



**Westcliff High School**  
for Boys

# **The Westcliff Diary**

**T:** 01702 475443 **E:** [office@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:office@whsb.essex.sch.uk) **W:** [www.whsb.essex.sch.uk](http://www.whsb.essex.sch.uk)

## **ISSUE 86 / SPRING 2019**

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE HEADMASTER

### WELCOME BACK FROM THE HEADMASTER

I am delighted to welcome pupils back at the start of our Spring Term and I hope that pupils and parents had an enjoyable and restful Christmas holiday.

I am most grateful to pupils and parents for their excellent attendance and conduct at School. At present, our statistics for both attendance and behaviour continue to exceed national levels and we shall continue to work hard to maintain and, where possible, improve our record. Fortunately, we now receive very few requests for extended leave of absence for holidays. Good attendance is important as the School's performance data shows a strong correlation between days missed from School and academic underperformance.

I fully understand that any parents taking their son/daughter out of lessons on holidays have no intention of damaging

their child's educational prospects but, unfortunately, our data indicates that is a 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 also the case that prioritising holidays over School can send an unintended message regarding the importance of School attendance.

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 to overcome difficulties is for parents and the School to work together to provide coherent and consistent guidance and support. It is important that issues are addressed in order that poor routines do not become habitual and so create a barrier which prevents a pupil from reaching his/her full potential.

### DONATIONS

The School is fortunate to have received numerous donations from parents, Old Westcliffians and other members of our wider community. I would like to take this opportunity to record our thanks to Mr Glyn Treasure for his generous donation of a superb sample of 'jade' for the Geology Department's display. The samples on display are used on a regular basis by Mr Cooper and Mr Marlow as a highly effective and important teaching resource. The School would also like to thank the Old Westcliffian Lodge for their generous donation of a bespoke School Flag. The donation involves the provision of a ceremonial flag to be used on special occasions as well as a School flag for regular daily use. If you are interested in making a donation to the School then please contact me through my Personal Assistant, Mrs Robinson ([robinsonc@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:robinsonc@whsb.essex.sch.uk)) to discuss your thoughts.



### CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

It is also just twelve months to go before we commence the School's Centenary Year. In previous editions of *The Westcliff Diary*, I have referenced the School's Centenary Committee and I am pleased to have this opportunity to share some further details of the School's Centenary Plans with the School Community.

The Centenary Committee has established five aims for the Centenary year and these are to:

- Provide a celebration for the entire WHSB community (past and present) to mark the Year;
- Establish a Centenary Fund to fund improvements to our sports and recreational facilities;
- Use our Centenary to further promote the School within the local area;
- Fully exploit the education opportunities arising from the Centenary;
- Improve our alumni network to bring about sustained benefits for the School.

The Centenary programme will run across the calendar year 2020, throughout which

### PUPIL PARTICIPATION

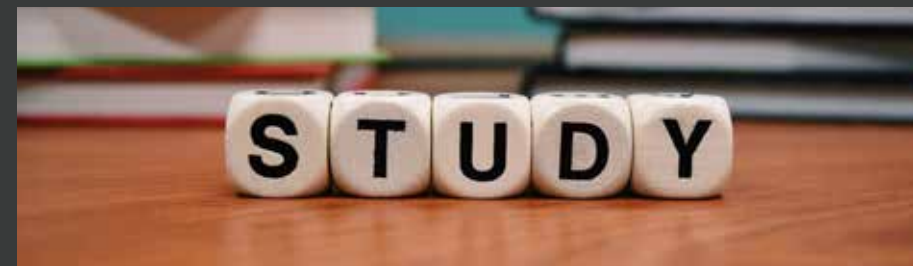
I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents for the support they provide to their children, encouraging and enabling them to attend Westcliff Diary events. In the last two or three years, we have seen a significant growth in the numbers attending evening music events and Saturday sports fixtures. I would strongly encourage parents to support and encourage your son/daughter to attend at least two evening Westcliff Diary events this term. In particular, I draw to your attention our music concerts, drama production (Guys & Dolls) and Lectures. 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.

### 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. It is most important for Year 11 pupils

we will be holding an exciting variety of events and projects. The Official Launch will take place on 1 February 2020 at the Cliffs Pavilion. This will be a Gala Dinner which will commence with a Drinks Reception at 6.00pm, followed by a formal Dinner at 7.00pm. Live entertainment will follow, featuring current pupils and alumni of the School, along with a raffle of luxury prizes and a special auction. Tickets will be available via TicketSource. We shall also be joining with Westcliff High School for Girls (WHSG) to host a Garden Party in June 2020, recognizing that both WHSG and WHSB share a common foundation (The Commercial School 1920). During this special year, there will be a Centenary-themed Sports Day, Special Centenary Lectures, Centenary House Activities and Exhibitions, not to mention a strong Centenary theme running through our Music and Drama programmes.

The School has recently established a Centenary Fund and we hope to raise a significant amount to improve sporting and recreational facilities for our pupils. It is hoped that this fund will help to ensure that current and future generations of pupils will be able to benefit from the fund. The retreat of State funding has meant that Schools, such as WHSB,



to understand that their GCSE grades are the only actual public examination data on which universities can draw when considering students' Higher Education applications. Therefore, pupils 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 pupils must understand the scale of the challenge presented by GCSE Examinations, and the need to reach their full potential next summer in order to provide a secure platform for Post 16 education.

Year 13 students need to make the most of the opportunity provided by the Spring Trial Examinations. The Phase 2 Reports issued prior to the end of term indicated that, whilst many students had performed well, a significant minority had fallen below their target grades. It is important that

these students sharpen their knowledge and examination technique ahead of the actual examinations this summer. This necessitates ensuring there is a methodical revision programme in place now, to prepare the students for full engagement with the A Level Trial Examination questions.

I encourage both Year 11 and Year 13 students to heed the words of Mr Farrell and Dr Machacek regarding study methods. It is important to have a structured revision plan broken down into days and weeks. Remember that the majority of revision does not require the use of a computer. The focus should be on the understanding and retention of knowledge as well as practising past examination questions under timed conditions. I would encourage parents to discuss revision plans with their son/daughter and assist them by ensuring electronic devices (phones, laptops, etc) are set aside.

### PUPIL SUCCESSES

The Westcliff Diary and the School's Annual Speech Day provide wonderful opportunities to celebrate the many successes of our pupils at School. Of course, we know there is also much that our pupils achieve outside of School and I would particularly like to offer our congratulations to Alex Usher who has successfully re-auditioned to continue with the National Youth Orchestra, and who has also been appointed as the Orchestra's principal bass clarinetist.



must look to raise funds in order to continue to offer a high quality, well-rounded education for its pupils and to sustain its reputation for excellence in the 21st Century. We are also seeking sponsorship for Centenary events such as the Official Launch event and, should you be interested in sponsoring an event, we would be delighted to hear from you. Subject to our sponsors' agreement, their

details will be displayed at the event and published in our Centenary programmes, materials and related press releases through this special year. Please contact me through my Personal Assistant, Mrs Robinson ([robinsonc@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:robinsonc@whsb.essex.sch.uk)) for further details and to discuss these opportunities. Further options also exist for individuals or businesses who wish to contribute directly to the Centenary Fund

by standing order or a one-off donation and I would be pleased to discuss the arrangements with potential donors.

The School has commissioned a book recording the history of the School's first 100 years. We are delighted that Dr Alan White has agreed to undertake this significant project. We expect copies of the book to go on sale in the Spring of 2020 and details of how to order a copy shall be circulated later this year. As part of the same project, Dr White will be providing historical detail boards, recording notable events or individuals from the School's history, and these will be displayed in the corridors of our Main Building. We shall also establish a Centenary Room to present and hold items from the School's archive and other memorabilia. We would welcome donations from Old Westcliffians of pictures and other items of memorabilia to hold and display in the Centenary Room. Please contact myself or the Community Development Office if you have any items you wish to donate to the School for this purpose.

I look forward to providing further details of our plans for the Centenary year in future editions of *The Westcliff Diary*.





## FROM THE DESK OF THE HEADMASTER

### CAPITAL PROJECT

I am pleased to inform our School community that the capital project to refurbish the Technology Building and extend our Science facilities is now completed. The School took possession of the refurbished Technology Building in September 2018 and we shall move into our brand new 90m<sup>2</sup> Science laboratory later this month. The new Science laboratory is an excellent addition to our recently refurbished Science facilities and this means that the School is now fortunate to have state-of-the-art accommodation for the teaching of Science. The new Science accommodation also includes the provision of increased circulation space in the Science Building, as well as a redesigned north entrance and exit for the building.



### THE INTERNET: HOMEWORK AND MOBILE PHONES

I have previously written to parents regarding the importance of discussing responsible Internet use with their children and agreeing sensible parameters. We recommend shutting down the Internet after 9.00pm, and agreeing with children that internet-enabled devices, such as mobile phones, are not kept in bedrooms. There is an increasing amount of research suggesting a strong correlation between adolescent wellbeing and the use of the Internet. I would also like to take this opportunity to remind parents that the majority of homework assignments do not require the use of the Internet. Most homework assignments require the use of textbooks and/or a pupil's notebook. The School encourages pupils to complete homework away from Internet-enabled devices, including mobile phones.

I would also like to remind you that pupils are advised not to bring their mobile phones to School. Those who choose to bring a mobile phone to School are

required to adhere to the School's rules in relation to mobile phones. In the event that parents wish their son/daughter to have a mobile phone for their journey to and from School, I strongly advise that parents provide a mobile phone which is not Internet-enabled. It is our experience that young people need assistance in learning how to effectively manage their time online. It is also the case that a significant number of young people find the Internet addictive and spend an excessive amount of time on social media or gaming. It is the School's experience that too many young people struggle to manage their use of the Internet. As I have previously shared with parents, home and School must work together to help pupils develop good habits with regard to Internet usage.

### STAFF CHANGES FOR THE SPRING TERM

We are delighted to welcome Ms Adams, Teacher of English, who joins us in January 2019 to cover the majority of Mrs Koutas' teaching during her maternity leave. Ms Adams is a highly experienced teacher

who has previously taught at WHSB. She will be joined by Mrs Marlow, Teacher of English, who will teach the remainder of Mrs Koutas' timetable. Mrs Marlow worked for many years at WHSB in a number of senior roles. We also say farewell to Mrs Barber who is currently on Maternity leave. We are most grateful to Mrs Barber for her service as a Biology teacher and we wish her and her family well for the future.

We were also pleased to welcome Mr Ayling during the Autumn Term to teach Chemistry. I am delighted that we have recently recruited two Old Westcliffians, Mr Nowotarski and Mr Mumford, to return to the School to join our support staff. We also welcome Mr Wall who joins us as the newest member of our splendid Premises Team.

I would like to finish by giving my best wishes to pupils, staff and parents for the term ahead.

### UNIFORM SHOP

Uniform, and other essential School items, can be purchased online via the School website at [www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/uniform](http://www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/uniform). Online orders will, under normal circumstances, be available for pupils to collect from Reception within two School days of submission. Pupils will be notified when their orders are ready via their Form Tutor at morning or afternoon registration.

The Uniform Shop, located in the East Basement, will normally open after School on Mondays during Term Time between 3.45pm and 4.45pm and on specified dates/times at the end of the School's summer break prior to the start of the new academic year. When open, items of uniform can be tried on for size and purchases made. Cash, cheque and debit/credit card payments are accepted. Parents will be notified of the Uniform Shop's summer holiday opening hours prior to the end of the summer term.

For items of uniform required in a size that is not normally stocked by the shop, please contact the Uniform Shop via e-mail: [uniform@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:uniform@whsb.essex.sch.uk).

Miss A Mayne  
Uniform Shop Manager

### ENCOURAGING RESILIENCE AND OFFERING SUPPORT: HOW TO HELP YOUR SON DEVELOP GOOD MENTAL HEALTH

Tuesday 12 February 2019, 7.00pm

The recent positive movement promoting openness about mental health sometimes leaves adults feeling overwhelmed and under-prepared to deal with the ensuing discussions with the young people in their lives. The Pastoral Team at WHSB has specialist training in how to help young people in the area of mental health and we



would like to share some of our training and experience with parents through an evening of workshops.

These workshops will be facilitated by members of the Pastoral Team and the professionals with whom we work beyond the School. There will be advice on how to encourage resilience and the, as well as helping parents to balance the need for providing support and knowing what to do if a mental health issue arises. Parents will also have the opportunity, if they wish, to discuss their particular concerns about their son or daughter with a trained professional.

First-aid training for physical wellbeing is valued and undertaken, even though we never really expect to use the knowledge. The same approach should be considered in relation to mental health and we look forward to seeing you on 12th February. Please register your interest using TicketSource.

Mrs K Mumford  
Assistant Head

### GUYS AND DOLLS

Hailed as the perfect musical comedy, *Guys and Dolls* swaggers into WHSB in February 2019 for three glorious nights. This sizzling New York tale of gamblers, gangsters and nightclub singers (and a missionary) features some of Broadway's greatest show-stopping tunes, including *Luck be a Lady*, *Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat* and *Guys and Dolls*.

The show is based around the short stories of Alfred Damon Runyon, an American newspaperman, and short story writer whose stories celebrated the Broadway world of New York, a world that grew out of the Prohibition era. Runyon's characters were the distinctive social types of Brooklyn or Midtown, and his stories of gamblers, hustlers and gangsters were highly popular across the city. The musical *Guys and Dolls* itself is based on two

of his stories: *The Idyll of Miss Sarah Brown* and *Blood Pressure*. The musical additionally borrows characters and story elements from a few other Runyon stories, most notably, *Pick The Winner*.

The story, within the musical, centres around small-time gambler, Nathan Detroit, who has been eloping from getting married with his girlfriend, Adelaide, for 14 years. Nathan needs \$1,000 in advance to rent a place for the craps game but neither he, nor his friends, Nicely-Nicely Johnson and Benny Southstreet, can afford this. Nathan decides to bet against the gambler, Sky Masterson, challenging him to have a dinner in Havana with a woman of Nathan's choice. Sky accepts the bet and Nathan chooses the prim Sergeant Sarah Brown, who runs a mission for sinners. Sky visits Sarah and invites her to have dinner with him in Havana; in return, he would bring one dozen sinners to the mission. Sarah refuses the deal, but when General Cartwright comes to New York to shut down the mission, Sarah feels that the only chance to keep the mission operating is accepting Sky's invitation. They travel to Havana and fall in love with each other; but when they return to the mission, Sarah discovers that Nathan used the place for his craps game. Further, she believes that Sky has plotted the scheme to use her. Now Sky has to convince the gamblers and gangsters that arrived in New York to the craps game that they should go to the mission to help Sarah. To find out what happens in the end, you will have to come and watch the show!

Performances take place at 7.30pm on the evenings of Thursday 7, Friday 8 and Saturday 9 February 2019 in the Main Hall. Tickets are available on TicketSource. We hope you will join us again at Westcliff for this unmissable feel-good show!

