



The Westcliff Diary

T: 01702 475443 **E:** office@whsb.essex.sch.uk **W:** www.whsb.essex.sch.uk

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FROM THE DESK OF THE HEADMASTER

WELCOME TO THE NEW ACADEMIC YEAR

As we look forward to the calendar of activities and events for the Autumn Term 2023, I am pleased to welcome you to the start of this new term, and to bring you up to date with some exciting developments which have taken place during July and August.

I would also like to welcome to the School our new pupils in Year 7 and the Lower Sixth, and to wish them and their parents well for their first academic year at WHSB. I hope you will find the following news and updates helpful, by way of further introduction to the School, and that this edition of *The Westcliff Diary* will assist in also outlining some important information which should support you as you settle into the WHSB community.

Extra-Curricular Activities and Events

On 8 July, it was my great pleasure to attend the ESAA National Athletics Final, this year in Chelmsford, to see the WHSB Inter Boys Athletics Team perform to an outstanding level. The team achieved

second place in England in this challenging Final, beaten only by an impressive Dartford Grammar School team.

Our talented team of athletes achieved an astonishing number of personal bests in their events and, together as a team, achieved a School record in this competition by scoring 588 points. The following pupils from WHSB not only achieved personal best performances, but in doing so, set new School records.

- Harris Dean: 2.80m Pole Vault
- Asaph Lawal: 13.69m Shot Put
- Samuel Achogbuo: 41.46m Discus
- Oba Ayegbe: 52.58m Javelin

This impressive Team was Captained by Daniel Osei-Poku, leading by example through his own performances, and I congratulate them all. I hope you will enjoy the special photographs of this event in this edition of *The Westcliff Diary*.

I was also delighted to accompany Mr Jeffreys, Ms Cleave, the Westcliff Drama Company and a number of parents during three days at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in August. I think it is fair to say that few schools have the privilege

of delivering drama performances to audiences at the Fringe, and we are so fortunate to have the skill, creativity and drive of Mr Jeffreys, Director of Drama, who makes such astonishing opportunities possible for pupils at WHSB.

This is the second time our pupils have performed at the Fringe, the first being in 2018, when they delivered superb performances of *Waiting for Ofsted*, a play written by Mr Jeffreys, receiving outstanding reviews. This year, the pupils once again impressed and engaged audiences with performances of *14-18 Cyrano de Bergerac*, a highly skilled and creative adaption from Mr Jeffreys of Edmund Rostand's 1897 classic work.

I could not have been more proud of our actors as they excelled in the delivery of their performances, both individually and as a company, and I would urge readers to visit the independent review by BroadwayBaby, at <https://broadwaybaby.com/shows/14-18-cyrano-de-bergerac/793658>. The number of high quality performances from actors right across the Fringe Festival each year is, of course, simply overwhelming, and it is therefore all the more impressive that the combination of Mr Jeffrey's exceptional work and the skill of our actors in their interpretation and performances of that work, received this 4-Star Review. I would like to thank Ms Cleave for her superb costumes for the production. I give my congratulations to all involved, including those colleagues involved in providing support for the trip.



WHSB Under-13 Cricket Team wins Under-13 Borough Cup (July 2023)

Followers of School news will also be aware that, just before we ended the Summer Term, our Year 8 Cricket Team won the Borough League Cup, doing so with an unbeaten run. This followed this team's success last year when, then in Year 7, they also won this competition.

The WHSB Year 7 Cricket Team has also won the Borough League Cup in their competition this year, remaining unbeaten, and we are also proud that our superb under-13 Cricket Team (pupils in Years 8 and 7), succeeded in winning the Under-13 Borough Cup in a very close final match.

This team will now compete this month in the Final of the Under-13 Essex Plate Competition, and we wish them well.

I never cease to be amazed at the determination and success of our pupils in achieving at the highest level in a wide range of extra-curricular activities and events. Regrettably, it is not possible to acknowledge all of those achievements in this short introduction, but during the final weeks of last term we were celebrating pupils' achievements in so many areas, ranging from the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, to the promotions and awards made during the Combined Cadet Force Passing Off Parade; from the Anthea Bell Young Translators National Languages Prizes, to success in the national Warhammer Tournament, and much more besides.

I congratulate all our pupils on their participation and success in the very many extra-curricular activities with which they are involved.

School Buildings: Summer Projects

We continue to take advantage of the quieter weeks during the summer holiday break to carry out upgrades and refurbishments to our School buildings and facilities.

During July and August this year, we have at last been able to fund and complete the project to replace the East Toilet Block providing some excellent new toilet facilities on the East Side of the Main School. These facilities have now been brought within the Main School Building, and therefore pupils have access to

pleasant, modern and safe toilet facilities which are much closer to hand.

We are also pleased that we were able to extend this project to also include upgraded changing facilities for Sixth Form girls who wish to participate in sport. Previously, their changing facilities were inadequate and, following several unsuccessful attempts to secure funding from the Department for Education to provide improved facilities, the School has worked hard to identify funding through its own resources to ensure these improved facilities are now available.

I would like to thank those staff who continued to work at the School during the summer holiday period, and indeed those parents and pupils visiting our Uniform Shop while these projects were underway. These important developments could not take place without a great deal of dust and noise, and your patience in this regard was very much appreciated.

Further exciting developments have also taken place in the School Hall, with the complete replacement of the original Hall floor. This was a major project, necessitating the closure of the School Building for certain weeks during the summer break, and members of our support staff were relocated to the Technology Block during those times. Due to the size and disruptive nature of this project, whilst most of the work could be completed during the summer, it was necessary for us to also set aside two weeks at the start of term for the completion of this project. I am pleased to report that this project has gone to plan and we are looking forward to re-opening the School Hall on Monday 18 September.

Significant refurbishment to the majority of classrooms in the Main School Building has also been carried out to ensure pupils and staff continue to enjoy a pleasant working environment. In addition, we have completed the refurbishment of two classrooms in the East Basement and opened up a transit route along this corridor to ease pressure on the School corridors during busy times.

Considerable work too has been carried out on the upgrading of our ICT Network. This project has involved the installation of new wireless access points to improve connectivity, as well as replacing our servers and several core switches. Further improvements will take place during the first part of the autumn term. This project will provide pupils and staff with a faster and more reliable School ICT Network.

Headmaster



WHSB Inter Boys Athletics Team, placed second in England at ESAA National final (July 2023)



The Westcliff Drama Company achieves 4-star reviews for performances at Edinburgh Fringe (August 2023)

The Centenary Room

In July, we were pleased to hold the Official Opening of our Centenary Room, which commemorates the School's Centenary Year in 2020. With thanks to the support of so many in our School community throughout the challenging periods of lockdown during 2020 and 2021, we continued to mark and celebrate the School's Centenary Year with a number of special projects and events, beginning, of course, with the spectacular Centenary Gala Ball and Launch at the Cliff's Pavilion on 1 February 2020. I am delighted that some photographs of that wonderful occasion are displayed in our Centenary Room.

The rapid and devastating spread and impact of the Covid-19 pandemic forced us to cancel or delay some of the special events we had planned for our Centenary Year but, as I noted in my speech at the Official Opening of the Centenary Room in July, the resilience, creativity and determination of our pupils and staff ensured the celebrations went on, albeit through remote means or alternative projects.

Following the long periods of remote teaching, which extended into 2021, with the need to shift our focus towards settling pupils back into the School and dealing with the aftermath of the lockdowns, it made sense to put certain projects on hold, one such project being the Centenary Room. However, we were delighted to return to those plans in 2023 and the room is now complete and officially open.

Aside from a dedicated space to display artifacts and materials collected since the School's opening in 1920, this room will double as a meeting room and a special resource for teaching, for example in History. Further details of our Official Opening in July, together with some photographs, are included in the Old Westcliffian Association section of this edition (pages 68-73). I would like to record my thanks to Mr Jon Gershinson, former Chair of the Governing Board, who kindly joined us for that event to officially open this new resource.

Headmaster



STAFF CHANGES IN THE AUTUMN TERM

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

At the end of last term, we said farewell to Miss O'Sullivan and Mr Quasem (Old Westcliffian), who have provided tremendous service in their roles as Teaching Assistants.

We also said farewell to Miss Gulliver (Senior Science Technician) who served at the School for forty years. We were delighted to hold a special farewell tea in July to mark Miss Gulliver's dedicated service to the School and we wish her a long and happy retirement.

Mr Ayling and Mr Bloomfield have both been with us for just one academic year to teach English. Each colleague has made valuable contributions and we thank them for their work. We also thank Mr Martin

who leaves us after one year, having made a splendid contribution to the teaching of History.

Mr Barnes (Old Westcliffian) also left us in July, having contributed significantly to the success enjoyed by the Biology Department in the last three years. Following the successful completion of his teacher training with the School, Mr Barnes will be relocating overseas to take up a new position.

At the start of this new academic year, we are pleased to welcome a number of staff new to the School. Mr Wheeler and Miss Wood join the English Department, Mr Platts joins the History Department, Mr Buckley joins the Physics Department

and Mr Turner (Old Westcliffian) joins the Biology Department. We are also delighted to welcome Ms Bidwall who takes over the leadership of the Religious Education Department.

Mr Last joined our Facilities team last June, and we are delighted to officially welcome him to his new role. We also welcome Mr Jones and Mr Gutierrez (Old Westcliffian) who join the School as Science Technicians, and Mr Challis (Old Westcliffian) who takes up the position of Teaching Assistant. We are also pleased to welcome back Mrs Clarke as our Community Development Office Assistant.

Headmaster

ANNUAL SPEECH DAY 2023

Thursday 9 November 2023



Our annual Speech Day provides pupils, parents and staff with an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of pupils throughout the School during the past academic year. The evening is a compulsory attendance for all students in Year 11, and the Lower and Upper Sixth, and we anticipate that more than 900 pupils, parents, staff and other guests will be in attendance.

This year, we are delighted to welcome Sir Graham Brady as our Guest of Honour for this special evening.

Sir Graham has served as the Member of Parliament (MP) for Altrincham and Sale West since 1997, following an early career in public relations and policy. A member of the Conservative Party, he has been Chairman of the 1922 Committee since 2010, other than for a brief period in 2019. Sir Graham served as a Shadow Minister under four Conservative leaders before resigning in 2007 in protest at David Cameron's opposition to grammar schools. On 1 December 2010, Sir Graham was voted Backbencher of the Year by *The Spectator* at its annual parliamentary awards.

