



Westcliff High School  
for Boys

# The Westcliff Diary

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## ISSUE 83 / SPRING 2018



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## FROM THE DESK OF THE HEADMASTER

### WELCOME BACK FROM THE HEADMASTER

I hope that pupils and parents had an enjoyable and restful Christmas holiday. I am pleased to welcome pupils back as we begin the two-year countdown to the School's Centenary. The School has established a Centenary Committee and I hope to be in a position to share some of our plans for the Centenary celebrations in 2020 in the next edition of the Westcliff Diary.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and the wider community for the many generous donations we have received this academic year. The donations to the School's Pupil Fund enable the School to assist those pupils and families who may not otherwise be able to contribute towards costs associated with uniform and transport for enrichment activities. The School is also grateful for the donation of new music stands from the Parents' Association and an oboe from the Gershinson family to the Music Department. In the event that

you would like to make a donation to the School please contact Mr D Partridge, Director of Resources & Support Services, in the first instance.

I give all pupils, staff and parents my best wishes for the Spring Term.

### ATTENDANCE AND BEHAVIOUR

I am most grateful to pupils and parents for pupils' excellent attendance and conduct at School. At present our statistics for both attendance and behaviour exceed national levels and we shall continue to work hard to maintain and, where possible, improve our performance. I wish to draw to your attention that there has been a worrying increase in the number of parents requesting leave of absence to extend holiday periods. I appreciate that some families must travel significant distances to visit relatives abroad and that transport and accommodation costs peak during holiday periods. However, the School's performance data shows a strong

correlation between levels of attendance and academic performance. By way of example drawing on the most recent Year 10 Report data issued in November 2017, we had 25 pupils who had attendance below 96% and their average progress was half a grade behind the cohort as a whole. By the same token, it will probably come as no surprise that the 15 Year 10 pupils with the least favourable conduct records were approximately a whole grade behind the average for the Year 10 cohort as a whole.

I appreciate that those parents taking their children out of lessons on holidays have no intention of damaging their educational prospects. However, unfortunately the School's data indicates that is the most likely outcome of their actions. It is simply not feasible to expect a pupil to easily make up time lost at School in circumstances where there are six lessons each day and the pace of the lessons is fast due to the academically selective cohort. It is the case that the cost of pupils missing school is visited upon them when they return to lessons and have to cope with gaps in their knowledge and notes. It is difficult to make up lost time and continue to progress with new work at a fast pace. Equally, I would strongly encourage parents to follow up on communications from the School regarding concerns in relation to conduct at School. The most effective means of helping a pupil overcome difficulties is for parents and the School to work together

to provide coherent and consistent guidance and support. I hope that this information is helpful in understanding why the School does not authorise holidays during term time. I thank all parents for their continued support with this matter.

### PUPIL PARTICIPATION

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for the support they provide to their children, encouraging and enabling them to attend Westcliff Diary events. In the last two or three years, we have seen a significant growth in the numbers attending evening music events and Saturday sports fixtures. I would strongly encourage parents to support and encourage their son/daughter to attend at least two evening events from the Westcliff Diary this term. In particular, I draw to parents' attention our music concerts and drama production (*The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui*). These events involve a considerable investment of time and effort to produce and we strongly encourage pupils to attend to show support for their community and as a means of increasing their own cultural awareness, and enhancing their skills in team work and leadership.

### GCSE AND A LEVEL TRIAL EXAMINATIONS

The Spring Term brings preparations for the Public Examinations sharply into focus. Year 11 pupils have completed their trial examinations and should use the feedback provided by their teachers to inform their study and revision plans. The return to a two-year linear A Level course means that GCSE grades are now the only actual public examination data universities can draw on when considering students' Higher Education applications and those considering high demand courses at the most prestigious universities must focus on obtaining grades 8 and 9 in the GCSE Examinations. The matter of A Level options will be discussed this term and Year 11 students should understand the scale of the challenge presented by GCSE Examinations and the need to reach their full potential next summer to provide a secure platform for Post 16 education. Equally, Upper Sixth students need to make the most of the opportunity provided by the Spring trial examinations. This will allow students to sharpen their knowledge and examination technique ahead of the real examinations this summer. Therefore, it is vital that a methodical revision programme is in place now to ensure the students can fully engage with the trial examination questions.

### INTERNET USE

I wrote about the matter of appropriate use of the Internet this time last year. I noted that some pupils were spending an inordinate amount of time on the Internet, often playing games (sometimes late at night and into the early hours of the morning). I regret to note that these practices are still occurring and creating difficulties for some pupils. This activity is leaving some pupils deprived of sleep which is affecting their health as well as having a negative impact on performance at School. There is an increasing amount of research suggesting a strong correlation between adolescent wellbeing and the use of the Internet. Mr Bleakley, Head of Lower School, has spoken about these matters at a number of recent education evenings. It is important for parents to discuss responsible Internet use with their children and encourage and agree sensible parameters. This is likely to involve shutting the Internet off after 9.00pm and agreeing with pupils that internet enabled devices such as mobile phones are not kept in bedrooms. As I have previously shared with parents, the best discipline is self-discipline, and home and School must work together to help pupils develop good habits with regard to the Internet usage.

### PUPIL SUCCESSES

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who contributed to our highly successful Speech Day on 9 November 2017. We were most fortunate to have Mr Kevin O'Neill, Old Westcliffian and one of the country's leading neurosurgeons, as our guest of honour. Mr O'Neil's remarks on the value of learning from failures as well as successes resonated with the pupils and the wider

audience. We thank him for joining us for this important School occasion. Speech Day provides an opportunity to highlight the success of pupils individually and collectively across the full range of School activities.

Of course, we know there is much that our pupils achieve outside of School and I would particularly like to offer our congratulations to Danielle in Year 12 who became the International Goju-Kai

Association (IKGA) World Champion representing Great Britain in the individual kumite (fighting) division in the 2017 World Championships which took place in Canada. Our congratulations also to Alex in Year 12 who successfully completed a rigorous and highly competitive set of auditions to obtain a place in the clarinet section of the National Youth Orchestra.



### STAFF CHANGES FOR THE SPRING TERM

The School said farewell to Dr Oliver who took early retirement at the end of last term. Dr Oliver has overcome significant difficulties having suffered a stroke just over two-years ago. All those connected with the School will know that Dr Oliver has given extra-ordinary service to the School during his twenty years at the School. Having joined the School in 1996 as a highly qualified first-class graduate of the University of Edinburgh, he went on to lead the Mathematics Department for several years before joining the School's Senior Management Group and the Governors and I were delighted to appoint him Deputy Headmaster in September 2012. We wish Dr Oliver every success as he turns the page and moves to the next chapter of his life, secure in the knowledge that he has made a significant contribution to setting thousands of Westcliffians on the path to academic and

personal success and fulfilment.

We were delighted to welcome Ms Fasquel (Teacher of French) back from her maternity leave towards the end of the Autumn Term. Mr Allen-Smith (English Teacher) retired from teaching at the end of Autumn Term. He has been an outstanding member of staff who has done much to inspire a love of English, particularly poetry, amongst the pupils. Across the years he has produced numerous Poetry in Performance (PIP) productions which have involved large numbers of pupils in highly creative and energetic performance showcasing the vibrant artistic life of the School. Mr Rochester (English Teacher) who has been with us just over a year moves to a new school and we wish him well.

The English Department will have two new teachers from January. We are delighted to welcome Miss McGowan, a former Head of English at a Kent

Grammar School, and also Miss Selfridge a graduate of Kings and Durham Universities. We also welcome Ms Porter-Mackrell our new Head of Religious Studies who joins us from Westcliff High School for Girls.

We were delighted to welcome Ms Lewis to the School's Support Staff as our newly appointed Facilities & Premises Manager in October 2017. We said farewell to Mr Jones, Chemistry Technician, who retired in November 2017 and we hope to appoint his replacement shortly. We also welcome Mrs Masenhove who joined us as our new Science Technician (Physics) in October 2017.

I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mr Bleakley who recently successfully completed his studies for his Masters qualification in Education Leadership with Kings College, London.

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

## CAREERS AT WHSB

The new academic year has brought with it fresh interest in careers from a complete cross-section of Year groups and students. Whilst the key career choices of the majority still remain within the Medicine, Banking, Finance, Engineering and Legal professions, there have been some other interesting options, including Nuclear Physics, Game Designing, Record Producing, Veterinary Science, and many more besides.

The annual Careers Evenings have now been agreed and decided upon, with this feedback in mind. I am therefore delighted to confirm the following events (all held between 7.00pm and 9.00pm at School) for your diary:

- 10 January - Careers in Law/Politics/ Finance
- 7 February - Careers in Medicine
- 21 March - Careers in STEM

I am already in the process of booking our guest speakers for each of these events and have been thrilled with the offers of support from our WHSB Alumni and parents alike. As ever, I will endeavour to provide a spectrum of professionals to speak at each event, each offering their own personal insight into their individual career paths to date.

These evenings are all free-of-charge and have become increasingly popular over the years. They are open all WHSB Year groups and their parents/carers, as well as other local secondary schools. We anticipate to see between 100-200 attendees at each event and feedback in the past has always been profoundly positive. It is never too early to begin considering what career opportunities are available for our students, as well as understanding what relevant work experience would be required. Please book your free tickets via TicketSource.

If anyone is willing to offer their time and expertise to assist with a career event in the future, or to offer summer work placements for our students in 2018, please do not hesitate to contact me on wellern@whsb.essex.sch.uk.

Increasingly, apprenticeships appear to be of interest to some students. We have had a number of successful applicants in 2017, securing positions with prestigious FTSE 100 companies within the Banking, Finance and Engineering sectors. There are a huge variety of options available to students, especially as a viable



alternative to university. Once on an apprenticeship scheme, the taking of further qualifications within a chosen field is still encouraged.

I am available to offer apprenticeship advice and information to anyone wishing to make an appointment. Please continue to check your school email account for updates and opportunities that arise on a regular basis.

## CAREERS IN ENGINEERING EVENING: A RETROSPECTIVE

Towards the end of the Autumn Term, the 4th consecutive year of WHSB Careers Evenings launched once again, with a record-breaking attendance at the Careers in Engineering evening. A total of 233 free tickets were obtained by students and parents (both internal and external) wishing to find out more about this popular industry sector and the opportunities available within it.

We were delighted to welcome guest speakers from across the engineering spectrum, including seasoned and award-winning engineers. Advice and guidance was offered directly to the audience, sharing up-to-date insight into required qualifications, career paths, salary expectations, apprenticeships and much more. Our thanks go to these kind individuals who gave their own time to share their expertise with everyone present. They were:

Andrew Fraser - Managing Engineer, Ford  
 Alan Brunning - Retired European Technical Specialist, Ford  
 Chris Brown - Training Manager, Olympus  
 Keymed

Jade Swanson - Careers Advisor, PROCAT

Attendees ranged from pupils in Year 7 to Year 13, who all had the opportunity to pose their own questions during intermittent Q&A sessions between each speaker's presentations. Prefects also reported for duty to welcome our guests, the Headmaster and senior members of staff, and to these we also offer our thanks.