Mr B Jeffreys  
Director of Drama



## CHARITY YEAR 2018-19

Once again, it is the time of year during which charity events at WHSB are in full swing. My name is Milo Challis and I am the Chairman of the Charity Committee for this year, and I will be supported by the Vice Chairs, Kieran Williams and Adanna Achebe. The events held in the Autumn Term were a great success and I would like to extend my thanks for everyone's generosity in supporting these events. We have many more events planned for the rest of this academic year, from eating challenges at break time to quiz nights after School.

This year, the two amazing charities we have chosen to sponsor are Save the Children and HARP.

HARP is a local charity devoted in its cause to help the homeless in Southend-on-Sea. They do this through supplying food and care packages to those left on the streets and by also running local homeless shelters to temporarily house those without a permanent home. As the days and nights become colder in the winter season, their work becomes particularly challenging and even more important.

Save the Children is a global charity striving to help underprivileged children. They run initiatives in numerous different countries around the globe, including Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Ukraine, Brazil, Colombia and closer to home in the UK. They provide aid and supplies to those in areas of conflict or extreme poverty, whilst saving numerous lives of defenceless children worldwide.

As a School community, we can play an important part in helping those much less fortunate than ourselves and your involvement in our plans for this Charity Year are crucial to its success. The dates to keep in your diary are 1 February, 29 March, 3 May and 12 July. This academic year we are also introducing a system whereby pupils can buy a wristband in advance which will give them access to all of the particular day's events. These wristbands will be available via ParentPay and their price will be determined before each day of events.



Finally, I would like to thank Mrs Mumford, Mr Sinnott and Dr Machacek for their tireless help and advice in helping to run these events and I would also like to extend my thanks to the Charity Year Committee for the part they have played.

Milo Challis  
Year 12



## GERMANY HISTORY TRIP 2019

18-23 February 2019

The WHSB History Department is returning to Germany during the February Half Term with 23 Historians and three teachers to explore aspects of German History. We will start in Munich, an area rich in historical legacy from the Nazi era, before moving on to Nuremberg, the mediaeval city that became infamous for huge-scale Nazi party rallies. Dining in historic Weimar on the way, we will spend the bulk of our time in Berlin, visiting the incredible German National History Museum, the Reichstag and seeing key historical sites, such as Checkpoint Charlie, the Brandenburg Gate and the Berlin Wall. We also plan to explore the legendary Berlin night life, visiting a jazz bar and show. In the month before Brexit, it will be fascinating to uncover and review Germany's rich history, and to consider her present and future.

## HISTORY DAYS OUT

Saturday 30 March 2019

This year, the WHSB History Department is launching its *History Days Out* programme. Our plan is to provide an interesting visit on a Saturday once per term to a place of historical significance. This programme started on Saturday 8 December with a day out at The White Tower, or Tower of London. We were joined by academic historian, Dr Michael Schmoeltz, who was a great success in supporting our recent Year 11 trips to Norwich and Pevensey. In the Spring Term, there will be a further trip to Bletchley Park and, in the Summer Term, we will visit Chatham Dockyards. This opportunity is open to all pupils throughout the School and any interested pupil should collect a form from the Main School Office.



## HISTORY TALKS

Tuesday 22 January 2019 & Tuesday 19 March 2019, 7.30pm

This year, the History Department is pleased to welcome into School a range of interesting and stimulating speakers. On Thursday 6 December, military historian, Andy Robertshaw, visited the School to work with senior History students on primary documents and to deliver an evening talk, entitled *1918 and the Hundred Days*. On Tuesday 22 January, the History Department will be welcoming Dr Michael Schmoeltz of the University of East Anglia to speak on the topic *Dedicated Followers of Fashion: Pilgrims and Pilgrimage in the Middle Ages*. This will be a talk jointly hosted by the History and Religious Studies Departments.

Dr Marc Morris will also visit the School on Tuesday 19 March to speak on the topic of *Castles*, following his successful TV Documentary with the same title. Dr Morris is a highly regarded historian who has produced a string of beautifully written and well-received history works on diverse aspects of mediaeval History. We are very lucky to benefit from his insight into this topic which will be of particular interest to GCSE Historians.

All these talks are wonderful chances for our students to listen to and work with leading professional historians and we strongly encourage them to take up these enriching opportunities. Tickets are available through TicketSource, free for students and £2 for accompanying adults.

Mr B Jeffreys  
Head of History



## HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR: TALK TO YEAR 9 PUPILS

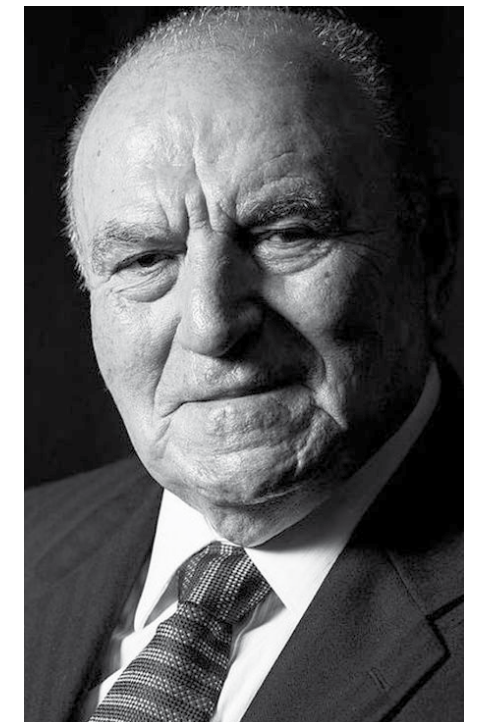
Tuesday 12 March 2019

On Tuesday 13 March, Year 9 pupils and our A Level Historians will have the opportunity to listen to the testimony of Leslie Kleinman on his experience during the Holocaust.

Mr Kleinman was born in Romania in 1929 into an Orthodox Jewish family and experienced the horrors of a ghetto before being taken to Auschwitz-Birkenau. Although he was only 14 years old, he was selected for work, whilst almost all other members of his family were taken straight to the gas chamber. With the Red Army approaching, Mr Kleinman was sent on a death march towards Germany, ending up at Dachau Concentration Camp and was ultimately liberated by American soldiers. After the war, Mr Kleinman emigrated to Canada and then relocated to the UK. Mr Kleinman is committed to ensuring that the horrors of the Holocaust are known to School children and he visits schools to tell his story.

The afternoon promises to be thought-provoking, providing Year 9 pupils with the unique chance to hear about some of the darkest days in History and to ask questions of a Holocaust survivor.

Mr S Neagus  
Teacher of History





## TRIPS & VISITS

### GERMAN EXCHANGE PUPILS IN WESTCLIFF

From 16 to 23 November 2018, our German exchange pupils were visiting WHSB, as they have done for many years. The visit went well and pupils and teachers, on both sides, enjoyed the adventure. Here is a report from some of the German pupils :

In the early morning on 16 November we arrived at the airport in London-Stansted. We travelled to WHSB by coach and put our suitcases into a room. After some free time in Southend we watched the film 'Fantastic Beasts' at the cinema, and in the afternoon we met our exchange partners and their families. During the following weekend, everybody had a different program with their exchange partners. Some students watched the football game (England vs Croatia), others visited London or Southend or went to their partner's sports training. During the following week we made day trips to London and Cambridge and we spent a day in School where we participated in lessons. On the last day we went to School again and then flew back to Germany in the afternoon.

The exchange was an interesting experience for all, even for the students who had participated in the exchange before. It was a great opportunity to improve our English skills and to get to know England.

*Thale Orucevic, Colin Weiß, Noah Hörmann, Henri Bartram and Sebastian Weins*



### WEINS LANGT SIOAN VIO HOFUM SEST ('LONG TIME NO SEE' IN ICELANDIC)

6-9 April 2019

That's right, the Geography Department's trip to Iceland is back. Not only that, but it is now open to all students in Years 10 to 13 and it is going to be great! Iceland is every geographer and every adventurer's dream. From its majestic volcanoes to its black sand beaches, its geothermal hot springs to the northern lights: it has just about everything. In April 2019, 3 intrepid teachers and 35 students will be travelling to Reykjavik for 3 nights to experience all that Iceland has to offer. The trip was oversubscribed and has a waiting list this year, so the hope is to run the trip biennially to allow all students the chance to visit. The anticipated cost is between £800 and £850. Please cross your fingers in the hope that we have a glimpse of the elusive aurora borealis!

*Miss F Dolan  
Second in Geography*



### ATOM DAY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF READING: A RETROSPECTIVE

On 19 September 2018, accompanied by Mr Marriott, twelve Year 13 students and I attended the ATOM insight day at the University of Reading. It was a good opportunity to explore the other options available, as an alternative to medicine, for A Level Biologists and Chemists. I enjoyed meeting academics who research and teach different courses at Undergraduate level. They were very happy to answer questions about their experience, and provided some valuable information about their courses. I would recommend this to all students who are interested in the medical field, but are not entirely convinced that the study of medicine itself is for them.

Through this, I realised that medicine is just one of the many options available and it has opened my eyes to the wide range of scientific degree fields, of which I was previously unaware. The different areas that were explored in further detail included Sports Science, Food Science, Biomedical Science, Pharmaceutical Science and Chemistry. A careers session was also available, which gave further insight into different career options for the future.

I relished the opportunity to work with high-spec laboratory equipment and gain a general understanding of what an undergraduate student would study and experience on a day-to-day basis. Overall, the workshops and lectures provided great information to give an overview of the alternative degree courses to medicine. I highly recommend it.

*Debbyka Allan  
Year 13*

### LORD DANNATT'S ROUND BRITAIN CHALLENGE

Lord Dannatt's Round Britain Challenge was truly a life changing experience in which I am so grateful to have taken part. We left London as a disjointed group of cadets and veterans, most of whom had never sailed, but it did not take long to notice that we would leave the Challenge as a crew, even lifelong friends. At first, we may only have had the seasickness in common, but we later bonded and, by the time we arrived in Edinburgh, tears were shed.

I participated in the first leg from London to Edinburgh. We left in beautiful summer weather, with the mercury hitting 30 degrees as we departed HMS President for the Thames. It was truly a magical first day as sailed through Tower Bridge. The Bridge was opened up twice to allow us to go through and back; a truly wonderful spectacle I shall never forget. After the first day of sailing down the Thames, we anchored just off Southend Pier, my hometown, for the night. We then set sail in the morning; all seemed calm, with everyone feeling that sailing would be a breeze. However, the swaying increased the further away we sailed from shore as the waves became larger and larger. It was then that the ship-wide epidemic of seasickness began! As time passed, we all became used to the natural sway of the ship in the waves, some even finding the swaying an aid to sleeping. I did not agree, but still became used to it. We all had the opportunity to climb the masts to set the sails; this was a terrifying but amazing experience. At first, I was petrified at the thought of climbing up a



ladder onto a small platform high up on a ship that swayed, but the harnesses gave reassurance and, once up there, it was amazing. Then came the even more terrifying task of walking along the yards to set the sails. This involved climbing the mast and then walking out over the sea on the yards to set the sails. This was the scariest part of the trip and, whilst recognising this was a once in the lifetime opportunity, I could not wait to get back down onto the deck.

Although no official plan was made, we were expecting to make a stop along the UK east coast. However, instead we experienced the brutal nature of the

North Sea, with a vicious storm which would not allow us to go back towards England. We continued sailing out further into the North Sea, reaching close to Denmark at one point. Despite our best attempts to try to sail around the storm, we experienced massive waves and strong gales making our sailing trip ever more 'authentic'. This led to more seasickness, just when everyone had become used to the swaying. We had a secret weapon to defeat the nausea: ginger biscuits. They soon became our best friends as we were informed that ginger would help with the nausea. The packets depleted rapidly, as those going on watch to steer the ship took their supplies of ginger biscuits.

As the adventure of a lifetime drew to an end, it was evident the ship would be sorely missed and, even more so, we would miss each other. It was truly a highlight in my life. I will never forget this experience, nor the people, and it has given me many great stories to tell. I hope to keep in touch with my fellow crew members in the future; we will always be the Lord Nelson's crew thanks to this amazing trip. I am ever grateful.

*Gabriel Leroy  
Former Year 11*





## TRIPS & VISITS

### GEOLOGY FIELD VISIT TO DORSET

23-29 March 2019

Investigating Geology in the field is a compulsory requirement of the GCSE course. Later this academic year, between Saturday 23 March and Friday 29 March 2019, Year 10 Geologists will be visiting famous locations such as Lulworth Cove, Durdle Door, Durlston Head and the Isle of Portland in Dorset in order to study their subject. Much of the Dorset coastline has UNESCO World Heritage status and a wide range of topics can be investigated including minerals, rocks and fossils, and also larger-scale studies related to plate tectonics and

the geological history of the area. Man's impact on the environment from mining and quarrying will also be studied from our base in Swanage. This part of Dorset is a world-renowned area for geological studies and Westcliff students will have the opportunity to build their knowledge and understanding of field Geology throughout the week. All this can be done whilst gaining an enjoyment and appreciation of being within a beautiful landscape, itself governed by the geology of Dorset.

*Mr N Cooper  
Head of Geology*



### COLCHESTER ZOO: A RETROSPECTIVE

On Friday 21 September 2018, Year 8 pupils from WHSB travelled to Colchester Zoo with hopes of seeing different animals in their natural habitat, which came to pass.

When we finally arrived we were divided into groups and started our exploration of the colossal zoo. As we navigated our way around, our first port of call was the chimpanzees swinging through their lookout. I was amazed at how strong they were, being able to swing from one place to another. However, it was sad to discover that they were endangered and listed on the Appendix I of CITES (Convention on International Trade in

Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora).

We participated in some remarkable activities and had the opportunity to feed the elephants, giraffes and horses. We had a walk through the Butterfly Glade, which houses both beautiful butterflies and exotic plants and flowers. My group discovered that the Butterfly Glade is dedicated to the memory of a special girl, Isobel Rose Parmenter, who died of Langerhans Cell Histiocytosis (LCH) on 5 October 2014.

The Lion Rock was another interesting animal encounter – this houses three African Lions, considered to be 'The Kings of The Jungle/Forest'. They were majestic creatures, yawning like they have had a tiring day, waiting for dinner to be

brought. Then, in one fluid movement, one was up and stretching, just the same as a house-cat.

Towards the end of our visit, my group went inside the Playa Patagonia and walked through the underwater tunnel. The glass is 10cm thick and the enclosure holds a total of 500,000 gallons of water, just to make the sea lions feel at home; the Playa Patagonia houses 5 female sea lions, twisting and turning through the water.

I enjoyed my time at Colchester Zoo: it was filled with beautifully-designed animal enclosures, the staff were very friendly and took time to answer all of our questions. I had many highlights such as feeding some of the animals, getting cosy with the lemurs and meeting animals I have never seen before in real life, and not just from the Discovery Channel.

*Daniel Oke  
Year 8*



### WORLD CHALLENGE CROATIA: A RETROSPECTIVE

During the summer 2018, a group of Year 9 and 10 pupils flew to Croatia to take part in the World Challenge Scheme that was recently introduced to the School thanks to the work of Miss Isaac and Mr Steel. Ultimately, the trip was an unforgettable experience which lived up to everyone's expectations. The pupils who participated were able to experience everything that the World Challenge Scheme was about, such as seeing new places and experiencing new cultures. Here is a day-by-day description of what we experienced, and why all our hard work in fundraising to allow us go on the trip was well worth it.