During his tenure as 1922 Committee Chairman, Sir Graham has overseen the election of three Conservative Party leaders and Prime Ministers (Theresa May, Liz Truss and Rishi Sunak), and votes of no confidence in Theresa May and Boris Johnson.

Sir Graham was a grammar school pupil himself, being educated at Altrincham Grammar School for Boys, before reading Law at the University of Durham. He was highly active in politics as a student, serving as Chairman of the Durham University Conservative Association (1987-1988 academic year) and being one of six students elected to represent Durham at the annual NUS conference.

Sir Graham is a prominent supporter of grammar schools, believing they open

opportunities for large numbers of bright children from families who cannot access fee-paying schools, addressing those potential inequalities surrounding educational privilege.

We look forward to welcoming Sir Graham Brady to Westcliff High School for Boys in November, and to celebrating our pupils' impressive achievement.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Once again, I would like to remind parents and pupils of the importance of full and sustained attendance at School each day, and to emphasise the impact of the continuity of education on a pupil's attainment.

The majority of our pupils continue to maintain superb attendance records and, as I explain each year, they, their parents and the staff at WHSB take appreciable pride in the commitment and determination of all involved in maintaining strong attendance records.

Nationally, it is reported that records of attendance since the months of lockdown during Covid-19 have fallen. Although I am pleased to say that attendance at WHSB has generally remained strong, we have noted a dip in the attendance of particular pupils and such a pattern must be avoided at all costs.

Attendance is closely monitored by our Pastoral Teams and we continue to evaluate and follow-up any concerns. Each year, without fail, our data indicates a strong correlation between absence and lower levels of progress. It is one of the most significant variables affecting a pupil's academic progress and final grades. An absence of just one day can present a pupil with significant challenges in catching up on missed work whilst endeavouring to keep up in lessons, as the pace of lessons is fast.



There is, of course, sometimes an exceptional case to the general rule, however I wish to remind parents that requests for leave of absence for holidays during term time will not be granted. Given its impact on educational performance, maintaining outstanding levels of attendance for every pupil remains a priority for the School. It is also important that parents and School are as one in emphasising this message to pupils.

I am grateful to parents for their continuing support in prioritising full attendance in order to maximise the opportunity for their son/daughter in reaching his/her full potential.

PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN

The health and wellbeing of our pupils is paramount and is at the root of many of the School's Assemblies, Form time discussions, PHSEE and other lessons, and, of course, our general approach to participation in the wider life of the School.

We also like to update parents on topical issues, one such issue being the serious matter of drug taking and substance misuse amongst young people. Clearly, this is a serious problem in our wider society and, in this regard, it is important that the School and parents work together to do everything possible to keep children safe from drugs.

'Vaping' and the rise of E Vapes has become a significant public health issue, and agencies across Essex, including the Police, have been working closely together as we remain increasingly concerned about the rise of 'vaping' amongst young people in our county and nationally.

Continued on page 6

Of particular concern is the use of Vape Pens, Liquids and Oils, and THC. Some of these are currently legal, whilst others are not, and it is difficult to distinguish between the two. Synthetic illegal substances can often be odourless, difficult to detect due to the nature of chemicals used, and can be innocently named. Regrettably, it appears fashionable for young people to experiment with vaping, particularly at parties or whilst in park areas and socialising with their friends.

Sharing a 'vape' with another person is particularly dangerous as, often, the person has no idea what he or she is actually inhaling. The risks are also heightened as some substances can cause extreme behaviours and reactions. You will, no doubt, be aware that the national press covers distressing news on a regular basis of young people either losing their life or being seriously affected by drugs misuse.

Vape pens, liquids, oils and other such paraphernalia are readily available in the

market; therefore, it is important that parents remain alert to this fact, and the dangers that can present. Usage can result in noticeable changes in behaviour, sleep or eating patterns and, should you be concerned, we advise that you to speak to your child about your concerns and seek support as may be necessary. Information provided by the following organisations may be of interest and you are, of course, welcome to contact the School.



Talk to Frank (website: www.talktofrank.com / telephone 0300 123 6600)
An educational site for young people and their families which provides help and advice on topics related to illegal substances.

Drugwise (www.drugwise.org.uk)
Offers detailed information on drugs, alcohol and tobacco, including details on what they are.

The Mix (website: www.themix.org.uk / telephone: 0808 808 4994) provides information and support for the under 25s covering a range of topics. You can use their helpline or webchat from 11am-11pm daily.

Public Health Agency: <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/call-alert-young-people-dangers-spice>

Essex Wellbeing Service: <https://www.essexwellbeingsservice.co.uk/news/vaping-young-people-information-and-advice>

THE WHSB LEARNER PROFILE

The purpose of education at WHSB is to nurture and support pupils in unlocking their full potential through academic and personal development. The School's Learner Profile outlines how we endeavour to achieve this by promoting and developing its seven attributes in our pupils. The Learner Profile helps ensure that pupils, parents and staff all understand what we strive to do at WHSB, supporting a consistent and coherent approach to our work each day.



Headmaster

A LEVEL AND GCSE EXAMINATION RESULTS 2023

I would like to congratulate our students and staff on their outstanding outcomes in the public examinations this summer. Whilst there had been much publicity prior to the release of the results concerning a national fall in marks, we are proud that our students achieved superb results and we have much to celebrate.

It was a splendid year for A Level results at the School, with 15% of entries graded A* and 47% of all entries graded A* or A. A remarkable 74% of all entries were graded A*, A or B. There were many superb individual performances, with 31 students achieving three or more A*/A grades, including six students who secured 4 A* grades. Many more delighted students achieved the grades necessary to enable them to take their next step forward at their first-choice university or other chosen direction.

At GCSE, we are also celebrating particularly strong performance. Having achieved 79% of all grades at 9-7, the results achieved by these students are amongst the School's best ever GCSE results. Over a quarter (26%) of examinations were graded 9. We have many pupils who have performed at an exceptionally high level. 73% of pupils achieved 8 or more 9-7 grades, and 29% of pupils achieved 12 9-7 grades. A remarkable 47% of pupils achieved 8 or more 9-8 grades.

This is an exceptional performance from both the A Level and GCSE cohorts, with students rising brilliantly to the many challenges presented throughout the pandemic years. Their excellent results reflect the hard work invested and their resilience and determination in the face of those challenging circumstances.



I give all these students my best wishes and good luck for the year ahead, and I would like to thank the staff at WHSB for the superb teaching and support they have provided for these students throughout; they too should be proud of these remarkable achievements.

We hope our leavers will stay in touch with the School, and they can register to join the Old Westcliffian Association for free via the School's website: <https://sch.us20.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=6cc804d8354a9fbd32fe06fc0&id=803b313751>

Headmaster



WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW SCHOOL CAPTAIN AND VICE-CAPTAINS

I am delighted to introduce to pupils, parents, staff, Old Westcliffians and friends of the School our new School Captain, Will Midwinter, and his Vice-Captains, Moboluwarin Olowoyeye, Max Pitkin, Maxi Rowe and Jacob Mellor.

It is always a pleasure to interview students for these important student leadership roles; there are so many impressive young people at WHSB and this process only serves to once again highlight their intelligence, energy, talent and enthusiasm. The process of selection is therefore highly competitive and I wish to congratulate our School Captain and his Vice-Captains, both for their superb performance at interview, and also on their significant contributions to the wider life of the School. Contributing, participating and engaging are central to the School's Learner Profile and these students have an impressive record in this regard, working to support pupils across the School and to further strengthen our School community.

Will Midwinter, our new School Captain, has been involved in many School activities during his time at WHSB. He has been a stalwart of the Combined Cadet Force and now holds one of its senior ranks. During the Lower Sixth, Will held the role of Chair of the Sixth Form Charity Committee and he has worked closely with the Charity Committee on a range of successful fund-raising activities at School. Will has also played cricket for the School and mentored pupils in History, Mathematics and Chemistry, as well as supporting 9E as Form Captain. I know that Will feels

honoured to be School Captain and hopes to use this position to encourage all pupils to unlock their potential. As noted previously, Will is supported by four Vice Captains.

Moboluwarin has thrown herself into the wider life of the School, supporting and volunteering for many activities. She has impressed the School greatly with musical talent and her accomplished public speaking. Max is an outstanding sportsman who has made an enormous contribution to School sport, particularly in the fields of rugby and athletics. Time again, he has proven himself a leader on the sports field, most notably captaining rugby teams. Maxi continues to be a superb contributor to the School, giving service in many roles from Vice Chairman of the Charity Committee, to Form Captain, to Representative on the School Council and much more besides. He will be known to many pupils for his superb performances in the School's drama productions. Jacob is the embodiment of the School's Learner Profile and one of his many great strengths is his commitment towards supporting and encouraging other pupils throughout the School, also remaining open to opportunities for his own personal development. It seems there is hardly a School event, whether Music, Drama or some other activity, that Jacob does not attend to show his support, not only more recently as a Prefect, but throughout his School years as a member of the audience or to lend a hand. Jacob too is known throughout the School for his outstanding service as a CCF Cadet.

We wish Will, Moboluwarin, Max, Maxi and Jacob every success in their new roles for the coming academic year.

Headmaster

Captain's Log



It is an honour to be appointed as the 103rd School Captain of Westcliff High School for Boys. I have very big shoes to fill, following on from the great job done by my predecessor, Lewis Seal. I would like to thank Lewis for handing over the baton, and the tips and guidance he has given me. I wish Lewis luck in his next steps and hope to see him at many future OWA dinners.

I would also like to thank my Vice Captains: Moboluwarin Olowoyeye, Max Pitkin, Maxi Rowe and Jacob Mellor for their hard work, enthusiasm and support thus far. The first few weeks of the role have been both busy and enjoyable, with the team supporting key school events, such as the Peter Pan theatre performances, Year 5 Open Evening and the Old Westcliffian Association dinner.

My aim for the School Captain Team this year is to build on our School's current presence and impact in our local community. Vice-Captain Max Pitkin and I recently took part in the HARP24 running event alongside Mr Dean, Mr Barnett, Dr Nolan, Mr Hadley, and Miss Lewis. The school successfully raised over £1,000 pounds for the HARP homeless charity, an organisation that protects and helps homeless individuals in our local community. The event lasted from 12:00 on Saturday 17 June to 12:00 on Sunday 18 June. Our team of twelve ran an astonishing total of 100 miles in 24 hours. It was great to have the support of those Westcliffians and their families who came to watch and cheer us on. This is a true reflection of the Westcliff spirit, positively impacting on and helping our local community.