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

## GEOLOGY FIELD VISIT TO DORSET

17 - 23 March 2018

Geology fieldwork is a compulsory requirement of the GCSE course. Thus, from Saturday 17 March to Friday 23 March 2018, Year 10 geologists will be undertaking their fieldwork from a base in Swanage, Dorset. Specific visits will be made to famous coastal locations such as Lulworth Cove, Durdle Door, Kimmeridge Bay, Durlston Head and the Isle of Portland.

Indeed, the Dorset coastline has UNESCO World Heritage status because of its rich geological heritage, especially in relation to dinosaur fossils, and is the most visited area of the British Isles for geology field



studies. A wide range of topics will be studied. These will include minerals, rocks and fossils, as well as folding and faulting of rocks, in relation to plate tectonics, as well as man's impact of the environment following mining and quarrying in the area. Throughout the week, Westcliff geologists will be able to enhance their knowledge and understanding of field geology as well as gaining an enjoyment, interest and appreciation of the beautiful landscape, influenced to a large extent by the rocks beneath their feet.

Mr P Willson  
 Teaching & Administration Assistant

## ADOLESCENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MENTAL HEALTH

Thursday 25 January 2018, 7.30pm

Information Communication Technology has revolutionised the way we interact and communicate, from something as simple as a phone call or a text message, to online banking, applying for a passport or managing bills and taxes.

It has also changed the way in which young people interact and has consequently affected the way their brain functions, sometimes leading to addiction and mental health difficulties.

To that end, I will presenting a session looking at:

- Restructuring of the brain during adolescence
- The nature of addiction
- Changes in behaviour associated with the advent of the smartphone
- Sleep-wake patterns
- The association between technology use and particular mental health outcomes

## BERLIN TRIP

12 - 18 February 2018

In February, A Level Historians will be travelling to Germany to support their studies of German History in the years 1871-1990. The trip will start in Munich with tours of the city's Nazi heritage, a trip to the BMW factory and a visit to the Hofbrauhaus, before moving on to Nuremberg, the city at the centre of the Nuremberg rallies and post-war trials of leading Nazis. There, we will see the great Olympic Park, together with Courtroom 600.

The final leg of the journey will be to Berlin, where we will look at the other 107 years of the period, including

The talk will take place on Thursday 25 January at 7.30pm and all are welcome. Tickets should be reserved on TicketSource.

Mr J Bleakley  
 Head of Lower School

## BREADTH STUDIES

Year 13 students continue to busily work on their Extended Project Qualification dissertations; these projects are approximately 8,000 words in length and are comprised of an abstract, introduction, literature review, conclusion, evaluation, bibliography, a reflective diary (project activity log) and a presentation. Students are paired with a supervisor who works one-to-one with the learner to give subject-specific guidance throughout the year.

The programme is overseen by myself and I provide sessions on Wednesday afternoons, lunchtimes and after-school on writing and analysis, critical thinking, referencing and research skills. All projects are marked three times, firstly by the supervisor, secondly by myself and thirdly by an outside examiner.

Interesting titles this academic year include:

- How far is George Orwell correct in his description of political revolutions compared to Karl Marx?
- How will Brexit affect Britain's international trade?
- Should voluntary euthanasia be legalised in the United Kingdom?
- How important is Geography in explaining inequalities in global development?
- Can nanotechnology shape the future?
- To what extent could gene therapy be used to cure cancer?

This programme is aimed at the most able, motivated and intellectually-curious individuals at the School who have an impeccable academic record.

The deadlines for this course are very strict and this is suitable for high calibre independent learners who are aiming to study competitive degrees at Oxford, Cambridge, UCL, Imperial, Southampton, LSE and other Russell Group universities.

If you have any questions about this qualification, then please do contact me for an appointment.

Mr R Barber  
 Head of Breadth Studies

## WESTCLIFF CENTRE FOR GIFTED CHILDREN

The WCGC *Go for Grammar!* days have proved to be exceptionally popular, with almost 600 pupils applying for their 11+ tutorial sessions and other lessons and activities to encourage local Year 5 pupils to strive for a Grammar School education. Places are allocated to primary school children who live within the School's priority area (postcode districts SS0 to SS9) and the Community Development Office is now responsible for local Primary School liaison and administration relating to days which run throughout the year.

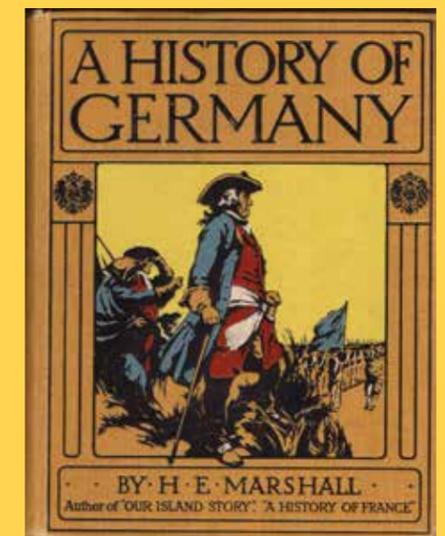
Our teachers have laid on some fantastic activities for the primary school children. Our own Year 12 students as well as a selection of CCF and Subject Prefects, have also had their inter-personal and coaching skills tested and developed whilst working with the younger pupils.

I would like to thank all the staff and students who have helped with the previous two Saturday programmes and

mornings in the German History Museum, trips to key Cold War and Reunification sites, and a visit to the Bridge of Spies. We will also enjoy a session in Berlin Humboldt University with some German History academics and some time shopping in Ka De We.

The trip promises to be a fast-paced and fascinating exploration of the incredible history of this country which has done so much to shape world affairs in the twentieth century.

Mr B Jefferys  
 Head of History



## SCHOOL NEWS

anticipate further success as we embark upon the Humanities and Science Days in the Spring Term, and the Languages-themed day in the Summer Term.

### SCHOOL COUNSELLING

We endeavour to provide excellent pastoral support and guidance for our students, however it is occasionally the case that more targeted, specific help is required for a young person. We have been working closely with the Adolescent Support Clinic for a number of years and have found their counsellors to be very effective. The counsellors are specialists at dealing with a number of issues including anger, abuse, depression, drugs & alcohol, image and identity, OCD, self-harm and stress and anxiety. They work specifically with adolescents aged 11 to 24 and can also offer family support for resolving conflict and improving communication.

These counsellors work completely

independently of the School and so the students are guaranteed complete confidentiality, unless their safety or welfare is at immediate risk. If your son or daughter would like to see a counsellor then he or she should speak with their Pastoral Leader, or myself in the first instance for a referral. The service in School is very limited and there is a triage system, with counselling sessions being allocated on urgency, rather than chronologically assigned. However, sessions with the service can be privately arranged directly through the Adolescent Support Clinic at [www.adolescentsupportclinic.co.uk](http://www.adolescentsupportclinic.co.uk) or by calling 01702 523428.

*Mrs K Mumford  
Assistant Head*

### OXBRIDGE PROGRAMME

As part of the School's ongoing commitment to support applications to the nation's most prestigious universities, a 15th annual visit to Cambridge University is planned for this term. We hope to continue the successful format of

combining a tour for Year 11 pupils with a meeting with an Admissions Tutor at Emmanuel College. A date has yet to be finalised but will take place on a Saturday in January or early February. Once again, this visit will be run in conjunction with Westcliff High School for Girls. A complementary trip to Oxford University, for Year 12, is intended for early March.

### POLITICS CONFERENCE

We will be holding a Politics Conference in School in February. Outside speakers will visit to discuss issues surrounding 'Political Participation' and whether there can be said to be a "democratic deficit" in the UK. The event is aimed at Year 12 Politics A Level students.

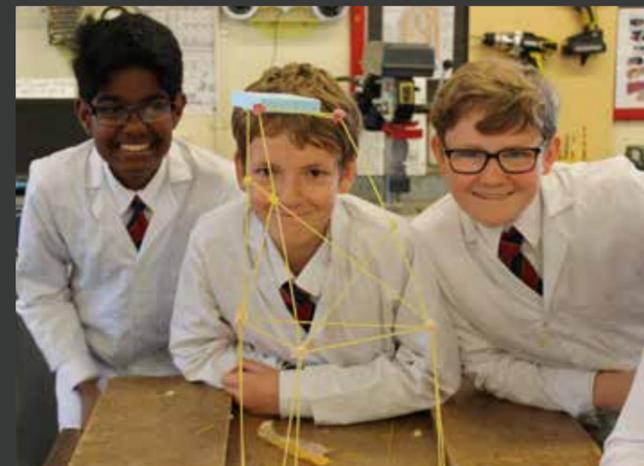
*Mr R Stevens  
Head of Politics and  
Higher Education Coordinator*

### STEM ACTIVITIES INCLUDING ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS

The School continues to promote STEM activities across all Year groups and the number of students expressing an interest in related careers has become ever more popular.

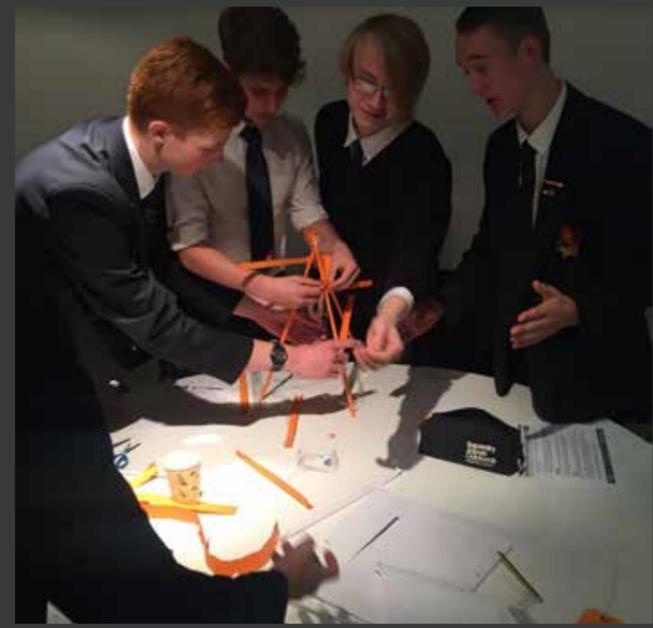
In September, the Enrichment Day saw Year 9 pupils partake in a range of activities across Science and Technology. The topic of study was about 'mega-structures' as pupils experimented with different bridge types and made spaghetti towers.

