



Westcliff High School
for Boys

The Westcliff Diary

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IN THIS ISSUE:
NATIONAL ATHLETICS SUCCESS
STEM ACTIVITIES
VISITS TO CERN AND WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE
SCHOOL PLAY: COPENHAGEN



FROM THE DESK OF THE HEADMASTER

WELCOME BACK FROM THE HEADMASTER

I begin by warmly welcoming back all pupils and staff from the summer vacation.

I am delighted to have this opportunity to share with our community the latest news and developments relating to the School. As there is so much on which I would like to report, I wish to begin this year by encouraging you to refer to the School's website, as these pages provide details of the many activities and successes enjoyed by the School.

We remain heavily oversubscribed and we have expanded to take 185 pupils in Years 7 to 9. Our Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children, established to encourage increased local entry at age 11, remains exceptionally popular and we continue to work with local primary schools and the Local Authority to encourage more local children to 'have a go' at the 11+ Test. We

work with them to promote aspiration, remove barriers, and challenge the culture of 'good enough' where it exists. Continually we impress upon our pupils that society's future success will depend upon their application of their talents, and seizing the opportunities this may present. This is integral to the culture at WHSB and it is important that we share it with others.

The refurbishment of the Science Building has been completed and we are pleased with the work that has been carried out. Already it has enhanced teaching and learning in Science. Currently, the School is working closely with the Education Funding Agency to draw up plans to also refurbish its Technology Building. During the summer, the School refurbished the former Sixth Form Study area, located in the West Basement, and converted it into two Computer Studies rooms and a new History classroom. This development has released space in the East Basement which will be converted into CCF accommodation.

In 2020, the School will celebrate its Centenary. The School was originally established as 'The Commercial School' in 1920. A mixed school, located in Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea, it eventually separated into Westcliff High School for Boys and Westcliff High School for Girls, with the WHSB moving to its present site in 1926. We have just over two years until we reach our Centenary year. A planning committee has been established and we look forward to working with the entire School community to create a memorable and fitting year of events to celebrate our first 100 years. We anticipate that pupils, staff, parents, Old Westcliffians, and our wider community will be involved in planning for the Centenary over the coming months. Later this year the School will launch a Centenary appeal to raise funds to improve the School's sports facilities, particularly the changing and showering facilities.

The School continues to be exceptionally well supported by its wider community. I wish to offer our thanks to the School's Parents' Association, which continues to work tirelessly on our behalf. The Parents' Association provides outstanding support for the majority of the School's summer activities, including providing refreshments at Sports Day, the Summer Band and Barbeque and the June Garden Party. We are also exceptionally well served by Mrs Clarke and Ms Weller

who run our Community Development Office (CDO), supported by Mr Partridge, Director of Resources and Support Services. The service provided by the Parents' Association and the CDO significantly enhance the quality of provision for our pupils, staff and wider community. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank an anonymous benefactor (a former parent of the School) who has donated £2,000 towards enabling students to overcome disadvantage and apply to study Medicine. We are also grateful to the family of Mr Phillip Thumpston (Old Westcliffian) for donating his personal academic library to the School.

We continue to adjust to the significant reform to national qualifications. The Year 11 and Year 13 students in this academic year will take reformed GCSE and A Level qualifications in the majority of their subjects. The School believes the move towards more demanding qualifications and the return of two-year A Level courses are, overall, welcome developments. Prior to the summer recess, the Government announced additional funding for schools and we look forward to receiving further details in due course. During recent years the School, in common with other public and private sector organizations, has faced additional cost pressures, such as changes to National Insurance and

Pensions. These recent cost pressures and reductions in funding have absorbed a total £0.5million in the last few years, and it may interest you to know that the actual funding figure for WHSB in 2017 is approximately £50,000 lower than it was in 2012, in circumstances where we now have an additional 60 pupils.

During the last academic year, we have had a resurgence in drama with three new productions, thanks to the leadership of Mr Jeffreys. We also enjoyed a highly successful year of music with the Sinfonia playing, under the respective batons of Mr Derrick and Alex Wood, to a full Hall in their final concert of the academic year. Our new Director of Sport, Mr Morrish, has introduced a new model for sport involving the regular use of coaching staff and early morning training sessions, and this has led to improvements in pupils' performance and participation. The CCF goes from strength to strength and the contingent has now swelled to over 100 cadets. We anticipate launching a Royal Navy Section in 2018. Our trips and visits programme has expanded, and this now includes a visit to China. The Duke of Edinburgh programme remains exceptionally popular and successful. The level of success in regional and national competitions has been highly encouraging, and established clubs and societies continue to thrive under the leadership of students and staff. I

commend The Charity Week Committee who, with the support of the School community, raised almost £18,000 this year for the Lymphoma Association and TrustLinks (a local mental health charity).

Our enrichment programme matters, because a good education is not just a timetable of subjects, lessons and a list of grades. A good education also equips one with the resilience and true sense of self-worth to meet life's challenges and make reasoned decisions. It is about self-discovery and developing the potential that lies within. That is at the heart of what we do each day at Westcliff, and we ask for parents to both promote and support their children's involvement in our wider corporate life. Equally, I encourage all pupils to take pride in their uniform, maintain excellent attendance and punctuality, set ambitious goals for the year, and to get involved in your School community. A pupil left sitting on the side-lines, through either choice or lack of support, is apt to derive less enjoyment and value from their time at the School. My thanks to all pupils, staff, parents and our wider community who continue to contribute so much to the quality of our work at WHSB.

PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS 2017

This year WHSB has enjoyed its best ever set of A Level results. Over 22% of our entries were graded A* and 53% of all entries were graded A*/A. 31 students gained two or more A* grades and 16 students achieved at least three A* grades. The majority of students have achieved or exceeded their University offers, including ten students who have secured places at Oxford and Cambridge. We also had outstanding GCSE results with 45% of entries graded A* and 69% of entries graded A*-A (or 7-9). 90 pupils achieved eight or more A*-A (or 7-9) grades and 19 pupils achieved ten or more A* (or 8-9) grades. We congratulate all our students and give them our best wishes for the future.



ANNUAL SPEECH DAY Thursday 9 November 2017, 7.45pm

The School's Annual Speech Day will take place on Thursday 9 November 2017 in the School Hall. This year we are delighted to welcome Mr Kevin O'Neill, Head of Neurosurgery at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust in London, and Old Westcliffian (1974 to 1981). Mr O'Neill qualified in medicine from St Mary's Hospital Medical School and Imperial College London in 1989, having obtained a BSc (intercalated) in Neuroscience in 1986. He embarked on basic surgical training, obtaining his FRCS in 1994, subsequently pursuing a career in neurosurgery, obtaining his final fellowship in 1998 and becoming a consultant in 1999.

Mr O'Neill is now Head of Neurosurgery at Imperial College NHS Healthcare Trust (Charing Cross, Hammersmith and St Mary's Hospitals). Specialising in neurovascular and neuro-oncology, his main research interest lies in developing new technologies and treatments focusing on brain tumour research. He heads up the brain tumour clinical

service at Imperial College and a centre of excellence translation research programme aimed at developing and testing new treatment strategies. Mr O'Neill particularly enjoys the application of science and technology to medicine, utilising new technologies and approaches to solving the complexity of disease states, of which brain tumours are one of the most complex. Earlier this year, Mr O'Neill appeared in the BBC documentary series 'Hospital' broadcast. The programme recorded Mr O'Neill and

his colleagues dealing with some of the country's most difficult and challenging neurological cases.

Speech Day provides the School with an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of pupils throughout the School during the past academic year. The evening is a compulsory attendance for all pupils in Years 11 to 13. It is anticipated that we shall have over 900 pupils, staff and guests in attendance.



FROM THE DESK OF THE HEADMASTER

STAFFING FOR THE AUTUMN TERM

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

Miss Brugmann, Mr Ziprani and Miss Subbiah were with us for just one year and Mr Blackburn has been with us as a supply teacher for one term. They have each made valuable contributions towards the teaching of Modern Languages, Biology, Mathematics and Religious Studies respectively.

We also say farewell to Mr Shoemsmith and Mr Brinklow. Both taught Physical Education and have made a splendid contribution. Mr Shoemsmith has been with us for seven years, and in that time he has also given a lead to the House system as well as taking responsibility for GCSE PE.

Mr Doherty, an Old Westcliffian, joined the staff in 2014 and, having successfully trained as teacher, he has recently taken on the role of Second in Mathematics. He now leaves us to take up a position at a School in Leicestershire. Mr Doherty is an excellent teacher who has also made a terrific contribution to the School's extracurricular life, including our Chess club.

Mrs S Robinson has a long association with the School and, having previously served as a Science teacher in the late 1990s, she returned to us as our Food Technology teacher. She is a talented teacher and has given a great deal of her time to support the corporate life of the School, most notably supporting Charity Week arrangements and

providing bespoke catering for Poetry in Performance (PiP) and other School events. We give her our thanks for her positive contribution to the life of the School.

Mr A Rahman joined us in January 2013 and quickly transformed Computer Science into one of the highest performing subjects in the School, ably assisted by Mr Sims. He has also encouraged and inspired interest in computer programming and we have a rich and thriving extra-curricular life in this field, enjoying notable success in regional and national competitions. Mr Rahman returns to the North West to take up a position in an independent school.

Mr Shirlin, an Old Westcliffian, has served at the School since 2010. Having successfully completed his undergraduate studies he returned to the School as a Teaching Assistant and subsequently trained as a teacher, demonstrating a natural aptitude for the profession. He has been a supporter of the School's wider life and has shown tremendous leadership of his House (Osprey). He now moves to an independent school in the North West.

Miss Sparks has served at the School since 2008, first as a teacher of Geography and ultimately as Head of Geography. She also made a considerable contribution to our work as a specialist school, developing and running outreach programmes. In addition, she forged links between the School and the Prince's Teaching Institute as well as developing the School's Best Practice for Teaching guide. She has also been enormously energetic in the development of field visits and resources. Prior to taking up the Head of Geography position, she served as an outstanding

Lower School Progress Leader. Miss Sparks has shown enormous dedication to this School and its pupils and we wish her every success in her new position at an International School.

Mrs Marsh has served at this School for ten years. Having joined as a Teacher of Mathematics, through her skill and application she quickly assumed roles of responsibility, eventually being promoted to Second in Mathematics and then taking over as Head of Mathematics. She has given purposeful leadership to the Mathematics Department, which has enjoyed considerable success in the Public Examinations. Mrs Marsh moves to an International School as Head of Mathematics and we wish her well.

We are pleased to welcome a number of staff to the School. Mr Shepherd takes up the position of Head of Geography. Mr Wright joins us as our new Head of Technology. Mr Steel takes up the position of Head of Computing. Dr Smith and Miss Tyson join the Mathematics Department and Mr White and Mr Sexton join the Physical Education Department. Ms Rodriguez joins the Modern Foreign Languages Department to teach Spanish. Mr McGee, a highly experienced teacher, joins the Music Department and takes up the position of Sixth Form Progress Leader for the new Lower Sixth. A belated welcome to Mr G Hill who joined our Facilities Team during May. Miss Bailey will be joining the English Department and Mr Yeo and Mr Marriott, both Old Westcliffians, will be joining the Mathematics and Science Departments respectively. We are also delighted to welcome back Mrs Mason from her recent maternity leave.

ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Friday 10 November 2017, 8.45am

The Annual Service of Remembrance for the whole School will take place on Friday 10 November at 8.45am. The Service will run until approximately 9.40am and will include hymns, readings, prayers and music to remember the fallen. The Head Boy, Ross McIntyre, will lay a wreath in memory of those from the School who gave their lives in both World Wars and in other conflicts. The School's Combined Cadet Force (CCF) will also participate in the arrangements for the Service. Parents are warmly invited to join us for the occasion, and for coffee in the Conference Room after the Service. Seating should be reserved in advance using TicketSource, or by contacting the School if preferred.



ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Monday 18 December 2017, 7.30pm

We warmly invite you to join us for our traditional service of Lessons and Carols which will feature some of the Christmas season's well-known Carols. It will be an opportunity for pupils, parents and staff to join as a community and sing together in what promises to be a rousing evening. Following the Service, those in attendance are invited to join us for mince pies and coffee in the Sixth Form Forum. Parents are invited to attend and seating should be reserved in advance using TicketSource or by contacting the School if preferred.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

The start of a new Academic Year provides an opportunity to remind parents and pupils of the importance of the continuity of education. The majority of pupils maintain splendid attendance records and both they and the School take appreciable pride in their commitment. We understand that there will always be an exceptional case to the general rule, however I wish to advise parents that requests for leave of absence for holidays during term time will not be granted. We know that there is a strong correlation between good attendance and excellent educational outcomes, and maintaining

outstanding pupil attendance remains a top priority. We are grateful for the continuing support of so many parents regarding the matter of attendance.

SAFEGUARDING

The start of an academic year seems an appropriate time to remind pupils and parents of the importance of safe behaviour, not just at School, but also at home and travelling to and from School.

Use of the Internet

The School teaches pupils about staying safe online, which includes making use of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP) materials. The internet has many positive aspects and can be a helpful educational resource when used appropriately. Equally, parents and pupils will be aware of the dangers it poses through illegal and inappropriate content and predatory behaviour by some individuals. A less obvious, but harmful behaviour is online bullying, and pupils should be aware that using the internet, or other forms of electronic communication,



to spread malicious gossip and/or to insult others is not acceptable behaviour. Therefore it is important that parents continue to discuss and monitor their children's online activity.

Travelling to and from School

I am pleased to say that the majority of pupils travel to and from School without incident. They understand that they are wearing the School's uniform and, as such, are representing their School. The four Grammar Schools have been working together with bus and rail companies to address misconduct from a minority of pupils. Our School community will not tolerate the misconduct of a few, tarnishing the reputation of all, and so any misconduct in public will be treated as a serious matter. As the content of this edition of the Diary demonstrates, the overwhelming majority of our pupils are outstanding ambassadors for their School.

Headmaster



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW HEAD BOY AND DEPUTIES

I am delighted to introduce our new Head Boy and his two Deputies to our wider School community. Our Head Boy, Ross McIntyre, has been heavily involved with School Drama and Debating. Ross already has a high profile within the School community and is highly respected. I have no doubt he will be an outstanding Head Boy. Ross will be supported by his two Deputies, Philip Boesch and Conrad Kunadu. Philip is an outstanding leader within the CCF and he has also made a major contribution to the success of Charity Week 2017. Conrad has a highly impressive record in School Public Speaking and Debating. We give Ross and his Deputies our best wishes with their new responsibilities, including leadership of the School's Prefect Body.



	Ross McIntyre Head Boy	Philip Boesch Deputy Head	Conrad Kunadu Deputy Head
Previous School	Chalkwell Hall Junior School, Leigh-on-Sea	Fairways Primary School, Leigh-on-Sea	William Ford Church of England School, Dagenham
Subjects at A Level	History, Mathematics, Physics, Religious Studies	Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Psychology	Economics, History, Mathematics, Politics

UNIFORM SHOP UPDATE

Uniform and other essential school items, can now be ordered and paid for via the School website. Online orders will, under normal circumstances, be available for pupils to collect from the Main School Office within two school days of submission. The WHSB Online Uniform Shop can be accessed by visiting www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/uniform or by selecting About Us/Practical Information/Uniform on the School website. In order to purchase items, simply select the size and quantity you require and click 'Add to basket'. Payment for online purchases will be by credit or debit card only.

The Uniform Shop stocks WHSB Tracksuits (fleece tops and joggers), which can be purchased either together as a two-piece set or separately. The tracksuits are available for ALL students to purchase and in particular for those selected to play for School teams. In addition, the fleece tops embroidered with the WHSB crest and name across the back are ideal garments for parents/guardians to wear when supporting students participating in sports fixtures during the winter months. Further information is available on the Uniform Shop website as detailed above.

Please note that, as advised in the Summer Term 2017 edition of The Westcliff Diary, the previous system of ordering items of uniform using a paper order form with payment by cash or cheque is no longer possible. The Uniform Shop will, however, continue to open for purchases to be made after School on Thursdays during term time between 3.45pm and 4.45pm, when cash, cheque or card payments will be accepted.

For further information, please contact the Uniform Shop Manager, Ms Mayne, by e-mail (uniform@whsb.essex.sch.uk).

Ms A Mayne
Uniform Shop Manager



SIXTH FORM EDUCATION EVENING: SUCCESS AT A LEVEL

Tuesday 26 September 2017, 7.30pm

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

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

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

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

Dr A C Machacek
Director of Sixth Form Studies

TECHNOLOGY BLOCK REFURBISHMENT

Having completed the refurbishment of the Science Block, the next major project on which the School is due to embark, is a substantial internal refurbishment of the Technology Building. The Technology Building was built in the early 1990s and has served the School well for 25 years, but much of the interior is original and in need of modernisation.

The refurbishment, to be funded by the Education & Skills Funding Agency through their Priority Schools Building



Programme, will see significant investment in renewing the mechanical and electrical services throughout the building, as well as redecoration and new furniture. The layout will also be reconfigured to ensure that it is fit for purpose with the ever-changing curriculum and the expansion of the School. The refurbished building will include a state-of-the-art Food Technology room. Careful consideration is also being given to ensure that disabled access is available throughout the building.

Final details are still being confirmed, but it is anticipated that building work will start in early Summer 2018, with work to be completed late in 2018. Further information will be provided in future editions of The Westcliff Diary.

Mr D Partridge
Director of Resources & Support Services

SCHOOLS' CHALLENGE QUIZ

The School will be entering the Schools' Challenge Quiz for the 15th successive year. The competition uses a University Challenge format with a team drawn from Year 10 and the Sixth Form. Having reached the Regional Finals in 2015 – losing to a strong team from Westminster School – we were less successful in last year's campaign, so we have work to do in re-establishing ourselves on the local School quiz scene.

Mr R Stevens
Head of Politics

BREADTH STUDIES

Sixth Form students have been busily working on their EPQ dissertation projects over the summer break. This has included: reading textbooks, articles, academic journals, visiting local libraries and public records offices, contacting academics at universities, completing surveys, as well as other forms of primary research.

Dissertations, from the cohort last year, were of exceptional quality and staff and students are to be congratulated on all the support that they gave the students. I would like to specifically thank the following members of staff that helped guide students with their research: Mr Allan-Smith, Mr Baggs, Mrs Barber, Mr Bleakley, Mr Cunneen, Mr Despres, Miss Dolan, Mr Dowding, Mr Farrell, Dr Halsall, Mr Hill, Mr Jeffrey, Dr Machacek, Mr Easby, Mrs Mumford, Mr Neagus, Dr Prendergast, Mr Rahman, Mr Shirlin, Miss Sparks, Mr Wightman, Mr Williams, Mr Williamson and Mr Ziprani.

Mr R Barber
Head of Breadth Studies

OXBRIDGE

In June, the School hosted a highly successful Conference for potential Oxbridge candidates. It was attended by Admission Tutors from Oxford and Cambridge Universities, no fewer than 10 undergraduate Old Westcliffians and 85 students from across local grammar and partner schools. The information and advice, so freely given on this occasion, should significantly enhance the chances of individuals from Westcliff in making

successful applications to the country's most prestigious universities this term. The School's programme of internal trial interviews will begin in October, with reciprocal arrangements with Westcliff High School for Girls undertaken in November.

Mr R Stevens
Higher Education Coordinator

YEAR 7 HELPING PARENTS HELP THEIR SONS

The transition to a new school, and from Primary to Secondary Education, is a daunting prospect for many pupils. This is often no different for parents. To help make this transition as straightforward as possible, and to support parents to help their sons settle into the routine necessary for success at a Grammar School, the School will host a *Helping Parents Help Their Sons* Education Session on the afternoon of Wednesday 20 September.

During this session parents of new Year 7 pupils will have the opportunity to hear from a number of Heads of Department about useful ways in which parents can

support their sons to achieve success in the core subjects of English, Mathematics, the Sciences, Modern Foreign Languages and PE. In addition, there will be discussion of general techniques which are helpful to cope with the changes, such as homework, timetables and other matters which accompany academic study at a Grammar School.

There will also be a review of Internet Safety during the meeting, in which we will cover some importance aspects of the risks associated with the rapid changes in technologies and ways for parents to safeguard their children against the abuse of these technologies.

In addition, parents, will have the opportunities to ask questions.

Mr J Bleakley
Head of Lower School

ENRICHMENT DAY - VISIT TO EAST MERSEA

Friday 22 September 2017

As we have done for many years, the School will take Year 7 pupils to an Adventure Centre as part of our transition arrangements. This year we will be returning to East Mersea Adventure Centre. During the trip pupils will take part in a variety of activities, including climbing, archery, caving and a low ropes course. In these activities they will have the opportunity to get to know other Year 7 pupils outside of a formal classroom environment and to meet new members of staff who may not teach them.

By taking part in such adventurous activities, in which most people are trying something which is out of their comfort zone, pupils learn something about themselves and each other and glean a great deal of confidence.

It is expected that all Year 7 pupils should join us at this Activity. Transport and other arrangements will be communicated to pupils early this term.

Mr J Bleakley
Progress Leader Year 7



SCHOOL NEWS

CHARITY WEEK 2017 REVIEW

Once again, Charity Week provided the School with a fun way to end the Spring Term. Having raised the remarkable sum of almost £18,000 for our two chosen charities, the School community can feel pride in having delivered in yet another successful Charity Week. A special thank you to all those who donated items, including the car companies Ford, BMW (Fairfax), and Mercedes Benz, for the traditional Launch Night Auction. Another big thank you to all the staff involved in making Charity Week a success – in particular the caretakers and ground staff, Mrs Clarke, Mrs Weller and the Parents' Association, the Finance Office, Dr Machacek, Mr Sinnott, and Mrs Mumford for helping the Committee along the way. And a final big appreciation to Year 12, both Committee and volunteers, for their support and assistance. I hope that next year's Charity Week proves to be even better than ours!

Charity Week Committee



ARCHITECTURE DAY

On Wednesday 21 June 2017, all Year 12 Mathematicians participated in the annual Architecture Workshop. Students have consistently enjoyed participating in the Workshop where they worked in groups to complete two challenges. The first challenge required students to build the tallest tower that could carry the weight of a potato. Whilst this sounds simple, the building materials for their towers consisted of just spaghetti and jelly babies – hardly the best construction materials! This challenge has been used as a group interview exercise at university interviews for courses, such as Engineering, and students found the task a significant challenge.

The second challenge involved students working together to build the longest free-standing bridge using bamboo sticks, wooden dowels and elastic bands that could carry four litres of water. As always,

there were some structural catastrophes but some groups managed to build strong and successful bridges that could carry the water with ease. The overall winners of the competition were Cameron Brown, Jacob Coad and Archie Davies. The Mathematics Department looks forward to offering the Architecture Workshop to students in the future.

*Mrs A Marsh
Former Head of Mathematics*



JACK PETCHEY'S "SPEAK OUT" CHALLENGE

The Jack Petchey "Speak Out" Challenge is an event held for Year 10 pupils across the country to improve and showcase their speaking skills. The challenge is to make a speech lasting two to three minutes on any topic. Two pupils represent each school in the regional competition and, if a speech is good enough, it could become the Jack Petchey winner.