We would also like to continue to further increase the involvement between older and younger pupils in roles such as

subject mentoring and developing life skills such as planning and organisational skills, through the newly formed Peer Mentoring scheme established by Mrs Revell and Mr Lilley. In recent weeks, new Lower Sixth mentors have been provided with professional training in order to equip us to support younger pupils facing the pressures of summer examinations. We look forward to drawing on this, together with our own examination experience, to offer advice and support to younger pupils. This is a fantastic new scheme which will, I hope, also strengthen connections between Year groups. I remember benefiting greatly from the support of mentors in my earlier years at the School, and I believe that advice from peers who have been through what you may be experiencing is invaluable.

The best piece of advice I was given as a younger pupil, was to make the most of the plethora of opportunities we are lucky enough to access here. I would like to pass this advice on to you. Keep trying different activities until you find what you love, whether it is the CCF, Music, Drama, Sports or one of the numerous other opportunities – involvement in extra-curricular activities will really enhance your school experience. You will develop key skills, build your confidence, and also forge lasting friendships along the way. Personally, I have loved being a part of the CCF, and I have enjoyed the opportunity to take part in amazing activities that, previously, I would never have thought possible.

I aim to carry out my School Captain duties to the best of my ability, embodying the School values and upholding the traditions of Westcliff High School for Boys. I look forward to seeing you all around School, and at many of the future school events. We have an exciting year ahead.

Will Midwinter, School Captain

 School Captain and Vice-Captains 2023-2024	 Will Midwinter School Captain	 Max Pitkin School Vice-Captain	 Moboluwarin Olowoyeye School Vice-Captain	 Jacob Mellor School Vice-Captain	 Maximilian Rowe School Vice-Captain
Primary School	Bournes Green Junior School, Southend	South Benfleet Primary School, Benfleet	Brentwood Preparatory School, Brentwood	Chalkwell Hall Junior School	Alleyn Court Preparatory School, Thorpe Bay
Subjects at A Level	Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Geology	Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physical Education, Psychology	Computer Science, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Economics	Chemistry, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, History	German, Religious Studies, English, Politics
The most positive aspect of being a student at WHSB	The vast opportunities to become the best version of myself.	The range of opportunities that are open to everyone.	Being a part of the WHSB family.	The strong sense of community and identity embedded within the School.	The duty that each individual feels to serve a community that wants the best for its members.
What I would most like to achieve in my new position at WHSB	To be a role model for younger pupils who perhaps doubt their great potential.	To be a supportive peer to help WHSB pupils unlock their potential.	To be a voice for positive change and further foster a sense of belonging in our community.	To encourage even greater participation in extra-curricular activities.	To maintain the School's reputation as one that gives every student a voice.
My message to our new Year 7 pupils	Be true to yourself and others and embrace our community's values.	Work hard and immerse yourself fully in what WHSB has to offer.	Strive for excellence in everything you do - not even the sky is the limit!	Make the most of your time at WHSB through being widely involved in School life.	Be resilient and welcome mistakes as the best way to learn.



PASTORAL SYSTEM: AN OVERVIEW FOR YEAR 7 PARENTS

A very warm welcome to families new to our School community and we hope that your child will be very happy at Westcliff High School for Boys.

For those who are unsure as to how the Pastoral Care system is configured here at WHSB, there follows a brief overview.

Our Pastoral Care system is split into three divisions:

- Lower School which consists of Years 7 to 9;
- Middle School which consists of Years 10 and 11; and
- Sixth Form.

Each Division is led by a Director of School who oversees a team of Progress Leaders, Form Tutors and a Pastoral Tutor. These teams of staff remain with the pupils throughout each Division, in order to ensure stability during the first three years, and again during the GCSE years, and then at Sixth Form. This also enables our teams to be focused on the age-appropriate needs of their pupils. In the case of the Lower School, Mr A Baggs is the Director of School.

Each Division is also overseen by a member of the Senior Team:

- Mr J Bleakley, Senior Master of Lower School;
- Mr W Williams, Deputy Headteacher (Middle School); and
- Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form.

Each Pastoral Team has two main functions, the first being the personal development and welfare of the pupils. Within each pastoral office there is a Pastoral Tutor who is always on hand in that office to field queries from pupils or parents. The Progress Leader oversees his or her Year group, in terms of the pupils' welfare, and also oversees the work of the Form Tutors, because each Year group is broken down into Form groups. Form Tutors

see their pupils twice each day for Registration, whilst also holding a weekly Form period with them, also supporting our PSHEE programme.

The second function of the Pastoral Teams is the academic monitoring work in connection with individual pupils. The Progress Leader reviews the academic progress of each pupil when the Reports are produced either two or three times per year, according to the Year group. Reports for pupils in the Lower School are produced three times per year. The Progress Leader and his/her team provides support and encouragement for their pupils, implementing various types of support and intervention as may be necessary, working with parents and the pupil to help ensure each pupil realises his or her full potential.

If you have any pastoral or academic concerns regarding your child in Year 7, please contact the Lower School Pastoral Office in the first instance.

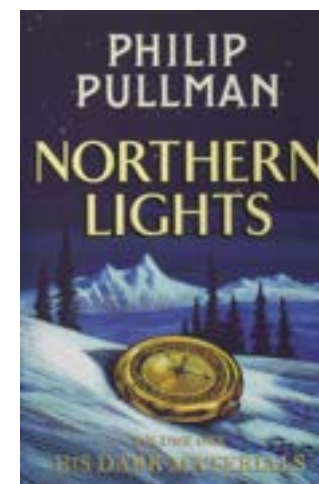
Miss G Fairfax, Deputy Headteacher



LIFELONG READERS, YEAR 7 READING INITIATIVE

Pupils join Westcliff High School for Boys with the aim of unlocking their potential. They want to develop their intellectual curiosity and global awareness, to become lifelong learners and effective communicators. Our pupils want to prepare themselves for a happy and successful future. There is no better way for them to achieve these aims than by becoming a Lifelong Reader. Extensive research has shown that reading provides a host of benefits. Reading improves skills of writing and comprehension, general knowledge, empathy, and develops a better understanding of other cultures. Being a Lifelong Reader grants you important cultural capital, and being a good reader makes you a good learner. But these are not the reasons a Lifelong Reader reads.

Reading is one of the most enjoyable and enriching hobbies a person can have. There is nothing like picking up a page-turner or finding an amazing new series of books to steam through. Lifelong Readers read because they love it. The aim of the Lifelong Readers Initiative is to instil a love of reading within the pupils of our School. Starting this year with Year 7 pupils, we will lend three books to each pupil, one for each term. The books chosen are from the literary canon and have been picked for their variety of themes and topics, and because they are challenging.



The books will introduce pupils to new vocabulary and develop their confidence as readers. This term's book is *Northern Lights* by Phillip Pullman. It is important that pupils read their Lifelong Reader's book, as they will otherwise be left out of discussions and presentations that will take place during Form time and Enrichment Periods throughout the year.

It is recommended that parents involve themselves with this initiative by reading the books along with their children.

However, in the event this is not possible, pupils will be provided with an information booklet along with their three books. This booklet is for parents, to inform them of the content of each book, together with ideas to prompt discussions around the book at home.

Mr T Derrick, Associate Assistant Headteacher

THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

During the last few years, the School Library has undergone a number of improvements and updates in order to provide pupils with an effective and enjoyable study space where they can work and read independently outside of the classroom. It provides a quiet working space which must be respected by all pupils when they are using this resource.

The School Library opens at 8.00am to allow pupils to work before School starts, and it remains open until 5.45pm for pupils who wish to complete their homework after School finishes for the day. During the main part of the School day, the Library is open to all pupils at break time and at lunchtime, so that they can use the space to work and exchange their library books. During

lesson time, Lower School pupils have one reading lesson per fortnight as part of their English provision. Sixth Form students are free to use the School Library in their non-contact time, as well as sometimes having scheduled time to work in the School Library as part of their timetabled private and supervised study lessons.

As well as being available to all pupils who wish to borrow reading books at any time, the School Library will also be participating in the "Book Buzz" reading programme which is aimed at encouraging independent reading for 11 to 13 year-olds. This will support the key role the School Library plays in the promotion of Literacy, led by Mr Derrick, Associate Assistant Head.

There is also the opportunity for new and existing pupils to become Library Ambassadors and assist our Library staff with the smooth running of the School Library. This has been a popular initiative in recent years and we have many superb Library Ambassadors. For any pupils interested in becoming a Library Ambassador, they should speak to the Library staff about putting their name forward, and also listen out for information in the Daily Notices this term.

Mr M Manning, Deputy Headmaster



SAFEGUARDING

Online Safety

As parents will be aware, the School takes its safeguarding responsibilities exceptionally seriously. Parents will be aware that there has been significant media coverage of late in relation to online safety and the School has also seen a rise in the number of safeguarding cases involving inappropriate use of the internet. Online safety concerns can broadly be categorised in 4Cs, namely **content, contact, conduct and commerce** (see infographic on page 13).

As a School, we seek to protect and educate our students in relation to online safety in a number of ways. The School's computer network uses a filtering provider that blocks harmful and inappropriate websites whilst we also monitor the searches of students to ensure their safety and flag any potential risk factors. In addition, matters relating to online safety are covered extensively within the Computer Science curriculum and within our Personal Development programme through PSHEE lessons, Form periods and Assemblies.

At the start of the new academic year, there are four areas (fake profile, grooming, pornography and privacy setting) which we would like to bring to the attention of parents. Parents are encouraged to open a dialogue with their son/daughter about these issues. We have also provided some links to other websites where further information and guidance can be sought.

Fake profiles

It is important for young people to understand that, unfortunately, not everyone online is who they say they are. Parents can support our work at School by explaining to their son/daughter that that in some cases social media profiles may be people posing as someone they are not (such as an adult posing as a child) or may be bots (which are automated software programs designed to create and control fake social media accounts). In order to potentially spot such fake profiles, young people should be aware and look out for: profile pictures that do not look right (for example, of a celebrity or object), accounts with no followers or thousands of followers or a public figure who does not have a verified account.