It is pleasing to report that Jack Stiles (Year 12) begins the first year of his Arkwright Scholarship, whilst Niam Chauhan (Year 13) completes his final year. A healthy number of students passed the initial selection process for this year's application and we have high expectations of announcing further scholars in the Summer Term.



After another extremely competitive application process, the Engineering Education Scheme team has been chosen. The team, drawn for the Lower Sixth, includes Ignacio Ayerbe, Antony Haïser, David O'Shea, Conor Roberts, Jack Stiles and James Walker. On Thursday 5 October 2017, the team attended PROCAT in Basildon for the launch event and has since been working on a project to build a remote-controlled drone to carry medical supplies across demanding terrain. These students have also recently spent two days at the University of Kent in Canterbury to model and test their design.

*Mr C Wright  
Head of Design & Technology*



## SENIOR HISTORY SOCIETY

October 2017 saw the launch of our Senior History Society. Every Tuesday after School, keen Historians from Years 11 to 13 have met to discuss topics diverse topics such as society in Stuart England to World War 1 to Thatcherism! We have an exciting programme of events this term and are delighted to be welcoming a number of guest speakers, including academics from the University of Essex and former WHSB students who are now pursuing the study of History at university. The Society meets every Tuesday in W13 between 3.45pm and 5.00pm and is being run by Marcus Kelly and George Hay (Year 12).

*Mr S Neagus  
Teacher of History*

### WARHAMMER 40K SCHOOL'S LEAGUE QUALIFYING HEAT

The day began outside the Games shop, sharing stories of frantic last-minute painting of models the night before. We entered the shop and both teams began to reveal their armies, there was an instant tick of the brain on what tactics to play as we sized up our opponent - the same opponent we played last year in the heats.

After going through the schedule for the day, the first battle began. My opponent presented me with an army of ruthless aliens called Tyranids. Despite a valiant effort, I was vanquished by the creatures' speed and power.

I moved on to the next game, disheartened by the nature of my loss. My second opponent also had a Tyranid army. This time, however, the strength of my army's weapons was too powerful for my opponent's fighters.

For the third and final game, I came up against the forces of Chaos in a game of The Relic. The Relic is a precious objective that we must fight for and the winner is the person who has a hold of it at the end of the game. Despite my best efforts, my opponent defeated me, escaping with the precious relic.

It was then time for the results. I was just as shocked as everyone to hear that the scores were tied. Luckily, we were given a place in the semi-finals after the tiebreak - a Warhammer 40k themed quiz. The WHSB team consisted of Alexander Fall (11W), Charlie Wright (9S), Max Allsopp (10C) and William Skeldon (11E),

who all received winners certificates and a commemorative badge. In addition, Charlie Wright won the award for Best General and Max Allsopp won the award for Most Honourable.

Now we all look forward to competing in the semi-finals at Warhammer World, Nottingham, and strive to improve on our placing last year. The Club continues to meet weekly, on Fridays after school in M2 and M3.

*William Skeldon  
Year 11*

### FLIGHT CLUB

The first rule of Flight Club is that you must like aeroplanes. Unless, that is, you prefer helicopters, gliders, airships, gyroplanes, balloons or rockets, which are also acceptable. Flight Club began in September 2017, when a group of aviation enthusiasts started meeting in the Mathematics & Music building each Friday lunchtime.

While time is always reserved for anecdotes and facts which club members wish to share, the formal part of the meetings allows pupils to learn the theoretical knowledge which is part of pilot training. Accordingly, pupils have been equipped with a section of the 1:500 000 ('half mil') aeronautical chart for our locality, and a plotter with which to make measurements on it. Flights have been planned from Southend to Lydd and Clacton (for example) taking good care to avoid controlled airspace and danger zones, keep clear of glider sites, choose an appropriate altitude to avoid ground hazards, and to choose a route which will allow good monitoring by landmarks. Calculations of heading to take into account the wind direction have also been covered, as has radiotelephony procedure. We have looked at a handful of methods of explaining how a wing generates lift and enjoyed trying to blow ping pong balls out of funnels to demonstrate the pressure drop which accompanies accelerating air.

With some friendly contacts at Southend Airport and the Seawing Flying Club



## CLUBS & SOCIETIES

(including its Chief Flying Instructor) we hope to have trips soon to see the Vulcan Bomber, to sit at the controls of light aircraft, to try out a simulator and to see a light aircraft being built. I have been very impressed with the speed at which club members have learned the basics of flight planning, and look forward to them developing their interest in aviation further.

*Dr A Machacek  
Assistant Head*

### DEBATING

The Spring Term is the main term for the various Schools' Debating Competitions which we enter: the English-Speaking Union Mace; the Oxford Union Senior Schools' and the Cambridge Union's Schools. These are major national and international competitions and the standard of debating is high and getting higher each year. We already have a team - Conrad Kunadu and Ross McIntyre (both Year 13) - through to the Second Round of the Mace. We have also entered Year 7 to Year 9 teams in the International Competition for Young Debaters, held by the Oxford Union this year.

### SCHOOLS' CHALLENGE QUIZ

We have previously been engaged in the opening rounds of the Schools' Challenge Quiz. However, after Christmas, for the first time we will be in the Junior section as well as the Senior; there is an opportunity for Years 7 and 8 to show off their general knowledge and buzzer speed in a University Challenge style competition. Further details will be shared in the Spring Term.

### MASTERCLASSES

We have supported a number of Sixth Form students to make bookings on various university-level masterclasses or "taster days" this term. Included amongst these are the excellent Villiers Park residential courses which enable some of our very best students to immerse themselves for 4 or 5 days in an academic environment, looking at topics beyond the A Level syllabus, surrounded by young scholars of similar intellect and disposition.

*Mr R Stevens  
Higher Education Coordinator*

## SCIENCE

### CHEMISTRY AT WORK 2017: A RETROSPECTIVE

On Thursday 19 October a group of Year 10 pupils went on a trip to the Tilbury Cruise Terminal to learn about the application of Chemistry and STEM in a variety of industries.

We listened to a series of lectures and presentations from various people whose jobs rely on Chemistry. One presentation was on water purification and how they use carbons to filter and purify water. This was an interactive presentation where we were able to see the carbon filters in action, removing colour from coffee solution. In addition, we had to taste five samples of liquids and decide

which of these was tap water. Many of us enjoyed the apple juice-like sample which turned out to be brown sugar dissolved in water, whilst others groaned in disgust to discover they had tasted vinegar! An interesting fact we learned was that tap water contains chlorine and if a glass of water is left overnight, the chlorine evaporates, making the tap water taste slightly different.

A different presenter focused on Zoology and took us on her journey through university to her current job and how Chemistry is used to identify wild animals. Other presentations focused on people who had to 'started small' and worked their way up in their business. It was fascinating to see the wide range of applications Chemistry has across such a variety of professions, especially in ways we had not previously considered.

Max Allsopp  
Year 10



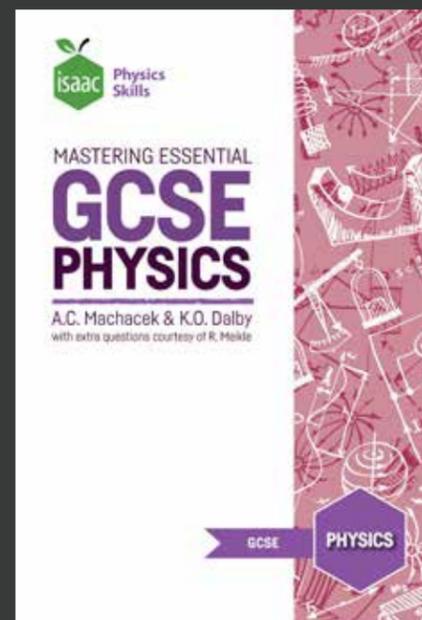
We walked away from the trip with a newfound understanding of how important Chemistry is in all manner of professions as it helps to develop problem-solving, logical thinking and teamwork skills. Finally, what was most surprising to discover is that many CEOs of finance companies actually started their careers as chemists.

### ISAAC PHYSICS

It was my pleasure to report Westcliff High School for Boys' involvement in the Isaac Physics project ([www.isaacphysics.org](http://www.isaacphysics.org)) in the 2015 edition of the Westcliff Diary. The Isaac Physics project is based at the Cavendish Laboratory at Cambridge University. It was funded by a grant from the Department for Education to develop problem solving and mastery of Physics and Mathematics among the nation's Sixth Formers. Since that time, when WHSB students were actively involved in testing questions online drawn from a new book written to encourage mastery learning in Sixth Form Physics, the project has grown substantially. Over 7 million questions from the book have been answered on the web, currently at a rate of about 60,000 per day. Over 60,000 copies of the book have been bought by schools.

One of the great strengths of the project is that students can go beyond the level of questions in the A-level book and find out how to integrate their learning of Physics and Mathematics as well as learning how to apply more advanced mathematical principles to problems in Science and Engineering. A student's progress is monitored, and those with high scores will be at an advantage when it comes to preparing for university, as these can be mentioned in applications. Westcliff has performed very well in this regard too. For the first time (in my knowledge) two students from the same school (WHBS, of course) were selected to attend the Senior Physics Challenge at Cambridge at Easter – Nikhil Antony and Ciaran Dunleavy.

With the new GCSE courses in Physics being more mathematically advanced, the Isaac Project's Directors – Professor Mark Warner and Dr Lisa Jardine-Wright – were concerned that unless GCSE pupils were adequately supported by numeric practice material in an appropriate format they might be put off Physics. Therefore, they decided that the time was ripe for a GCSE version of the Isaac book, which I was asked to prepare. My former colleague and co-author in High Wycombe had moved on to pastures new, and I was accordingly delighted that Mr Dalby, WHSB's Head of Physics, agreed to work on this project with me. We are thrilled that after much writing and redrafting, and vast assistance from the Isaac staff at Cambridge, the GCSE Isaac Physics book became available (together with the associated online resources) during the Autumn Term. The book covers all essential areas of GCSE Physics with explanations, worked examples, and many questions to practise the new knowledge. The reasons behind the equations are explained whenever possible. We are thrilled that the funding model of Isaac allows these to be sold at cost price of £1 to schools in the UK. While very little formal advertising has occurred as yet, the books are metaphorically flying off the shelves, and we are finding them very useful in our Year 10 and Year 11 teaching at this School. As in the last project, Westcliff High School for Boys students were helpful in reading sections of the book to give feedback, as well as testing the questions. I would also like to acknowledge the great support given us by members of the Physics department, the Sixth Form Pastoral Team and Senior Team in terms of educational advice and encouragement.