The first round of the competition took place in the School Library with around 60 pupils presenting speeches over two days. From these, four pupils, Andrew Twimasi, Michael Mabo, Ramis Ibrahim and Jason Antwi-Dicson, were chosen. The next round was performed in the Westcliff Theatre and our four competitors presented their speeches before the whole of Year 10. Laughter, emotion and debate filled the room and our contestants battled heartily against each other. However, only two could be chosen to represent the School. In the end, it was Andrew and Ramis who proceeded to the next round with their speeches on Procrastination and The Education System respectively.

The regional competition took place at Greensward Academy, where our two Westcliffians competed against challengers from other schools in the Southend and Rochford area. Competitors were given an hour of practice time in which warm-up exercises and games allowed for bonding between contestants and the dissipation of nerves. Pizza and drinks were supplied, courtesy of Jack Petchey.

Once this period was done, the competition began in earnest. In the audience were teachers and pupils from our school, cheering on our Westcliffian finalists. Many great speeches were presented that evening, but there could only be one winner. Unfortunately, neither Ramis nor Andrew made it through to the national semi-finals, but they certainly put up a fight!

In all, the event was a brilliant occasion and all present had a lot of fun. This would not have been possible without the members of staff from our school, particularly in the English Department. A notable mention should go to Ms Ives who was instrumental in the setting up and organisation of the competition. The Jack Petchey crew were also amazing, especially Emily Pelay and Theresa Duke who took time to train the competitors. Of course,



we must also thank Andrew Twimasi and Ramis Ibrahim who represented the School so splendidly. Competition was superb and I would recommend anybody, confident or shy, to participate!

*Jason Antwi-Dicson
Year 10*



NATIONAL ATHLETICS SUCCESS

When I joined WHSB, I knew that there was an incredible amount of sporting talent. This year, the pupils have really developed their commitment to work hard to maximise that talent, and success has ensued.

On arrival at WHSB, I set only one goal for this year - to begin a cultural change in sport. This, I believe, has started to happen as the pupils have responded brilliantly.

When the Junior Boys and Inter Boys athletics teams both gained a place at the English Schools' Track & Field Cup Final, the pupils achieved the goal I had internally set. They achieved this through a foundation of a relentless work ethic and an inner desire to perform to the best of their ability for themselves and their school.

Both the Junior Boys' and the Inter Boys' teams have successfully made it to the English Schools' Track & Field Cup Final for the first time in our history. This has been achieved through dedication and an increased commitment.

In the First Round, both teams performed well. Udochukwu Abazie was the star performer for the Inter Boys' team with a total of 46 points from 200m and High Jump. It was Udochukwu's performance of 24s in the 200m, that sparked a new energy and momentum into the team. Josh Ogunfolaju was the stand out performer in the Junior Boys' team, with a total of 55 points from 100m and Triple

Jump. It was the 12m Triple Jump which, at the time of the competition, was a top 10 in the country jump for the year above!

The athletes trained well in the interim period between the First Round and the Regional A Final. The Regional A Final was the best Regional Final in the country by some margin. The students handled the pressure well and were able to claim two places in the National Final. The standout performer in the Inter Boys' team, was Seth Mokuolo. with a total of 60 points from Hurdles and Triple Jump. His jump of 12.78m raised the energy levels of the team just as they were starting to fall. Adedayo Adedewe stepped up superbly as reserve to run a vitally important 39.7s. The Junior Boys had many strong performances but, again, it was the Captain, Josh Ogunfolaju, who stole the show with 60 points from his two events.

It is important to give credit to the athletes who just missed their place in the team. Without a competitive environment in training, where everyone is pushing each other to perform at their best, we would not have achieved our historic success.

During the Final at Horspath, Oxford, both teams managed the pressure of performing in a national arena very well. The Junior Boys performed well on the track, with the two 'stand out' performances of the track being Toby Linsell running a 4.33m in the 1500m and Winston Ojo with a 25.4s in the 200m. These performances, combined with the rest of the team's strong performances on the track, put them in a very good position heading into the field events. The Inter Boys' team performed well in the field events, managing to control their nerves and come back in every event scoring points, which meant that they were



still in a good position heading into the afternoon track events.

During the afternoon, the Junior Boys thrived under the pressure of knowing that every jump and throw was important to the WHSB team's total points score. Ayodamope Akinyemi produced a Long Jump of 5.40m to add his individual total to the team score of 53 points from his Hurdles and Long Jump. Both the hammer throwers, Mohammed Saadi and Oluwatishe Ashade, handled their nerves brilliantly, needing to record a competitive distance on their last throws to achieve their target score. They did this and more, producing a throw of 33.01m and personal best of 34.59m respectively. As these hammer throws left the cage, Osayamen Osunbor was busy jumping an eight centimetre personal best in the High Jump. These performances gave a real momentum to the team. The Inter Boys again performed consistently on the track with the best performance of 23.9s from Udo Abazie in the 200m.

Both teams achieved sixth place in their respective categories. The Junior Boys came incredibly close to claiming a podium place and I know getting as close as they did will mean that they will want to get back to another ESAA Final next year, and will show the same level of effort and attitude as they did this year.

The teams represented our school with great poise, attitude, and effort. It was incredibly pleasing to see the ways in which the pupils have progressed over the year, and especially over the Summer Term. The athletes have asked me to acknowledge the interest and words of encouragement that staff have shown to them over the term and especially to the Headmaster, Mr Williams and Mrs Mumford in coming to support the pupils in Oxford on the day.

Mr T Morrish
Director of Sport



FORD CHALLENGE

On Monday 26 June 2017, a group of Year 10 pupils travelled to the Ford Dunton Technical Centre, to take part in a competition. In previous lunchtimes, we were split into two teams and had designed and built a small car, with a built in mechanical braking system. It had to be capable of going down a 2.5 metre ramp, and stopping before a wall which was another 2 metres away. As a team, we designed the chassis, body and braking systems over this time. When we arrived at the Ford Centre, we initially went on a tour of the facilities, learning about different sites, such as where the cars were crash tested or where they are tested against weather conditions. We also entered a semi-anechoic chamber, where the harmonic properties of the chamber are designed to minimise echo, which is used to test the noise and vibrations a new car will make.

After the tour, we presented a PowerPoint presentation to a panel of Judges, explaining the design choices of our car, as well as the materials used. Once this was over, we began to compete with a number of other schools, attempting to stop the car as close to the wall as possible, with the WHSB record being just over 2cm. Overall, the visit to the Ford Centre was interesting,

with the making of the car providing a challenge that tested our skills in teamwork, creativity and engineering, and the tours offering insight into possible careers in STEM areas.

Thomas Fewings
Year 10



TOMORROW'S ENGINEERS

Earlier this year, two Year 9 classes had an Energy Quest Energiser Workshop. It was based mainly on the importance of engineering and work being done on renewable energy. The day began with us working out what an engineer is. The conclusion was that an engineer is someone who designs new and better technologies to make a product better. Then we talked about the various careers in engineering and the different areas that engineering is involved with. This included trains, phones, and even bananas - although some people were still sceptical about that one! Next, we were given cards with information about different energy sources. We then had to present a case about the positives and negatives of the renewable and non-renewable energy on these cards. After that, we had to work in groups of four to make a miniature car out of K'Nex construction blocks powered only by an elastic band. This was achieved with varying degrees of success, with results spanning from 3m to 2cm. Finally, we were given talks by people who had worked as engineers. By the end of the day I had gained more knowledge of energy, and will now be able to give a career as an engineer more consideration.

Joshua Seal
Year 9

SUCCESS IN THE CAMBRIDGE CHEMISTRY CHALLENGE

Having completed their Trial Chemistry examinations in May, 40 students in Year 12 took up the opportunity to sit one more, the Cambridge Chemistry Challenge with only a few days respite. The Challenge aims to push Year 12 students, across the country, to the limit of their abilities and understanding. Indeed, it is designed in such a way that no student should achieve full marks. This year, students were asked to apply their accrued knowledge to look at the redox chemistry of potassium manganate (VII). In March 2017, residents of the Canadian town of Onoway found their water supplies had turned purple due to a leak of potassium permanganate solution into the water system. Fortunately, dilute potassium permanganate solutions have low toxicity; nonetheless, residents were advised not to drink the water! Our students had to calculate the lethal dose of the pink tap water, and a 75 kg man would have to drink more than 2600 litres.

This year, a record number of students from WHSB were recognised and awarded either a Copper, Silver or Gold Award (you can ask your son or daughter why there is no Bronze Award!). 18 students achieved Copper, six Silver and three received a Gold Award. This is a fantastic achievement and the three individuals - Nikhil Antony, Arthur Bush

and Kyran Sutton - have been placed in the top 7% nationally of those students who entered, already in itself a selective group. Moreover, and most impressively, James Quigley achieved the top award of Roentgenium (a radioactive noble metal found in the period below gold) and fell within the top 0.78% of students in the competition. He will now have the opportunity to visit Cambridge University for a residential course.

I would like to congratulate all who took part and look forward to continued success in next year's Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad.

Mr D Hill
Head of Chemistry



PROCAT ENGINEERING MASTERCLASS

The first day in a series of three Saturdays began with a short lecture about construction and buildings. We were shown a case study of a block of flats in Shanghai that had collapsed due to uneven pressure caused by heavy rainfall and the construction of an underground car park. Then we were set a task to design and build a paper tower. This tower was meant to be as stable, yet as tall as possible. Only newspaper and sticky tape were provided to start our own, stable construction. Our design did not easily take shape and, by the end of the time limit, our tower was one of the less impressive there. After this, we were given access to a sturdier type of paper. Despite this, we were still beaten by other teams. The winning team managed to make their tower two metres tall.

The next week came, and we were surprised to find the subject of the day less practical, but a course based upon mathematics and logic. Our lecture was about the importance of planning and how, without it, any engineering project would be pointless. Before our task was set, we were given a quote relevant to our day: "If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail!" (Benjamin Franklin). Our task was to plan the building of a bridge, including costing. The aim was to persuade the benefactor to choose a design based upon the shortest construction time, combined with the lowest cost, whilst still making a substantial profit. We set to work in school teams once again. Primarily, we were required to work out the costs of



hiring different people for different jobs, but also how long each worker or team of workers was to be hired. Depending on what is chosen, there is either a high cost but a small work time, or a low cost but extensive work time. On each segment of the construction force, there were clever ways of getting around certain costs or times. This also meant communication.

After this, we went on to plan the events on a table, showing the exact points when each team of the planned construction force was to start. This involved laying sticky notes on each week, alongside each team. Certain work could not start until another was finished, for example, laying tarmac until earthworks were complete. By being able to evaluate the entire situation, we were able to run teams alongside one another, and make a short-projected construction time. Our total cost came to £1.813 million; but with a 2%

profit this was increased to £1.85 million. The profit was little, but by completing the project 6 weeks earlier than an average one, a £50,000 benefit was put upon this. We had planned to finish in 16 weeks, the next closest being 21 weeks, and the next at a cost of £1.92 million. The lecturer even took part, and our plan was more efficient and cost-effective than his plan!

The final week was brought to us by Network Rail, who talked to us about a level crossing. We were required to design a crossing with optimal safety for vehicles, with warnings and safety elements built in. The models were made of Lego and used motor packs to power a gateway for the crossing. The teams were mixed, and without a competitive aspect we were more relaxed.

Stanley Upton
Year 9



PROFESSOR CRAWFORD SPEAKS ON ASTROPHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

Professor Carolin Crawford, Astrophysics Fellow at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, and member of the Institute of Astronomy, will be visiting the School on Thursday 28 September.

Professor Crawford will be speaking to

Sixth Form Physics students from 3:45pm to 5:30pm about astrophysics. The second talk will be at 7.00pm on the subject of astronomy and will be for a general audience; all are welcome.

Tickets can be reserved at <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/> for £2.00 for adults and pupils may attend free of charge.