Grooming

Parents should be aware that young people who spend time online are exposing themselves to different types of grooming including radicalisation, child sexual abuse and exploitation, gangs (county lines) and financial exploitation (so called money mules). It would be beneficial to discuss with your son/daughter the matter of boundaries in friendships with peers, families and with others. Parents should be aware of the key indicators of grooming behaviour as outlined by the NSPCC.

Signs a child is being groomed may include:

- Sudden changes in behaviour, such as spending more or less time online;
- Spending more time away or going missing from home or school;
- Being secretive about how they are spending their time, including when using online devices;
- Having unexplained gifts, big or small;
- Misusing alcohol and/or drugs;
- Having a friendship or relationship with a much older person;
- Developing sexual health problems;
- Using sexual language you would not expect them to know;
- Seeming upset or withdrawn;
- Mental health problems.

Signs of grooming can easily be mistaken for 'typical' teenage behaviour, but you may notice unexplained changes in behaviour or personality or inappropriate behaviour for their age. Parents can access the National Crime Agency's *ThinkUKnow* website (<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>) for further information on keeping children safe from sexual abuse and exploitation. In addition, if you are concerned that your child may be being groomed online, you can report the matter to the Police (by calling 999 in an emergency or 111), CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Command), <https://www.ceop.police.uk/ceop-reporting/> and/or local child protection services. The School can also offer support and guidance and you can contact either Mr Williams (Designated Safeguarding Lead) or Mr Bleakley (Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead).

Pornography

Whilst this may be an uncomfortable subject to discuss with your son/daughter, parents are encouraged to reiterate the message that sexually explicit material available on the internet and through social media presents a distorted picture of sexual behaviours. Viewing pornography can lead to skewed beliefs about sex and in some circumstances can normalise violent sexual behaviour. Young people should understand that, unfortunately, not all people featured in pornographic material are doing so willingly, such as revenge porn or people trafficked into sex work. It is important that we talk to children about the sexualised content they see, including online pornography, to help them interpret and critique this information and to help them develop healthy and positive attitudes towards sex, relationships and their own body. You may find the UK Safer Internet Centre's guide, Talking to Young People about Pornography, useful (<https://saferinternet.org.uk/online-issue/pornography>).

Privacy settings

In all online communications, young people must understand the different strategies for staying safe when communicating with others, especially people they do not know or have never met. As part of your conversations with your son/daughter, it would be helpful to discuss and explain that communicating safely online and protecting your privacy and data is important regardless of who you are communicating with. Young people should be aware of the risks of giving out addresses, phone numbers or email addresses to people they do not know or arranging to meet someone you have not met before.

As a parent, you play a key role in helping your child to stay safe online. The UK Safer Internet Centre contains a wealth of information and guides for parents and offers some sound advice on how to start a conversation about these matters (see page 13).

*Mr W Williams, First Deputy Headmaster
and Designated Safeguarding Lead*



Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online.

What games do you and your friends like to play online? Can you show me the websites you visit the most? Shall we play your favourite game online together?

Ask them about how they stay safe online.

What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them?
What is OK and not OK to share?

Ask them if they know where to go for help.

Where can they go to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use?

Think about how you each use the internet.

What more could you do to use the internet together? Are there activities that you could enjoy as a family?

YEAR 7 ROAD SAFETY EVENT

Thursday 14 September 2023

This is an innovative, exciting, and truly unique sixty-minute Theatre in Education project that links to the PSHEE curriculum. A contemporary, fast-paced and hard-hitting play, using live drama, video footage and music to tell the story of three friends who are forced to face up to the real consequences of their reckless behaviour on the busy road they use to and from school. The play is followed by a twenty-minute interactive workshop with the Year group, and a ten-minute evaluation for all audience members.

This highly engaging, multi-media theatre event promotes key road safety messages to pupils in Key Stage 3 and will:

- Raise awareness of the danger of roadside distractions from music, phones and friends.
- Help pupils to identify and cope with peer influence and peer pressure.
- Promote safe, responsible and positive behaviour amongst pupils on the home to school journey.

According to a recent review, this is “the most impactful short presentation I have seen; excellent question and answer session. Thought-provoking, well planned and executed”.

We are aware that this play may be distressing for some pupils. If you have concerns about your child participating in this event, please contact the Lower School Pastoral Office in advance.

Ms G Fairfax, Deputy Headteacher



SIXTH FORM EDUCATION EVENING

Thursday 14 September 2023, 7.30pm – 9.00pm

The Sixth Form Education Evening is an event where the expectations and aims of the Sixth Form are explained. There will be a series of talks covering matters such as:

- Being successful in the Sixth Form; creating the A Level Mindset
- Enrichment opportunities, including volunteering in the community
- Higher Education support and guidance
- Preparing for work in the 21st Century

Critical dates for our students' lives in the Sixth Form at WHSB will be explained, and there will be an opportunity to ask questions which will be answered by members of the Sixth Form team. All Lower Sixth students are expected to attend with their parents.

Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form



ENRICHMENT DAY

Friday 15 September 2023

It is a useful and flexible little word, is ‘value’. A value meal can be the cheapest thing you buy while your personal values should be the dearest things you own. The word itself comes from the Latin valere, meaning “to be strong, be well”, whose past participle became corrupted into valutus, entering the English language in the 14th century through the old French word valu, feminised with the addition of a final -e, to mean “worth, high quality”. We deploy the word in a plethora of ways, identifying those things we cherish as having value, and, in its plural, using it to categorise those principles that frame us.

The word value certainly sits at the heart of our Enrichment Day. The day is intended to add value to all our pupils, with an enriching mix of trips, careers education, extra-curricular exploration and personal development. It runs to the heart of our values as a School, believing as we do that academic education

in the classroom is just one strand of the wider education with which we seek to endow our pupils, other strands including the development of excellent character and personal self-discovery through the extra-curricular.

As a School, we also value our tremendous and talented teachers who can turn their hands so skilfully to so many different things, enabling classroom practitioners to take our pupils on new adventures in their alter egos as trip leaders and alternative providers. This September’s Enrichment Day will continue to provide valuable experiences, with team building exercises for Year 7s, trips promoting Mathematics, Engineering and History, and an exciting Science Day for younger pupils. We would encourage our pupils to value these opportunities and give to them (as we do with things we value) their dedication, attention and full enthusiasm.

Mr B Jeffreys, Associate Assistant Head



Year 7 Team Building Day at Thriftwood

On Friday 15 September, pupils in Year 7 will experience an Activity Day, which takes place at Thriftwood Scout Camp Activity Centre in Brentwood. This Activity Day is an important and enjoyable element of helping Year 7 pupils to acclimatise to the School community and meet other members of the Year group. This has proven in the past to be a popular and enjoyable event and is an important part of helping our new pupils to settle confidently into the School and into Year 7.

Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School



Year 8 Science Day

On Friday 15 September 2023, Year 8 will be taking part in a Science Day as part of Enrichment Day. The aim of the day is to allow pupils in Year 8 to develop their scientific thinking and practical skills. These are vital skills for any young scientist, which equip pupils for greater success within their wider scientific studies at School.

Activities for the day will include understanding the Scientific Method, engaging in practical tasks, and conducting research tasks.

The Scientific Method has formed the backbone of scientific development since at least the 17th century. Within this activity, pupils will aim to:

- Understand what the Scientific Method is;
- Draw scientific diagrams accurately;
- Identify hazards, risks and controls;
- Apply the Scientific Method to practical experiments in order to be more robust and objective; and
- Understand that the Scientific Method is important for the global scientific community.

In the practical tasks, pupils will aim to:

- Handle practical equipment safely and correctly;
- Work safely in the laboratory;
- Work collaboratively with other young scientists;
- Learn new areas of Science beyond the scope of the examination curriculum;
- Apply their knowledge to the wider world; and
- Be more confident in conducting practical experiments.

The ability to conduct research is an important transferable skill, whether that be for a project or for one's own personal interests. Within this activity, pupils will aim to:

- Be more computer literate, including using basic software such as Microsoft Word;
- Understand how to research effectively;
- Understand how we determine which sources of information are reliable and which less so; and
- Use sources to influence their own work, rather than adopting a passive 'copy and paste' approach.

Miss E Lo, Key Stage 3 Science Co-Ordinator



Year 9 Duxford Trip

On 15 September, pupils in the Year 9 cohort will again have the opportunity to visit the airfield and aircraft collection at Duxford, near Cambridge, part of the Imperial War Museum. This is a world-class collection of aircraft, mostly military, along with the Royal Anglian Regiment Museum, at a WWII airfield that still retains a number of its original features. It will give pupils newly arrived into Year 9 an opportunity to put into perspective their historical studies of WWII by seeing some of the technological developments leading up to, and during, the Second World War. Pupils will also be able to examine the technological progress from the early days of flight up to supersonic transport and high-altitude reconnaissance.

A number of ground-breaking aircraft are represented, including:

- Concorde pre-production MSN 101 with its flight-test equipment still installed;
- Several Spitfires, some of which are air-worthy, alongside its nemesis the Messerschmitt Bf-109, and pupils will be able to hear the stories of some of the people involved in crucial roles and events of the Second World War;
- More modern aircraft and helicopters, such as the Avro Vulcan and York, Shorts Sunderland, English Electric Lightning, Hawker Hunter, Westland Wessex and Sea King; and
- American aircraft, including A10 strike aircraft and SR71 Blackbird, alongside a B-52 bomber.

In previous years, groups have been treated to flying displays by Spitfires and a Messerschmitt, other aircraft movements and aircraft maintenance, and restoration projects in progress. We are grateful to the Imperial War Museum, who make available this type of opportunity to school groups free of charge, reducing the overall costs to that of transportation.

Mr S Hudson, Teacher of Physics



Year 10 Humanities Enrichment Day

George Orwell once rather infamously said that “journalism is printing something someone else does not want printed. Everything else is just public relations.”

In a world plagued with bias and fake news, it is more important than ever that we equip our pupils with the global awareness and intellectual curiosity necessary to navigate the world of non-fiction and journalism with confidence, empathy and, most importantly, a sense of scrutiny.