Mr Dalby and I consider it a great strength of our School that we have been encouraged to be involved in a national project of this kind. We appreciate this support – including the opportunity to be involved in a Boot Camp at Churchill College, Cambridge. This workshop in January has been arranged for students to improve their A-level Physics – exclusively for those who would be the first in their family to aspire to University or who have faced other challenges in their education. We hope that the experience enables us to serve Physics students at WHSB with greater enthusiasm, experience and drive.

Dr A Machacek  
Assistant Head

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

### DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS

As mentioned in the last edition, the past 12 months have been especially busy with regards to the Duke of Edinburgh Award, with two cohorts of Bronze participants, totalling 60 pupils, running concurrently. The Year 11 cohort having completed their expeditions in July last year, followed by the Year 10 cohort in September. Both groups displayed high levels of skill and had very few issues, other than demolished buildings not being marked on the map!

A small number of pupils from both Year groups have now completed all aspects of their Bronze Award and should be proud of the hard work and dedication they have put in, it is important that all pupils now complete any outstanding sections in order to be eligible for the Silver Award.

With the New Year comes new opportunities; pupils who have completed the Bronze Award will be able to move on to the Silver Award. We will be advertising this to Years 10 and 11, along with the Bronze Award to Year 9, in due course.

Silver participants will undertake their practice expedition in the South Downs in April, with their assessment in the Peak District in July, after the GCSE exams. Year 9 participants will travel to Danbury for their practice expedition in June, and to Roxwell in September, where they will undertake their assessment.

We are expecting the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme to be a popular option for pupils this year and have planned for an increase in numbers of participants completing the Silver Award, having had one group of six this year, all of whom are now nearing completion.

Mr H Tresidder  
Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator



## CHARITY ACTIVITIES 2017/18

The Charity Committee, a team of hardworking students in Year 12, welcomes a change in the previous Charity Week system with open arms and has already made a fantastic start in the Winter Term to raise as much money as possible for the School's two chosen charities, The Great Ormond Street Hospital Charity and Mind.

The work of Great Ormond Street Hospital is well-known and our money gives hope to the thousands of very sick children who need the hospital's help every year. Mind, a local mental health charity, provides housing, counselling and support service to anyone experiencing mental health difficulties. Both are great causes and we are excited to continue our efforts to their benefit.

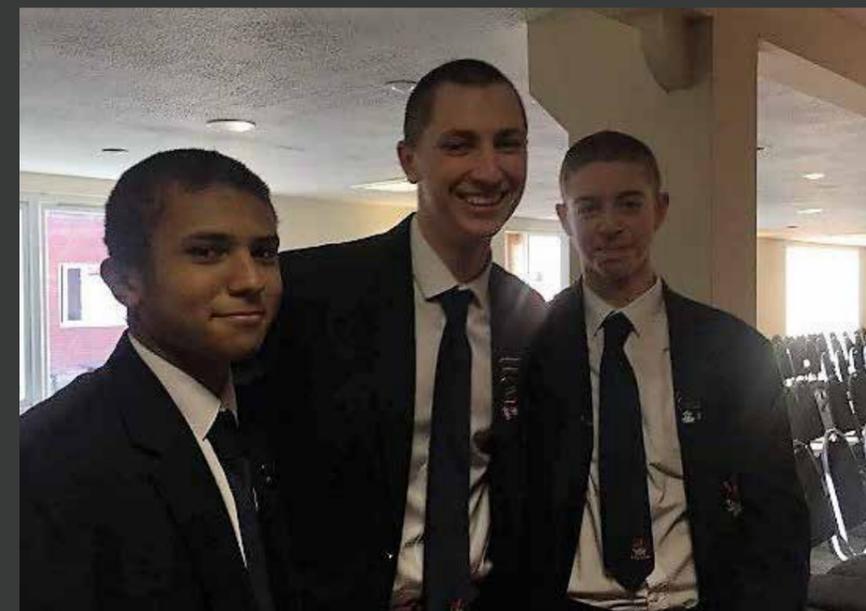
### THE WINTER TERM

Hugely successful events have already taken place in the Winter Term, including a FIFA Challenge, the Lower School Disco, Quiz Night – all in November – and Staff vs Student Dodgeball in December, raising an impressive sum of money for charity so far.

In addition, Year 12 students Rufus Dwamena, Ollie Webb and Dryden Spence joined myself in a charity head shaving effort, raising £1,000 for our two

charities. Despite feeling very cold in the following weeks, it was all worth it in the name of charity, and the amount of money raised only confirms that.

Our charity bag packers also descended upon Marks & Spencer in mid-December, filling people's shopping bags in return for donations. We were all delighted by the generosity of the general public and we are looking forward to running another such day in the New Year.



### A FULL OVERVIEW

The confirmed charity events for the Spring Term are as follows:

- Friday 19 January, 12.50pm – E-Sports Challenge
- Friday 19 January, 7.00pm – Film Night
- Lunchtimes Monday 29 January - Friday 2 February – Student 5-a-side Football Tournament
- Friday 2 February – Comedy and Curry Night
- Wednesday 21 February – Charity-themed Assembly
- Friday 23 February, 12.50pm – Teacher Pantomime
- Friday 23 February, 7.00pm – WestFest
- Friday 23 March, 7.00pm – Quiz Night
- Wednesday 28 March – Non-Uniform Day

- Wednesday 28 March – Staff 5-a-side

We encourage all students to actively participate in the School's charity activities this term. Whether as a competitor, attendee or organiser, the events cannot run without high student engagement – we cannot do it without you!

Look out for the letters coming into your registers and make sure you purchase your tickets, wristbands and programmes for the Spring Term's events without delay.

### THE SPRING TERM

Looking forward to the Spring Term, even more exciting events await as we hope to replicate the success of the FIFA Challenge on Friday 19 January, before a Film Night running that evening in the Sixth Form Forum. The week of 29 January will see a knockout 5-a-side football tournament every day at lunchtime, culminating in a Comedy and Curry Night on Friday 2 February. On Friday 23 February, the teacher pantomime will take place in the Hall at lunchtime, and WestFest returns in the evening.

On Friday 23 March, another day of events will take place, with Staff Karaoke at lunchtime and Quiz Night in the evening. Tuesday 28 March will be the School's annual Non-Uniform Day, and the Staff 5-a-side football match will be played at lunchtime. We finish the Spring Term with a supermarket bag packing day in the build up to Easter.

Joe Turnpenny  
Charity Committee Chairman



## DRAMA, LECTURES & EVENTS

### THE RESISTIBLE RISE OF ARTURO UI MEETS BIG BAND NIGHT

28 February to 2 March 2018, 7.30pm

A Big Band/Gangster extravaganza rolls into town at Westcliff this February with the arrival of the Music and Drama mash-up. Bertholt Brecht's great drama *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* was created in 1941, just as Hitler's Germany was coming to the height of its powers. *The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* compares the rise of Hitler in Nazi Germany to the rise of a gangster (Ui) in small town Chicago. Set in a 1920s style speakeasy, the evening will also offer the opportunity to listen to the very best of Westcliff musicians as the Bigger Band takes to the stage.

Our story sees down-and-out gangster Arturo Ui mixing with the dregs of Chicago society. Being unsuccessful at gangstering, he is gloomily contemplating a return to his native Brooklyn. With the Great Depression beginning to bite, however, businessmen and purveyors of cauliflowers manage to seduce a political leader with a spotless reputation (Dogsborough). Dogsborough accepts a large bribe in return for sponsoring a loan from the City Council to the same businessmen. Once Ui discovers the truth, he is well placed to exploit the political desire for a cover up. Political complicity gives Ui the keys to power and allows him to take the first steps that will end up in his complete dictatorship. Expect gangsters, tommy guns, cauliflowers and violence on the grandest scale. The story reminds us again of the danger of corrupt politicians, greedy businessmen and a gangster rising to ultimate power in America. Some would say it is extremely topical...

*The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* runs from Wednesday 28 February to Friday 2 March in the School Hall, starting at 7.30pm. Tickets available from TicketSource.

Mr B Jefferys  
Head of History

What 'Peace Now' Would Mean



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



# COMBINED CADET FORCE

## ANCHORS AWAY!

Just 3 years after becoming an independent Combined Cadet Force Contingent, WHSB now celebrates the inauguration of its Royal Navy Section which begins parading, alongside the Army Section, on Thursday 11 January 2018. The Royal Navy Section of the CCF will be supported by Mr Hill and Miss Isaac following their appointments as CCF Royal Navy Officers which were confirmed after successfully completing their Basic Officer Induction Course at the Royal Naval College in Dartmouth in October. They will be assisted by Miss Bailey, Mr Marriott and Mr Yeo as each attend appropriate courses to also become qualified.

The initial intake of Year 9 RN cadets

will be supported by a small number of older cadets from the Middle School and Sixth Form who will be trained as Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) and will assume responsibility for delivery of the majority of RN training on Thursday Parade Afternoons. In the meantime, existing Army Section NCOs will assist in training Year 9 RN cadets in subjects which are found on both Army and Navy Syllabi.

The CCF Royal Navy section will offer unparalleled opportunities to undertake adventurous training and water-based activities, including sailing, kayaking, diving, windsurfing and power-boating to name a few, and to gain nationally-recognised qualifications in these areas. Thursday training will be largely theory-based, but Field Trips, Camps and

courses will be run primarily by regular and reserve Royal Navy servicemen and women and will be largely afloat.

We look forward to seeing the RN section of the CCF growing from strength-to-strength as a complement to our well-established CCF Army section.



## CADET LEADERSHIP COURSE AND SENIOR CADET INSTRUCTOR COURSE

Corporals Victor Popoola and Jonathan Travers were the first cadets of WHSB CCF's history to attend a national course during last October Half Term. The National Cadet Leadership Course, which was run by 7 Infantry Brigade Cadet Training teams at Beckingham Training Camp in Lincolnshire, is open to the best cadets from every CCF and Army Cadet Force Unit in the United Kingdom. Both Year 12 students successfully passed the course and returned course reports reflecting very well on themselves and our CCF. They have both been promoted to the rank of Sergeant and have been

awarded CCF ties.

The CCF has now bid for places for other Year 12 cadets to attend the 7 Brigade Senior Cadet Instructor Course during the February Half Term, and it is our hope that we are able to reflect success here also.

## COMBAT CADET COMPETITION

Friday 16 March to Sunday 18 March 2018

The CCF has bid for a place in the Brigade Military Skills Competition, Combat Cadet. This competition takes place across the weekend of 16 to 18 March 2018 and involves a series of stands testing cadets' skills in military tactics and leadership across three days. It is open

to all CCF and ACF units across the 7 Brigade Area, which stretches from Essex to Lincolnshire across the East of England.

## FIELD WEEKEND

Thursday 1 March to Saturday 3 March 2018

The CCF will run a series of range days across 1 to 3 March 2018. This will allow our Year 10 cadets to complete a familiarisation shoot and their Basic Army Proficiency Certificate shoot, while Year 11 cadets and older will complete their Basic and Advanced Army Proficiency Certificates.