Mr R Stevens
Head of Politics



WHSB PRESENTS COPENHAGEN BY MICHAEL FRAYN

Wednesday 11 October (5.00pm) and Thursday 12 October 2017 (7.30pm)

Copenhagen is a play by Michael Frayn. It explores the meeting which took place at Copenhagen in 1941, between leading physicists Niels Bohr and Werner Heisenberg. Bohr and Heisenberg initially come together to develop the Copenhagen Interpretation in the 1920s and 1930s, reflecting their innovative work on quantum mechanics. However, the two become increasingly divided by the nuclear ambitions of the Nazi German and American governments. The Jewish Bohr, living in Nazi occupied Denmark, now inhabits a very different world to leading German scientist Heisenberg, and the strain of their once father-son relationship plays out as they meet again in Copenhagen. Can Heisenberg and Bohr collaborate again to prevent nuclear proliferation? Frayn's masterpiece, is a play of uncertainty, complementarity and principles.

A literary laboratory in which some of the fundamental moral and relationship questions facing all scientists are put under the microscope. It is a production for scientists, historians, all students of human relationship, and all who enjoy excellent drama.

Tickets are available from <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/>

Mr B Jeffreys
Head of History



WARHAMMER SCHOOLS' LEAGUE

On 26 April 2017, a group of five pupils across Years 9 and 10, Max Allsopp, Sean Wright, Alexander Fall, William Skeldon and Ellis Swindell, travelled to Warhammer World, Nottingham, after qualifying for the semi-finals of the Warhammer Schools' League National Championships in the previous November.

We competed with twenty-two other teams from across the country, all of which were well prepared with competitive armies and strategic tactics. We had never competed in a Schools' League tournament before, so expectations were tempered; we came to win, but also to learn from others.

Upon arrival, we set-up and displayed our Armies. All schools undertook scouting work on the other schools prior to the competition. The competition comprised of three rounds facing three different teams with 10 points for a win, 5 points for a tie and 0 for a loss. The four highest scoring teams at the end of the competition would then progress to the National Finals.

In the first round, we played against Spalding Grammar School. After a set of hard fought battles, we won one game and lost two others at the end of the first round. This was a wake-up call that we were up against tough opposition.

In the second round, we played against Dr Challoner's Grammar School, which had returning Championship players in their line-up. We put up a competitive set of games, but ultimately lost two and one won game. This left us knowing that a 'top 4' finish was unrealistic, but we persevered into the final round.

Our final match was against Marling School, which ended up with a similar result. In addition, we gained 145 'Tools of War' points for being prepared, and the three wins resulted in a total of 210 points, putting us in 13th place.



Alexander Fall
Year 10

Furthermore, we had the opportunity to look around the Exhibition area, a large showing of battles, from the pre-told stories of the Warhammer World. All were very impressive and something to behold, as some of these sets took up enormous amounts of room in extremely precise detail. The competition was great and we are ready to compete again next year, learning from our mistakes and experiences.

WESTCLIFF MEDICAL SOCIETY

As in previous years, we plan to run a set of practice MMIs in September, as well as a day of more formal panel interviews conducted by a range of hospital consultants, surgeons and GPs to whom we are indebted for their willingness to help our students meet the truly daunting challenge of securing a place at Medical School. However, the major change for this year is our collaboration with The Medic Portal, a non-profit making company which specializes in helping students apply to Medical School. They visited the School in July to run a preparatory session on the UKCAT and will be back in September for BMAT practice, and again in November for interview guidance.

Mr R Stevens
Higher Education Coordinator

POLITICS SOCIETY

Thursday 14 September 2017

A trip to the Palace of Westminster by the Politics Department will take place this term on Thursday 14 September 2017, arranged through the auspices of the Parliamentary Education Service. This visit will provide a very valuable opportunity for students of A Level Politics to look at Westminster from the inside, to gain some sense of the size and grandeur of the Palace, to visit rooms used by General, Public Bill and Select Committees, and gain some sense of the nature and style of our parliamentary life.

Mr R Stevens
Head of Politics

DEBATING

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

Mr R Stevens
Head of Politics

CCF UPDATE

The School's Combined Cadet Force continues to grow from strength to strength, having received very positive feedback during its Biennial Inspection earlier this Year. We now begin our fifth year since its inception as a Detachment of Brentwood School CCF in 2012, and its third year since it was granted independent status in January 2015.

This year we added to our list of accomplishments, including competitions, and Field Days, as well as Central Camps and the first full camp we ran completely independently, spending a week long

Battle Camp in Swynnerton, Shropshire.

Reflecting this progress, the Combined Cadet Force will establish a Royal Navy Section, to parade formally as a Royal Navy Section with up to 35 cadets from 1 January 2018. The CCF will invite applications for both the Army and Royal Navy Section later this term.

To support the expansion and accompanying changes within the CCF, Capt Baggs was appointed as Officer Commanding the Army Section during the Passing Out Parade in July. Capt Baggs will now oversee all the progress and training of cadets and staff in the

Army Section of the CCF. An Officer commanding the Royal Navy Section will be appointed in due course and will assume the same responsibilities within the Royal Navy Section. I will remain in overall command of the CCF as Contingent Commander.

Capt J Bleakley
CCF Contingent Commander



ROYAL ENGINEERS' BOAT SCHOOL

On 17 May, RSM Lyne and Mr Holdaway accompanied two CCF teams of Year 9 and 10 cadets to the Royal School of Military Engineering Boat School Cadet Concentration Event in Chatham. The cadets competed against other teams from all over the South East in a number of different military and engineering themed events, and were placed second and third respectively.

ARMED FORCES' DAY PARADE

The CCF Participated in the Southend Armed Forces' Day Parade on Southend High Street on 24 June, representing the Army as the only Army-affiliated unit on Parade. The Air Training Corps and the Sea Cadets represented the RAF and Royal Navy respectively.



COMBINED CADET FORCE

SUMMER CAMP

Summer Camp was held at Warcop Training Area in Appleby in Westmoreland, Cumbria. The cadets rotated around a series of different activities, including Adventurous Training in the Lake District, Tactics in Woods and Forests, Survival Evasion Resistance and Escape, Tactics in Built up Areas, Platoon and Section Level Attacks. This year's inter-platoon competition was won by Salamanca Platoon, led by Sgt Elijah Thakoordin.



SURVIVAL CAMP

From 15-18 June, WHSB Cadets joined with cadets from Tonbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School to take part in their Annual Survival Camp. In this event cadets met at Crowborough Camp in the evening, where those cadets who had not passed their Weapon Handling Tests did so, and then prepared for a Navigation Exercise which involved cadets navigating themselves in sections around 10 different stands across an open training area.

After this, cadets moved to Mereworth Woods training area, where they were instructed in basic survival techniques by ex-regular forces from the Greencraft Ranger Programme Company, making and sleeping in their own shelters and learning techniques from fire starting and signal fires to wood carving and survival kits.

The camp culminated with a competition between two teams of TWGGS cadets and two teams of WHSB cadets, in which WHSB took first and third places.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

DONATING TAX EFFICIENTLY

WHSB is recognised as a charity for UK tax purposes and claims tax relief through the HMRC Gift Aid Scheme. For individuals, the value of your gift is maximised by giving via the **HMRC Gift Aid Scheme**, through a payroll scheme or pension, by donating assets, or by leaving a gift in your will. If you are a UK taxpayer, WHSB receives an additional £25 for every £100 you give. All we need from you is a Gift Aid Declaration Form which can be obtained from Mrs C Shirlin, School Bursar in the Finance Office. Through your employer, you may be able to donate to the School via their **Payroll Giving Scheme (also known as "Give as You Earn" or Workplace Giving)**. Through Payroll Giving, your donation is deducted from your salary before tax. Each £1.00 you give may only cost you 80p, 60p or even 55p if you are an additional rate taxpayer. Your employer will then send your donation to their approved Payroll Giving Agency who will pass it on, plus any matched employer giving, to WHSB. Your employer may be one of the companies that helps boost employee charitable donations through a **Corporate Matched Giving Scheme**. Some will match pound for pound, and others will even double donations made to us by its employees. To find out if your employer is able to help you donate to WHSB through either their Payroll Giving or Matched Giving schemes, please contact your Payroll or Human Resources Department.

Please contact the School Bursar, Mrs Shirlin, in the Finance Office (shirlinc@whsb.essex.sch.uk) to inform her if you would like to take part in your employer's Payroll Giving or Matched Giving scheme and she will forward the relevant form. Please note: the charity name is "Westcliff High School for Boys". You will not find the School listed on the Charity Commission website because WHSB is an exempt charity under section 12 of the Academies Act 2010. For Businesses, the benefits associated with charitable giving depend on whether you are a sole trader, partnership or a company. The tax relief for sole traders and partnerships is through the Gift Aid Scheme. Companies claim corporation tax relief on gifts to charity of money, land, buildings, shares, equipment, trading stocks, and even staff.

In addition, there is **Sponsorship** and the School is grateful to the individuals and businesses who choose to support the School by sponsoring an event, or student



scholarships.

If you would like to financially support Westcliff High School for Boys in this way, please get in touch with Mrs J Clarke or Mrs N Weller in the Community Development Office on 01702 475443 or community@whsb.essex.sch.uk. More information is available on the School website under Community on the Main Menu.

*Mrs J Clarke
Community Development Office*

WHSB ALUMNI NETWORK PROJECT

One key part of the CDO's ongoing remit, working alongside the Old Westcliffian Association (OWA), is to develop a strong, diverse and flourishing alumni community. WHSB Alumni include all former students and staff, past and present. In addition to maintaining our existing links with those alumni who are still in contact with either the School or the OWA, we are looking to reach out to those who presently have no link with us and who would like to make contact, keep up-to-date with School news and possibly attend future School events. Three termly editions of the WHSB Alumni Network Newsletter have now been published and two Alumni Network Social events have taken place.



Following the success of last year's London drinks, we have arranged for our Autumn 2017 Alumni Social to take place on Thursday 19 October 2017, starting at 5.30pm. This year, we will be meeting up in the Mahogany Bar at Wilton's Music Hall in the heart of London's East End, within 10 minutes walking distance of Fenchurch Street Station. For those of you who have not been to Wilton's before you will have the opportunity to experience the world's oldest and last-surviving grand music hall. Further details will follow in the next Alumni Network Newsletter, to be issued in September. All former students and staff are welcome for a 'meet and greet' with the Headmaster, members of staff, and Old Westcliffian Association members over a glass of wine or non-alcoholic alternative. It would be appreciated if you could contact the CDO (see contact details below) if you would like to attend, and please do spread the word.

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 at, www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/alumni. You will then receive password information enabling access to the secure 'Alumni' area of the School website.

For further information, please contact Mrs J Clarke or Mrs N Weller in the Community Development Office on 01702 475443 or via email (community@whsb.essex.sch.uk). The WHSB Alumni Network is completely free to join and we very much look forward to hearing from you.

*Mrs J Clarke
Community Development Office*

CAREERS UPDATE

The summer term is always the busiest term of the year for our WHSB Work Experience Programme. We try to arrange the dates at the beginning of each academic year, for all our Year 11 pupils to attend preferably either a one or two week placement, following their GCSE examinations but, ideally, before the summer holidays begin.

We have placed a record number of pupils in work experience placements this summer, within a number of exciting and sought after business sectors, including Politics, Banking, Law, Insurance, Engineering, Accountancy, Finance, Education, Hospitality and Management Consultancy to name but a few. Positions are always highly competitive and it has been a great support to the School when Old Westcliffians and parents alike have offered their support and some unique

opportunities.

Many of the pupils have been exceptionally keen to work in London this year and we have successfully placed a number of pupils within professional city environments. No employer is looking for them to start work on Day One, understanding how the selected industry works and how all the finite/intricate components come together. However, what is most important at this stage is learning the softer skills and their ability to arrive promptly and punctually on a daily basis, to dress appropriately, to have a basic understanding of the company they are entering and to work effectively within a team environment.