This term, the English Department is offering Year 10 pupils the opportunity to delve into the world of journalism, exploring how rhetoric can be used through non-fiction writing in order to inform, persuade and manipulate a readership. Pupils will rotate between activities centred around current affairs, philosophical debate and, of course, masterclasses in how to craft the written word in order to portray poignant stories. At the end of the day, pupils will have the chance to assemble and then perform news bulletins, in which they draw together all of their non-fiction skills and have the opportunity to practise their public speaking.

Not only will the day offer our Year 10 pupils a chance to practice their GCSE Language skills, but we also hope to further inspire them to read non-fiction and journalism fastidiously, perhaps even considering their own future in journalism so that they go on to print the stories that ought to be told.

Ms C Bailey, Head of English



Year 11 Battlefields Trip

Friday 15 September - Sunday 17 September 2023

This September, the History Department is delighted to take the next generation of Year 11 pupils to experience the emotions and stories of the First World War Battlefield sites. We will depart the School early on Enrichment Day, and travel with regular providers, Galloway, to Belgium.

Our first day will include a trip to Poperinghe and Talbot House, the haven of peace provided to WW1 Tommies away from the front lines. On the second day, we are delighted again to be joined by military historian Mr Andy Robertshaw, the historical adviser on films such as War Horse and 1917. Mr Robertshaw will draw on his extensive knowledge to help our young Historians to understand the nature and challenges of the Somme offensive, culminating in a trip to the Thiepval memorial. Saturday will close with a trip to the Menin Gate, with pupils participating in the very powerful evening ceremony, followed by a twilight visit to German memorial Langemarck.

Our final day gives pupils some free time in lepe to buy Belgian chocolate and consume Belgian burgers (but not Belgian beer!) before the return trip home. The trip promises again to be an interesting and emotional tour of discovery of these hugely significant sites, and the Year 11 pupils involved will join more than twenty years of Westcliff tourists who have benefited from these visits. Our thanks to the teachers who will accompany this visit and provide such fine support for this trip.

Mr B Jeffreys, Head of History



Year 11 Mathematics Day

Pupils in Year 11 have an exciting opportunity to experience Mathematics in the real world on Friday 15 September, for Enrichment Day. They will spend the first half of the day looking at projectile motion and curve modelling before going to the Nuclear Races in Kelvedon Hatch to experience this in a practical aspect. Will they be able to correctly model what will happen to them on the "Death Slide"? Those pupils who opt to remain in School will also enjoy a day of Puzzles and Problem Solving.

Miss A James, Head of Mathematics



Lower Sixth Mental Health Day

Studying subjects at an Advanced Level requires a greater degree of independent learning and increased resilience. The Lower Sixth September Enrichment Day will see students attend a series of workshops, during which they will be given an opportunity to build an improved set of study skills, alongside support to develop both mindset and character.

The Lower Sixth Mental Health Day will introduce students to the VESPA model. Using research-based examples and activities, students will fine-tune their vision, reflect on current working practices in terms of effort and systems, and identify the necessary attitudinal attributes required to be a successful and healthy Sixth Form student at WHSB.

Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form



BRONZE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Friday 15 - Saturday 16 September 2023

I am delighted to report that we have been able to return the running of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme back to full operational level this year, with bumper cohorts of Year 9 (Bronze) and Year 10 (Silver) pupils participating.

The Year 9 Bronze participants (now Year 10) have completed their practice expedition and are soon to complete their assessment (15-16 September) which will take place around Hatfield Peverel and Danbury. This event will see pupils undertaking on their own (although with suitable supervision by staff) navigation across 6 hours of planned activity, before arriving at camp where they must continue to be self-sufficient. Pupils should endeavour to complete all sections of their Bronze Award prior to Christmas if they would like to progress to Silver.

Expeditions such as these are, in my experience, the main draw of the Award for pupils. However, the Award is more than just the Expedition, with the sections for Skills, Volunteering and Physical activities playing an equally important part. These sections offer pupils an opportunity to stretch themselves in many disciplines. Year 9 pupils will have the opportunity to apply for a place in January, and should apply bearing in mind the full scope and breadth of the Award's requirements.

Mr H Tresidder, Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator

Enrichment Day for the Upper Sixth

Nuclear Races Trip

Students in the Upper Sixth will visit the Nuclear Races Wild Forest Obstacle Activity Centre in Kelvedon Hatch, Essex. The day will involve students working in teams to complete several obstacle challenges in a purpose-built woodland facility. This activity will help our Upper Sixth students to develop focus, resilience, confidence, determination, and teamwork skills. Additionally, it is an excellent opportunity for individuals to improve their physical and mental fitness. Nuclear Races is a well-established activity centre and has been awarded the quality badge by the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom. We hope the students have a memorable day before the focus turns to preparation for the January Trial Examinations.

Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form

Sizewell Trip

I am delighted to inform you that the Physics department has organised a trip to the Sizewell B Nuclear Power Station for Upper Sixth Physics students as part of our September 2023 Enrichment Day on 15 September.

Sizewell B is a Pressure Water Reactor nuclear power station on the Suffolk coast. Students will be studying nuclear power station design as part of their A Level in Physics, so visiting and touring a working nuclear power station will be a tremendously beneficial experience for them. As part of the visit, students will attend a lecture about how nuclear power stations operate, and will have a tour of the facility. They will also visit the turbine room and see, and hear, the enormous turbines spinning at 3000 rpm and transferring enough energy to supply 3.4 million homes on average (nearly every home in the East of England).

Mr K Dalby, Teacher of Physics



UPPER AND LOWER SIXTH
FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS

Upper Sixth: 18 - 22 September 2023
Lower Sixth: 11 - 19 December 2023

The Autumn Term 2023 will see formative assessment weeks for the Lower and Upper Sixth students. Many of these will include in-class tests based on several topics and a range of question styles.

Successive relearning, as identified in Rosenshine’s Principles of Instruction (2012), found that regular testing helps to avoid cognitive overload and to place more information in long-term memory. These tests will also enable the students to assess the effectiveness of their study systems and refine their revision strategies before sitting the Trial Examinations in January.

Support will be offered through our Tutor time programme; however, any student who feels they require additional support or advice should not hesitate to contact the Sixth Form Pastoral Office.

Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form

YEAR 7 HELPING PARENTS TO HELP
THEIR SONS EVENING

Monday 18 September 2023, 7.00pm – 8.30pm

We invite all parents of new Year 7 pupils at WHSB to attend our ‘Helping Parents to Help Their Sons’ evening. Moving from a Primary School to a Secondary School can be a daunting experience for both parents and pupils at the best of times. Routines are new, the environment is changed, expectations are different, and new Year 7 pupils have a level of independence and expectation that has not been the same in a Primary School environment.

The purpose of the Year 7 ‘Helping Parents to Help Their Sons’ evening is to help smooth that transition and give some helpful advice to parents of new Year 7 pupils in order that they can support their sons in making the best possible start to their careers at the School. In this meeting, Mr Baggs (Director of Lower School), Mr Norman (Year 7 Progress Leader), representatives from the major academic departments and I will give presentations on a variety of topics.

These will include:

- Recommended routines for maintaining good health;
- Managing organisation and homework;
- Ways to maximise progress in academic disciplines;
- Helping when things go wrong;
- Mechanisms for support in and out of School; and
- Safe and sensible use of Technology and the link between the limited and responsible use of Technology and good Mental Health.

We invite and encourage all parents of Year 7 pupils to attend this evening.

Mr J Bleakley, Senior Master Lower School

PARENTS’ ASSOCIATION: YEAR 7
WELCOME TO WESTCLIFF EVENING

Monday 18 September 2023, 6.30pm – 7.00pm

On Monday 18 September, the Parents’ Association will be hosting its Annual “Welcome to Westcliff” Evening for all those parents and carers who are new to Westcliff High School for Boys. This will take place immediately prior to the School’s “Helping Parents to Help Their Sons” (Year 7) Education Evening.

Existing Parents’ Association members will be serving refreshments in the Screens area, adjacent to the Main School Hall. This will be an informal and enjoyable evening where you can meet the Headmaster and members of his staff. In previous years, this Welcome Evening has proved very useful in helping to answer practical questions that may have arisen once pupils have joined the School. Contact can be made both with other parents whose children are in the same Form Group and with those who live in the same locality. The evening is free of charge to attend, and we look forward to meeting you.

RSVP via TicketSource.

Mrs J Clarke, Chair of the Parents’ Association



PARENTS’ ASSOCIATION AGM

Monday 18 September 2023, 7.00pm – 8.00pm



The Parents’ Association AGM will be held on Monday 18 September at 7.00pm in the School. A summary of our fundraising efforts over the previous year will be set out for those attending, together with a presentation of our annual accounts. The meeting is open to all members of our School Parent Community, and we look forward to welcoming you to this event.

Mrs J Clarke, Chair of the Parents’ Association

YEAR 11 ROAD SAFETY EVENT

Wednesday 20 September 2023

‘Dead End’ is designed to help young people to engage with the topic of Road Safety from the perspective of both driver and passenger. The play explores both causes and consequences of Road Traffic Incidents. It portrays the horrific consequences of three characters’ actions on the roads, dealing with the following situations:

- The story of Molly who, after one night out with Harrison, then has to deal with the aftermath of grave injury to herself, and come to terms with both her actions and the death of a friend;
- The story of Harrison, who crashed the car Molly was in and claimed he was not at fault, believing that he could take drink and drugs but still drive. As the dialogue develops, attempts by Harrison and Molly to deny responsibility are turned on their head. Only then do we realise Harrison’s fate that night;
- The story of Tony, who caused death due to distraction. This explores from Tony’s perspective the causes for the crash in graphic detail, along with the pain of responsibility for the death of a pedestrian as the result of distraction and lack of concentration whilst driving.

Delivered through incredibly powerful monologues and interspersed with theatrical action and imagery via a projection screen, the audience is guided powerfully through the key messages. We see the build-up to, and consequences of, the crashes.

Carefully designed for a Year 11 age group, the performance uses a ‘Talking Heads’ style approach, with graphic descriptions of the accidents and the emotional scars. This performance has been particularly effective as a means of communicating powerfully with Year 11 pupils, who have proved highly receptive to this more sophisticated and emotive approach.

The performance is only one half of the learning experience. Lasting thirty minutes, it moves directly into a related workshop which lasts a further thirty minutes. The workshop will help our pupils to consolidate and clarify all the issues raised in the play, question the actions and motivations of the characters, and consider what they themselves might do differently in real life.