*Mr J Bleakley  
Contingent Commander*



## WHSB ALUMNI OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

One key aspect of the CDO's ongoing remit, working alongside the Old Westcliffian Association (OWA), is to develop a strong, diverse and flourishing alumni community. WHSB Alumni 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 and Alumni Networking events. Our termly-issued WHSB Alumni Network Newsletter details items of School news and events that may be of interest to members of our Alumni Community and can be viewed within the Secure Area of the School website.

If you or someone you know would like to join the WHSB Alumni Network and/or join the OWA, please take a few minutes to register your details via the School website at <http://www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/alumni>. For further information, contact Mrs Clarke or Mrs Weller in the Community Development Office on 01702 475443 or via email ([community@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:community@whsb.essex.sch.uk)). The WHSB Alumni Network is completely free to join and we very much look forward to hearing from you.

In addition, you can follow Westcliff High School for Boys on Facebook and Twitter where you can find out about the latest developments and events taking place at the School. The OWA also has accounts on Facebook and Twitter where you will have the opportunity to network and keep in touch with other members of the School's Alumni Community.

We would be delighted to welcome members of our Alumni community back to the School to see what is going on. Please contact Mrs Clarke or Mrs Weller in the Community Development Office to arrange a visit [community@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:community@whsb.essex.sch.uk).

## WHSB CENTENARY '100 YEARS 100 STORIES'

As part of the ongoing archiving project of the School's photographs, documentation and memorabilia in the run-up to 2020, the Community Development Office

team is looking to engage with all past and present staff, Old Westcliffians, parents/carers and friends of the School to collate 100 stories in commemoration of the first 100 years of the School. We are looking to our present School and Alumni community to assist with compiling 100 engaging, thoughtful, commemorative and entertaining accounts that are reflective of the School's rich and colourful history.

Stories should be between 400-500 words in length and include a suitable heading, your name and the years that you either attended or worked at the School. Please also include any relevant photographs where possible. If you have any queries or require any further information please contact Mrs Clarke or Mrs Weller in the Community Development Office [community@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:community@whsb.essex.sch.uk). We look forward to hearing from you!



## DONATIONS TO THE WHSB PUPIL FUND

We should like to thank all those parents and guardians who have previously donated or continue to donate money to the School's Pupil Fund. As the degree of state funding for the School continues to decline, increasingly we shall be required to rely on our own resources and to identify funding streams which can be accessed to support the continuing development of the School and its students.

WHSB's Pupil Fund, one such stream, enables the School to enhance students' experience within the educational environment. The Pupil Fund is used to assist with the provision of the multitude of extra-curricular activities and events which take place regularly after School and on Enrichment Days throughout the academic year.

Donations can be made in the form of one-off payments via your ParentPay Account, in cash or by cheque (payable to WHSB) and by monthly standing order. If you would like to make a donation, as a current donor and wish to amend your

donation or payment method, or wish to register with us for Gift Aid purposes, please contact Mrs Shirlin, the School Bursar. All donations and enquiries are treated in the strictest confidence. We are extremely grateful for any donation received, no matter how small or infrequent, at any time during the academic year.

*Mrs J Clarke  
Community Development Officer*

## OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION (OWA)

The Old Westcliffian Association has a database of around 1,500 lost contacts. These are former members who have changed their email addresses or their home addresses or they may have sadly passed on, and we have not been notified. Occasionally one or two pop out of the woodwork and we can re-establish contact.

We publish an annual newsletter and organise an Annual Reunion Dinner and send out periodic emails, and if these have not been received for a while and you think that you are a member, then please get in touch. New members are always welcome.

On 8 September last, we held our Annual Dinner in the School Hall. Our speaker was Neal Martin, internationally renowned wine expert and OW (1982-1989).

We had 100 attendees, spanning the generations, with our eldest member at School in 1943 and many who had left this year. Our next Dinner will be on 7 September 2018, for which we look forward to welcoming Neil Harman as our guest speaker. His accolades include having been sports correspondent for the Daily Mail and Sunday Telegraph, and more recently chief tennis correspondent for The Times. Above all, of course, he is an OW. All OWA members are welcome to come along.

On 29 October, several OW's joined with the Headmaster and other alumni at our



## WHSB ALUMNI MEET IN LONDON'S OLDEST MUSIC HALL

Building on the success of the first London Alumni get-together in 2016, the School's 2017 London networking drinks for members of its Alumni Community took place in October at Wilton's Music Hall located between Wapping and Whitechapel in the heart of London's East End. The event, organised by the Community Development Office team, saw past students spanning seven decades and staff meet in the Mahogany Bar at Wilton's, the world's oldest and last-surviving grand music hall, close to the historic Tower of London and St Katherine Docks. A Grade 2 listed building, Wilton's has recently completed a four year capital, multi-award winning project with support from The Heritage Lottery Fund and numerous trusts and individuals.

The 2018 Alumni Community's London networking event is planned for Thursday 18 October in the Sky Pod Bar at the Sky Garden (on top of the "Walkie-Talkie") in Fenchurch Street, London EC3. Please save the date, further details will follow.



annual Alumni Network London event at Wilton's Music Hall in Grace's Alley. It was an enjoyable occasion and a chance to have a chat over a drink. We look forward to the next one at the School in the summer where I hope that more members will join us.

We are very conscious that the Centenary of the School is looming in 2020 and the OWA will play its full part in ensuring



the celebrations for this tremendous milestone are a success.

*Mr T Birdseye  
Honorary Secretary  
[terry.birdseye@gmail.com](mailto:terry.birdseye@gmail.com)*



## PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



### SAINSBURY'S ACTIVE KIDS VOUCHER COLLECTION

A big thank you to our School Community, family and friends for your support in 2017 as we managed to collect over 5,000 Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers. This enabled us to acquire, free of charge for the PE Department, brand new badminton rackets and shuttlecocks, stopwatches and measuring tapes for athletics plus several basketballs and Vortex Howlers!

Look out for Sainsbury's Active Kids in 2018 as we will be collecting vouchers again. These should be handed in at the School Reception by the main entrance.

### SHOP ONLINE AND RAISE FUNDS FOR THE SCHOOL WITH EASYFUNDRAISING

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](http://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!

### PA FUNDING FOR NEW BASKETBALL KITS

New team basketball kits were designed, ordered and presented to pupils following funding from the Parents' Association. The new kits will be used by pupils competing in the Borough and County competitions across all year groups for the first time.

Demi Adeyeye, who has recently been selected for the Under-16 England Basketball Squad, was delighted with the new team kit saying "The new kits are great and I'm so pleased the School is

supporting basketball, as it is something we all love. All the boys are looking forward to competing in the Essex Cup in their new kits".

Mr Morrish, Director of Sport, said "The pupils love their basketball, making a huge effort to attend training before school, lunchtimes and after school practices. Getting the new kits is a tangible reward for them, as they have an excellent attitude towards their extra-curricular sport".



### WHSB PARENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL RACE NIGHT 2018

Saturday 3 March 2018, 6.15pm

On Saturday 3 March 2018 we will be hosting our 'Annual Race Night' fundraising event for the School. This is an extremely popular family night out so early booking is advised. Doors open at 6.15pm for a 6.30pm start. Tickets are priced at £6 for adults and £3 for pupils. Bring your own drinks and nibbles, or for an extra £4.50 per ticket, you can enjoy a fish and chip supper (or vegetarian alternative). Tickets can be booked



through TicketSource. Please come and join us for what always proves to be a fun-packed and highly competitive evening for the entire family!

### PARENTS' ASSOCIATION '100 CLUB'

A big 'thank you' to all those parents and guardians who are new to the School and who have signed up to our Parents' Association '100 Club' monthly prize draw. For a monthly contribution of just £5, members (who must be associated with the School) can win a cash sum, currently in the region of £150. In the last twelve months, we have raised £1,600 for the School and paid out £1,400 in prize money to signed-up members. '100 Club' joining forms can be downloaded from the Parents' Association section on the School website. Alternatively, contact the PA via email [pa@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:pa@whsb.essex.sch.uk) for further details. Good luck!

### THANK YOU FROM THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Parents' Association would like to thank all those members of our School Community who have made financial donations or provided raffle prizes for our events during the year. Everyone is welcome to attend Parents' Association Committee Meetings and we would like to encourage more people to become involved in supporting the School at events. If you would like to find out more, please email us at [pa@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:pa@whsb.essex.sch.uk). We look forward to hearing from you!

Mrs K Merriman  
Parents' Association Chair

### WHSB PARENTS' ASSOCIATION WINTER BALL 2017

Our 2017 Winter Ball was held on Saturday 25 November. The evening began with a sparkling drinks reception and canapés, followed by a three-course meal and dancing to a wide selection of music provided by a DJ. This main fundraising event organised by the Parents' Association raises thousands of pounds for the School. We would like to thank you for supporting us and hope to see you again at our forthcoming events in 2018.



## POETRY AT WHSB

### ESSEX YOUNG POET OF THE YEAR

Last term brought with it another exciting harvest of entries for the Essex Young Poet of the Year Competition. Our three winners, Shaun Ekiyoyo, Lewis Seal and Daniel Pereira, excelled themselves in the competition, the 9th year in which we have taken part, with Daniel receiving the ultimate accolade of Essex Young Poet of the Year, a top prize for his poem *Marks on a Line* first out of 614 entries among the 26 schools that took part this year across the county.

This is the third year we have taken this illustrious prize and our congratulations go to Daniel for his poem, which is shown below for you to read.

The Chief Adjudicator described Daniel's craft with words such as 'sublime' and wondered where he found his inspiration. Her mention of 'craft' is right: if you look at the intricate rhyme scheme, the imagery and the subtly-controlled rhythms, it is as if Daniel has worked this poem on a potter's wheel, shaping and moulding it to perfection. The poem is just, in his words, 'marks on a line' but the 'waltz of twenty-six' letters in the alphabet turns it into a sonnet dance of appreciable beauty and power.

Lewis Seal wrote a poem called *A Pale Winter Sunshine* and earned a 'Highly Commended' recognition. The Adjudicators described this as one of the best-written war poems that they received. The ghosting effect of the poem with the light imagery permeating the poem at every level takes the reader into an unusual plane of perception. There is also some tight control of line-length and meaning as the poem shape-shifts from life to death.

Shaun Ekiyoyo decided to use the riddle as a vehicle for exploring his theme, *What Am I?* The judges commented on Shaun's poem that 'it showed strength in its simplicity' and that is true. Shaun enjoys these conundrums and sees so much poetic potential in them. Both this poem and Lewis's received 'Highly Commended'

certificates in the Under-14 category for their entries.