Day 1: On the first Sunday of the summer break, the WHSB World Challenge group met at the School very early in the morning to head off to the airport. We were flying from London Stansted to Split in Croatia, and after some searching for lost bags at the airport (no names mentioned...) we boarded the plane with high expectations for the coming week. We landed in Split and, after collecting our bags and an eventual trip to a Croatian Supermarket, we arrived at our first campsite very late that night.

Day 2: Following probably the most sleepless night of my life (sharing a tent with two teenage boys did not help the matter) we woke up hearing the news that a thunderstorm was set to arrive in a few hours. Unfortunately, this ruined our chances of enjoying the scheduled activity of sea kayaking, so we instead headed out on an educational walk around the area, taking in some of the views which lay in our surrounding region and going for a swim to test the waters. Although not one of the most physically tiring of days, it was still enticing and interesting – the sights will stay in all of our minds forever. Dinner was our first challenge, cooking for 23 people with only 6 Trangia stoves at the best of times is difficult. But for us, the storm arrived around dinner time and we all gasped in horror as we witnessed flying pasta. Growing hungry and disappointed, tension was high in the camp. Thankfully, we all managed to get a bowl of food eventually.

Day 3: This was the day the trip began fully. The early start was painful for many of us, and the lukewarm porridge did not exactly help the matter. Nevertheless, we began our trek up the mountains within Paklenica National Park. The heat was stifling, however through good team

support, and the group members being effective communicators, everyone managed to push through. After multiple hours of the uphill struggle we reached our accommodation – the Mountain Hut. The Mountain Hut was surprisingly refreshing – supposedly seen as a break from sleeping on rolls of foam on hard rocky ground.

Day 4: This was the day that separated the men from the boys as it was the day we, as a group, completed the task of climbing 'Black Peak'. Standing at over 1,100m high, the views from the top were simply incredible. Even though morale was low following a tuna paste wrap for lunch, the sights that we saw were an effective way to boost everyone's moods. After around two hours up and two hours down, we once again headed back to our base of the Mountain Hut to relax and take part in activities such as swimming in the natural swimming pool, which was not warm!

Day 5: We began our descent out of Paklenica National Park, after taking in the outstanding views for one last time. Another trip to a supermarket was needed. This time the necessary adjustments were made from our evaluation of our last shopping escapades. We were escorted in some white mini vans to a new campsite, and with the sun setting behind us, we looked on to the next stage of our adventure.

Day 6: This was the final stage of our adventure. It was a two-day river trek, either side of a wild camp. On Friday we set off in our two-man canoes, carrying all of our kit. It is fair to say that people had different levels of experience and ability on the river, but everyone worked really hard, even if it was out of their own comfort zone. Once again, the scenery was spectacular throughout the trek, and it really was an unforgettable experience. The levels of communication and team work were something I had never experienced before – it was a truly beautiful two days. As mentioned

previously we 'wild camped' in a remote location on a small island on the river on the Friday night, with mountains surrounding us. We had to dig out our fire pit before we could start cooking. This was time-consuming and we did find a small scorpion hiding under the rocks. The wildfire barbecue, although not the most efficient way of cooking, did satisfy our meat cravings. We sang a Westcliff Hymn around the campfire and watched the brilliant night sky till it was time to crawl into our tents. It was a great way to finish a fantastic day.

Day 7: On the Saturday morning we continued on the raft trek journey, and this day was even better due to the increased number of rapids and mini waterfalls that we encountered. Although the heat was a struggle, we did finally manage to reach our destination; a lovely campsite where we would spend our final night as a group. That night was concluded by our first real meal of the week – the restaurant food was a lovely change to the food we had been eating!

Day 8: On our final day we headed back, and after the return flight we arrived back in England and went our separate ways, off to enjoy the remaining weeks of our summer break (which were much needed for recovery!).

In conclusion, the trip was sensational, allowing us to see things that many of us have never seen before, whilst at the same time challenging ourselves and making friends with people with whom we did not think we had much in common. It was fantastic, and I would like to say a huge thank you to Miss Isaac and Mr Steel on behalf of everyone for taking us on such an adventure. I have heard that this trip is already in the pipeline to take place again in the future, and I would highly recommend it to any WHSB pupil aspiring to experience new things and places.

*Oliver Hale  
Year 11*





## TRIPS & VISITS

### TRIP TO THE MORVAN NATIONAL PARK AND LYON: A RETROSPECTIVE

Year 13 French students enjoyed an enormously successful study trip to France during the October Half Term. Our first two days were spent in Burgundy learning about the Maquis, the French guerrilla resistance fighters who were very active in this area of rural France during WW2, and who played a pivotal role in the liberation of France in the summer of 1944. In addition, and on our first evening, students had the opportunity to interview a local retired History teacher, Monsieur Claude Pequiot, who spoke to them about his

memories of the liberation of France that summer.

On the Tuesday, we travelled to the Resistance Museum in St Brisson, where the museum's director, Madame Aurore Callewaert spoke to the students about life in the area during the War with a particular focus on the Maquis and their collaboration with the Allies and the SAS. That afternoon, we visited the museum in Dun-les-Places, one of the martyred villages of Burgundy where in June 1944, soldiers of the retreating German army massacred 27 villagers and burned the houses. Our guide for this visit was Monsieur Claude Pichot, the son of one of the victims of the massacre, and who spoke to the students about his memories of that day, but also of riding around the village square in the Americans' jeeps following the village's liberation. His message to our students was clear:

we have a responsibility to educate our young people as otherwise, the embers of fascism have the potential to reignite. Our day ended with a moving visit to the memorial in Ouroux where Maquis fighters were buried alongside their SAS counterparts. This "cemetery" is hidden deep in the woods, away from the villages, and therefore is a place of deep and still reflection. Our two Deputy Head Boys led our tributes; Callum Finnigan laid a wreath, and Marcus Kelly played a most moving last post which resonated deep in the forest.

Following breakfast on the Wednesday, we travelled to Autun where we enjoyed a quick visit to the cathedral and its impressive 12th century Tympanum which depicts the last judgement, before moving on to Lyon from where we took the Funicular up to the old town to admire the Basilica, the impressive views and the stunning Roman Amphitheatres, all of which form part of the UNESCO World Heritage site.

Our last full day was spent at the Centre d'Histoire de la Déportation et de la Résistance which is housed in the former Gestapo Headquarters, and at the Prison Montluc which is where thousands of French citizens were held before being deported to labour and concentration camps.

Trips like this really bring learning to life. Yes, we can learn by reading books and carrying out our own research, but the abiding memory of this trip will be that we collectively felt that we had experienced something very special. Having the opportunity to interview people about their own lived experiences of this period of French history may not be possible for much longer, and the students realised how fortunate they were.

I would like to thank everyone in France for their help and hospitality, and colleagues at WHSB who helped with the organisation, and I would particularly like to thank my parents for welcoming us to their house. I would also like to thank the students for embodying each and every strand of our Learner Profile, and for being such charming company.

Mrs J Williams  
Senior Tutor



### CHEMISTRY AT WORK YEAR 10 TRIP: A RETROSPECTIVE

This trip, organised by the Science Department for 27 Year 10 pupils, was a great opportunity to explore the way Chemistry can have an effect on our everyday lives. The various presentations showed us some career paths that incorporate Chemistry and explained aspects of the Science involved.

After arriving at School early and a short coach trip, we arrived at the London Cruise Terminal at Tilbury and were immediately directed towards our first presentation of the day. Two representatives from Anglian Water came to present on the Chemistry of purifying water. This was fascinating because, as well as showing us the many separation processes involved (something that is part of our Chemistry GCSE course), it highlighted to us some of the Chemistry-related jobs, such as engineers who look to make the processes more efficient. It was particularly thought-provoking to find out that some of the highest earners in Anglian Water have Chemistry or Chemical Engineering degrees!

The next presentation was on the field of medicine, and specifically pharmacy, where we were challenged to answer quiz questions on statistics about pharmacies and the service they provide. The answers to some of these questions were surprising, such as the vast array of tasks that a pharmacist must undertake; not just handing out prescriptions.

Our third presentation was based on the Oil industry and was given to us by two employees of Genesis Oil and Gas. As well as supporting our understanding of fractional distillation (the process by which crude oil is separated), this highlighted the problem-solving skills required by top chemical engineers in designing the equipment to make the processes safe and effective.

Finally, after a short break, we came to what was (in my opinion) the most interesting presentation of the day. This was on radiation and its application in medicine. I found this the most stimulating, as it illustrated to us how everything emits some level of radiation, even a banana (due to the presence of a radioactive potassium isotope). We were also told how Positron Emission Tomography (PET) scans work using radiation, and this interested me in a career in advancing the medicinal applications of radiation.

Overall, this trip helped to open my eyes to the many ways in



which Chemistry is used in our everyday lives, and helped me to understand them. I feel that I have many new ideas about a future career in Science, and will consider working in one of these fields in the future. Thank you to Miss Tyson and Miss Lo for accompanying us on this interesting trip.

Hugo Turner-Dede  
Year 10





## TRIPS & VISITS

### SKI TRIP 2019

15 - 23 February 2019

The 2019 Ski Trip to Hochfügen will soon be underway, with WHSB returning to Pension Martina for the fourth year. This trip will offer 43 pupils, most of whom are beginners, with the chance to try a sport not offered in this country, whilst also immersing themselves in some Austrian culture. The 2020 trip will go to Sestriere, Italy, and we have increased the number of places to accommodate 80 pupils who will have the opportunity to participate in the sport. Both trips promise to be most enjoyable.

Mr Tresidder  
Teacher i/c Ski Trip



## MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

### MOTHER TONGUE, OTHER TONGUE POETRY COMPETITION 2018 SUCCESS

Through poetry writing, we gain mastery of language, we cultivate a robust vocabulary, we master literary devices, and we learn to work in imagery. In short, writing poetry can help us to improve our basic writing skills. However, poetry has other benefits that are meaningful on a more personal level. It offers a wealth of emotional and intellectual benefits that are valuable to personal growth, whether we are working on self-improvement, emotional or psychological coping and healing and developing relationships. All the more impressive then, if we can write a poem in a language which we have learnt as a second or third language.

The "Mother Tongue, Other Tongue" Poetry Competition is a multilingual poetry competition that celebrates cultural diversity and the many languages currently spoken in secondary schools in England. The Competition is organised every year by Routes into Languages East in partnership with Cambridge University's Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages, the Cambridge University Bilingualism Network and Murray Edwards College, Cambridge. Routes into Languages works to promote the take-up of languages through cooperation between universities, schools and colleges in England.



In the Summer Term of 2018, the Modern Languages Department publicised this year's competition, and many pupils in Key Stage 3 wrote poems in their own mother tongue, or in one of the languages they are learning at School. Raeed Chowdhury, who is now in Year 10, submitted an original poem in French called Les Bénédiction (Blessings), and this was sent off to the chair of the judging panel at Cambridge University. In his poem, Raeed challenges his reader to stop and enjoy the simple pleasures of everyday life instead of becoming too preoccupied with pressure and stress.

Raeed was invited to attend the reception for shortlisted finalists which took place on Wednesday 17 October at Murray Edwards College, Cambridge. After a reception for finalists, their families and the judges, the award winners were announced and we were delighted to hear that Raeed was awarded first place for

the Other Tongue competition. This is a remarkable achievement and one of which Raeed should be truly proud. We hope that Raeed's success will inspire more budding poets to write a poem in a foreign language for next year's competition.

Mrs J Williams  
Teacher of French

### LES BÉNÉDICTIONS

Le temps continue encore et encore,  
Ça bouge si vite,  
Et nous perdons de vue le don de la vie,  
Luxe inestimable.

Le temps continue encore et encore,  
La vie est une bénédiction.  
Toujours hâte de voir ce qui nous attend,  
Laissez vos pensées et votre sagesse se répandre.

Le temps continue encore et encore,  
Arrêtez-vous un moment et regardez autour de vous.  
Profitez des plaisirs les plus simples de la vie,  
Les petites choses s'ajoutent au vrai bonheur.

Le temps continue encore et encore,  
Mon père m'a dit une fois de vivre pour le lever du soleil.  
Quand vous voyez la lumière émergente  
Vous pouvez vraiment respecter le travail de Dieu.

Raeed Chowdhury  
Year 10

## SUMMER WRITING COMPETITION

Over the summer, the incoming Year 7 pupils were given the challenge of writing a book report as part of a summer writing competition set by the English Department.

The overall winner was Vahin Parti, of 7S, who wrote a sophisticated and impressive account of 'Theodore Boone' by John Grisham. His language and tone were very professional and Vahin clearly recommends the book to those who like detective fiction.

Pictured is Vahin receiving his certificate. The importance of reading cannot be underestimated and I strongly urge all pupils to actively read challenging texts as



part of their daily learning 'diet'.

Books can be borrowed from our wonderful school Library and students are recommended to frequent this space at break, lunch and after school.

Mr T Keenan  
KS3 English Co-ordinator

## VISIT OF BEN CRYSTAL

Claiming to 'read' songs or 'listen' to paintings usually attracts strange looks from people. So why are most of us first exposed to Shakespeare in the form of a tattered, tedious transcript? As the actor, Ben Crystal, proved during his visit to the School, the best way to study a Shakespeare play is through performance.

In October, GCSE and A Level English students were guided through a day of lectures and workshops, by Ben Crystal, on the Elizabethan Theatre.

Ben is son of the celebrated linguist, David Crystal, and came into School to talk about the project he completed with his father on OP, or Original Pronunciation. Having trawled through and scrutinised the complete body of Shakespeare's works, and that of Shakespeare's Renaissance contemporaries, the father and son duo noticed that all of those curious half rhymes and odd spellings of seemingly innocuous words actually reveal a truth about the accent with which people spoke in Elizabethan England – in turn, it changes our understanding of the language.

As Ben Crystal's father, David, says, "There is an inherent intellectual, cultural, and aesthetic fascination with the writing

## ENGLISH



that can be explored without reference to performance. But for me, it is always grounded in theatre practise. I take it as axiomatic that the aim of a play is to reach out to an audience, and anything that can remove a barrier, reduce the distance, without disturbing the text, is to be valued... The reason is that OP contains echoes of their own speech. Virtually everyone says, after listening to OP, 'we speak like that where I come from'. What they are noticing are the sounds in OP that are closest to their own experience. The closeness makes people more receptive, and thus a second comment is also common (including those who speak English as a second language): the plays become easier to understand.

Continued overleaf

## ESSEX YOUNG POET OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

At WHSB, we have a proud and strong tradition of being able to write. We have proud and strong tradition of being able to write well. Following in the legacy of Mr Allan-Smith, this year, Mr Keenan took up the mantle of reading and compiling all of our entries for the Essex Young Poet of the Year Competition. 'Competition was', Mr Keenan said, 'tough. Our boys write beautifully and with such style and independence.'