In addition, making a decent cup of tea for your work colleagues is always very much appreciated and should never be underestimated!

The new academic year will hopefully bring some new exciting opportunities for WHSB students, as well as continued work with our established network of work experience supporters. Any parents or friends of the School that feel they can offer a role to one or more of our pupils in summer 2018, please contact weller@whsb.essex.sch.uk and I would be absolutely delighted to hear from you. In addition, our ever popular Careers Evenings will continue to inspire all WHSB students and parents in the Spring Term, but these would not be possible without the assistance of volunteer speakers from all career paths. I would therefore be equally pleased to receive volunteers to assist with these events.

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

GARDEN PARTY: RETROSPECTIVE

WHSB opened its gates on Sunday 11 June 2017 and hosted a traditional Garden Party, linking with Southend as the Alternative City of Culture for 2017 with the theme of celebrating the Armed Forces and Emergency Services during the month of June. In glorious sunny weather, the event was formally opened by local MP, Sir David Amess, and supported by local companies and community groups.

The School's own community, families and friends, alumni, local primary school pupils and local residents, joined together with local veterans from the Armed Forces and representatives from the Emergency Services for an afternoon of celebration and entertainment.

Hundreds of guests brought along their own picnics and enjoyed Pimms and strawberries and cream provided by pupils and the School's Parents' Association. On display, and to entertain, were vintage and classic cars from the Southend and District Classic Car Club, jive and swing dance displays by dance group Dickie Bows and, Air Raid Jive together with music from the School's own Saxophone Quartet. Younger visitors enjoyed a range of bouncy castles and face-painting.

Local veterans from the SSAFA Veterans' Club were served afternoon tea by pupils from WHSB's Combined Cadet Force and entertained by The Two Elizabeths who sang a medley of songs from the 1940s. One local Veteran, who attended the event, was Alfred Smith, aged 98, from Shoebury, who served with the Royal Army Service Corps in WW2. Mr Smith was rescued from the beach at Normandy, served on D Day and, two years ago, was awarded the Legion d' Honneur by the French Government. The School's Combined Cadet Force were also on parade and provided a first aid demonstration for the crowd.

The afternoon was most enjoyable and an opportunity to come together and celebrate our Armed Forces and Emergency Services who all play such a vital role ensuring our safety and security.

*Mr D Partridge
Director of Resources & Support Services*



OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION

OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION NEWS

This year's Reunion Dinner will be on Friday 8 September 2017 in the School Hall. Our guest speaker will be Neal Martin, internationally-renowned wine expert and an OW (1982-1989). The price is £29.50 or £17.50 for those in full-time education. There will be a drinks reception at 6.15pm for a 7.00pm dinner. These are always hugely enjoyable occasions, with people spanning the decades. If you have been before then I am sure you will want to join us again, and if not why not make this the year that you make the effort?

Colin Taylor has stepped down as Treasurer after 25 years of sterling service. His successor is Cedric Hennis, a retired solicitor. I thank him for taking on this role and I look forward to working with him.

The OWA fully supports the Alumni Network which is going from strength to strength. The success of this initiative will complement and hopefully reinforce our organisation by using social media to identify potential members worldwide.

The OWA was formed in 1926, originally to enable past pupils to have a means of keeping in touch with staff and colleagues. We welcome present and past students and staff. Our present remit, however, now goes much wider than that. We are here to support the School in whatever way that we can in order that this magnificent seat of education and learning

can continue to instill in its pupils the capacity to fulfill their true potential.

Mr T Birdseye
Secretary, Old Westcliffian Association
terry.birdseye@gmail.com

OWA ANNUAL REUNION DINNER

Friday 8 September 2017 - 6.15pm for 7.00pm

Old Westcliffians are invited to join the OWA for their annual reunion dinner.

Taking place in the School Hall, we look forward to a splendid evening of fine food, good company, and reminiscing.

Almost 100 people spanning eight decades attended 2016's dinner and we are looking to build on that success.

Tickets are £29.50 for OWA members (or £17.50 for students in full time education) and can be booked online at <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/>



Kenilworth Gardens | Westcliff-on-Sea | Essex | SSO 0BP | 01702 475443
www.whsb.essex.sch.uk | office@whsb.essex.sch.uk | @WHSforBoys

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

NEW PARENTS' MEET & GREET EVENING

Monday 11 September 2017, 6.30pm

On Monday 11 September 2017, the Parents' Association warmly invites parents and guardians who are new to the School to a Meet and Greet evening, for those whose sons and daughters have joined Years 7 and 12 this September. The event provides the opportunity for parents and guardians to meet others from their locality, as well as those of other pupils in their son's or daughter's Form. Following the informality of the first part of the evening, the Parents' Association Annual General Meeting, which we very much hope that you will be able to attend, takes place. The informal Meet and Greet part of the evening will commence at 6.30pm.

There is no charge to attend, but places should be confirmed using the WHSB

electronic ticketing system at <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/>.

We look forward to meeting you.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)

Monday 11 September 2017, 7.30pm

All parents and guardians of pupils at WHSB are invited to attend the Parents' Association AGM on Monday 11 September 2017 at 7.30pm. A summary of our fundraising efforts over the previous year will be communicated, together with a presentation of our accounts, and the voting in of Committee post-holders for the present academic year. There is no charge to attend, but places should be confirmed using the WHSB electronic ticketing system.

EASYFUNDRAISING FOR WHSB

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

100 CLUB MONTHLY PRIZE DRAW

Our Parents' Association 100 Club was established in December 1996. Since its launch, the PA 100 Club has raised thousands of pounds, enabling the Parents' Association to provide many items beneficial to the School, and its pupils. We would like to thank all those members of the PA 100 Club, both past and present, for their support over the years. With the passing of each School year, the Parents' Association loses members of the 100 Club as their sons and daughters leave WHSB. Therefore it is vital for new members to become involved. For a monthly contribution of just £5, members of the 100 Club (who must be associated with the School) are entered into a monthly draw, to win a cash sum, currently in the region of £150. Lucky winners will be sent a cheque by our PA Treasurer. If you would like to join the Parents' Association 100 Club, please contact the Parents' Association via email: pa@whsb.essex.sch.uk. A registration form and instructions, can also be downloaded from the School website under the Parents' Association sub-section followed by the Parents' Association '100 Club'. Thank you for your support.

Finally, we always welcome new members to our Committee and, in particular, those parents who are new to the School this September. You can find out more about the WHSB Parents' Association on the School website, or email us at pa@whsb.essex.sch.uk. Alternatively, you can contact us via the School Office.

TEXTILE RECYCLING FUNDRAISER

Friday 13 October 2017

WHSB Parents' Association, are pleased to announce a new initiative, whereby they will be facilitating the collection of clean and wearable/reusable clothing, accessories and textiles from members of our School community this term. As well as raising much needed funds for the School, this environmentally friendly initiative will help to divert unwanted textiles away from landfill sites

Pupils or parents, should bring in black refuse sacks filled with suitable items either **after School on Thursday 12 October 2017 or before School on the morning of Friday 13 October 2017 (no sooner please)**. All sacks will be collected by the recycling company shortly after

9.00am on Friday 13 October 2017, so as to minimise disruption to the normal running of the School.

A flyer detailing which items are acceptable for recycling will be distributed to pupils shortly. Thank you for your support.

Mrs K Merriman
Chair of Parents' Association



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

ANNUAL WINTER BALL

Saturday 25 November 2017, 7.00pm

Saturday 25 November 2017 heralds the Parents' Association Annual Winter Ball, which is undoubtedly the highlight of our fundraising calendar. Guests are welcomed into the School Hall, which is transformed into a sparkling and festive venue for the evening, with a drinks reception and canapés whilst a pianist plays. A professionally-catered, served dinner follows, then dancing to WHSB's own DJ Traxx, with carriages at half past midnight. A professional photographer will also be on hand to capture the moment.

Tickets are priced at £49.50 per head, and seating is on tables of eight to ten. An Invitation to this year's Winter Ball has been distributed along with this edition of The Westcliff Diary, detailing how tickets can be purchased through WHSB TicketSource. Please ensure that you indicate clearly when booking online (using the boxes that are applicable) if you wish to be seated with friends, if you require the vegetarian option or have specific dietary requirements. Tickets do sell out quickly so early booking is advised. We look forward to welcoming both our regular and new guests, particularly those parents and guardians who are new to the School, to this black tie occasion - an event not to be missed, and which raises thousands of pounds for WHSB.



TRIPS & VISITS

GERMAN EXCHANGE 2016/17

As has become tradition at Westcliff, the School welcomed 33 students from Bonn - the old capital of West Germany - to take part in the Exchange programme in November last year, and fortunately I was lucky enough to be a part of it. While the prospect of being paired up with someone I had only ever shared a few awkward introductory texts with before seemed daunting at first, we quickly made conversation about the weather (very British in itself!), and soon enough talking became easy, even though neither of us were the best at speaking each other's language... but it was early days.

In England, the German students were taken on guided tours of London to see the multitude of unmissable monuments and, during the week, the English students joined them on a visit to Chatham Dockyards, where we were treated to

various sights and activities, including exploring HMS Cavalier (a C-class destroyer) and visiting the old ropery. All too soon, the time for the Foreign Exchange group to cross the Channel arrived, and they left with promises of making our time in Germany as enriching.

After four long months of anticipation, the English cohort stepped off the coach at Clara Fey Gymnasium and were welcomed by their partners, this time without the awkwardness. After a day at the school in Germany, where the teachers involved us in classes and showed off their near-faultless English skills (much to the surprise of the German students), we visited the German Museum and its ocean exposition.

The next day, we visited the district of Ahrweiler and its no-longer secret bunker (used by German officials during the Cold War), and the day after we visited both the beautiful Cologne Cathedral and the equally beautiful Lindt Chocolate Museum; if nothing else convinces you to go on the Exchange, the chocolate fountain there has become my own

personal site of pilgrimage... I cannot recommend it to you enough. On top of all this, we still had visits to such landmarks as Aqualand (a waterpark) and Phantasialand (a theme park), to look forward to.

It is said that immersion is the best form of education, and I would agree; as much as our teachers incorporate speaking and listening into everyday lessons in languages, the German Exchange pushed us in at the deep end, stretching and developing our improvised speech and general conversations: skills not only essential for GCSE, but also priceless life experiences. We learnt about cultural differences and topical situations from the continent's perspective, including the refugee crisis and what England's place in Europe could be like post-Brexit. For all of these reasons and more, I would like to thank Ms Niedziela and Dr Francis for organising the trip, and I urge you to consider getting involved in this programme.

Daniel Pereira
Year 10

THE FIFTH ANNUAL CERN TOUR

15 - 17 December 2017

This December, Mr Dalby and Miss Isaac will be taking ten students to Geneva, Switzerland, to see the Large Hadron Collider at CERN.

We will be leaving the School at 8.00am on Friday 15 December 2017, and returning to Southend International Airport at 5.00pm on Sunday 17 December, spending two nights in Geneva.

The trip involves visits to the Muséum D'histoire Naturelle and the Musée D'histoire des Sciences, and should interest anyone studying Physics in Year 12 who has an interest in pursuing a career in any STEM field.

In the Physics A Level, there is content about Particle Physics, so this trip provides a good practical grounding for

that theoretical work. Short of investing billions of pounds in our own particle smasher, an unlikely scenario in the current economic climate, attending this trip is the best chance you will get to see this groundbreaking Physics in action.

The trip will cost £375 this year, which includes all flights, accommodation, food and tours. The deposit of £175 must be paid via ParentPay by 15 September for you to be entered into the draw to obtain a place on this popular trip. The ten students who are randomly selected

will need to pay the remaining balance straightaway, and the unsuccessful applicants will have their deposits refunded.

