins
Wed 13 April	Italy Trip Briefing Meeting, 7:30pm
15 - 17 April	Silver DoE Practice Weekend CCF Summer Field Training Weekend, Mereworth Woods
Mon 18 April	Year 8 Parents' Meeting, 4.00 - 6.00pm
Wed 20 April	IMECHE Lecture at Ford Dunton, 6.30pm
Fri 22 April	Rugby BBQ, 7:00pm
22 - 24 April	CCF Welbeck Leadership Challenge
Thur 28 April	Junior Mathematical Challenge
Mon 2 May	May Bank Holiday
Wed 4 May	Public Examinations begin Summer Chamber Recital, 7:30pm
Thur 5 May	Andrew Robertshaw Lecture: Battle of the Somme, 7.00pm
Tues 10 May	Visit of The Rt Revd John Wray, Area Bishop of Bradwell
19-20 May	CCF Skill at Arms Training, Year 9 Cadets
Thur 26 May	Andrew Lambert Lecture: Battle of Jutland, 7.00pm
27 May - 4 June	Year 9 Italy Visit
28 - 31 May	Year 8/9 Paris Trip
30 May - 3 June	Summer Half Term
6 - 10 June	Years 7 -10 Internal School Examinations
Sun 12 June	Garden Party, 12.00pm - 4.00pm
Thur 16 June	Oxbridge Conference
Fri 17 June	House Golf Competitions
Sat 18 June	A Day in Toy Making (rescheduled from March 2016)
Wed 22 June	Year 12 Mathematicians' Architecture Workshop
Thur 23 June	Year 12 Higher Education Superfair, 9.00am-3.30pm Higher Education Evening, 7.30pm Politics Society: Mock EU Referendum 2016 Concert Trip to the Royal Festival Hall
Fri 24 June	CCF Passing Out Parade and Annual Mess Dinner

Sat 25 June	CCF Summer Adventure Training Field Day
25 June-1 July	Year 12 Geologists visit to Isle of Arran
25-26 June	DoE Bronze Practice Weekend
Sat 25 June	WCGC: Languages Themed Day
Tues 28 June	School finishes at 12.50pm Open Evening for Year 5 Pupils, 6.00pm-8.45pm Open Evening for Year 5 Pupils, 6.00pm-8.45pm
Wed 29 June	30 June and 1 July Sixth Form Induction Course
Thur 30 June	New Year 7 Parents' Evening, 7.30pm
Fri 1 July	New Year 7 Induction Day
2-9 July	CCF Summer Camp, Nescliff, Shropshire
3-6 July	Year 12 Chemists visit Bristol Chemlabs
4-15 July	Year 11 Work Experience
Tues 5 July	Art, Craft & Design Exhibition Evening, 7.30pm
Wed 6 July	Marc Morris Lecture: Edward I
Thur 7 July	Summer Sinfonia Concert, 7.30pm Years 7 and 9 Phase 3 Reports Issued Sports Day (and Parents' Association Cake Sale) Enrichment Day Year 9 Battlefields Tour
Fri 8 July	Silver DoE Assessment Weekend
8-11 July	Year 8 and 10 Phase 3 Reports Issued
13-16 July	Year 12 Supreme Court Debate Day
Fri 15 July	Criminal Justice Presentation and Exercises Summer Band & BBQ, 7.00pm SUMMER TERM ENDS, 2.45pm
Thur 21 July	CERN 2: The Return to CERN
25-26 July	AS/A2 Level Results Day
Thur 18 August	GCSE Results Day
Thur 25 August	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS
1 and 2 September	AUTUMN TERM begins, 8.40am
Mon 5 September	