Having been whittled down from hundreds of entries to the last remaining few, Lakshya Kumar (Year 8) articulates his experience of being a shortlisted candidate:

*I sat on my chair, on the front row getting ready to read my poem out loud. I got up, accompanied with my anxiety. I walked up the stairs and took my rightly-deserved spot. The light shone on my face, as I opened my mouth to read aloud. I began reading my poem with confidence and expression. Once I finished, the audience applauded and I was given my certificate from the judge and I walked down the stage, hoping I had done everyone proud. I sat back down holding my certificate and poem, and watched my peer, Nathaniel, read his emotional and moving poem.*

*Overall, the day was great and I had a lot of fun, especially when I was reading my poem out loud.*

WHSB offers its most hearty and warm congratulations to Nathaniel Lewes and



Lakshya Kumar who did well to gain Highly Commended in this very competitive competition. They read their poems with poise and passion and were a credit to our School community.

Ms S McGowan  
KS4 English Co-ordinator



Ben's insight into performance was invaluable to the students in understanding how an actor approaches a text, using his own life-experience of playing Shakespearean characters - like *The Tempest's* Ariel. Through the close reading of soliloquies and scenes in *Romeo and Juliet* and *Othello*, Ben highlighted the subtleties of verse, particularly the metrical variance and puns accessible only through original pronunciation: how the words were said when the plays were written.

Particularly in terms of academic top level responses, the ability to discuss the merits of OP and the difference it makes to our understanding of a Shakespeare text is invaluable - but, on an infinitely more important and holistic level, our students found a new way 'in' to Shakespeare and a new way to enjoy his work.

Such experiences can never be taken for granted, and the students thank Ben Crystal and the English Department for organising the day.

Ms S McGowan/Daniel Pereira  
KS4 English Co-ordinator/Year 12

## LECTURE BY MR FRANK KEENAN OBE

As part of the WHSB English Department's enrichment provision, we were delighted to welcome Old Westcliffian, Mr Frank Keenan OBE, to deliver a lecture to our Year 10 pupils on the key contextual themes of the Alan Bennett play, *The History Boys*.

Mr Keenan's lecture addressed his own experience of preparing and sitting the Oxbridge examination at the School, as well as sharing his experiences as both a Deputy Head Teacher in Suffolk in the 1980s (when the play was set) and as a Head Teacher at St Thomas More High School for Boys between 1990 and 2005. His talk addressed key themes of the play, as well as explanation and analysis of the



changing nature of education in the 1980s and early 1990s through the Education Act of 1988 and the creation of Ofsted. Mr Keenan also discussed how financial management of a school had an impact on the decisions headteachers would have had to make during this time.

This material was highly valuable as part of the students' study in this area is to look at context and society featured within the play. Mr Keenan gave insightful information, mixed with humour and a plethora of stories from his school days.

In short, the boys gleaned much from Mr Keenan's 40-year career in Education. His passion and interest in the play, combined with his razor-sharp knowledge of the text, also showed how important it is for our pupils to connect the context with the text.

We look forward to Mr Keenan presenting a similar lecture for our Year 11 pupils in due course.

Mr T Keenan  
KS3 English Co-ordinator

## THE HABIT OF ART

On Monday 19 November 2018, 32 students in Years 10 to 12 saw *The Habit of Art* at the Palace Theatre, Westcliff-on-Sea. The students were able to gain an alternative view of Bennett's style of writing, further developing their knowledge of the playwright, given that the GCSE cohort study *The History Boys* is one of their pre-defined texts.

The play demonstrates a fictitious meeting between the poet, W. H. Auden, and the composer Benjamin Britten. The

play considers the friendship between the two, and the changes since they last met. Matthew Kelly brilliantly played the flippant poet, whilst David Yelland provided Britten with a seeming panache, although it was apparent that he himself had skeletons in his closet.

Whilst Auden and Britten had not seen each other for over 30 years, it was clear that the two had scores to settle. Discussions moved from the concept of sexuality and relationships, to the death and remembrance of the characters - themes which are synonymous of Bennett's usual writing.

The final vision of Bennett's is to present this meeting within the setting of a fictional play; throughout, it is clear to the playwright (of this play!) that the wording has been changed and the characters themselves discuss their own ultimate vision, with Auden often being critical of the way his character is originally portrayed. This allows the audience a greater understanding of the characters and their own historical significance within the context of the play.

As usual with Bennett's style of writing came the typical dry humour, providing the audience with moments of relief in the midst of an intriguing and dynamic production. All in all, the students were able to experience a fine theatrical experience, further developing their understanding of the playwright and his overall message.

Mr S Lilley  
Teacher of English

## PRODUCTION OF ROMEO & JULIET

The greatest love story ever told was beamed into the Westcliff Theatre on Wednesday 21 November 2018. Year 11 pupils were given a wonderful opportunity to experience a live screening of the RSC's latest presentation of *Romeo and Juliet* as part of their preparation for their GCSE Literature Paper 1 examination.



As with any Shakespeare play, it is vital that pupils experience the play for themselves. Pupils were gripped, especially as the play's dramatic conclusion played out and the tension was palpable in the room as the tragedy reached its powerful conclusion.

The RSC produced a faithful yet modern take on the classic first folio edition, creating a timeless backdrop and location through a minimal set design. A tranche of young, charismatic actors brought the play to life and sharpened its relevance for our pupils; themselves, approximately the same age as Romeo himself.

The play gave pupils an alternative presentation to consider, bringing to light attitudes towards how the RSC are incorporating modern thoughts about how gender and sexuality can be applied to 16th century drama. As always, the presentation was a triumph and the screening included interviews with actors and directors involved in the production. The play was screened nationally which gave the experience a unique edge - intimate yet shared. The pupils were given a well-crafted revision booklet to support their understanding and made notes throughout.

Members of the English Department are grateful for all the support given to them, particularly as this represents a WHSB first - a live streaming event. My thanks go to all staff who helped provide support by covering lessons, and in the smooth running of the event.

Mr T Keenan  
KS3 English Co-ordinator

## JACK PETCHEY'S SPEAK OUT CHALLENGE 2019

After last year's success, WHSB will once again be participating in Jack Petchey's *Speak Out* Challenge. The event is run by the Speakers Trust and The Jack Petchey Foundation and is open to Year 10 pupils in every state school in London and Essex with the purpose of developing pupils' ability and confidence in public speaking. On 19 and 20 March, a selection of Year

10 pupils will take part in workshops with the aim to improve their ability and confidence in public speaking. The two strongest competitors will be selected to represent the School in the Regional Final to be held at Westcliff High School for Girls on 1 May.

Ms C Ives  
Teacher of English

## PUBLIC SPEAKING

10 January 2019

This year has been an exceptionally busy one for our Public Speakers. We began by entering a Sixth Form team for a brand new Sixth Form Public Speaking competition, facilitated by the English Speakers' Union. The competition promised greater academic challenge and a new format, both of which it delivered. We took our Speaker, Adanna Achebe, along with Chairperson, Andrew Twimasi, and Questioner, Kieran Williams, to discuss the deeply relevant topic of whether or not there was a link of culpability between Drill music and surging knife crime. The Team worked incredibly well together under extreme time pressure, producing a speech that discussed not only Drill, but the music industry's long history with anti-social behaviour and how the enraged voice of oppressed youth has always been an easy scapegoat for sensationalist media and out of touch politicians.

Adanna thoroughly impressed with a speech that was controlled, emotive and deeply well-researched and - in spite of the controversial topic - all audience members were forced to consider whether we should suppress Drill or finally take notice of its message of cyclical violence and poverty. Adanna faced some brutal questioning from the opposing St Thomas More team, which she handled with grace and quick wit. Following this, Andre and Kieran were paired with one of St Thomas More's Speakers and gave outstanding performances that were punctuated by professionalism, charisma and a real pride in the art of Public Speaking. In spite of all



of this, we were narrowly pipped to the post of first place, but the feedback from the judges was nothing but positive. I feel that a true representation of our team's success was also when the competition organiser contacted me the following day and said that our Team's topic had piqued his interest to such an extent that he had gone away and listened to some Drill artists, agreeing with our sentiments on the matter.

In order to keep our Lower and Middle School Teams busy, we also ran the House Public Speaking competition this Term, giving some of our competitors a much-needed run out before our upcoming English Speakers' Union local heat. Lewis Seal earned himself first place in the Lower School round, with his devastatingly witty speech on Procrastination; I think we all reflected on our own work habits as a result. This was then followed by a win for Sinmiloluwa Omotayo in the Middle School round, in which he spoke eloquently on the topic of *Surveillance: What have we got to hide?* In this speech he discussed recent legislation making its way through Parliament to give the Security Services and the Police greater power to monitor our movements and online communications. These two will be competing with the winner of the Sixth Form round (to be held in the forthcoming weeks) in order to decide a Supreme Champion.

Finally, the Public Speakers look to the future, in which we will be competing with an aim to qualify for the National stages of the English Speakers' Union. The upcoming local heat will take place at WHSB on 10 January and I warmly invite you to come along and support our teams. Whilst I am unable to reveal the topics, I can promise that it is going to be a night of fierce academic discourse.

Miss C Bailey  
Teacher of English





# SLICES OF PI: MATHEMATICS AT WHSB

## SENIOR MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE

The Senior Mathematics Challenge took place on 13 November 2018 involving all Year 13 Mathematics students, alongside all those in Year 12 who study Further Mathematics. We are pleased to announce that we achieved 8 Gold Certificates, 39 Silver Certificates and 51 Bronze Certificates. There were also a number of students who made it through to the follow-on rounds. Our congratulations go to Ignacio Ayerbe, Oluwatobi Coker, Noah Kasakaitis, Mark Sounthararajah, Luke Barnard, Harry DeGrove, Peter Simon and Jun San Chakma 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

The Senior Team Mathematics Challenge took place on 15 November 2018. This competition consists of three rounds of problems issued in various different styles. The first is a group round, where all 4 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 students 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 David Nyamu, Myles Amechi, Jun San Chakma and Peter Simon. This year, the team came a respectable joint 6th 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, feel free to obtain some of the Intermediate Mathematics Challenge questions from the UKMT or sign up to the Intermediate Mentoring Scheme.

## INTERMEDIATE MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE

7 February 2019

The Intermediate Mathematics Challenge (IMC) takes place on 7 February 2019 this year. All Year 11 pupils will be able to

participate in this national competition which 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 pupils across the whole ability range. Due to the nature of this competition, we have many pupils who experience challenge within their normal academic studies but nevertheless succeed in the IMC because they are able to showcase their aptitude for problem-solving.

You are welcome to 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 there. Last year's paper, with extended solutions, is available for you to use for preparation.

## STUDENT MENTORING

The Mathematics Department continue to run a successful pupil-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 pupil or someone who needs help themselves, please see Miss Dole in the Lower School Pastoral Office.

We can accommodate pupils from Year 7 to Year 13 in both Mathematics and Further Mathematics, so if you are having any problems with any work, please 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.

## FMSP MATHEMATICS FEAST

We are hoping to build a team or two to take part in the Annual Additional Mathematics Support Programme (previously FMSP) Mathematics Feast this year. Teams will be made up of four Year 10 pupils, and they will tackle a variety of interesting problems in unfamiliar circumstances. In previous years, pupils 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 pupils 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 Jason Chin, Alexander Giffin, Farhan Hossenbux, Jonathon Huggett, Niall Ivie, George Jefferson, Sammy Joujou, Arnihan Sarveswaran.

## SIXTH TERM EXAMINATION PAPER (STEP), MATHEMATICS ADMISSION TEST (MAT) AND ADVANCED EXTENSION AWARD (AEA) SUPPORT (YEAR 12 ONLY)

The Mathematics Department continues to encourage Sixth Form students to join the STEP club. Currently, there are 10 Year 13 students who have been regularly attending STEP club every Wednesday during period 5, since the Autumn Term began in September.

For STEP 1 only, these students are Anton Haier, Oliver Thomas, Jasper Wilbin, Ignacio Ayerbe, Kayode Omotoso, Alex Usher (Computer Science Admission Test as well) and Ravenraju Sureenthakumar. For STEP 2 and 3, they are Jonathan Travis, Samuel Partridge, Joshua Wood and Joseph Cameron.

An example of the sort of work produced by one of the STEP club students is below. Hopefully this provides some idea of how a question is set and could be solved. This question below came from a past CSAT paper known as Computer Science Admissions Test by University of Cambridge.

Find positive integers a, b, c, d such that

$$a + \frac{1}{b + \frac{1}{c + \frac{1}{d}}} = \frac{15}{11}$$

Most students think that they should approach this problem from the left handed side using algebra of some sort (would it help, I wonder?), and a few would find it difficult because they have not seen a question like this before. However, if a student starts from the right handed side of 15/11 and recognises that it is a vulgar

fraction which can be rewritten in a form of mixed number and using a reverse strategy and a reciprocal of a fraction, a solution will be immediately found.

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{15}{11} &= 1 + \frac{4}{11} \\ \frac{15}{11} &= 1 + \frac{1}{\frac{11}{4}} \\ \frac{15}{11} &= 1 + \frac{1}{2 + \frac{3}{4}} \\ \frac{15}{11} &= 1 + \frac{1}{2 + \frac{1}{\frac{4}{3}}} \\ \frac{15}{11} &= 1 + \frac{1}{2 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{3}}}\end{aligned}$$

Now

$$a + \frac{1}{b + \frac{1}{c + \frac{1}{d}}} = 1 + \frac{1}{2 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{3}}}$$

where a=1, b=2, c=1 and d=3.

For reflection and further refinement, this problem could then be extended into something like this:

Find (i) a, b, c, d such that

$$a + \frac{1}{b + \frac{1}{c + \frac{1}{d}}} = \frac{3x^2 + 7x + 1}{x^2 + 2x}$$

where x>0, and (ii) what if x tends to infinity, ie x→∞? The objective here is to teach students the idea of algebraic division and

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{x} = 0$$

The questions from STEP are always designed in a way in which they require students to think deeply about what they have learnt and they are usually unfamiliar at the first glance. Unlike A Level questions which are largely predictable, STEP questions challenge students to think about an idea in a reverse manner, recognising that a solution can be constructed in different ways. From the above example:

$$\frac{15}{11} = 1 + \frac{1}{2 + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{3}}}$$

not just

$$a + \frac{1}{b + \frac{1}{c + \frac{1}{d}}} = \frac{3x^2 + 7x + 1}{x^2 + 2x} = 3 + \frac{1}{x + \frac{1}{1 + \frac{1}{x}}} \text{ for } x > 0$$



Students in the STEP CLUB will not be spoon-fed with information. They have to do the thinking and the work themselves. Hints will be given if and when they get stuck with the problems. They learn to develop a positive mindset for good learning habits such as being resilient, resourceful, reciprocal and reflective. Sometimes it will take them a while to solve a problem in order to get the satisfaction from the solution they seek. After all, they must learn to be able to stand on their own two feet and be independent. Samples of their work are on display in room M3.

Mr Tsang has started to offer STEP and AEA support for those looking to take 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 whether it is worth them attending the club. 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 of Mathematics generally. Furthermore, it will provide a lot of rich material for students to discuss with potential interviewers at university.

Please talk to Mr Tsang for more details.

## LOWER SCHOOL HOUSE MATHEMATICS

During the Spring Term, Mr Dowding

will be running a House competition in Mathematics. You will be competing for points towards your end-of-year House totals, and the team with the most point wins the Phoenix Cup, which is displayed in the Main School Hall.