On a final note, though my own eleven and a half years at the school are now behind me, I would like to record my thanks and warm congratulations to all of you reading this who have entered the Essex Young Poet of the Year Competition – it runs to nearly 500 across nine years. Your poems have all been testimony to the creative power of an exciting youthful world burgeoning through words and I encourage you to 'take life by the throat' and warm to the stimulus of writing your own verse. There are times when a poem, and only a poem, can reach parts that other forms of writing barely touch. Such word weapons, once finely-forged in the furnaces of mind and heart, are the very best of learning tools.

Mr J Allan-Smith  
Teacher of English (Retired)



### MARKS ON A LINE

How comes it that these mere marks in ink  
No more than flicks and twirls and chicken scrawl  
Can bring my soul to bawl and caterwaul,  
Or charge me to "Halt!" and wake...and think?  
Of such nefarious power do words reek  
To dictate my sense with her spewing drawl  
Pulling the strings on the thoughts of all  
Who glance upon that scribbled speak.

But yet, in that same waltz of twenty-six  
Do I submit all my power to words,  
For there reside ancient companions of mine:  
Compassion, empathy – the tools of the wordsmith  
To forge verse in fire that chirps like songbirds.  
All this, in nothing but marks on a line.

Daniel Pereira  
Year 11

### THE PALE WINTER SUNSHINE

The pale winter sunshine  
Hidden behind the cotton grey.  
Will this shining sunshine  
Lighten the darkness today?

All of the innocent victims,  
Taken by the war,  
But this fatal battle,  
Will take my friends no more.

That final sound in my life,  
An echoing gunshot I hear.  
The pale winter sunshine,  
Glistening on my falling tear.

The ground was now a graveyard,  
While the dead lay still,  
How could these soldiers – yet normal men,  
Be led and told to kill?

While my body lay on the muddy floor,  
One may think my life was done,  
But in reality my true life,  
Had only just begun.

The pale winter sunshine,  
Hidden behind the cotton grey.  
Will this shining sunshine,  
Lighten the darkness today?

Lewis Seal  
Year 8

### WHAT AM I?

I can fly without wings  
I can beat down kings  
I destroy mountains  
And steal your loved ones

I may go quickly or I may go slowly  
I can harm you  
Or I can heal you  
I can never leave  
But I can never stay

I leave scars that never heal  
I hold all the secrets to the future, past and present  
I cannot feel or hear but I can see all.

I am time.

Shaun Ekiyoyo



## MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

### INSPIRING EXCELLENCE FOR SIXTH FORM MFL STUDENTS

Joshua Jones (Year 13) was recently selected to be a WHSB delegate on a Villiers Park French residential "Inspiring Excellence" course. These courses, which are run by Villiers Park Educational Trust in Cambridge, bring together students from different geographical and social backgrounds who share a strong interest in a particular subject.

The tutors (who are always leading experts in their fields) introduce the participants to the latest ideas and research, allowing students to explore challenging topics. Teamwork, research, presentations and creativity are important features of the courses. Students also have the opportunity to visit the University of Cambridge.

Joshua writes:  
"Attending a French course on language and identity at Villiers Park, Cambridge, has greatly enhanced my passion for learning French and discovering more about French culture. It was a fantastic opportunity to read and analyse all kinds of French literature, ranging from medieval poetry to works by the likes of Simone de Beauvoir and Molière. The tutors made learning very enjoyable and they were able to present complex ideas well."

"Although very intensive, the course allowed me to solely study French for five days; an opportunity that would be hard to come by if I had not applied for a place on the course. It was also a great chance to meet like-minded new people from all over the country



who have an aptitude for French. I would strongly recommend applying to attend a course at Villiers Park to any Sixth Form student with a strong passion for their subject."

Mrs J Williams  
Acting Head of MFL

### FRENCH EXCHANGE, A RETROSPECTIVE - NOVEMBER 2017

For the second year now, Westcliff High Schools for Boys and Westcliff High School for Girls have run a successful first leg of the French exchange with Institution Rey in Rouen, Normandy. Our French visitors were very appreciative first of all with the good weather - no umbrellas needed! Of course, they loved London and their guided tour of Cambridge was very enjoyable. For the French, it is a real eye-opener as there are no such historical buildings making up French universities.

Most appreciated of all, of course, was the very warm welcome given by our host families, to whom so many thanks are sincerely expressed. It is, after all, the family element of exchange that constitutes such a valuable learning experience, for our own boys as well as for the French guests. Again therefore, *mille merci aux parents Westcliffiens*. We all look forward now to our visit to Rouen just before Easter 2018. Good food, cooking lessons, history, zip-wires, shopping, fine arts workshops, and much more are on the French menu.

*On est très impatient!*

Mr G Sampson  
Teacher of French



## SLICES OF PI: MATHEMATICS AT WHSB

### SENIOR MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE (SMC)

The Senior Mathematics Challenge ran on Tuesday 7 November with all Year 13 students taking part, alongside all those in Year 12 who study Further Mathematics. We are pleased to announce that we managed to achieve 8 Gold Certificates, 29 Silver Certificates and 53 Bronze Certificates. We also had a number of students make it through to the follow-on rounds. Our congratulations go to Nikhil Antony and Jasen Walker, who managed to get through to the British Mathematical Olympiad, coming in the top 0.5% of the candidates. Our further congratulations go to James Quigley, Alexander Adcock, Ciaran Dunleavy, Jake Harrison, Ignacio Ayerbe, Joseph Cameron, and Anthony Haiser who managed to get through to the Senior Kangaroo, coming in the top 2% of the candidates. We wish all of these students luck with the follow on rounds.

### SENIOR TEAM MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE (STMC)

The Senior Team Mathematics Challenge ran on Wednesday 22 November. This competition consists of three rounds of problems issued in various different styles. The first is a group round, where all four work together to answer 10 problems. The second is a cross number, where the team split into pairs to tackle 'across' clues as one pair and 'down' clues as the other pair without communicating. The final round is a relay where they again work in pairs, with the first pair giving an answer to the second pair, who return a new answer and so on until all the questions are answered. The team consisted of Nikhil Anthony, Ciaran

Dunleavy, David Nyamu and Myles Amechi. This year, the team came a respectable fifth place, doing remarkably well in the group round. Next year we will be looking for able Year 12 students to join the team; if you wish to prepare for this challenge please obtain some of the Intermediate Mathematics Challenge questions from the UKMT or sign up to the Intermediate Mentoring Scheme.

### INTERMEDIATE MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE (IMC)

The Intermediate Mathematics Challenge runs on Thursday 1 February this year. All Year 11 students will be able to participate in this national competition that will test their problem-solving abilities. Previously we have experienced a great deal of success in this competition, and we wish to highlight specifically that success has come from students across the whole ability range. Due to the nature of this competition, we have many students who are able to showcase their problem-solving ability.

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

### STUDENT MENTORING

The Mathematics department continues to run a successful student-to-student tutoring scheme over lunch time and break time. If you wish to sign up for this scheme, either as someone who can help mentor another student or someone who needs help themselves, please see Miss

Dole in the Lower School Pastoral Office.

We can accommodate students from Year 7 to Year 13 in both Mathematics and Further Mathematics, so if you are having any problems with your work please and ask for help. The sessions with your mentor are designed to run across the year but the scheme is flexible to suit your needs, so if you are having a particularly tough time this term as there is a lot of work on Algebra, then we can arrange for a mentor for a short period of time instead.

If you wish to sign up as a mentor, we are accepting applications from students in Years 10 to 13.

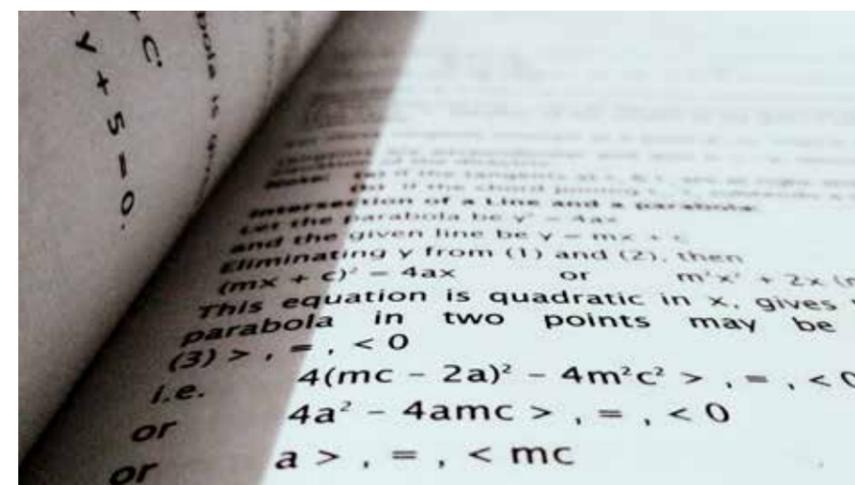
### FURTHER MATHEMATICS SUPPORT PROGRAMME (FMSP) MATHEMATICS FEAST (YEAR 10)

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

Last year we entered two teams consisting of Dhilan Patel, Luxathan Krishnamoorthy, Daniel Barton, Hugo Miloszewski, Peter Simon, Jai Patel, Adam Whittaker and Warwick George, and these teams came a very respectable fifth and sixth place, with one team gaining a certificate for getting full marks in one of the rounds.

### LOWER SCHOOL HOUSE MATHEMATICS

During the Spring Term, Mr Dowding will be running a House competition in Mathematics. Pupils will be competing for points towards their end of year House totals, and the team with the most point wins the Phoenix Cup, which is displayed in the Main School Hall.



Pupils wishing to participate need to find a team of four students in the same House as them from across Years 7 to 9. The competition will be a group round style event, where over the course of a lunchtime the teams have to work together to compete a set of tasks which are then marked. The highest scoring team will win the competition and gain points for their House.

The competition will be taking place in March, so pupils should start thinking about making a team now and begin practising. Notes will be distributed with more detail on the event closer to the time, but, for now, time could be spent trying some of the Junior Mathematics Challenge problems to prepare for the challenge. These can be found on the UKMT website, or alternatively pupils can

ask their teachers for some past papers.

## SIXTH TERM EXAMINATION PAPER (STEP), MATHEMATICS ADMISSIONS TEST (MAT) AND ADVANCED EXTENSION AWARD (AEA) SUPPORT

Mr Tsang has started to offer STEP and AEA support for those looking at taking these examinations in order to aid their university entrance prospects. This club is aimed at those in Year 12 and 13 who are looking to go to universities that offer entrance examinations, such

as Cambridge, Oxford, Durham and Warwick. Potential Mathematicians, Engineers, Physicists and Economists may wish to have a look at some universities to see if it is worth attending. Students are also welcome to attend even if they do not intend to sit any entrance exams; this club is a good opportunity to see some difficult questions answered in imaginative ways that may benefit your studies in Mathematics generally. Furthermore, it will provide a great deal of rich material for students to discuss with potential interviewers at university. Please speak to Mr Tsang for more details.