It is the combination of engaging theatre and an interactive approach that creates such a powerful learning experience and empowers young people to make sensible decisions around their own and others’ road safety.

We are aware that this play may be distressing for some pupils. If you have concerns about your child participating in this event, please contact the Middle School Pastoral Office in advance.

Miss G Fairfax, Deputy Headteacher



COMBINED CADET FORCE: ARMY TRAINING

Thursday 21 - Saturday 23 September 2023

This September, our Year 10 cadets will embark upon their Weapons Handling training and testing. Many pupils join the CCF in Year 9 as they are excited to learn new skills and move out of their comfort zone. Over the past few months, such cadets have been learning the basics of the Army Proficiency Certificate from older Senior NCOs, both during Thursday evening training sessions and on an exciting overnight exercise earlier this year. The next stage is for cadets to learn how to use a rifle effectively so that they can attend ranges to further their skills in shooting.



This is a highlight for many of our cadets and, while the weapons handling test can be daunting, all cadets have demonstrated the required safety and skill needed to move to this level. The training will focus on the working parts of the rifle, how to address and fix an issue with a rifle while in the field, and how to operate the rifle safely at all times.

We hope all our Year 10 cadets are able to attend this vital training to continue to work towards new skills and future promotions.

Mrs K Allard, CO Army



MENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION EVENING

Thursday 21 September 2023, 7.30pm - 9.00pm

The increasing prominence of Mental Health as part of a holistic understanding of our general health is a welcome development. Equally, its increased prominence is accompanied by historic pressures on mental health services and unprecedented demand for those services.



The School continues to direct considerable resource towards mental health support for those who need it, and has revisited the entirety of its PSHEE and Pastoral provision to ensure that our pupils understand this important area. We want to help pupils understand how they can maintain good mental health, as well as addressing issues that may be detrimental to their mental health should they arise. Mr Bleakley (Senior Master Lower School) and Mr Dean (Senior Master Sixth Form) are our qualified Senior Mental Health Leads at WHSB and, as such, oversee the arrangements for mental health provision within the School.

As part of our provision in this area, we invite all pupils, parents and staff to attend our Mental Health Information Evening.

During the evening we will consider the following areas:

- Maintenance of good mental health and protective factors;
- Distinguishing when the normal 'ups and downs' of mood become a mental health problem;
- Identifying sources of help and strategies for self-help; and
- Harmful practices that can damage mental health (including social media abuse, links between technology and poor mental health, sleep and social interactions).

There will be opportunity for questions to be addressed at the end of the session.

Mr J Bleakley, Senior Master Lower School



11+ ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

Saturday 23 September 2023

Our main 11+ Test Day will be a little later this year, taking place on Saturday 23 September. We would like to extend our thanks in advance to all those members of our staff who are involved in this key event for the School. We are also very grateful to our Invigilators, Markers, and members of our School Prefect Team, all of whom will be integral to the smooth running of this important day.

Tuesday 3 October 2023 (Alternative Date)

The alternative testing day for 11+ entrance will take place on Tuesday 3 October. However, the School will remain open as normal for existing pupils.

Miss G Fairfax, Deputy Headteacher

YEAR 11 FORMATIVE ASSESSMENTS

Monday 25 - Friday 29 September 2023

The week beginning Monday 25 September will see pupils in Year 11 undertake a series of Formative Assessments. It is important to stress that these are not Trial Examinations, which will come later in the term. These Formative Assessments are an opportunity for pupils to review their progress since the Year 10 Summer Examinations, both consolidating that work completed throughout Year 10, and assessing new material covered in the weeks since.

Formative Assessments have provided an excellent springboard for many pupils in the past, as well as, for a few pupils, the opportunity to build confidence and to improve upon a disappointing previous performance.

Staff in the Middle School Pastoral Office are on hand to offer advice and support and further details will be shared with pupils early in the new term.

Mr A Barnett, Director of Middle School



YEAR 9: HELPING PARENTS TO HELP THEIR SONS

Thursday 28 September 2023, 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Year 9 is a most important year in a pupil's education at Westcliff High School for Boys. It represents the final year of his Lower School studies, and it is essential preparation for the undertaking of GCSE courses. In addition, the ever-important GCSE Options choices are made during the Spring Term. Pupils' performance during Year 9 can have real, long-term effects as it can either preclude, or open, options at GCSE. Furthermore, if study habits are not firmly established by the end of Year 9, pupils can struggle to cope when they begin their GCSE studies in Year 10.

Parents are invited and encouraged to attend the Year 9 'Helping Parents to Help Their Sons' evening at which Mr Baggs (Director

of Lower School), Miss Ives (Year 9 Progress Leader) and representatives from various academic departments will give presentations on a variety of topics, which will include:

- Recommended routines;
- Managing organisation and homework;
- Helpful routines and habits for study;
- Re-establishing expectations;
- Specific ways to maximise progress in academic disciplines;
- Helping when things go wrong; and
- Mechanisms for support in and out of School.

All Year 9 pupils are expected to attend this event, and we invite all parents of Year 9 pupils to attend too.

Mr J Bleakley, Assistant Headteacher



LOWER SIXTH PHASE 1 REPORTS

Friday 29 September 2023

The Lower Sixth Phase 1 Report indicates how your son/daughter has settled into his/her A Level studies. The report consists of a single numerical grade (1-4) and represents an attitudinal indicator (1 = excellent start and highly suitable choice, 4 = very poor start and potentially unsuitable subject choice).

Subject teachers may comment further on student suitability for a particular course where required. If necessary, your son/daughter should talk to the Sixth Form Pastoral Office for further advice and support. The issuing of the Phase 1 report represents the final opportunity to process subject changes, ensuring that all students have a combination of subjects that best suits their interests and potential.

Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form



WCGC GO FOR GRAMMAR DAY

Saturday 30 September 2023

The WCGC Go for Grammar! Programme consists of a series of themed workshop events designed for boys and girls in Year 5, which take place on Saturdays throughout the academic year. Each workshop has an overall theme, and also includes Mathematics and English tutorial sessions run by members of the Westcliff High School for Boys' teaching staff, covering material that is relevant to questions on the 11+ examination. Students from our Sixth Form assist with the running of the day.

The theme for our day on 30 September is Action, Adventure and Leadership and will include a series of exciting outdoor tasks overseen by cadets from our WHSB Combined Cadet Force (CCF) Army, Navy and RAF sections.

Details of our further themed workshops will be shared in due course. In the meantime, we look forward to welcoming the Year 5 pupils and their parents to the School on 30 September.

Those Sixth Form students interested in helping to support these events should contact Mr Baggs.

Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower Sixth



THE SCHOOL COUNCIL



After being a member of the School Council in the Lower School, I was keen to get involved again as a Sixth Form student. I wanted to work with my peers to contribute suggestions to help our School community develop for the benefit of all pupils.

The School Council is an excellent way for the whole School community to be involved in helping to shape the future of the School. It is very important that we can give positive feedback on what we are grateful for, as well as making suggestions for how things can be improved even further. The Council is formed of representatives from each Form, culminating in approximately twenty members per Year group. Each Year group has its own set of three 'Celebrations' and three 'Suggestions for Development'. This format ensures all Year groups have an equal say in presenting their ideas and opinions, an important component in ensuring that the School continues to flourish and thrive. Since the School Council changed its structure in January 2023, we have conducted one collection of ideas, involving three 'Celebrations' of the school (which last term were our School's wonderful canteen and Sixth Form café staff, subject mentoring available for all Year groups, and the extra-curricular options present at the School) and three 'Suggestions for Development'.

An important part of contributing to the School Council is the need to be practical about our suggestions and understand the limitations that there may be to having them implemented, whether these be logistical or financial. I am sure we would all love an Olympic sized swimming pool onsite! But to be taken seriously, we understand that our suggestions need to be feasible as well as beneficial for all.

One aspect of the Student Council that I really enjoy is the programme of debates held during Form time, when the whole Form gets involved with debating ideas and deciding what we would like to put forward. Ms Niedziela has been very supportive in her role of Head of the Lower Sixth School Council. She listens to each Form's 'Celebrations' and 'Suggestions', and she works with us to choose whose ideas will be put forward to the Headmaster.

Last term, Maxi Rowe and Mobolu Olowoyeye met with the Headmaster to discuss the Council's proposals. After receiving feedback from the Headmaster, we then had a final meeting that term to evaluate our work and prepare for the next term's

meetings and plans. Maxi and Mobolu spoke confidently and with great conviction, and the Headmaster declared himself impressed with the Council's efforts that term.

Consequently, the Headmaster visited the whole of our Year group in the Westcliff Theatre to address and thank the Lower Sixth for its collaboration and communication with the School. After hearing back from the Headmaster and gaining valuable feedback, I and other members of the Council were pleased to be told by our peers that they felt they had been heard, had their ideas valued and felt fairly represented by the Council. This was a great feeling, and as a Council we were pleased that we had achieved this and helped ensure that a fair system to deliver an active student voice was an established part of the WHSB community.

Last summer term, the six new ideas were proposed to the Headmaster by myself and Maya Garande-Thompson. We are very eager and excited to be able to present our most recent 'Suggestions' and 'Celebrations', with these including an appreciation of the new Peer Mentoring scheme overseen by Mrs Revell and Mr Lilley (ensuring a stronger relationship between Upper and Lower Schools, and allowing further support for those who would like it from the younger Year groups). We also wish to celebrate those charity events that have been run this year by the Charity Committee, including Teacher Five-a-Side Football and the Teacher Sumo Wrestling Event. Furthermore, we also proposed the ideas of combining Sixth Form breadth studies with PSHEE in order to maximise our private study time, a happy coincidence which aligned with the Headmaster's decision to make that change. We also proposed pulling forward the Upper Sixth prefect to Lower Sixth prefect change over in order to facilitate more time for A-Level examination revision. It was a pleasure to propose these ideas for development, and even more pleasing to see how well they were received by Miss Fairfax and the Headmaster. The School Council is a vital aspect of maintaining student-teacher collaboration and ensuring that all pupils from all Year groups feel they are heard and valued in the WHSB community.

If anyone is thinking of getting involved with the School Council in the future, I thoroughly recommend it. The skills that you will learn, such as creating, debating, negotiating and compromising, will be excellent preparation for the working world. I feel very proud to be a part of this vital organisation and look forward to sharing our future achievements with you.