If you wish to participate, you need to find a team of four pupils in the same House as you, 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 start thinking about making a team and get practising. Notes will be distributed with more detail on the event closer to the time, but for now you could try some of the Junior Mathematics Challenge problems to prepare for the Challenge. These can be found on the UKMT website, or alternatively you can ask your teacher for some past papers.

## NATIONAL YOUNG MATHEMATICIANS' AWARD 2018

Shabaa Alam (8L), Benedict Heath (8C), Ashwin Sharma (8S) and Rory Keeble (8L) competed in Round One of the National Young Mathematicians' Award 2018 on Thursday 8 November 2018. The team members showed a strong ability to convince and challenge one another of their mathematical thinking and were ultimately successful in progressing to the next round, which took place on Thursday 6 December. In Round One, our team beat a number of teams from local schools, all of whom posed a significant challenge. The field of mathematicians was undoubtedly strong, but our team's ability to problem solve and think critically led to a decisive victory.

Mr M Dowding  
Head of Mathematics





## MUSIC AT WHSB

### SPRING CHAMBER RECITAL

Thursday 17 January 2019, 7.30pm

The Chamber Recital is a wonderful opportunity for the soloists and small ensembles of Westcliff to demonstrate their exceptional ability, and this term's offering will be no different. The evening will feature regulars, Alex Usher and Charlie Gershinson, playing challenging clarinet and oboe repertoire respectively. The String Ensemble and Brass Ensemble will perform, along with the debut performance of the School's 'Vivace String Quartet'.

Pupils from the Lower Years are also encouraged to play, and this will be the first performance of Christopher Parkinson (Year 8) who will be performing a piece written for one hand called Gentle Darkness. Tickets are available via TicketSource at a price of £5 for adults and free of charge for pupils.



### SPRING SINFONIA CONCERT

Thursday 14 March 2019, 7.30pm

This term, the School's orchestra will tackle the work of two composers with different styles but similar sentiments of national pride. Beginning with the music of Sibelius, the Sinfonia will perform the bombastic Finlandia, originally composed as a covert protest against the censorship of the Russian Empire. This will be followed by The Karelia Suite, a collection of pieces creating a tableau of a region of northern Europe untouched by civilisation. With this suite, Sibelius aimed to capture the blissful naivety of the locals through his simple folk-like melodies, once again depicting the people and cultures of his native Finland.

The second half will feature music exclusively by Borodin, a composer who, like many Russian composers, refused to quit his day-job as a chemist despite his excellent musical ability. Beginning with the evocative In the Steppes of Central Asia, the Sinfonia will paint a picture of the furthest reaches of 19th century Russian Empire. This will be followed by Borodin's brusque and lively Symphony No. 3 in A minor, featuring many of the

techniques common to the nationalist Russian composers at the time, most notably the reliance on repetitive folk melodies.

Tickets are available via TicketSource at a price of £5 for adults and free of charge for pupils.

### MUSICOLOGY SEMINAR

Tuesday 26 March 2019, 3.45pm

How does historical, political and social context affect the creation of music? What or who influenced the great musical influencers? These are the kinds of important questions posed in our termly Musicology Seminar. This term focusses on J.S Bach, often considered to be the father of western classical music, and the most influential composer of the Baroque era, maybe even ever! Guest speaker, Dr Francis, will investigate how Bach fits in to a period of great change, and how the teachings of Luther impacted upon his style.

This seminar is particularly relevant to A Level students, but it is also recommended to those studying the subject at GCSE.

Mr T Derrick  
Director of Music



### THE MAGIC FLUTE

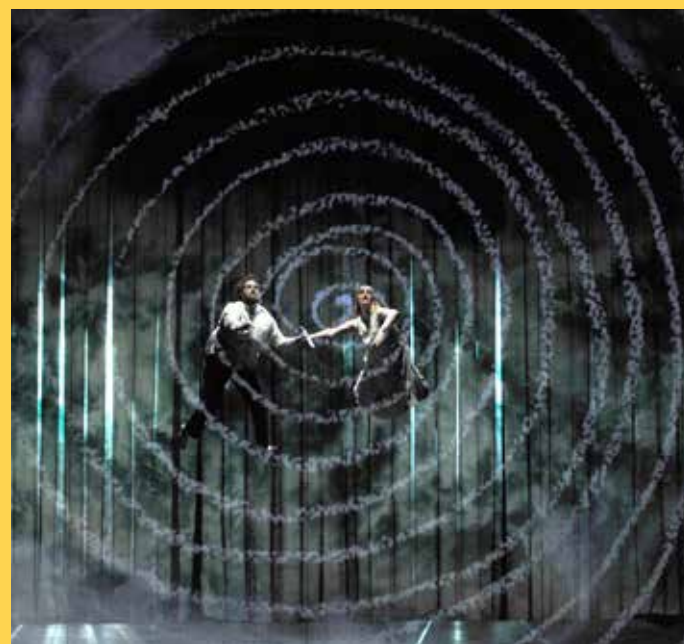
Thursday 21 March 2019, 4.30pm

Magical instruments. Serpents and sorcerers. Trials of character and courage. When you begin an enchanted journey to find love and wisdom, you have to expect delays on the way.

This term's trip to London will be to see Mozart's famous opera: The Magic Flute. This timeless classic follows the adventures of Prince Tamino and the bird-catcher, Papageno, on their quest to rescue Pamina. To assist their mission, they are given musical instruments enhanced with magical powers, which they deploy to conquer the trials and tribulations placed in their path towards a deeper understanding of true love and happiness.

This English National Opera production has had rave reviews and is a must-see for all pupils, including those studying A Level music or those in Lower Years seriously considering the study of Music.

Tickets are available to all pupils, parents, staff and friends of the School at the price of £31.50 including coach travel.



## CLUBS AND SOCIETIES 2018-2019

I am pleased to inform the School that we have over 40 clubs and societies on offer this academic year.

These include:

- Action for Happiness
- AI Club
- Anime
- Art After-School Club
- Art Lunch Club
- Bird Club
- CCF Army
- CCF Navy
- Chess Club
- Choir
- Cinema Club
- Classic Film Society
- Design & Technology Breakfast Club
- Drama
- Duke of Edinburgh
- Dungeons and Dragons
- Engineering Society
- Gospel Choir
- Harry Potter Society
- Healthcare Society
- Heavy Metal Club
- Jazz Band
- Junior Concert Band
- Junior History Society
- KS3 Science Club
- LGBTQ+ Forum
- Manga
- Marvel Club
- Music (various)
- PE and Sport (numerous)
- Pokémon Society
- Political Issues Society
- Public Speaking
- Screenwriting Club
- Senior History Society
- Sixth Form Science Society
- Social Issues/Action and Debate Society
- Table Tennis
- Technology Club
- Treble Choir
- War Gaming Club
- Yu-Gi-Oh Club

The majority of these Clubs and Societies take place at lunchtime, so there is plenty to get involved in. We encourage all our pupils to be open to opportunity and try new activities and ventures, by being an active and effective participant. As there is such a wide variety of activities on offer, it is likely that there will be something that interests you. If there is not, then it might be possible for you to set up your own Club. Please see me to discuss any ideas that you may have.

For Senior Students at the School, leading or helping with a Club or Society can be highly rewarding, and also excellent evidence for your UCAS personal

## CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

### GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT FAIRTRADE CAFÉ

4-8 March 2019

The annual Geography Department's Fairtrade Café will run from Monday 4 to Friday 8 March 2019. Some of our Year 9 pupils have been competing to design information sheets and leaflets explaining how Fairtrade helps producers in Lower Income Countries, the best of which will be on display at the event. Please come along to buy a luxury hot chocolate or choose from a range of delectable Fairtrade snacks and support our chosen charity, SOS Ghana.

### CURRENT AFFAIRS CLUB

Current Affairs Club is going strong, but has received an overhaul. The club is now open to pupils in all Year groups and is run by Joshua Glynn and Luke Burridge in Year 10 and overseen by Geography Department Subject Prefects. All sorts of topics and news events are covered and I would encourage anyone hoping to broaden their knowledge to attend. The club runs every Wednesday lunchtime from 1.00pm and pupils can bring their lunch along with them. Remember, repeated attendance wins House points!

statement and CV (Curriculum Vitae).

For specific dates and times, see the House noticeboards. For Sport and Music, please see their noticeboards for a wide variety of specific activities. Please note that days and times can change at very short notice. Please pay attention to the relevant announcements for any amendments.

Mr R Barber  
Senior Head of House and House System Coordinator

### ENGINEERING SOCIETY

The Engineering Society meets weekly to discuss Engineering issues and hear presentations, often from students, on Engineering topics that have interested them; recent subjects have included Helicopters, Engineering Failures, Hydrogen as a Fuel for Transport, Isambard Kingdom Brunel and his Heritage, and Steam Engines. All are welcome, although the subjects tend to be aimed pupils in Year 10 and above, and with a particular view to those planning on studying Engineering at university. We also organise trips to Engineering lectures at the Ford Design Office at Dunton. Further details will follow.

Mr S Hudson  
Teacher of Physics

Miss F Dolan  
Second in Geography





## CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

### THE EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION (EPQ)

We are pleased with the results of the EPQ (Extended Project Qualification Dissertation) awarded in Summer 2018. 46 students took the qualification with 85% achieving A\*/A grades and 100% A\*-B. 30% of all entries were awarded an A\*. This is a significant achievement and is a testament to the hard work of the staff who support this programme and, of course, the students.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank: Mr A Baggs, Mrs K Cook, Mr P Cunneen, Mr K Dalby, Mr T Derrick, Mr L Despres, Miss F Dolan, Mr A Farrell, Mr S Hudson, Mr D Sims, Mr K James, Mrs G Koutas, Dr A Machacek, Mr S Marriott, Mr P Marlow, Mrs K Mumford, Mr S Neagus, Dr D Prendergast, Mr G Rayment, Mr D Wightman, Mr W Williams, Mr I Williamson, Mr R Steel, Mrs R Barber and Mr B Jeffreys for the invaluable subject-specific guidance and help given.

Titles last year included:

- To what extent can the war on drugs be successful in controlling the supply and consumption of cocaine within the US drugs market?
- With regard to the UK economy, will the benefits of Brexit outweigh the costs?
- How can nanotechnology change the world?
- Has the study of microorganisms

been the most important part of our understanding of the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of disease?

- Is hydrogen the future of the aviation industry?
- Will the UK benefit from a complete switch over to electric vehicles?
- Could advancements in stem cell research provide the cure for type 1 diabetes?
- How ethical are various mechanisms of drug rationing in the NHS?

The EPQ is a selective extra qualification worth half an A Level in terms of UCAS points. It is aimed at the most able and hardworking students who wish to study at top UK universities, such as Cambridge, UCL, Imperial, LSE, Oxford, Southampton, and Bristol, for example.

*Mr R Barber  
Head of Breadth Studies*

### STEM ACTIVITIES, INCLUDING ARKWRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS

Interest in STEM-related careers continues to grow within the School and as we endeavour to provide more opportunities for students to enrich their experience.

Year 13 Arkwright Scholar, Jack Stiles, has been making the most of his sponsorship, participating in a number of events and programmes ranging from Taster Sessions in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at the University of Nottingham to visiting the Warren Classic and Super Car Show. The application process for prospective scholars has now begun and Year 11 pupils will find out shortly if they are eligible for selection. More information can be found at <http://www.arkwright.org.uk/>

In the Engineering Education Scheme (EES), our highly successful team of Ignacio Ayerbe, Anthony Haiser, David O'Shea, Conor Roberts, Jack Stiles and James Walker presented their project in front of a team of industry experts during the Summer term. The judges were most impressed with their practical solutions and manufacturing skills, which also saw them receive the Gold CREST Award. I am delighted to announce that this year we will be fielding two teams for the Scheme. Both teams have been busy designing and investigating their ideas in preparation for the forthcoming two-day workshop at the University of Cambridge to model and test their work.

As we return to the newly-refurbished Technology Block, we are steadily re-opening the workshops for more enrichment activities, societies and clubs and I look forward to reporting on further opportunities for our Lower Year Groups in the near future.

*Mr C Wright  
Head of Design & Technology*

### DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

With the Silver Award participants having completed their assessment expedition in July, those pupils undertaking the Bronze Award did so in September. Since their practice expedition in June, the Bronze participants have shown great growth with regards to both their navigation and camp craft skills, and are to be commended for this.

All that is left to do, for both levels, is for participants to complete the other three sections (skills, volunteering and physical)



in order to complete the relevant award.

The New Year also brings the opportunity for Year 9 pupils to apply for the Bronze award, for which I anticipate a high level of interest. Letters will be issued shortly.

*Mr H Tresidder  
DofE Coordinator*



## THE CONTINGENT

WHSB CCF continues to grow from strength-to-strength as we welcome both new cadets and staff on board. This term is a particularly important and busy term for the cadets as we prepare for our second Biennial Review. Both the Army and Navy Sections have a packed programme of events and cadets continue to be offered life-changing experiences through the cadets.

### SHIPSHAPE AND WESTCLIFF FASHION

One year after the inauguration of the CCF's Royal Navy Section, SLT Hill oversees all training as Officer Commanding, while SLT Bailey directs the programme for our existing Year 10 cadets. SLT Isaac will run the programme for the new intake of Year 9 cadets who join us this January.

Last Summer, Chief Petty Officer, Joseph Cameron attended courses in RYA Sailing with Spinnakers and RYA Performance Sailing. It is the intention that the following RN cadets should be able to take part in the following National Level courses this term:

- Ben McKay, Saurav Sehdev and Ansh Singh – Junior Leadership, during February Half Term
- Ben McKay, Saurav Sehdev and Ben Wright – Powerboating Level 1 & 2, Easter break.

This term, the Royal Navy Section will hold two Field Days:

**Thursday 17 January 2019 – Sunday 20 January 2019**

The RN cadets will take part in a residential stay at Britannia Royal Naval College – the Royal Navy's Officer Training Establishment and the UK's Naval Academy. Cadets will have the opportunity to stay on the Hindustan, tour the College and visit Chapel on the Sunday. They will also take part in a number of on shore and afloat training activities, including a bridge simulator, a try-dive and boating on the River Dart.

**Thursday 14 March 2019 – Saturday 16 March 2019**

The cadets will visit Phoenix, School of Maritime Survivability, HMS Excellent. There we will be undergoing firefighting training and take part in simulations of flooding damage to a ship. Cadets will experience first-hand just how difficult

## COMBINED CADET FORCE



as teaching them to safely use the GP rifle and so be able to take part in more advanced training as they develop in the CCF.



### YEAR 10 FIELD CRAFT AND RANGES

7-8 February 2019

The CCF will run a series of range days using live ammunition, and field training using blank ammunition. This will allow our Year 10 cadets to complete a familiarisation shoot and their Basic Army Proficiency Certificate shoots and undertake part of their fieldcraft assessments for their APC. It is our intention to train at the STANTA training area in Thetford, where cadets will be accommodated overnight.