Students who attend this trip in the past have said that it is the best part of their Year 12 experience. If you have any questions, or would like a letter, please see Mr Dalby as soon as possible.

Mr K Dalby
Head of Physics



FRENCH EXCHANGE 2016/17

The second half of the French Exchange took place between WHSB and Institution Rey in Normandy during the Easter Holidays. Five of our pupils from Years 10 and 12, along with our partners from the Girls' school, spent an extremely enjoyable week exploring the city of Rouen and its surrounding areas. Town visits, French pastry and cooking workshops, tree-topping, an excursion to Caen with its castle of William the Conqueror and the WWII memorial museum and so many other really interesting events, made the whole experience memorable and worthy to be continued in the future. We are already planning next year's events. We aim to host the French students here at Westcliff in the middle of November 2017; we will return to Normandy in March 2018, aiming to visit Bayeux, the WWII Landing beaches. We may even venture to Le Mont-Saint-Michel.

For confirmation of the great opportunities and advantages to be enjoyed by participating in the Exchange, here is what our students thought of the adventures, and the whole experience of living with a French family:

Moi, et Quelques autres et moi, avons passé une très bonne semaine à Rouen en Normandie, dans le nord de la France. Nous sommes arrivés à Institution Rey, l'école de nos correspondants, l'après-midi du trente mars. Nous avons tous hâte de revoir nos correspondants et nous avons reçu un bel accueil en descendant du car. Pour moi, ce que j'aimais le plus concernant le séjour, c'était l'opportunité de parler français pendant toute la semaine et d'apprendre plusieurs nouveaux mots. J'ai également aimé bien



essayer de comprendre tout ce que les français disaient parce qu'au début, il 'était un peu difficile de les suivre à cause de leur vitesse. Ma famille d'accueil était tellement agréable et j'attends avec impatience la prochaine fois que nous nous y retrouverons.

Joshua Jones
Year 12

The French Exchange has obvious advantages all of which can be beneficial. It was a brilliant opportunity to improve both speaking and listening skills, as I conversed with native speakers of French who knew very little English, forcing me constantly to think and speak in French. Although difficult at the beginning, it became increasingly easier as the week progressed and I saw my fluency improve. The Exchange is, as well, an opportunity to explore authentic French culture and life on a personal level. I would recommend the Exchange to everyone.

Alex Galvin
Year 12

The French Exchange was a fantastic opportunity as an A level student to improve my French, and I have certainly picked up several useful words and phrases spoken daily in France but not covered in the textbooks we use. As far as the culture is concerned, being welcomed by a French family for a week is interesting, the best way to try genuine French cuisine, and intellectually and culturally, the only way to gain an accurate insight of daily French life. I recommend the programme to all who intend to study French at GCSE or A Level.

Adam Tabib
Year 12



TRIPS & VISITS

MY MASTERCLASS EXPERIENCE AT CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

Cambridge is renowned as home of one of the world's elite universities and I was lucky enough to be nominated for a Masterclass in Economics at Corpus Christi College. Situated in the heart of the cosmopolitan city, the College was immediately impressive with a central lawn surrounded by student residence and faculty buildings. I was perplexed by the peculiar mix of old and new, knowing that each cobbled stone I trod was embellished with history.

The lectures were held in the McCrum Theatre. The first lecture explored why vacancies exist at the same time as unemployment. Themes such as the immobility of labour and skill gaps were investigated through the use of graphs, charts and data collected by the University. The lecture highlighted how the presenters were experts in their respective disciplines.

The next topic was Econometrics, the use of complex data to produce quantitative analysis on economic phenomena.

Despite the jargon-heavy nature of the talk, I was able to understand some of the basic principles. It was especially thought provoking as I had never before comprehended the extent and complexity of mathematics used in Economics at undergraduate level. My favourite lecture introduced me to new concepts such as the Paradox of Thrift, whilst reinforcing and expanding upon familiar theorems such as Say's Law.

One of the best aspects of the day was the opportunity to meet and network with fellow students from around the country, with diverse backgrounds. If one were to ask what I got out of the experience (apart from the memorabilia which now resides on my shelf!), I would say an insight into the highest standards of teaching in the world, as well as a glimpse into university life.

I would like to thank the Economics Department for this amazing opportunity, and especially Mr Shirlin for my nomination. I also encourage other pupils to attend such events if given the opportunity.

*Callum Liasi
Year 12*



MASTERCLASSES

In September and October, a group of Year 13 students will be attending residential courses at Villiers Park, Cambridge. They will variously be looking at topics such as French: Language and Identity, and Physics: the Quantum Universe. During this term, we will be visited by Dr Catherine Redford, Hertford College, Oxford who will run a university-style seminar for some of our Year 11 English pupils and give a presentation on applying to Oxford. Sixth Form students have been encouraged to attend Subject Masterclass days at Cambridge University, as well as Subject Taster Days, primarily at the University of London. We have nominated and supported students applying for residential courses run by The Sutton Trust, Headstart and UNIQ.

In June I was lucky enough to attend a residential law course in Cambridge as part of the Villiers Park Inspiring Excellence programme. Brexit, described by Nigel Farage as "one of the most significant changes to our constitution since the 17th century", was being discussed at this time and so it was no surprise that the course focused on

the issues surrounding Brexit and the implications it will have on our country going into the future. With such a complicated matter at hand I was keen to learn as much as possible from the experience, not only about the law, but also about what university life is like for students of the subject.

Upon arriving at the Villiers Park campus I was immediately made aware of the packed schedule I had before me. Each day started promptly at 9:15am and ended at around 8.30pm, with three or four lectures per day on numerous complex legal matters. It was incredibly interesting to listen to like-minded individuals discussing their passions and express their opinions, especially during an early philosophical debate the tutors held on the nature of wrongdoing and how we understand what is "good" under the law. Of all of the subjects we covered, Jurisprudence was perhaps the most fascinating and is certainly something I will be exploring in my future reading.

The course itself offered a number of opportunities to explore post-university life. On Wednesday 21 June, we visited Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, a "magic circle" law firm on Fleet Street. Having

only ever seen the world of Corporate Law through the lens of the media in programmes like "Suits", I was not entirely sure what to expect, but it proved to be an eye-opening experience. The lawyers I met were all highly qualified individuals who had worked incredibly hard to get where they were, and it reminded me that to succeed in my future studies I will need to maintain and develop my work ethic. The week culminated in an intensely researched debate on the statement: "Privacy is a luxury that can only be afforded in peace time". This tested my ability to argue a case for a side with which I very much disagreed. Such disputes are particularly pertinent for a future career in law.

Overall, the Villiers Park scheme was an incredibly enriching experience which allowed me to socialise with people with whom I would otherwise not have come into contact, and to discuss ideas I had never before considered. I would like to thank the School for allowing me the chance to study at Villiers Park for the week, and would highly recommend the experience for anyone considering going to university."

*Ross McIntyre
Head Boy*

GCSE FIELDWORK SKILLS TRIP

Thursday 28/Friday 29 September 2017

Across two days, the Year 11 Geographers will each complete a day fieldtrip to Walton-on-the-Naze as part of their Geography coastal studies. The trip offers an opportunity to practice data collection and field study skills, and forms part of their studies for GCSE Paper 3 (Geographical Skills). It is a mandatory part of the GCSE course that pupils fulfil one human and one physical field day.

Walton-on-the-Naze is an excellent destination for coastal studies, as it offers two beaches side-by-side with the same rock type, allowing an easy comparison of the success of coastal management strategies. Pupils will be investigating the impact of management



strategies on coastal processes of erosion, transportation and deposition and will be encouraged to offer opinions on possible improvements and whether the reduction in erosion rate is worth the economic cost. This is an excellent opportunity for pupils

to gain hands-on experience and put theory into practice.

*Miss S Sparks
Former Head of Geography*

YEAR 7 SOUTHEND TRIP

On Friday 9 June 2017, the whole of Year 7 went to Southend for a Geography field trip where they used their Mathematical skills to undertake some data collection to use for statistical analysis in the classroom. The pupils were given zones of the High Street where they needed to track the number of people entering and leaving. There was also a questionnaire to be carried out and each pupil built up the confidence to approach members of the public to ask them about tourism in Southend.

The teachers received many compliments from shoppers about the behaviour of the pupils, and all were excellent

representatives of the School. We were fortunate with the weather and it was an enjoyable day for all involved.

*Mrs A Marsh
Former Head of Mathematics*



DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

DofE continues to be very popular, with the School recently taking on participants for the Bronze Award from Year 9. In an attempt to accommodate both Bronze and Silver Expeditions before pupils complete Year 10, this has resulted in two groups of pupils currently working towards their Bronze Awards. This should also help boost the number of participants for the Silver Award.

SILVER AWARD

With 7 participants having completed their practice expedition around Bushy Wood Campsite in Kent in April, they then headed to the White Peak to complete their assessment expedition shortly after their GCSE examinations in July.

BRONZE AWARD

Since showing a need for a vast improvement based on their practice expedition around Danbury in May, the Year 10 cohort of participants progressed in leaps and bounds to complete their assessment expedition in July. This took place around Skreens Park in Roxwell. Having completed their expeditions, all that is left for them to do is to complete their volunteering, physical and skills sections and upload these to their eDofE portfolio.

The Year 9 cohort completed a tough expedition in Danbury under the scorching sun in June. Despite the heat, they managed it with ease and should be feeling confident to complete their assessment in September. Due to complications with booking another site, this will also take place in Danbury,

but the pupils will be approaching the site from the South East rather than the North.

*Mr H Tresidder
Teacher of Physics*



SLICES OF PI: MATHEMATICS AT WHSB

INTRODUCTION

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, please see the notice boards in the Mathematics & Music block foyer or, the latest news section of the website.

MENTORING SCHEMES

The United Kingdom Mathematics Trust produces mentoring materials for Schools to use with their pupils. The materials are aimed at gifted and talented mathematicians who perform particularly well on problem solving tasks, such as the Junior Mathematical Challenge,

Intermediate Mathematical Challenge and the Senior Mathematical Challenge. Last year, groups in the Middle and Upper School worked with members of staff on the Intermediate and Senior Mentoring Schemes. These pupils have been extending their mathematical thinking and reasoning beyond the constraints of the syllabus, and learning to look at problems in different ways. If any pupil is not currently taking part, but would like to do so, please see the notices in the Mathematics & Music block for details of each scheme.

SENIOR MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE

Tuesday 7 November 2017

On 7 November 2017, all of the Year 13 Mathematicians and all of the Year 12

Further Mathematicians, will be taking the Senior Mathematics Challenge. This paper contains 25 multiple choice questions, which will give them an opportunity to demonstrate their problem-solving skills. This is a national competition and the top 40% will gain a certificate. The certificates are graded Gold, Silver and Bronze, and are awarded in the ratio 1: 2: 3 respectively. The top 2% will qualify for the Senior Kangaroo and the top 0.5% for the British Mathematical Olympiad.

We wish our mathematicians the best of luck in the challenge. If any student would like extra resources to prepare further for this examination, please ask your Mathematics teacher or sign up for the Senior Mentoring Scheme. Resources are also available online on the UKMT website.