Will Midwinter, School Captain



Sujay Surenthiran, School Council Representative (Form 8N)

HOMWORK AND PREPARING FOR ASSESSMENTS, AND THE REPORTING SCHEDULE

Advice and guidance on managing homework and revision, how to use reports to check on progress, and what parents should look out for when receiving a report

Homework, Assessment and Reports

At the start of each academic year, pupils in Years 7 to 11 are provided with a Homework Schedule indicating how much time they should be spending on each piece of homework they receive (25 minutes in Year 7, increasing to 35 minutes by Year 11), and on which night they should complete each piece. The night specified for each subject may not correspond to a day on which they have a lesson in a particular subject, but it has been chosen to ensure that the workload is fairly distributed across the week. The Sixth Form does not have a set schedule, but students are expected to complete 16 hours of additional work outside class (per week) across each of their A Level subjects.

Assessed work for each Year group will vary from subject to subject and may include a formal piece of written work completed at home or in class; class tests of varying length and frequency; End of Year Examinations for Years 7 – 10 and the Lower Sixth (in the Summer Term); Trial Examinations for Year 11 and the Upper Sixth; or Non-Examined Assessment (NEA - coursework) for those subjects which still have this element as part of the assessment schedule. Advice on how to prepare for such assessments will be provided in advance. For example, major assessments such as Trial Examinations and End of Year Examinations are added to the calendar at the start of the year, with a letter being sent to pupils and parents nearer the time, finalising specific details such as the timing and the day of each examination to be taken. For NEA subjects, the Head of Department will brief pupils on the relevant task and the deadlines for completion. Typically, they will also contact parents if there is a serious issue regarding progress towards completion or default of deadlines.



Revision for test and assessments should be an ongoing process rather than a last-minute cramming exercise. Pupils are encouraged to plan revision in advance and revisit their notes on a regular basis. Specific advice for individual Year groups forms part of the tutorial and Assembly programme for that Year group and will build over time as the nature and importance of test and examination increases. Those pupils who leave revision until the last minute may achieve some initial success in tests and examinations, however, as time passes, outcomes will diminish unless a change to a more planned and structured form of revision is made.

Across the whole School, a number of information evenings are held to assist parents in supporting the academic progress of their son or daughter. For Years 7 and 9, we hold a “Helping Parents to help their son” evening, this year on 18 and 28 September respectively. For Year 10, we are holding an “Education Evening” on 5 October, and for Year 11 there is an “Entry into the Sixth Form Evening” on 23 January. Lower Sixth students will have an “Education Evening” at the start of their courses on 14 September.

The Reporting Schedule at WHSB is well established and published in advance. For Years 7 – 10 and the Lower Sixth there are three Phased Reports, two of which are Data Reports, and one being a Full Written Report. These provide parents with information about current progress, target grades, attitude towards study, attendance information, behaviour and improvements to be made. Year 11 and the Upper Sixth all receive two Phase Reports, one Data and one Full Written, with a third Phased Report being reserved for those pupils who have underperformed in their Trial Examinations, for the purposes of monitoring the pupil’s subsequent progress.

For the Lower School (Years 7 – 9), pupils are awarded grades based on the WHSB Lower School grading system, which is on the back of each report; this is an incremental scale across all three years. On the front of each report is the expected grade for that reporting phase, which allows parents to see whether their son is making the expected progress in each subject. For the Middle School, GCSE grades are awarded to indicate a pupil’s current working grade. Sub-grades indicate the security of that grade: for example, 6a is a high grade 6 with the pupil close to moving up towards a grade 7, an 8b is a secure grade 8, and 9c is low grade 9,



meaning the pupil will need to work hard to maintain that grade. Over time, there should be an incremental rise in a pupil’s grade in each subject as he progresses throughout his GCSE course. The Grades awarded to Sixth Form students are A Level grades, but indicate the likely grade a student will achieve if their current rate of progress is maintained through to the end of the course. The predictive element of this grading system fits in with the necessity to provide predicted grades for UCAS when students apply for university courses.

What should parents be looking out for in the Reports?

In addition to the grade awarded, on most Phased Reports, all Year groups are given four numerical Attitudinal Indicators for each subject. These rate a pupil’s attitude towards certain aspects of study. The descriptors for Years 7 to 11, and the Sixth Form, which varies slightly, are found on the back of the Report. As rule of thumb for these indicators, if an indicator of 1 is awarded, the pupil is performing above expectation in that indicator; 2 means the pupil is in line with expectation, whereas a 3 or 4 would indicate that there is a serious issue which needs to be addressed as a matter of some urgency. High frequencies of a 3 or 4 being awarded would typically trigger an intervention from the relevant Pastoral Team.

Attendance and Punctuality are also indicated in each report, with attendance expected to be at 100%, and not less than 97%, with no instances of unauthorised absence. If attendance falls below 90%, the pupil is deemed to be “persistently absent” and there would likely be serious negative consequences in relation to expected outcomes should attendance fall below this level. The relevant Pastoral Team would have already been in touch with parents if attendance had been frequently below 97%, heading towards 90%. Ideally, pupils in Years 7 to 11 should not receive any behaviour points for poor behaviour. A pupil who repeatedly receives behaviour points will typically see the negative consequences in terms of outcomes. This, combined with poor attendance, often leads to a pupil seriously underperforming, which should not be a surprise at all.

For parents of Lower School pupils, it is important to keep track of your son’s performance in the subjects of English, Mathematics and Science (or the three separate sciences in Year 9) as these subjects will form the six core GCSEs for all pupils in the Middle School, and seven for the more able mathematicians, who are invited to study GCSE Further Mathematics. Similarly, it is important for pupils to ensure they remain on track in both their Languages, and also in Geography and History, as pupils will be required to study at least one language at GCSE, and at least one of Geography or History. Pupils also are given three other free option choices in the options process during Year 9.

For parents of Middle School pupils, it is important that your son’s performance reaches a total of 52 points or above across his best eight grades (calculated simply by summing his best eight grades). This is the minimum entry requirement for the Sixth Form at WHSB; the vast majority of our pupils exceed this requirement, with the typical average being around 63-64 points, and many reaching the maximum of 72 points. Some A Level subjects have minimum GCSE entrance requirements, but not all, however it is becoming increasingly clear that achieving a grade 8 or 9 in a GCSE subject that a pupil wishes to study at A Level, is a significant advantage over a grade 7, especially in Mathematics and the Sciences.

Parents of Sixth Form students need to be aware that most degree courses at the best universities are likely to require a

grade B or above in each subject being studied, with the very best universities requiring an A or A* in each. Pupils wishing to apply for competitive areas such as Medicine, for example, are likely to need to achieve at least three A grades. Therefore, when looking at a Lower Sixth report for such a student, he or she should already be at, or very close to this due to the predictive nature of the grades awarded. Students with C and D grades, and with attitudinal indicators of 3 or 4 in the Lower Sixth, particularly in Biology and/or Chemistry, are unlikely to be suitable candidates for Medicine. Generally, promises of additional effort in the Upper Sixth on the student’s part are unlikely to be successful in any competitive area – the hard work needs to begin at the start of the Lower Sixth and be maintained throughout the entire course. This should not be a problem for the student who has already established good working habits at GCSE and has achieved the best possible grades in the relevant subjects before entering the Sixth Form.

Mr M Manning, Deputy Headmaster



YEAR 9 TAKE YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY

Tuesday 3 October 2023

After last year's successful launch of this initiative, our Year 9 pupils will again have an opportunity to accompany their parents or trusted friends to their workplace on Tuesday 3 October.

Pupils can look forward to experiencing a day in a professional working environment, in order to help enable them to consider more closely where their future career interests might lie. The School has issued stringent supervisory guidelines for this day and these were included in a letter sent last term to parents of pupils in Year 9.

We are pleased to report that pupils who have previously engaged with this initiative have found this day to be extremely enlightening, as well as a springboard into beginning to map out their own career aspirations, and routes into subsequent education and/or training. Those who are unable to secure a day's placement will remain at School and participate in a carousel of career-related learning activities.

Mr M Atkinson, Careers Leader and Adviser



YEAR 10 EDUCATION EVENING

Thursday 5 October 2023, 7.30pm - 9.00pm

On Thursday 5 October, pupils in Year 10 and their parents will be attending an Education and Information Evening. This will outline our expectations of pupils for the two GCSE years ahead.

This event provides an opportunity for pupils to hear from staff and senior students about the GCSE experience, as well as offering an opportunity for parents to see how they can support their children, and understand the sort of tasks they will be undertaking.

Those attending will have the opportunity to meet the Pastoral Team who will be supporting the pupils throughout their time in the Middle School, and to hear more about the positive correlation we see between those pupils who engage beyond the classroom and the achievement of academic success.

Mr A Barnett, Director of Middle School

YEAR 10 GEOGRAPHY TRIP: WALTON-ON-NAZE

Thursday 5 - Friday 6 October 2023

The Geography Department has been pleased to run this trip for many years in order to enable pupils studying for their GCSEs to collect data from beach measurements. The trip facilitates the generation of suitable data, and helps pupils to practise data collection, presentation and analytical skills, in preparation for their Paper 3 Geographical Applications Examination.

Walton-on-Naze offers an excellent beach section that allows pupils to study managed and unmanaged sections, and therefore to compare and contrast erosion rates as well as consider the role of soft and hard engineering.

Mr P Marlow, Teacher of Geography



YEAR 9 ROAD SAFETY EVENT

Friday 6 October 2023

#YOLO is a performance by a visiting Theatre Company that investigates the consequences of not wearing a seatbelt and of poor passenger safety. It demonstrates the impact and consequences of a fatal traffic incident on family and friends.

The performance tells the story of road traffic casualty Sam, following Sam's sister and father who are left behind to deal with the trauma of losing a family member as they try to find out what happened in the last few minutes of Sam's young life.

Followed by a Year group workshop, it is designed to:

- Challenge perceptions and preconceptions around being 'just a passenger' with no influence over how a car is driven;
- Investigate the consequences of poor attitudes and behaviour as a passenger;
- Demonstrate and develop effective ways to challenge anti-social driving;
- Explore strategies for managing driver and passenger behaviour;
- Encourage personal responsibility;
- Identify and investigate effective ways to challenge peer pressure and peer influence;
- Highlight the importance of always wearing a seatbelt within a vehicle; and
- Consider the trauma and suffering that does occur to family and friends left behind after a fatal road incident.