### CADET LEADERSHIP COURSE AND SENIOR CADET INSTRUCTOR COURSE

The CCF has bid for places for Year 12 cadets to attend both the 7 Brigade Senior Cadet Instructor Course during the February Half Term and the Cadet

it is to undertake tasks in cold water or when the 'ship' is rocking around. Each exercise consists of a student safety briefing, instruction and tour of the unit followed by the practical training run with the actual exercise in the water lasting approximately 45 minutes. It is also the intention to take part in some Adventurous Training activities the following day at HMS Collingwood.

### BITE THE BULLET

The Army again has a busy schedule this term.



### YEAR 9 SKILL AT ARMS CADRE

23-24 January 2019

Our new intake of Year 9 cadets will undertake a Skill at Arms Cadre at Cherry Tree Camp in Colchester. During this event, they will be trained on the use of the L98A2 Cadet General Purpose Rifle, as well as the Number 8 and Scorpion Air Rifle System. It is our hope to be able to give them the opportunity to fire on the tube range at the campsite as well





## COMBINED CADET FORCE

Leadership Course during the Easter Holiday. These courses are for senior cadets and those who successfully pass these courses are awarded CCF ties.

### COMBAT CADET COMPETITION

22-24 March 2019

The CCF has bid for a place in the Brigade Military Skills Competition, Combat Cadet. This competition takes place across the weekend of 22 to 24 March 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.

### WELBECK CADET LEADERSHIP COMPETITION

22-24 March 2019

The CCF has bid for a place in Welbeck Cadet Leadership Competition for the fourth time. Welbeck is the MoD's Sixth Form College which trains potential engineering officers from all three Armed Services. The competition is designed to test young cadets' leadership skills and will be attended by a mixed team of Year 9 and Year 10 cadets.

### BATTLE CAMP

3-10 April 2019

It is the intention for the Army Section to conduct our third Battle Camp since the inauguration of the CCF at Ballykinler Training Camp in Northern Ireland. Ballykinlar Camp, based by the sea at the foot of the Mourne Mountains, has



outstanding facilities and an excellent training area, including a training village comprising a small town with residential and commercial buildings, as well as a patrol base and country farm house. We have invited a number of other Contingents to accompany us and we hope that we will be able to work closely with cadets of another Contingent, and experience training by individuals outside our own CCF.

The camp will take the form of a five-day blank firing exercise. Cadets will operate as sections working in platoon strength on six-hour rotations of sentry and quick reaction force, patrolling and rest periods. During the five days, cadets will be presented with a series of scenarios to which cadets and cadet NCOs will have to respond. Cadets will practise the basic skills of navigation, first aid, signals, weapons handling, fieldcraft,

section battle drills, fighting withdrawal, operating in urban areas, wooded areas, ambushes, night patrolling, harbour areas and living in the field, among others. This will test cadets' leadership, initiative, communication and teamwork in a way they have not yet experienced, as real-time events will influence the cadets' actions, with the Cadet Platoon Commander and NCOs making decisions based on the information they receive. It is anticipated that the exercise will be supported by regular soldiers and officer cadets.

*Maj JJ Bleakley  
Contingent Commander*



## DONATIONS TO THE CCF

The CCF is supplied with kit for 25% of our establishment of cadets but we regularly deploy with more than that number of cadets. Since our establishment in 2012 we have been supported in our efforts by other local units who have regularly provided kit on loan to the School. Having now taken

possession of our new CCF store, and having expanded rapidly over a few short years, the CCF is now trying to build up enough stores so that we no longer need to borrow from other units. This will involve purchasing enough kit to be able to hold 100 pieces of each of the type of kit we need within our own stores. We have applied for external funding and grants to be able to do this, and would

like to be able to supplement those with donations from parents and other supporting parties. If you are able to make a donation to the CCF please do so via the appropriate section of ParentPay or by contacting Miss Parkinson, School Bursar. Thank you for your support.

*Maj JJ Bleakley  
Contingent Commander*

## CCF SOMME TRIP 2018

During October Half Term, the School's CCF had the opportunity to go on three battlefield trips organised by the country's Army Cadet Force. Over the course of the week, five trips took place so that all army cadets throughout the country would have the chance to go. I attended the largest trip, from Tuesday through to Thursday, and around 800 cadets from across the nation were on this particular trip. We arrived on the Tuesday afternoon at the Shorncliffe Camp, along with the cadets from Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School, where we were briefed about the plan for the rest of the day and for the following day when the trip to the battlefields would take place. Soon afterwards it was time to eat and, with so many cadets on the trip, the queue stretched right around the mess hall, so the wait was fairly long. After eating it was time to go to bed. Considering there would be a 0330hrs wake-up, we all needed a decent night's sleep.

The next morning, at precisely 0330hrs, the alarms started to ring. The girls' school and ours had planned ahead the night before to wake up half an hour early in order to be able to eat before the crowds started to flood into the food hall. At around 0500hrs we were

on the coaches and ready to begin the short 20-minute journey to Dover, where we would be catching a ferry across to Calais. With everyone being very tired, the majority of the coaches would have been silent with all the sleeping cadets. The journey across the channel was fairly smooth, and before we knew it, we were in France. We then made our way to the first battlefield stand, where we were told that the county's regiment, the Essex Regiment, was almost totally destroyed by the Germans. We also visited several mass war cemeteries, dedicated to soldiers who volunteered to come out and fight for the nation. At exactly 1515hrs, the Commemorative Parade took place. This was the main event of the trip, and also the most poignant. There were several prayers read out as well as the playing of The Last Post. The youngest cadet on the trip then laid a wreath in the memorial, which states the name of every soldier who has never been found with an identity. Soon the Parade was over, and it was time to make the journey back to Shorncliffe. It was an amazing day that shall be remembered for a long time.

The next morning we had a later start, with breakfast at around 0630hrs. After our rooms had been 'cleared' as being clean and tidy we were permitted to go home. We would like to say a huge thank

you to Sub-Lieutenant Isaac, Lieutenant Tresidder, and Mr Stevens for going on the three trips, as well as a thank you to Major Reynolds (TWGGS) for assisting on the trip.

*Cdt James Turner  
Year 10*





## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

### NEW ALUMNI OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

A 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 includes all former students and staff, past and present. Last summer, we were delighted to welcome to the School's alumni community a record number of students leaving Year 13, following their A Level examinations, as signed-up members of the School's Alumni Network. An informal get-together for this Year Group, who left School in 2018, was arranged in December to provide them with the opportunity of meeting up with their contemporaries and members of staff. The event also provided the opportunity for the collection of A Level Examination Certificates. For those ex-students who have yet to collect their A Level Examination Certificates, they may be collected from Reception during Term Time, by prior arrangement with Mrs Economou, Examinations Officer. Please contact her by emailing the School Office.

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. Select 'Community' from the Main Menu followed by 'Alumni & Old Westcliffian Association'. You will then receive password information enabling access to the secure 'Alumni' area of the School website. 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). The WHSB Alumni Network is completely free to join and we look forward to hearing from you. In addition, you can follow WHSB 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.

### ALUMNI VISITS AND DONATIONS TO THE SCHOOL

We welcomed two members of our Alumni Community back to the School in the Autumn Term, Professor Tony Barnett (1955 to 1962) visited in



September, along with members of his family. Paul Sanders (1949 to 1954) visited the School in October and has very kindly lent the Community Development Office his copy of the commemorative Golden Jubilee brochure "Westcliff High School for Boys 1920 - 1970". We are also very grateful to Mrs Elaine Tucker and family for donating a whole school photograph taken in 1932 that belonged to her late Father, Howard Stone. Mr Stone played a leading role in the Southend business community for more than 50 years, building an empire of 29 HW Stone electrical stores.

We would be delighted to welcome members of our Alumni community back to the School for a visit. Please contact Mrs Clarke or Mrs Weller in the Community Development Office in the first instance.

### WESTCLIFF CENTRE FOR GIFTED CHILDREN: GO FOR GRAMMAR! 11+ FAMILIARISATION PROGRAMME

The WCGC Go for Grammar! 11+ Familiarisation programme of Saturday



events for the 2018/2019 academic year is now well underway. Over 600 places have been allocated to local Year 5 primary school children within the School's priority catchment area (postcode districts SS0 through to SS9). The CDO is responsible for local primary school liaison and administration relating to the Saturday themed Grammar School taster days which run throughout the year. These events include a range of fun activities designed to challenge, engage and give a flavour of what can be expected from attending a Grammar School. Also included are some formal 11+ activities alongside other subject specific tasks designed to develop those aptitudes tested in the 11+ examinations.

### SCIENCE ROADSHOWS FOR LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS

An enthusiastic team of Sixth Form students have once again started on their Wednesday afternoon Outreach Programme, visiting many primary schools in our local area. Leading the charge is Dr Machacek this year, following the retirement of Mr Despres. His legacy lives on with fresh ideas and new students, showing Year 5 children the wonders of science, experiments, big bangs and even potential magic!

Our timetable of events was fully booked within days of its launch, once again, with a waiting list of eager schools, keen to experience this opportunity. The key to the Science Roadshow's success appears to be the relationship between the WHSB pupils and the younger children, who are inspired by what they can possibly achieve if they try their best at school. Encouraging discussion and capturing their imaginations is all part of the process.

Pupils at Fairways Primary School, Chalkwell Hall Junior School, Earls Hall and Blenheim schools have all been enraptured by the events this term and many more will be enjoying a similar experience in 2019. Inspiring young minds is the main focus at each event.

### DONATING TO THE SCHOOL'S PUPIL FUND

We should like to thank all those parents and carers who have previously donated or continue to donate money to the School's Pupil Fund. Increasingly our School is required to rely on its 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, are a current donor and wish to amend your donation, or payment method, or wish to register with us for Gift Aid purposes,

please contact Miss Parkinson, the School Bursar. All donations and enquiries are treated in the strictest confidence. We are most grateful for any donation received.

Mrs J Clarke  
Community Development Officer



### OWA UPDATE

On 7 September 2018, we held our most recent Annual Reunion Dinner. Our guest speaker was Neil Harman, celebrated sports columnist and author, and an Old Westcliffian.

He proposed the toast to the School and the Head Boy, Jonathan Travers, responded. We had 105 attendees spanning the generations with our eldest member at school from 1941-1948. We were joined by many much younger OW's, some of whom had not long left school.

I must place on record my thanks to Alex Cass, Billy Warby, Kirsty Hickey and the CDO team of Mr Partridge, Mrs Clarke and Mrs Weller for all their invaluable help.

On 6 September 2019, we will be holding our 93rd Annual Dinner at the School. Our guest speaker will be Peter Holmes,



a BBC Essex DJ. Peter has led a very interesting life, which will, no doubt, augur well, for another successful Dinner. If you have not been before, why not make this the year when you give us a try? You will not be disappointed.

We look forward to the School's Centenary celebrations, which begin with a Dinner at the Cliffs Pavilion on 1 February 2020. The OWA will publicise this widely among its members and look

## OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION



forward to playing a major part.

We have recently lost one of our stalwarts from our committee. Roland Darvell has resigned and has moved to Berkshire to be near one of his sons. Roland has given exemplary service to the OWA over many years. His help and wise counsel will be sorely missed. People with this level of experience are difficult to replace and we wish him well.

We were pleased to make a contribution to the three flagpoles which stand proudly at the rear of the School. We are also pleased to see that the relatively new Navy Section of the CCF is going from strength-to-strength.

Finally, I add my thanks to the Headmaster for his unfailing support to the OWA. Those of us who went to such a pre-eminent establishment will always be grateful, not just for the educational opportunities, but for the moral values that were instilled in us and have stayed for life.

Terry Birdseye  
terry.birdseye@gmail.com





## PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



### PARENTS RAISE THOUSANDS FOR A NEW SCHOOL MINIBUS

The School took delivery of a new 17-seater minibus in October thanks, in part, to a generous £6,000 contribution from the Parents' Association. The new minibus replaced a much-used and well-worn vehicle, one that had seen several years of service with the School.

The School runs two of its own vehicles to enable pupils to participate in numerous sporting fixtures, educational visits and a multitude of extra-curricular activities taking place in both the local area and further afield. The minibuses cover many thousands of miles each year and enable trips to take place which would otherwise be unaffordable for parents.

### ONLINE SHOPPING TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE SCHOOL

**Amazon Smile:** When you shop on Amazon Smile, money can be donated to WHSB's Parents' Association at the click of a button. Amazon Smile is a website operated by Amazon that allows customers to enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices and convenient shopping featured as on amazon.co.uk. The difference is that when you shop through [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk), WHSB Parents' Association receives 0.5% of the net purchase price. Simply use your regular Amazon account details to log in on [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk). On your first visit to [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk), you are asked to select a charitable organisation. Choose or search for Westcliff High School for Boys Parents' Association. Once selected, shop as usual and 0.5% of your

net purchase price will be donated to the Parents' Association.

**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](https://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!

### PARENTS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL RACE NIGHT 2019

Saturday 16 March 2019, 6.15pm

On Saturday 16 March 2019 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 at <https://whsb.>

[ticketsource.co.uk/](https://ticketsource.co.uk/). 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 £100. 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. The more members we have, the more money the monthly cash pay-out will be so please do consider joining if you have not done so already. '100 Club' joining forms can be downloaded from the Parents' Association section on the School website or you can 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 supported us at events during the Autumn term. Over £200 was raised from selling ice-cream and from donations for complimentary refreshments that were served at the School's production of Hamlet. In addition, just under £500 was raised for the School by serving mulled wine and raffling a luxury Christmas hamper at the 'Christmas with the Big Band' event. We were also delighted to support the School at the Sixth Form Opening Evening in November by serving refreshments and talking to prospective students and parents. In December, we served complimentary mulled wine and mince pies at the School's Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols.

Everyone is welcome to attend Parents' Association Committee Meetings, the dates of which are included in the termly calendar section on the back cover of The Westcliff Diary. We would like to encourage more people to become involved in our activities and 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 J Clarke  
Parents' Association Chair

## CAREERS

### CAREERS AT WHSB

The new academic year has already started off in an energetic and proactive manner, with positive engagement from all Year Groups to report.

The WHSB Work Experience Programme has been launched with the majority of Year 11 pupils eager to secure placements, as well as students in other Year Groups also expressing their interest, in placements both locally and in London. We have been well supported by our alumni over the years, as well as professionals from the local business community, for which we are always grateful. However, demand internally exceeds the placements available to us, therefore if anyone is able to offer a position(s) for Summer 2019, for one or two weeks in July and/or August, we would gladly accept all offers of help. Please contact me at [wellern@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:wellern@whsb.essex.sch.uk) if you are able to assist. Notable careers of choice within our pupil body remain as those in the financial, medical and engineering sectors, but there has also been an increase in interest in the technology and humanitarian industries.

The eagerly anticipated annual WHSB Careers Evenings began with our fourth Careers in Medicine event in November, with over 200 people in attendance. Dentistry and Physiotherapy are fast becoming the most sought-after jobs within the medical sector and Chayya Chauhan kindly offered to speak of her experience as a qualified Dentist, from both the NHS and private practice

perspectives. We were also delighted to welcome Joseph Finch (Senior Physiotherapist), Chris Hardy (FY1 Doctor) and Alex Baker (PhD Researcher) who cover a wide spectrum of medical expertise between them. The subsequent Q&A sessions also provided our pupils with a valuable insight into their professions.