Mr M Dowding  
Head of Mathematics

## MUSIC AT WHSB

### THE MUSIC MAN PROJECT

On 15 October 2017, the MENCAP Music Man Project of Southend-on-Sea performed at a sold-out London Palladium for the second time at their 'Music is Magic' concert. Established in 2001 by David Stanley and Jenny Hitchcock, the Music Man Project provides those suffering from mental and learning disabilities, such as autism and Downs' syndrome, with music-related opportunities that they may otherwise have never had.

Sessions are mostly held at local schools throughout the week, although there is also a session every Saturday morning at Kingsdown School. I became involved by volunteering every Saturday, first as part of my Duke of Edinburgh award, and then chose to continue out of enjoyment. At each session, the students rehearse their part within the music which is written for them by David and designed to be inclusive so everyone can take part.

The concert at the London Palladium was a showcase of the talent and musicianship of the students involved, but it also marked a political statement in support of those with learning disabilities. This was the profound and moving message that the world premiere of David Stanley's musical, *The Label*, based on the book *The Label* by Caroline White, carried. It portrays how a child with autism or Downs' syndrome must be treated without prejudice by society.

As well as the musical premiere, the

Music Man Project also attempted the ambitious world record attempt of the most triangles played at once – having sold out the Palladium of 2,000 seats, it was sure to beat the previous record of 876. This was a light-hearted event that saw even the television crews of BBC and ITV, as well as HRH Countess of Wessex, each playing their triangles!

creation of opportunities for these students, but also because their enjoyment is clearly visible, and there is a great sense of community spirit within the organisation. They are always welcoming new volunteers, and I would encourage getting involved, especially if you are considering pursuing the Duke of Edinburgh award.

Alex Usher  
Year 12

The Music Man Project is highly rewarding, not only because of the



## SPRING CHAMBER RECITAL

Thursday 18 January 2018, 7.30pm

This term's Chamber Recital is a fantastic opportunity to hear the most talented musicians of WHSB drawn from all Year groups in the School. This evening of music will feature soloists and small ensembles performing a range of styles from modern jazz to baroque. Regular performers such as the Saxophone Quartet and the Brass Ensemble will be present, as will soloists such as clarinettists Alex Usher and Joshua Wood. This will also be the debut performance at a Chamber Recital for Euphonium player Grace Jackson, who will be playing a suitably exciting and virtuosic piece named *Whirlwind*. Tickets are priced at £5 for adults. This concert is free of charge for pupils.



## WESTCLIFF SINFONIA SPRING CONCERT

Thursday 8 March 2018, 7.30pm

Join the Westcliff Sinfonia on a world tour, starting in Wales with Grace Williams' *Fantasia on Welsh Nursery Tunes*. This playful piece features solo opportunities for many of the orchestra who explore a collection of some surprisingly dramatic children's melodies. From the Welsh valleys, the Sinfonia will jet to the Norwegian fjords where they will explore the local villages and towns through Grieg's *Four Norwegian Dances*. This collection of folk tunes was originally written for piano duet but was so popular that it was quickly arranged for orchestra.

A rather sinister trip to a Parisian cemetery follows for the Orchestra to join Death himself as he wakes the spirit world with his solo violin in Saint-Saen's *Danse Macabre*. This dark but memorable work is based on a poem of the same name in which the spectre of Death summons an army of skeletal nightmares to dance through the night, only to be halted by the crowing of the cockerel at the morning sun. The tour ends with a jaunt to the Big Apple for Gershwin's exciting and jazzy *Rhapsody in Blue*, a work that never fails to evoke the bustle and bluster of New York City at the beginning of the 20th century.



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

## YEAR 8 CULTURAL ENRICHMENT PROJECT

This term, all Year 8 pupils will mandatorily 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 Department recommends the trip to London to see Beethoven's *Symphony No.9* performed by the Philharmonia Orchestra.

Mr T Derrick  
Director of Music

## WICKED AT THE APOLLO VICTORIA THEATRE, LONDON

Monday 26 March 2018, 4.45pm

All Music students in the Middle School and Sixth Form are invited to attend a visit to London to see one of the most exciting examples of musical theatre currently showing on the West End. The musical is an alternative take on the story of the Wizard of Oz, following the turbulent life of the Wicked Witch of the West. This spellbinding show will be of vital importance to those studying GCSE Music, as it relates directly to the set work *Defying Gravity*. It should also be of interest to A Level Music students who are required to be familiar with a wide range of musical styles.

This trip is open to pupils only, with tickets costing £35.00 each, including travel. Capacity for this trip is strictly limited to 41 pupils.

Mr T Derrick  
Director of Music



## MUSIC AT WHSB

### BEETHOVEN SYMPHONY NO.9 AT THE ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Friday 16 March 2018, 4.45pm

Undoubtedly one of the world's most beloved and revered composers, Beethoven took Western music from one era to another, with his bold experiments in sound and structure.

This concert offers students an opportunity to experience the zenith of this process, by hearing Beethoven's 9th Symphony, *The Choral*. From its sombre opening to its dazzling finale this cornerstone of classical music is not to be missed. In addition to this there will also be performances of the *Egmont Overture* and the *5th Piano Concerto*. As usual, this trip is open to pupils, parents, staff and friends of the School.

Tickets for this trip are limited to 40 and

will cost £29.50, including travel to and from the venue.

### MUSICOLOGY SEMINAR: COMPOSERS OF SCANDANAVIA - MYTH AND MUSIC

Thursday 8 February 2018 (M12), 3.45pm

The perpetual twilight, the frozen fjords, pine forests, glaciers and majestic northern lights all help to paint a picture of the beauty of Scandinavia. Such natural beauty is surely the root of much of the Northern composers output, is it not? But what of trolls, and forest ghosts, and the brutal conditions endured throughout periods of history? This, too, must have had an impact.

This seminar will explore the work of Grieg and Sibelius, looking at what inspired the melodies which have endured since their composition.

### MUSICOLOGY SEMINAR: THE ICONOCLASTS GUIDE TO POPULAR MUSIC

Thursday 15 March 2018 (M12), 3.45pm

Pop stars occupy a privileged position in Western society, often residing at the very top of the social and economic tree. But why? Are their songs truly that important to our lives? Do they speak to us in such a profound way? Why do we place them on pedestals to rival Nelson's?

This seminar will look at so-called 'seminal artists' of the 20th and 21st centuries and ask, "Do they deserve their position?" We will examine their music, their contribution to the zeitgeist and whole circus that accompanies popular music.

Mr A McGee  
Year 12 Progress Leader



## ALEX USHER

Over the years Alex Usher has given a number of remarkable performances on the stage at Westcliff. From Chamber Recitals, to Wednesday Assemblies, leading up to last year's performance of a Weber Clarinet Concertino accompanied by the Westcliff Sinfonia, Alex has never shied away from a musical challenge.

As such, Alex has been eager to make his mark on the national stage by performing in national music competitions with the Original Woodwind Ensemble and becoming involved in the Music Man project, a national organisation with the aim to provide musical opportunities to children with disabilities. Additionally, he has been a member of the National Youth Wind Orchestra as a clarinetist for the

last couple of years.

Now, after completing two rigorous auditions in London, Alex has been invited to join the prestigious company of the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain. This group features the country's very best orchestral musicians between the ages of 13 and 19 years, an invitation to which is seen as a great privilege. The orchestra performs each year at The Proms in the Royal Albert Hall, as well as touring the UK and the rest of the world. Alex will bring his experience with the NYO back to Westcliff where he continues to contribute to the School's musical life as an Organ Scholar and as a member of the Sinfonia, Concert Band, Saxophone Quartet, Big Band and choir.

Mr T Derrick  
Director of Music



## SCHOOL SPORT AND THE HOUSE SYSTEM

### SPORTING OVERVIEW

This Autumn Term has seen sport at WHSB continue to thrive. WHSB has participated in 165 fixtures during the course of this term. This is an indication of the level of commitment and the work ethic from all involved and this equates to an average of more than two fixtures every School day! The attitudes and values that pupils are showing on a regular basis in both training and fixtures are testament to how the WHSB community can respond to new challenges and opportunities. The pupils relish taking these new opportunities and continue to impress the PE Department. The arrival of Mr White and Mr Sexton has delivered vibrant energy and expertise that the pupils are keen to utilise, both in their curriculum time and extra-curricular endeavours.

Last year I introduced the Temple of Excellence in the WHSB Diary. This achievement of excellence is relative to an individual pupils' own ability, and arriving at excellence is only possible through a secure foundation of values and attitudes. These have been made more secure as time has progressed. Mr White and Mr Sexton, in collaboration with the existing department of Mr Williams, Mr Garstin, Mr Atkinson and Mrs Burden, have strengthened these foundations. As a result, the pillars of Technical, Practice, Team Ethos, Physical and Mental (that enable excellence to be achieved) continue to improve.

It is hard to specify one particular aspect of the term that has been a highlight. A constant highlight throughout the term has been the pupils' desire to show a relentless work ethic and to put WHSB first through representing the School at the wide variety of fixtures. In particular, the pupils have demonstrated the desire to represent the School on a Saturday morning against very established schools. These include Millfield, Dartford



### THE HOUSE SYSTEM

The House system has been incredibly busy and productive this academic year. So far we have held activities such as House Rugby, Rowing, Football, Table Tennis, Microbiology, General Science, the USA Quiz, Drawing, Poetry, Chess, Spelling, Arithmetic and Public Speaking, to name but a few.

Upcoming events include House Harry Potter, Magic the Gathering, Music, Basketball, Badminton, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, Geology, Drama, 'Improv', Scrabble, German, Cartography, General Knowledge, Star Wars and Lord of the Rings.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to all the staff at WHSB who have helped organise and run House events. Specifically, I would like to mention Mr Hill, Mr Rayment, Mr Tresidder, Mr Garstin, Mr Atkinson, Mr Morrish, Mr White, Mr Sexton, Mrs Barber and Mr James for their hard work. In addition, I would like to thank the House Captains, Vice Captains and Year Representatives for all their efforts in organising teams. Participation really is the key; the more participants you have for events, the more points your House will receive!

If you have an idea for a new House event, or if you would like to assist with running an existing activity, then please do come to speak to me. I am willing to entertain any sensible ideas.

Mr R Barber  
House System Coordinator  
and Senior Head of House

Grammar School and Gravesend Grammar School. The enjoyment that pupils clearly experience in representing WHSB is heartening for the PE Department and the wider School community.

The success of the Junior Boys' Tennis team in the Regional LTA Team Tennis Schools Division 2 was very pleasing. In Summer 2018, we have entered more teams so that more pupils have the opportunity to represent WHSB.