JMC RESULTS AND FOLLOW-ON ROUNDS

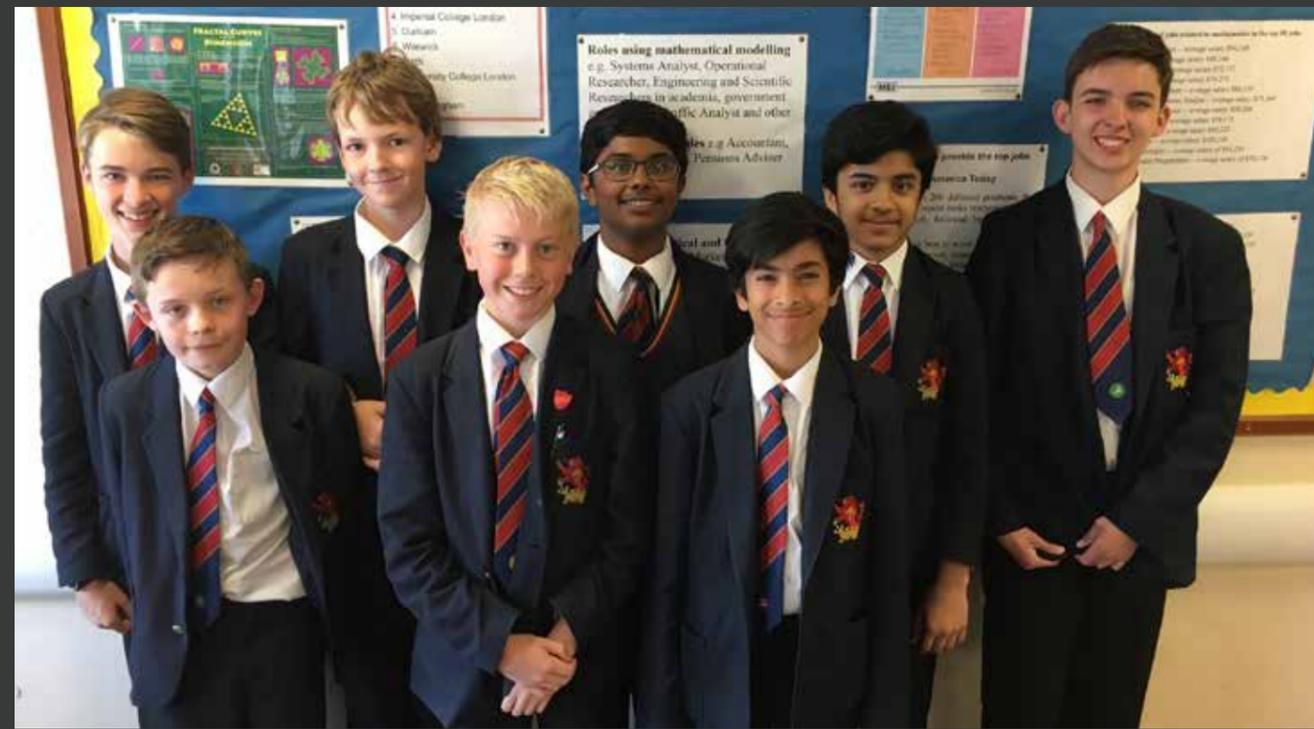
You may have seen in the Evening Echo that, this year, a record 16 pupils in Year 8 reached the follow-on round of the JMC, the Junior Kangaroo. This group of pupils were the first to study our new Key Stage 3 curriculum, which has an increased focus on teaching skills and problem-solving techniques, rather than just new content. We believe that this has contributed to our success this year, and

we are very proud of the performance of all of Year 8.

From only this one year group, we achieved a staggering 123 certificates: 31 Gold certificates, 47 Silver, and 45 Bronze. Well done to all the pupils involved, and especially to our top 16 who are placed in the top 2% nationally: Nivasan Loganathan, Shibha Alam, James Glenister, Alfie Risk, Bretton Watt, Pranav Havalgi Nama, Justus Genthe, James Sheppard, Owen Higginson, Jedidiah Odukoya, Abel John, Raheed Chowdhury,

Viraj Shah, Harry Howard, Peter Eriksson and Chinazo Okwuegbuna. Particular congratulations go to both James, Justus, and Nivasan, who all achieved merits in the Junior Kangaroo. Very well done boys!

We will of course run the challenge again this year, so if you are looking for any extra help, or to improve your scores then ask your class teacher for extra resources, or join the Junior Mentoring Scheme which looks at problem-solving strategies and interesting questions.



MENTORING, CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS, HELP CLUBS, MATHS ANGELS

We continue to provide support for pupils in Mathematics in the usual ways. The first port of call for support is usually mentoring. The Mathematics Department is extremely thankful for the many dedicated students who make Mathematics mentoring so successful.

Last year, many students gave up their own time to mentor others who encountered difficulties with their mathematical studies. These meetings usually take place during lunch at a mutually convenient time, and can be used to consolidate understanding of any topic, or go over difficulties that have arisen from set tasks or unit tests. Last year, we had some exceptional mentors who had a significant effect on their mentees. The mentors have spoken of the satisfaction they gained in supporting others and, if you would like to become a mentor, please speak to your Mathematics teacher as soon as possible. Conversely, if you would like a mentor to give you the additional one-to-one support in Mathematics, to

extend your mathematical knowledge or to assist you with those difficult questions, please see your Mathematics teacher so that it can be arranged for you.

We also arrange for Sixth Form classroom assistants to work with individuals in class, or small groups who would benefit from some additional support. This can be particularly helpful to classes who are beginning a new and challenging course, such as Year 10. Those volunteering gained valuable experiences from the roles, and learnt how to adapt in the moment when explaining different topics. The younger pupils also greatly appreciate the additional support and enjoy having older students in their classes to help them. This year, we will be welcoming a fresh group of Sixth Form students to start as classroom assistants. Hopefully there will be a wide selection of new faces willing to join us in educating the younger years through group work and one-to-one sessions. Students have previously found that their own knowledge has deepened through explanation to others and by having to recall topics and techniques from their own younger years. We hope that the new Sixth Form students will seize the opportunity to join us and, as a

Department, we are happy to talk to any students that would like more details. Any Sixth Form student who would like to sign up to be a classroom assistant (this can be your Wednesday afternoon activity) should speak to Mrs Dillane.

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

Last year, a number of Mathematics Prefects assisted with activities in the Mathematics Department. Mathematics Prefects assisted with Help Club sessions, organised Mathematics problems for year groups and assisted with Open Evenings. If you wish to become a Mathematics Prefect, please write a letter of application to Mr Dowding explaining why you would be suitable. It is worth noting that you must also be a Mathematics Mentor to become a Mathematics Prefect.

SENIOR TEAM MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE

Four of our best problem-solvers, two in Year 12 and two in Year 13, will once again be competing this year to win the Senior Mathematics Team Challenge. Last year we were highly successful with our superb team of Anuj Patel, Oliver Croysdill, Nikhil Antony and Ciaran Dunleavy, and we hope that Ciaran and Nikhil can lead us to more success this year.

If you wish to represent WHSB as part of the team, and are currently in Year 12, then there will be an internal competition at WHSB in October. Further information will be provided closer to the time, but note that you must join as a pair and will be expected to complete difficult problem-solving questions from past challenges.

STEP CLUB

For Sixth Form students who are looking for a challenge or preparing for additional entrance examinations for university, the Mathematics department offers the STEP Club. We provide materials and advice for pupils looking to take the University of Cambridge's infamous STEP

examinations, focusing mostly on STEP I but also improving techniques that will help with STEP II and STEP III. Anyone in the Sixth Form who is looking to take Mathematics at University is encouraged to sign up for STEP club.

PROJECT EULER

Project Euler is an opportunity for enthusiastic, talented problem-solvers and programmers. It is an online challenge where pupils can work through problems which require programming to solve, and is therefore very popular with mathematicians and computer scientists. In previous years, our pupils have solved over 100 problems, which is a fantastic achievement, and we are confident that many of our Sixth Form leavers will continue to solve some of the 533 problems during their time at university. New members are always welcome; please look out for notices in the Mathematics & Music Block, and in registers, or speak to Mrs Wimsett who runs the club each year.

GOODBYE

On a personal note, this will be my final entry published in The Westcliff Diary, having moved to Malaysia with my family

to teach at an International School in August. I have spent ten years teaching at WHSB and I have enjoyed it greatly. I have had the pleasure of working with exceptional staff and pupils over the years and have learnt a lot about myself and about effective teaching. I care deeply about many of the pupils who have passed through the School during this time and I appreciate their kind words, gestures and gifts. I have been heavily pregnant and walked around the busy corridors without any concern for my safety, with pupils regularly offering to carry boxes and open doors and generally being polite and helpful. I hope that I have done all I can to help the classes I have taught over the years and I always like hearing from ex-pupils telling me their news and achievements. My best wishes go out to all members of the School community and, in particular, the Mathematics department, who are outstanding teachers and colleagues.

Mrs A Marsh
Former Head of Mathematics

MUSIC AT WHSB



AUTUMN CHAMBER RECITAL

Thursday 5 October 2017, 7.30pm

Chamber Recitals are an opportunity for small ensembles and soloists to demonstrate their ability and this concert will be no exception. Among the more seasoned performers are Year 10 oboist, Charlie Gershinson who will perform Domenico Cimarosa's *Oboe Concerto*, and Year 13 clarinettist, Jodie Jordan, who will give a performance of one of Finzi's expressive and, at times, explosive *Bagatelles*.

Regular performers such as the Saxophone Quartet and the String Ensemble will showcase a variety of pieces from their repertoire, while younger pupils such as Year 8 violinist, Henry Man, and Year 8 pianist, Alejandro Ibarrah-Shah, will also take to the stage.

As always, the Chamber Recital will feature a variety of music from all sorts of styles, from popular to classical. Performers will be selected from all age groups, showcasing some of the best musical talent that WHSB has to offer.

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



WESTCLIFF SINFONIA AUTUMN CONCERT

Thursday 16 November 2017, 7.30pm

The Westcliff Sinfonia returns to the stage with another challenging programme sure to delight and excite. The evening begins with Balakirev's *Overture on Three Russian Themes*, a call to arms for Russian nationalist composers in the 19th century from a man who believed that the western European styles were dominating his country's music.

Niam Chauhan will perform as the soloist in Mozart's *Violin Concerto No.3 in G Major*. This is an elegant work, packed with lyrical melodies as well as plenty of virtuosic opportunities for the soloists to show off what they can do. The concerto was written in 1775 when Mozart was just nineteen years old.

In anticipation of the festive season, Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker Suite* will be performed by the Sinfonia in the second half. This Suite comes from the Ballet of the same name based on *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* by ETA Hoffmann. The Suite is regularly performed at this time of year and contains a wealth of memorable

melodies that have since seeped into popular culture. The initial premiere of the Ballet was not deemed a success, with many criticising the choreography and liberties taken with Hoffman's original tale. However, Tchaikovsky's music was considered by many to be one of the few redeeming features of the performance, with one critic describing the score as "beautiful, melodious, original and characteristic from beginning to end."

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

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT PROJECT

This term, all Year 9 pupils will attend at least one of the musical concerts or trips listed in The Diary as an audience member and will be expected to write a review of their chosen event. This written work will be evaluated as a formal assessment and will contribute to reports and end-of-year grades. More details will be given in lesson-time but it is advised that pupils sign up to events as soon as possible to guarantee a ticket. The trip to the Royal Festival Hall is particularly recommended.



MUSICOLOGY SEMINAR: MAHLER - A WORLD OF LIGHT AND DARK

Tuesday 10 October, 3.45-4.45pm

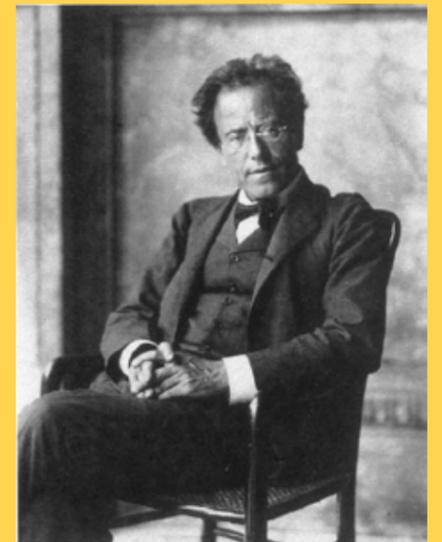
"If you gaze long into an abyss, the abyss also gazes into you." – Friedrich Nietzsche

Gustav Mahler is considered to be one of the most important composers of the past 200 years, bridging the gap between late romanticism and the experimental music of the 20th Century. His personal life was tumultuous as he dealt with the celebrity of being a well-known conductor, the struggles he faced as a Jew in an anti-Semitic Vienna, and the death of his young child. As such, his music frequently

approached difficult subject matter from philosophy and literature, exploring the demonic tale of Goethe's *Faust* in his 8th symphony and the topic of child death in *Kindertotenlieder*.