During the Spring Term we welcome more guest speakers to the Wednesday Careers Evenings, back by popular demand and available to book free of charge via TicketSource. Pupils in all Year Groups, their families, and friends are warmly invited to attend and enjoy the following events:

**Wednesday 9 January 2019**  
Careers in Government/Law/Politics

**Wednesday 13 February 2019**  
Careers in Engineering

**Wednesday 27 March 2019**  
Careers in STEM & Apprenticeships

Our new Year 12 Young Enterprise team has also made a great first impression at the annual Trade Fayre in Southend this December. A mixture of boys and girls are taking part this academic year, bringing together creative and money-making ideas for their main product that they will be marketing, manufacturing and taking to market for audience consumption/purchase. We will be keeping everyone updated on their continued progress throughout the year. Good luck, Team Spark!

A number of our Year 12 business-oriented students were invited to an event held by Career Ready. They were offered a unique day of skill development in London and had the opportunity to visit some of the city's leading employers, along with students from other local schools and colleges. The day commenced at the Dominion Theatre in London's West End, where Motivational Speaker, Action Jackson, enlightened the audience about interpersonal and communication skills. This was followed by each group making their own way across London to specific business locations, to experience a real workplace and learn about a variety of key job roles within the industries they visited. It was a productive and engaging day off-timetable, opening our students' eyes to the working world that potentially awaits them.

Our colleagues at Connexions have been visiting each week this term, to meet Year 11 pupils on a one-to-one basis, advising them and offering guidance with regards to their next steps within further education, and discussing potential career pathways. In addition, a cohort of Year 10 pupils and Sixth Form students were also given an interview and offered additional support and information in order to assist their future career choices.

Finally, Year 10 pupils will once again benefit from a careers-focused Enrichment Day on 5 July 2019. In order to continue the success of these days we rely on volunteers from our Alumni and wider business community giving their time. We need to be able to draw on a large pool of professionals who are keen to encourage our pupils throughout the day, conducting mock interviews with pupils in the Year Group. If you feel that you can assist by offering your services for a full day of enjoyment and engagement with our pupils, I would be most grateful to hear from you ([wellern@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:wellern@whsb.essex.sch.uk)).

Thank you to everyone who has offered their support to the WHSB Careers Department; it is always very much appreciated and your support makes a real difference to our pupils' future opportunities.

Mrs N Weller  
Careers & Work Related Placement Co-ordinator





THE HOUSE SYSTEM

HOUSE SYSTEM REVIEW

The House System has had a positive and energetic start this academic year. Mr Yeo formally became the Head of Harrier and Miss Bailey the Head of Kestrel on 1 September 2018.

So far we have had a number of House events, for example House Poetry, Drawing, Spelling, Countdown, Improv, French, German, Stand-up, Design an

MFL Poster, Flags, Rowing, Chemistry, Harry Potter, Pokemon, Jenja, Cards, Yu-Gi-Oh, Dungeons and Dragons, Public Speaking, Warhammer, Model Painting and Dodgeball. Upcoming events include Percy Jackson, Cartography, Xbox, Maths, Scrabble, Chess, General Knowledge, F1 Quiz, Rugby and Basketball, to name a few.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Miss Lo, Miss Bailey, Mr Rayment, Mr Yeo, Mrs Mumford, Mr Atkinson

and Mr Marrant for all the support they have given the House System so far this academic year.

If you have any ideas about new House events or would like to run an activity, then please do not hesitate in contacting me. For senior students, those in Year 10 and above, this can be a good way to get experience if you are thinking of applying for the positions of House Captain or Vice-Captain in future.

Mr R Barber  
Senior Head of House and House System Coordinator

SCHOOL SPORT

SPORTING OVERVIEW: AUTUMN 2018

In recognition of the sporting achievements over the academic year 2017-18, a recent School Sport Magazine article ranked WHSB 23rd in the country for state schools, placing us within the top 1% for school sport. This is an incredible achievement and is indicative of the sporting talent we have in our School community. That said, as we know, talent is not the only or indeed the most important ingredient for sustained success. Commitment, dedication and a strong work ethic also contribute significantly in the pursuit of excellence. The School should be proud of our achievements in National Athletics and Swimming competitions but the Physical Education Department is continually striving to improve and, consequently, we are already searching for ways in which to climb higher up the School Sport Magazine rankings.

At WHSB, pupils are encouraged to develop themselves through the Learner Profile and an element of this is to be Open to Opportunity. With over eight hundred opportunities to play sport in the eighty School days of the Autumn Term, pupils are clearly taking the opportunity to be active and are representing their School with pride. With 171 fixtures in the Autumn Term (at the time of writing), the pupils and Physical Education staff, as well as parents, have been extremely busy.

Participation remains central to success. Whether such participation comes through representing their House in House Rugby competitions or representing the School in such encounters as the Essex Champions versus Surrey Champions (Trinity School)

rugby fixture, pupils are encouraged to involve themselves in School Sport. It is the case that all pupils can achieve excellence in Physical Education and School Sport through showing a positive work ethic and integrity at all times.

With so many opportunities to represent WHSB there have been notable successes across a multitude of different sports during the Autumn Term, in competitive cup competitions, friendly matches and through our evolving Saturday Sport programme. Rugby in the Lower School has continued to grow with participation rates in Year 7 and 8 being strong. The School has been able to field three sides for Year 7 and two sides for Year 8. As an example, we had over one hundred pupils representing the School in our Saturday block fixture against Gravesend Grammar School. There are many other examples of fixtures against opposition such KEGS and Coopers Company and Coburn School, to name but a few, where we have had superb participation on a Saturday with our pupils showing pride in representing their School.



Mr T Morrish  
Director of Sport

In Basketball, the season has started well. All of our teams are on course to reach the quarter final stage of the Essex Cup whilst our Year 9 and Year 11 are competing in the National Basketball Cup. With these Basketball campaigns gaining momentum in the Spring Term, it is important that pupils continue to attend practice before school, at lunchtime and after school. If they do this they will be putting themselves in a position where, regardless of outcome, they will be able to reflect on their performances knowing that they did everything they possibly could to perform to the highest level.

As we move into the Spring Term, I look forward to what this new term can bring, not only from a performance point of view, but how much the behaviours and values have been reinforced and strengthened. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues in the Physical Education Department for their unfailing support.

FOOTBALL

This year, the target has been to rebuild our Football programme. The Physical Education Department wanted pupils to amend their attitude to football and they have responded amazingly well. Training sessions have been very well-attended and there has been a notable difference in pupils' approach to representing the School; we are now starting to witness players wearing their WHSB shirt with true pride and their performance has improved considerably. For Year 7 players, we felt we needed to be better prepared for the season. Players were identified early and the team has gone from strength-to-strength and they remain in both the Borough and South East Essex Cups. Our Year 8 team is also in both cup competitions, with a quarter-final against King Edmund School, Rochford in the South East Essex Cup awaiting us in the new year, and a semi-final in the Borough Cup. Our Year 9 team reached the 2nd Round of the Essex Cup, losing out to a strong Shenfield School side, and has progressed to the semi-final of the Borough Cup.

Within the older Year Groups, we have really concentrated on building teams which are difficult to beat. The Year 10s are hopeful of a semi-final place in the Borough Cup and have Southend High School for Boys awaiting them in the quarter-final of the South East Essex Cup. The Year 11 side has been most successful so far this year. A fantastic victory against Eastwood School in the Borough Cup has led to a semi-final match against Southend High School for Boys. The side will also play King Edmund School, Rochford in the quarter-final of the South East Essex Cup. We anticipate that these talented players will return next year and continue into the Sixth Form teams.

Sixth Form football has been transformed and is most impressive. For a number of fixtures, we have managed to field 1st, 2nd and 3rd teams on the same afternoon. The 1st XI are performing very well in a tough league and narrow losses against very strong opposition in major cups have been the only disappointments. Losing 2-0 to Barking Abbey in the Division 1 Cup (Barking Abbey play in the A Division), conceding two goals with just ten minutes remaining in the match shows how far this squad has come. The opposition commented on how we would easily be able to hold our own in the league above, which is a tremendous credit to them as a team. The 2nd team has also been most impressive this season, challenging in Division 3, having created a superb team ethos. We would particularly like to

acknowledge the contribution of Brian Kasanda and Joe Turnpenny who have assisted with team matters including checking availability, suggesting team formations and reviewing league position and results.

This has been an excellent start to the Football programme, which would only be possible with the hard work of the Physical Education Department and students, working in unison to create the foundation for us to succeed.

Mr M Atkinson  
Sports Coach

TEAM UP INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

At WHSB, pupils are encouraged to develop themselves through the WHSB Learner Profile and an element of this is to be Open to Opportunity. The busier the environment, the more important process and communication becomes. Pupils will be aware of the process regarding the publication of team sheets which are located on the Year Sport Board in the corridor by the PE office, and how they should tick or cross their name to indicate availability. If unavailable, pupils should speak to the member of the PE staff who has responsibly for the particular team. Being an Effective Communicator is another aspect of our Learner Profile and we encourage pupils to communicate with parents regarding the match-day and training information as early as possible.

To triangulate communication between the Physical Education Department, pupils and their parents, we also utilise an online application called Team Up. This is an online calendar showing all of the WHSB sports fixtures and these can be

viewed via the following link:

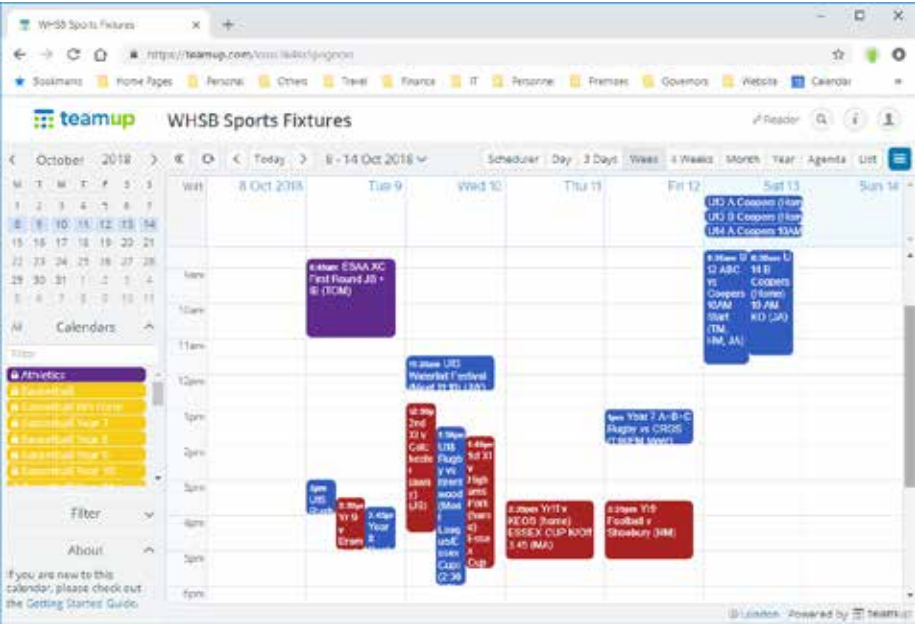
<https://teamup.com/ksuv3k4ss5jvigncxz>

By opening a specific fixture, you will be able to see a team sheet with the selected team, together with details for the match. This information will have already been given to pupils directly, however TeamUp is an effective method of strengthening communication and sharing relevant information. We are delighted that so many pupils are getting involved in School sport.

On away fixtures, the Physical Education Department will endeavour to keep pupils updated with the progress of the journey so that they can relay this information to parent. Unfortunately, the traffic in and out of, and around, Southend makes providing exact return times difficult. Where possible, we will provide transport for pupils returning to Chalkwell Station using the School's minibus. We acknowledge the excellent commitment of our pupils will always aim to reward their work ethic and loyalty to their School by making their journey as easy as possible.

Pupil involvement in the extra-curricular provision has been outstanding and I am confident that this will continue. With improved organisation from pupils, and use of TeamUp platform, we hope that information regarding WHSB sports fixtures and the process of arranging transport and pick-ups will be straightforward.

Mr T Morrish  
Director of Sport





## SCHOOL SPORT

### YEAR 9 RUGBY TOUR: A RETROSPECTIVE

The Year 9 Rugby team recently had the privilege of going on tour to Venice, Italy during October Half Term. This was an excellent opportunity for our pupils to experience a different culture, both in terms of rugby and lifestyle. It was an early start for everyone as we met at School before our flight to Italy. The boys were extremely well-behaved as we travelled to Treviso Airport and then onto our hotel in Lido de Jesolo. On arrival, it was a quick turnaround as the pupils had a training session to attend at the Benetton Treviso training ground, La Ghirada. Some tired bodies were put through their paces but the pupils responded well and threw themselves into the experience. This allowed just about enough time to travel back to the hotel for pupils to have dinner before a well-earned rest and a busy day ahead.

Day 2 began with a trip back to La Ghirada for a training session ran by the Benetton Treviso coaches; this was an excellent opportunity for the pupils to gain an insight into the nuances between English and Italian rugby. The pupils trained hard, and represented the school superbly during this session. Post-training we travelled to the Stadio Monigo to tour the home of Benetton Treviso Rugby. We were able to have a thorough tour of the ground, and gain a real insight into what it is like to play for Benetton. Once this was completed we had a quick tour around the centre of Treviso, which is a beautiful city, before transferring for our fixture against a Benetton Treviso-affiliated youth team



at Paes Rugby Club. The boys played in an exciting encounter, however, we just came out on the wrong side of the result.

Day 3 began with some free time at the beach, which the pupils thoroughly enjoyed. It allowed them time to let off some steam before the afternoon's final fixture of the tour. This pitted us against San Marco Rugby. Unfortunately, there was a bit of a mismatch and we left as comfortable winners. I did allow all the pupils plenty of game time, however, as this is important on a Rugby tour.

Day 4 was the final day of the tour which allowed an opportunity for us to visit Venice. We arrived in some style by private boat transfer, leaving from Punta Sabbioni and arriving at St Mark's Square. We were then taken on a walking tour of the city, which was an eye-opening and rewarding experience for all involved. Having walked around Venice everyone was very hungry, and what better way to finish a tour in Italy than by having some traditional pizza. With everyone fed we made our way back to the airport for the return flight home.

I think that the pupils would agree that it was a productive and rewarding

experience, both for their Rugby and Global Awareness. We hope this will be the beginning of an annual Year 9 Rugby tour.

*Mr J White  
Second in PE*

### YEAR 9 RUGBY TOUR: PUPIL RETROSPECTIVE

After either a very early or late meet, depending on how you see 2.45am, the WHSB Year 9 Rugby team excitedly departed from the School grounds to catch a flight to Venice.

On arrival, the team got a transfer directly to the Benetton Treviso Rugby Training Facility. Mr Sexton coached us through a challenging two hours of core rugby skills on a stunning pitch that we all felt privileged to play on. The late afternoon was spent familiarising ourselves with our accommodation for the next four days.

We started the second day with a fuelling breakfast before being taken by coach to the training ground for another session, but this time being led by the Benetton coaches. They lead a



traditional but helpful skills session that aided our preparation for the evening match. Following training we left the grounds to have a look around the city of Treviso, stocking up on well-earned gelatos and pizzas. Prior to our evening match, a Benetton coach kindly gave us a tour around the grounds of the 1st team stadium. It was inspiring and interesting to compare it with an equivalent English club.