The enjoyment experienced by WHSB Basketball Teams this season has also been fantastic to see. The numbers at training helps to create a competitive environment for places in our teams, but also creates a culture of participation and wanting to play sport. The Basketball season still has a way to go until its conclusion but, regardless of outcome, the students should be very proud of their training ethic and commitment.

Our success at the ESSA Secondary Schools' National Swimming Relays Championship was outstanding. Mr Atkinson did a sterling job in identifying the swimmers and they responded to this new challenge in an excellent manner. The fact that the School does not have a swimming facility makes our success even more impressive and shows how, as a community, we strive to take every opportunity that is available to us.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the pupils for their superb commitment to sport at WHSB this term. As with last year, it is important that we carry on building on what was achieved last Term and that we look to improve over the forthcoming Term. Thank you also to the parents of the pupils who support the mid-week and Saturday fixtures at WHSB – the PE Department really does value your continued support. The Department has thoroughly enjoyed this Term and is looking forward to what this new term holds. I wish to thank all members of the PE Department and the additional School staff who support the running of the sports programme at the School in a multitude of ways. This enables the community of WHSB to experience the positive impact that sport can have on shaping young lives.

Mr T Morrish  
Director of Sport

## SCHOOL SPORT AND THE HOUSE SYSTEM

### BASKETBALL UPDATE

The basketball season is now in full swing with excellent numbers attending clubs. Basketball is a sport in which there has been a new-found enthusiasm due to increased opportunity through the number of practices available and the number of competitions entered. This year, we have entered all age groups into the Essex Cup for the first time alongside the Borough competition. Pupils have really engaged in the sport and have understood that through an increased work ethic vast improvement will be seen; they have also experienced some excellent coaching from school coaches and the outside coaches which have been provided.

The Borough competition has started well for all Year groups with a number of resounding wins. We play in a very competitive borough so to realise success we must ensure that standards are always kept high. Fortunately, for the first part of the year, our teams have really engaged and are now reaping the rewards. One of the more pleasing aspects is the team ethos which is developing amongst the different teams; pupils are genuinely enjoying one another's successes, which has led to greater team accomplishments. As a result, our Year groups are currently

unbeaten in all age groups within the borough; a very pleasing start indeed.

In the Essex Cup competition it has, once again, been an excellent start to the year. Our under 13 team has won its two pool games convincingly against Appleton and Woodlands (last year's semi-finalists) with just Fitzwimarc to play; they have already secured a place in the quarter finals. The under 14 team has also made it through to the quarter final stage courtesy of a victory and a defeat in the pool stage. The under 15 team has had a fantastic start to the year, winning all of their pool matches, the highlight being beating Southend High School for Boys 84 - 33. It is important to add that they have been led exceptionally well by Ademilola Adeyeye who has recently been selected to represent England; an achievement of which all in the WHSB community are proud. Finally, our under 16 team has also had a good start to their Essex Cup campaign beating King John and James Hornsby and losing to St Martins. This means that in WHSB's first year of entering teams into all age groups, from Year 7 to Year 11, WHSB has qualified for the quarter final stage in every one. This puts the School in the top six schools for basketball in Essex, in each of the age categories.

This success is due to the pupils' understanding of our philosophy and

the realisation that by practising hard to improve their technique, physical fitness and game awareness, in conjunction with contributing to a real team ethos, they can achieve excellent outcomes. I hope this initial success will now drive the pupils on to want to achieve greater results, and to work even harder.

Mr J White  
Second in PE



### BOROUGH BADMINTON SUCCESS

Last term pupils in both Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 represented the School at the borough competition. WHSB provided 22 players across both competitions, the most in the borough. Unfortunately, our Key Stage 4 doubles teams did not make it through to the knock out stage, however our Key Stage 3 teams were well-represented with two pairs reaching the semi-finals. Congratulations to pupils Peter Eriksson and Alex Stewart for becoming Key Stage 3 Borough Badminton Champions.

Mr M Atkinson  
Sports Coach



### PE COMMUNICATION

Recent developments in technology have allowed WHSB to utilise new platforms of communication between the School, parents and pupils. The PE Department considers that being an effective communicator is paramount to School sport and extra-curricular activity. Consequently, WHSB has sought to increase communication between all parties through the use of platforms such as Twitter and Team Up.

The Twitter account has been up and running since the start of the Academic Year, giving parents and students alike better knowledge of upcoming fixtures, results and general information regarding WHSB sport. Team Up is new to WHSB this year and has had an immediate effect on the communication between School, pupils, and parents. Team Up allows parents to view WHSB's fixture lists across all sports, attached with all relevant information such as the team sheet, where and when the game will take place. Team Up can be viewed via a webpage or can be downloaded as an application on smartphones.

Both platforms have had a positive impact upon communication and the PE Department will continue to seek further improvements to communication as the year progresses.

In addition, the PE Department have recently launched an Instagram account and plan to share photographs of pupils' successes as they happen.

The WHSB community is most excited about our upcoming fixtures and we look forward to including parents in WHSB's future success.

Twitter - @whsforboyspe  
Instagram - @whsb\_pe  
Team Up - <https://teamup.com/ksuv3k4ss5jvigncxz>

Mr J Sexton  
Teacher of PE



### RUGBY UPDATE

At the heart of WHSB Rugby is a unique ethos which it has retained over the years. Not only is the Game played to the Laws, but within the spirit of the Laws.

Through discipline, control and mutual self-respect, a fellowship, a sense of fair play is forged, defining WHSB Rugby as the programme it is. This year has seen the school broaden its horizons in terms of fixtures, entering tournaments at the prestigious Millfield School and playing top Grammar schools such as Dartford and Gravesend.

Year 7 has proven to be an exceptionally talented group. The influx of some physically imposing pupils coupled with their excellent attitudes have seen them buy in to the core values of putting their School first which, combined with an unwavering work ethic, has led to a record set of results. Performing admirably at the Millfield tournament against some of the country's top independent schools, they managed two victories. Since then, they have gone unbeaten all season with all involved enjoying their rugby experience.

The Year 8 team garnered similar results at Millfield and proved to be a formidable team at full strength. They have had some improved results from last year, beating King John who overcame us last year. Jake Bausor joined us in Year 8 and deserves a special mention for his contribution to the team.

The Year 9 team started slowly this year but has recently shown a huge turnaround. Participation is greatly improved and the team ethos is there for all to see. As a talented Year Group, they should be looking to improve on last year's achievements.

The Year 11 and 1st XV teams are both strong, however they have suffered a string of injuries to key players. The Year 11 team recently knocked last year's semi-finalists - Saffron Walden County High School - out of the Essex Cup and is on target to reach the final. The 1st XV's fixture list is much changed this year, with the team playing some very strong schools. They have performed admirably against Dartford and Gravesend Grammar Schools, as well as giving an excellent performance when the School hosted a touring team from South Africa 'Best of The West', a regional side from Johannesburg and Mpumalanga. More recently, a victory away against the old foe SHSB, and a home win against a strong SEEVIC side, have been highlights.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the parents for their support with our Saturday programme. The dedication and enthusiasm shown enables us to run such an extensive programme from which the pupils gain so much enjoyment.

Mr C Garstin  
Sports Coach





# CALENDAR FOR SPRING TERM 2018

Wed 3 January	<b>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY</b>	Fri 23 February	Charity WestFest, 7.00pm
Thu 4 January	<b>SPRING TERM BEGINS, 8.45am</b>	Mon 26 February	Year 9 immunisations
8-12 January	Year 12 Formative Examinations	28 February-1 March	Year 10 Jack Petchey's Speak Out Competition
Wed 10 January	Careers in Law/Politics/Finance Evening, 7.00pm	28 February-2 March	School Production: The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui, 7.30pm
Thu 11 January	World Challenge Launch, 3.45pm	1-3 March	CCF Field Weekend
Tue 16 January	Year 11 Entry to Sixth Form Evening, 7.30pm	Fri 2 March	Year 13 Phase 3 Reports issued
Wed 17 January	Year 11 'Dead End' Performance	Sat 3 March	Parents' Association Race Night, 6.15pm
Thu 18 January	Spring Chamber Recital, 7.30pm	5-9 March	Fairtrade Café
Fri 19 January	Charity Film Night, 7.00pm	Mon 5 March	Year 10 visit to QinetiQ MOD, Shoebury
	Year 11 Phase 2 Reports issued	Tue 6 March	Years 8/9 Team Mathematics Challenge
Sat 20 January	WCGC: Humanities Day, 8.30am		Year 9 Options evening
Mon 22 January	Year 8 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm	Wed 7 March	FMSP Year 10 Mathematics Feast
24 January-2 February	Year 13 Trial Examinations	Thu 8 March	German Exchange Parents' Briefing, 7.00pm
Thu 25 January	Berlin Trip Parents' Briefing, 7.00pm		Spring Sinfonia Concert, 7.30pm
	Adolescence, Technology and Mental Health Evening, 7.30pm	Fri 9 March	Year 10 Phase 2 Reports issued
Fri 26 January	Holocaust Remembrance Service, 8.45am	Sat 10 March	WCGC: Science Day, 8.30am
Tue 30 January	Year 11 A Level Taster Sessions	Mon 12 March	Year 9 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm
Thu 1 February	Year 11 Intermediate Mathematics Challenge	Thu 15 March	Musicology Seminar, 3.45pm
	Year 12 Phase 2 Reports issued	16-18 March	CCF Combat Cadet Competition
Fri 2 February	Charity Comedy & Curry Night, 7.00pm	Fri 16 March	Year 11 Phase 3 (Targeted) Reports issued
	Year 11 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm		Royal Festival Hall visit, 4.45pm
Mon 5 February	Careers in Medicine Evening, 7.00pm	17-23 March	Year 10 Geology visit to Swanage
Wed 7 February	Year 9 Phase 2 Reports issued	Wed 21 March	Careers in STEM Evening, 7.00pm
Thu 8 February	Musicology Seminar, 3.45pm	22-29 March	French Exchange visit to Rouen
9-17 February	Ski Trip to Austria	Fri 23 March	Charity Quiz Night, 7.00pm
12-16 February	<b>SPRING HALF TERM</b>	Mon 26 March	Theatre trip to see Wicked, 4.45pm
12-18 February	History visit to Germany	Wed 28 March	Year 7 Phase 2 Reports issued
Mon 19 February	<b>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY</b>		Charity Non-Uniform Day
Tue 20 February	'Helping Parents to Help Their Children' evening, 7.00pm	Thu 29 March	<b>SPRING TERM ENDS, 2.45pm</b>
23 February-3 March	Year 7 Charity Week	12-21 April	German Exchange visit to Bonn
		Mon 16 April	<b>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY</b>
		Tue 17 April	<b>SUMMER TERM BEGINS, 8.45am</b>

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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