But the darkness of Mahler's music is often tempered with moments of light, such as the triumph of the *Titan* symphony and the beauty of the adagio from his 5th Symphony, written for his wife Alma.

This seminar will explore the duality of a composer whose life and times are inextricably linked to his music, and should be of interest to musicians from Years 9-13 and all those with an interest in music. No tickets are required for this event.



THE PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA AT THE ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Thursday 19 October 2017, 4.30 pm

Pupils, staff, parents and friends of the School are invited to join the Music Department on a trip to the Royal Festival Hall in London to see the world-class Philharmonia Orchestra perform an exciting programme. The first half will showcase Mozart's dramatic side with the thrilling overture to *The Marriage of Figaro* followed by his elegant *Piano Concerto No.21* performed by Elisso Virsaladze.

The second half of the concert will feature Rimsky-Korsakov's powerful *Scheherazade*, telling the story of a battle of wills between Scheherazade and her stubborn husband, the Sultan, who is convinced of womankind's evil ways and intends to slay each of his wives after their marriage. The eponymous heroine manages to postpone her murder by telling the Sultan wild and magical stories. This well-known, exhilarating work spins a tale that is perfectly suited for the variety of colour Rimsky-Korsakov draws from the orchestra.

Tickets for pupils, staff, parents and friends of the School are £17.50 including travel. Places for this event are limited and booking closes on Friday 15 September.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE BIG BAND

Friday 8 December 2017, 7.30pm

Join the WHSB Music Department for a night full of lively Jazz and Christmas crackers, sure to get you into the festive spirit. John Chapman and Zac Barrett will lead the Big Band and Junior Jazz Band respectively in a variety of Jazz, Swing and Blues favourites, in addition to some traditional Christmas melodies. Joining them will be a collection of smaller ensembles playing a collection of contemporary music.

As in previous years, guests are invited to bring their own food and drinks to enjoy while sitting with their friends at tables in the Main Hall. This hotly anticipated event has limited seats available due to the Hall's seating capacity, so make sure you book your tickets as soon as possible, at a price of £8 for adults and £5 for pupils.



SCHOOL SPORT AND THE HOUSE SYSTEM

HOUSE GOLF 2017

On a blustery Friday evening in June, the WHSB golfers headed to the Garon Park Golf Complex for the annual House Golf Competition. Although this is only the third year in its current format, rivalries and teams were clear to see. Osprey, once again, had an impressive turnout, followed by Merlin, with Harrier and Kestrel players having a point to prove on the course if they were to stand a chance.

The Texas Scramble pairs teed off first, straight into the wind and low sun. This competition was hotly contested with four pairs within two Stableford points. In the end, newcomers Joshua Harrison partnered with his Dad lifted the Texas Scramble Trophy and a useful 9 points for Merlin. Jamie Findlater and his Grandfather doubled the points needed last year to lift the prize and points for the Golfer Putter Pairs for Osprey.

George Earle taught the teachers a lesson on how to get yourself out of trouble, with a few remarkable rescue shots which saw him earn 20 Stableford points, not to mention maximum points from the Senior Singles Competition for Kestrel House. Unfortunately, this was the only trophy lifted by Kestrel and it was not enough to compensate for a poor turnout, resulting in Kestrel placing 4th overall with 11.5



HOUSE SYSTEM: REVIEW OF 2016/17

Thank you to everyone that contributed to the House System in the academic Year 2016/17. Participation rates were at a record high, with more events organised than ever before.

I would like to show gratitude to Miss Dolan and Mr Shirlin for all their hard work in organising Merlin and Kestrel House respectively over the past few years. I would like to take this opportunity to wish them the best of luck with their future endeavours. Mr Hill took over as Head of Merlin in the Summer Term and Mr Rayment became Head of Osprey in September. They are to be congratulated on their appointments.

This year we have a tantalising array of activities already planned. These include House Epidemiology, Geology, Geography, Harry Potter, Science, bridge building, German, spelling, Rugby, Badminton, bake-off, Basketball, Warhammer, magic the gathering, Scrabble, Table Tennis, Squash, Oratory, Football, Short Tennis, Cricket, Golf, drama, music and many more.

If you have any suggestions about new House activities, then please do come and speak to me. Many of our new events last year were proposed and run by students.

*Mr R Barber
House System Coordinator*

points.

Osprey certainly had the numbers turn out, but perhaps that led to overconfidence on the course and 3rd place with just 17 points.

Thanks to Tim Turner's resolve under pressure, he managed to win the 5 bonus points for the Nearest the Pin, as well as the Longest Drive, retaining his title earned last year and making it a clean sweep for Harrier over the past three years in the Long Drive Competition.

Those points were not quite enough to topple Merlin who topped the Texas Scramble leader board with first and joint second place winning with a margin of 1.5 points and a total of 20.5.



It was fantastic to see so many lads and Dads, Mums and Grandads, and it is especially nice to hear about boys taking up the sport after the House Golf event. I look forward to seeing you all again next year.

*Mrs K Mumford
Assistant Head:
Director of Lower School Studies*



SCHOOL OF TENNIS SCHEME

The School embarked on another year as part of the LTA's School of Tennis scheme. We enrolled another seven pupils as Tennis Ambassadors. Our regular lunchtime tennis clubs are always well attended and Lucas Hilsum deserves a special mention for giving up his time to assist at these sessions. Again, Tennis coach Paul Clarke (from Westcliff Hard Tennis Club) visited WHSB regularly to coach Years 7 to 10.

For the first time, WHSB entered four teams in Division Two of the Tennis School Teams' competition. Over 20 pupils represented the School with varying degrees of success. Notable entrants were the Years 7 and 8 'A' team of, Aaron Hilsum, Alex Stewart, Ryan Sinclair and Christian Scott who reached the final for Division Two teams.



*Mr M Atkinson
Sports Coach*



A REFLECTION

As my first year as Director of Sport at WHSB comes to an end, it is possible to reflect on a year where the pupils have responded fantastically well to the challenges set. There has been an increase in the extracurricular attendance at clubs, and the pupils have thoroughly enjoyed representing WHSB in frequent fixtures across a multitude of sports. The Summer Term saw the focus switch to athletics, cricket, and tennis.

In addition to the excellent success of the Track & Field Cup teams, the School enjoyed its most successful Borough Athletics in many years, with the pupils finishing overall third in the Boys' competition. Pleasingly, we gained second place overall in the Field Cup, and won the

overall relay trophy, and the relay trophy for Years 8 and 10. These results were not achieved by chance - the pupils have worked very hard this summer, attending practices and representing WHSB in many athletic matches against other schools. This experience of competition has helped the pupils. I am confident that they will continue with this commitment into next year and we will continue to strive and improve.

Our cricket teams this year have had some hard matches and as a result exited the County competitions early on. Year 10 had a more successful cup run, beating Coopers, and Ilford, before narrowly losing to Brentwood School. Year 10 is in a good position to claim a Borough double - something that they have never done before. Matches towards the end of the Summer Term provided the

team with a chance of producing good cricket to achieve the double. The cricket training has been very well attended by all Year Groups. It is important that this attendance is transferred to new sports when the new academic year begins.

This year has gone very quickly. The changes that the pupils have experienced within Sport at the school are in their infancy. I know that WHSB pupils relish a challenge, and their challenge is to build on what has been a great first year for the new vision of sport at WHSB. It is only the first year, and whilst it is important to reflect, it is more important to look forward to a new year where there will be new challenges. I cannot wait for next year to begin.

*Mr T Morrish
Director of Sport*



CALENDAR FOR AUTUMN TERM 2017

Fri 1 September **STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY**
 Mon 4 September **AUTUMN TERM BEGINS, 8.45am**
 Fri 8 September OWA Dinner
 Mon 11 September Year 7 Meet & Greet, 6.30pm, followed by PA AGM, 7.30pm
 Wed 13 September Year 13 Biology visit to Reading
 Thu 14 September Sixth Form visit to Palace of Westminster
 Year 10 Education Evening, 7.30pm
 Wed 20 September Year 7 Helping Parents Help their Sons, 4.00pm
 21 - 23 September CCF Year 11 Field Days
 Fri 22 September Enrichment Day
 BMAT Preparation Day
 22-23 September DoE Bronze Assessment
 Sat 23 September 11+ Entrance Examinations
 Tue 26 September Sixth Form Education Evening, 7.30pm
 Thu 28 September Year 11 Geographers visit Walton on the Naze, 8.45am - 3.15pm
 Year 9 Helping Parents Help their Sons, 4.00pm
 Prof Crawford lecture, 7.00pm
 Fri 29 September Year 11 Geographers visit Walton on the Naze, 8.45am - 3.15pm
 Year 12 Geologists Folkestone visit, 8.30am - 6.00pm
 Sat 30 September WCGC: CCF Day, 8.30am
 2-6 October Year 11 Formative Examinations
 Thu 5 October Autumn Chamber Recital, 7.30pm
 Fri 6 October Year 12 Phase 1 Reports issued
 Tue 10 October Musicology Seminar, 3.45pm
 Wed 11 October Production of Copenhagen, 5.00pm
 Thu 12 October Production of Copenhagen, 7.30pm
 CCF Interest Meeting for Year 9 parents, 7.30pm
 Fri 13 October Year 13 Phase 1 Reports issued
 Parents' Association Textile Collection
 Mon 16 October Year 13 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm

Wed 18 October Open Day/Evening for Year 6 passes only, 2.30pm-4.00pm/7.00pm-8.30pm
 Wed 18 October German Exchange Parents' Briefing, 7.00pm
 Thu 19 October Years 7 and 11 Phase 1 Reports issued
 Royal Festival Hall visit, 4.30pm
 Alumni Network Social, London, 5.30pm
 23-27 October **AUTUMN HALF TERM**
 Mon 30 October **STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY**
 Fri 3 November Year 9 Phase 1 Reports issued
 Mon 6 November Year 12 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm
 Tue 7 November Senior Mathematics Challenge
 Thu 9 November Medics' Interview Day
 German Exchange students arrive
SPEECH DAY, 7.45pm; School closes at 12.50pm
 Fri 10 November Annual Remembrance Service, 8.45am
 Wed 15 November Sixth Form Open Evening, 6.30pm
 Thu 16 November Autumn Sinfonia Concert, 7.30pm
 Fri 17 November Year 8 Phase 1 Reports issued
 Sat 18 November WCGC: Creative Day, 8.30am
 20-24 November Year 13 Formative Examinations
 Fri 24 November Year 10 Phase 1 Reports issued
 Sat 25 November Parents' Association Winter Ball, 7.00pm
 27 November-1 December Year 11 Trial Examinations
 Mon 4 December Year 7 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm
 Fri 8 December Christmas with the Big Band, 7.30pm
 Mon 11 December Geology Conference, 9.10am
 Fri 15 December Year 13 Phase 2 Reports issued
 Year 11 Geologists visit the Earth Galleries, 8.45am - 5.30pm
 15 - 17 December Year 12 Physicists visit CERN
 Mon 18 December Carol Service, 7.30pm
 Wed 20 December Year 11 Trial Results Report issued
AUTUMN TERM ENDS, 2.45pm
 Wed 3 January **STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY**
 Thu 4 January **SPRING TERM BEGINS, 8.45am**

Tickets for all Westcliff Diary events can be purchased via TicketSource at <http://whsb.ticketsource.co.uk/> or by scanning this QR code.



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