Our first match took place at the youth Benetton Playing grounds. This game was played under floodlights which added to the atmosphere already at the game. We played some great Rugby and used skills taught in the previous 24 hours, but Benetton's firm defence repelled our repeated attempts to cross the try line and gain victory. The final score was 31-14 with Timi Ibinola achieving Most Valuable Player (MVP). After the match, the opposition provided us with some great food and hospitality.

Day 3 arrived and the beach called. The sun and sand enabled us to have great fun playing non-stop ball games and bonding as a team. Late afternoon struck and we travelled to the ground of San Marco for our second and final game. As a team, we excelled with everyone playing his part in securing a solid 58-20 win. The only downside was that Shaun Ekiyoyo sadly fractured his wrist; we wish him a speedy recovery.

Our final day certainly ended the trip on a high. We were transferred by boat to the stunning city of Venice, where we were met by a local guide who walked us through both the traditional tourist areas and the true heart of Venice. It is a fascinating city with beautiful architecture, waterways and

an interesting history, but most of all amazing pizza restaurants! We spent the afternoon in St Mark's Square.

Sadly, our trip had to come to an end but the memories will stay for much longer. As tour tradition holds, there were four awards handed out; Biggest Tackle, Best Try, Toughest Tourer and Best Tourer. These awards were given to Isaiah

Akinlabi, Timi Ibinola, Jake Bausor and Ben Pappa.

As a team, we would like to give special thanks to the PE department, especially Mr White, for organising such an amazing and rewarding trip.

*Jake Bausor  
Year 9*



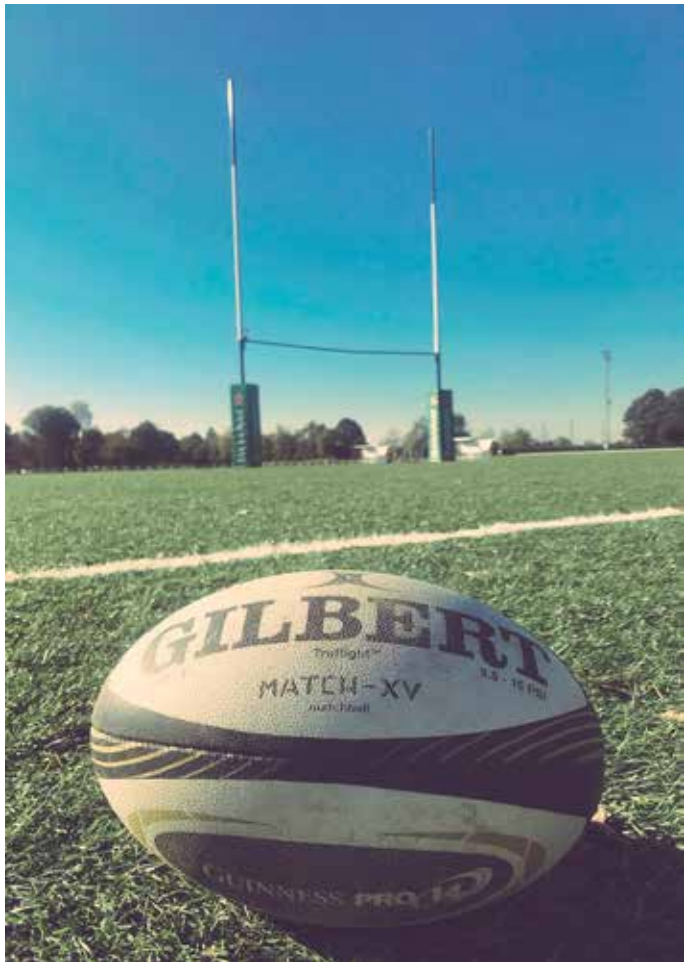


RUGBY

This year has seen a huge number of Rugby fixtures completed for all age groups; the commitment from Year 7 and 8 pupils has been exceptional, and that has been reflected in the results they have achieved.

Year 7 pupils have really taken to the sport of Rugby, with many of them having never played the sport before. Their determination to succeed and drive to improve has been exceptional, and this has shown with their commitment to training. The Year 7s started with a tough fixture against a notoriously strong school in the form of Robert Clack; this would be a clear indication of the strength of the team, and set a benchmark moving forwards. The team performed exceptionally well, and whilst there was lots of learning to come as a result, put in a solid performance to record a convincing victory. This really set the standard for this Year Group, and they have been on an upward trajectory since. The most pleasing aspect has been how they have thrown themselves into training and have been completely open to learning new skills; this is the mark of a good team, and something which they need to ensure is continued as we move forward.

The Year 8 Rugby team have continued their exceptional form, and remain unbeaten in their time at this School. They have defeated all teams put before them with a combination of exceptional athleticism and enhanced game awareness, which has been the most pleasing aspect from a coaching point of view. They have shown, in the past, the physical attributes that they have as a Year Group, however that, alongside an



improved skill set, has made them a vastly improved team. The biggest competition of the year thus far has been the Essex Cup festival. The team went in with high hopes to be successful, and after beating New Hall, Bancrofts, and Hornchurch in the pool stage arrived at the quarter final stage. This meant we were pitted against the notorious rugby team, Champion. The team performed exceptionally well and came out comfortable winners; this meant a semi-final against Robert Clack, who we had beaten comfortably earlier in the year on a Saturday fixture. This proved a close affair, which we eventually edged 15-10. The final turned out to be a far more comfortable game as we won 25-5 against St Marks, which meant that the Year 8 team was crowned Essex Rugby champions. WHSB has tried to get them some fixtures against other extremely strong opposition from outside of the county, and we managed to secure a fixture against Trinity School, who are the current Surrey champions. This again showed the strength of the team as, after a tight first half, we won 35-5. It is important that the group do not become complacent and continue to strive to achieve as high a standard as possible in order to fulfil their potential.

Year 9 has had a mixed year, in both commitment and results. The level of inconsistency in results is reflective of the level of inconsistency in club attendance. This has been rather disappointing as they possess so much potential, and have also just attended a Rugby tour to Venice, which was a fantastic opportunity to experience a different Rugby culture. The boys that travelled on the tour really threw themselves into the experience and as a result had some excellent performance while away in Italy. With renewed effort there is no reason why this Year Group cannot go on and achieve fantastically well within the sport of Rugby.

Year 10 has followed a similar trend to that of Year 9, with varying degrees of commitment to training resulting in some difficult results. However, in their last game against KEGS they gave an indication of the performances of which they are so capable. The team put out its biggest squad of the season and this, combined with exceptional effort, commitment, and determination resulted in a vastly-improved performance. The boys that played on that day were indicative of what the PE Department wants to see from our WHSB sports teams. The team now needs to focus on playing the remainder of the season to that standard.

The Sixth Form team has really worked hard and performed well over the course of the season to date. They are currently playing in the Essex Merit League, in which a number of schools across the County take part. Performances have been strong and this has shown through some excellent results against strong opposition. The standard was set in the first game of the season against Seevic, who have a strong Rugby reputation in that age group. The group has suffered with a few injuries of late, but should be striving to push on for the remainder of the season.

To conclude, it has been a generally positive start to the year, however, all Year Groups should follow the example currently being set by Years 7 and 8 in regards to their attitude to training, and commitment to sport. It is no coincidence that they have had the strongest set of results as it is reflective of their endeavour over the course of the year.

Mr J White  
Second in PE

CROSS COUNTRY

“First things first we need to gain a passion for running. To love the early mornings, to love the horrible weather, to love the pace on the course. And if a child excels at it, that’s a bonus” Pat Tyson, Track and Cross Country Coach.

Cross Country is a sport that requires a serious work ethic and mindset for the task at hand. Without any stoppages, substitutions or time outs, it can only be said that Cross Country is a gruelling process and one not to be taken lightly. An integral part of Cross Country relies heavily on the runner enjoying it – this is half the battle. The other half consists of early morning training sessions, horrible weather conditions, uphill battles and personal bests. WHSB has recently seen best results in both the Borough XC Competition as well as the National XC 1st Round, finishing 3rd overall in the Borough and narrowly missing out on the Regional XC Finals by one place in both Junior Boys and Inter Boys. This is an achievement to be proud of due to the notable progress that has been made through clear foundations set by the Physical Education Department and the excellence shown by our pupils. This year, our runners showed that they have a true sense of loyalty to WHSB and were willing to put the school first to run... whatever the weather.

This academic year has brought a new cohort of Year 7 pupils to WHSB who, by all accounts, thoroughly enjoy their sport, however, for some, Cross Country seems to be at the top of the list. From

working hard during PE lessons to waking up early and running before school, this Year Group’s work ethic is truly one to be commended. There have been various performers who particularly stand out, including Dylan Spink who finished 13th in the National XC 1st Round (a race that included Year 7 and Year 8 pupils) and 9th at the Borough Competition. Freddie Dawson, Aled Jones and Theo Brooke-Durrant have also had a very successful year, finishing in the top 30 in both competitions and constantly improving through hard work, determination and enjoyment. Hot on their heels are Theo Simon, Joseph Collins, Daniel Rudbeck and Al-Ameen Salaam who have been working extremely hard to reach the next level. We have no doubt that there will be more to come from this group of runners.

Our Year 8 pupils have once again had a successful Cross Country season, but with room for improvement nonetheless. Again, our Year 8 team finished 3rd in the Borough Competition whilst being part of the Year 7 and 8 Junior Boys Team that narrowly missed out on the Regional Finals. Onyedikachi Godwin, Donnell Amoako and Brendan Burgess all finished within the top 20 in the Borough. This trio have shown commitment and success in all sport not just Cross Country, proving that diversification in sport will not only improve one’s ability in other sporting activities, but will also aid the fitness levels of a performer in all sport, enabling them to perform at a high level for a longer duration. Notable performances also included Luke Read, Seth King, Benedict Heath, Sam Kasakitas and Hayden Waite, all of whom finished in the

top 35 in the Borough. This Year Group continue to impress in all aspects of PE at WHSB.

Cross Country for our Year 9 pupils has improved in recent years and, this year, continued in the same fashion. Faraz Ali, Denzel Achi and Harry Hawkins were all placed within the top 25 runners in the Borough, and our Year 9 runners finished 3rd overall, as well as finishing 3rd in the National XC 1st Round with the inclusion of our Year 10 pupils. Notable performances also came from Aaron Hilsum and, newcomers to the Cross Country team, Dhjon Evans, Matthew Gwyer, Freddie Noble and Gavin Simon who were all placed in the top 50. Years 10 and 11 at School can feel stressful with GCSE’s looming, however this did not stop our runners competing for their School. With an overall place of 4th in the Borough, and 3rd place at the National XC 1st Round, it has been a respectable Cross Country season for these year groups. Stanley Upton, Toby Linsell, Leslie Anaglavi, Jack Turrell and Henry Ferries were all placed in the top 30 in the Borough.

All in all, it has been an extremely successful Cross Country season for WHSB and, with fitness underpinning all that we do in sport, this will only aid the improvement across the full range of sports we offer.

There is no time to think about how much it might hurt; there is only time to run!

Mr J Sexton  
Teacher of PE



Key Stage 4 pupils have putting their badminton skills to the test in the School’s new kit for racquet sports.





# CALENDAR FOR SPRING TERM 2019

Thu 3 January	<b>SPRING TERM BEGINS, 8.45am</b>
Wed 9 January	Careers in Government, Law and Politics Evening, 7.00pm
Thu 10 January	Public Speaking Competition, 5.00pm Year 11 Entry to Sixth Form Evening, 7.30pm
Sat 12 January	WCGC: Humanities Day, 8.30am
14 - 18 January	Year 12 Formative Assessments
Wed 16 January	Year 11 Dead End PSHE Performance, 8.45am
Thu 17 January	Spring Chamber Recital, 7.30pm
17 - 20 January	CCF visit to Royal Navy College
Sat 19 January	8N/8E Base Jump Team Building, 10.00am
21 January - 1 February	Year 13 Trial Examinations
Tue 22 January	Dr Michael Schmoeltz History Lecture, 7.30pm Parents' Association Meeting, 7.30pm
23 - 24 January	CCF Year 9 Skill at Arms Cadre
Fri 25 January	Year 11 Phase 2 Reports issued Holocaust Memorial Services, 8.45am
Mon 28 January	Year 8 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm
Tue 29 January	Year 11 A Level Taster Sessions, 1.55pm
Fri 1 February	Charity Activities Day
Sun 3 February	Wargaming competition
Thu 7 February	Intermediate Mathematics Challenge
7 - 8 February	CCF Year 10 Fieldcraft and Ranges
7 - 9 February	Performance of Guys and Dolls, 7.30pm
Fri 8 February	Year 12 Phase 2 Reports issued
Mon 11 February	Year 11 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm
Tue 12 February	Mental Health Wellbeing Evening, 7.00pm Parents' Briefing for History Trip to Germany, 7.30pm
Wed 13 February	Careers in Engineering Evening, 7.00pm
Thu 14 February	Year 9 Phase 2 Reports issued Year 10 Visit to MoD/QinetiQ
15 - 23 February	Ski Trip
18 - 22 February	<b>SPRING HALF TERM</b>
18 - 23 February	History Trip to Germany

Mon 25 February	<b>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY</b>
Fri 1 March	Year 13 Trial Examinations Reports issued
4 - 8 March	Fairtrade Café, 12.50pm
Mon 4 March	Year 12 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm
Tue 5 March	UKMT Team Challenge Parents' Association Meeting, 7.30pm Year 9 Options Evening, 7.30pm
Thu 7 March	WCGC: CCF Day, 8.30am
Sat 9 March	New York Trip Fundraising Event, 7.00pm
Tue 12 March	Year 9 Holocaust Survivor Lecture, 1.55pm
14 - 17 March	CCF Royal Navy Firefighting School
Thu 14 March	Spring Sinfonia Concert, 7.30pm
Fri 15 March	Year 10 Phase 2 Reports issued
Sat 16 March	Parents' Association Race Night, 6.15pm
Mon 18 March	Year 9 Parents' Evening, 4.00pm
19 - 20 March	Jack Petchey's <i>Speak Out</i> Challenge
Tue 19 March	Dr Marc Morris History Lecture, 7.30pm
Thu 21 March	Music Trip to <i>The Magic Flute</i> , 4.30pm
Fri 22 March	Year 13 Phase 3 Reports issued Year 11 Targeted Reports issued
22 - 24 March	CCF Welbeck Challenge Combat Cadet Competition
23 - 29 March	Year 10 Geology Visit to Swanage
Tue 26 March	Musicology Seminar, 3.45pm
Wed 27 March	Careers in STEM & Apprenticeships Evening, 7.00pm
Thu 28 March	Year 9 immunisations
Fri 29 March	Year 7 Phase 2 Reports issued Charity Activities Day
Sat 30 March	History Trip to Bletchley Park
3 - 10 April	CCF Battle Camp
Fri 5 April	<b>SPRING TERM ENDS, 2.45pm</b>
6 - 9 April	Geography Visit to Iceland
Tue 23 April	<b>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY</b>
Wed 24 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/>



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