We are aware that this play may be distressing for some pupils. If you have concerns about your child participating in this event, please contact the Lower School Pastoral Office in advance.

Miss G Fairfax, Deputy Headteacher



UPPER SIXTH PHASE 1 REPORT

Friday 6 October 2023

For each subject, a report will be issued that includes attainment and effort grades reflecting a student's current level of achievement. Careful consideration should be given to any changes that are apparent from the Lower Sixth Phase 3 Report issued in June 2023. All students should seek an improvement in their attainment and effort grades, where possible. Any regression or stagnation will require reflection on the use of private and supervised study periods, and reconsideration of study habits at home. Attainment grades reflect the national grade descriptors for A Level performance. After these reports

have been issued, and their contents carefully considered, additional support may be offered through academic mentoring and directed study periods.

Effort grades are awarded in the categories of attitude (in-class and out-of-class) and meeting deadlines. In the School's experience, a very strong correlation exists between effort grades and final A Level grades. Where problems emerge, pastoral support and guidance will be provided to students who will be expected to address concerns with proactive changes in their working methods.

Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form

CCF ROYAL NAVY AND RAF FIELD DAY

Friday 6 October 2023

Cadets from the Royal Navy and Royal Air Force Sections will undertake the Watersports and Adventurous Training elements of their respective syllabuses by participating in a trip to the Grangewaters Activity Centre in Thurrock. At this venue, they will be trained in sailing, kayaking and boatmanship. This promises to be an exciting and worthwhile venture for all cadets concerned and will give them opportunity to extend themselves, pushing themselves beyond their comfort zone.

The event is open to all cadets in either section, but, as places are limited, priority will be given to those who are in need of the relevant qualification or element of their syllabus.

SLt P Sell and PO M North, WHSB Combined Cadet Force



AUTUMN CHAMBER RECITAL

Thursday 12 October 2023, 7.30pm – 9.00pm

Our busy annual Programme of Music at Westcliff High School for Boys kicks off with this concert of soloists and small ensembles, featuring the very best of the School's talent. This term's recital will feature regular performers such as Ethan Wan (piano) and Josef Machacek (violin), as well as groups such as the Choral Scholars, Treble Choir, and String Ensemble. Guitarist Sebastian Lambert will present a florid arrangement of Debussy's Claire de Lune for acoustic guitar, while another bravura performance from Jacob Guyler can also be expected.

Tickets are available from [TicketSource](#) and are £5.00 for adults and free for pupils.

Mr T Derrick, Director of Music



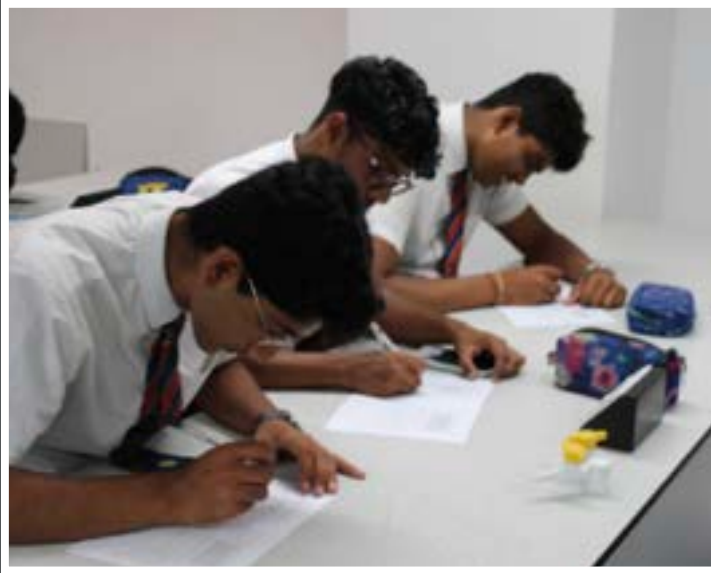
YEAR 11 PHASE 1 REPORT

Friday 13 October 2023

On Friday 13 October, pupils in Year 11 will receive their Phase 1 Report, detailing their performance across the School year to date. We would encourage pupils to make this a catalyst for more focused revision as they build towards the Trial Examinations.

The issuing of Phase 1 Reports provides an opportunity to assess the progress pupils have made since the end of Year 10. It also prompts pupils to tailor their preparation in order to ensure that they put themselves in the strongest position possible as they approach their GCSE examinations.

Mr A Barnett, Director of Middle School



YEAR 7 PHASE 1 REPORT

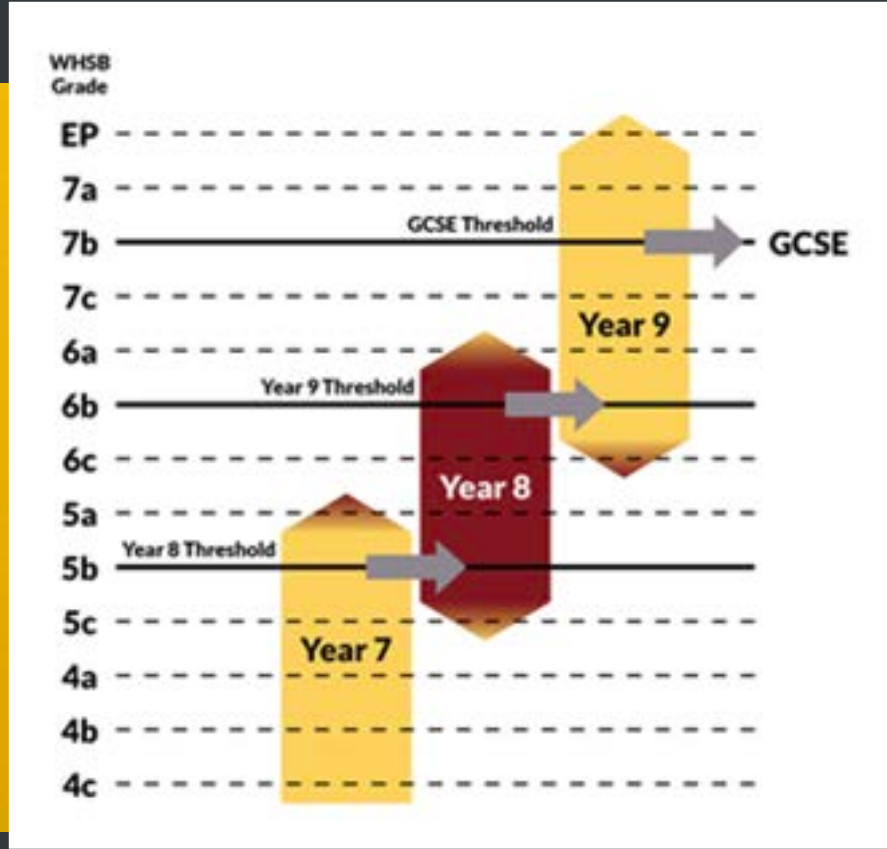
Friday 13 October 2023

On Friday 13 October, Year 7 pupils will receive their Phase 1 Report. This is an important Report as it is the first indication for parents as to how their son has adapted to academic study at the School. Parents will receive an initial indicator in the form of a grade from each of their son's teachers, using the School's internal grading system. As shown in the diagram, most pupils are graded 4a (developed performance), 4b (secure performance) or 4c (foundation performance) in the first half term. This helps parents, pupils and teachers to understand a pupil's current level of understanding, and identify areas of strength, and areas for development.

Following pupils' receipt of this Report, Form Tutors will set aside dedicated time for the pupils to reflect on their grades, and to develop goals for the rest of the academic year. Form Tutors will also discuss strategies to help pupils to improve their grades where a foundation performance has been recorded.

Parents should discuss the report with their son, together with the goals set by him, which will be recorded in his planner. Should there be any concerns, parents should contact their son's Form Tutor via the School Office. There are many mechanisms in place to support pupils, including Pastoral Support, Subject Support, and Mentoring.

Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School



CHARITY EVENTS DAY

Friday 13 October 2023

Following the successful event in 2022, the Charity Committee has decided to celebrate the rich multicultural community of which we are so proud at Westcliff High School for Boys with a further Charity Event. Pupils will be encouraged to prompt conversations by dressing as an inspirational character from a cultural background of their choice, and sharing with others the reasons for selecting that character. At lunchtime, entertainment will be provided in the School Hall, where pupils from across the years will dance, sing, present or perform to celebrate our wonderfully diverse community.

Money raised will support the work of the two School charities for 2023: Golden Geese and the MND Association. Further details will be disseminated through the Daily Notices later in the term.

Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form



INFORMATION AFTERNOON AND EVENING FOR YEAR 6 PASSES

Wednesday 18 October 2023

For prospective Year 7 pupils who sat the CSSE Entrance Examination in September 2023 and achieved a score of greater than 303, there will be two opportunities to visit the School together with their parents on Wednesday 18 October.

The purpose of these sessions is to provide information for parents on the application process for Grammar Schools following the distribution of 11+ results on Thursday 12 October.



The timings for the two sessions will be:

- Afternoon Session: Session from 2.30pm; Headmaster's Presentation from 3.25pm to 4.00pm; and
- Evening Session: Session from 7.00pm; Headmaster's Presentation from 7.50pm to 8.25pm.

Mr J Bleakley, Senior Master Lower School

YEAR 9 PHASE 1 REPORT

Thursday 19 October 2023

On Thursday 19 October, Year 9 pupils will receive their Phase 1 Report.

This is an important report which informs parents as to how their son has started this academic year, and it will be significant in influencing GCSE Option Choices, the process for which begins in January 2024. Parents will receive a current attainment indicator in the form of a grade from each of their son's teachers, using the School's internal grading system.

It is expected that pupils will achieve a grade 6a (see diagram on page 32 which accompanies the item on Year 7 Phase 1 Reports); an alternative grade would indicate whether the pupil was performing above or below this level. The report also contains the pupil's Lower School target grade. The average target grade

is 7b; therefore, if a pupil has a target above this, the School would anticipate that the pupil would be achieving a 6a or better. If the target grade is below a 7b, a grade 6a would be considered a strong result. This helps parents, the pupil and teachers to understand the pupil's current level of understanding, and identify areas of strength, and areas for development.

The report also contains attitudinal indicators; these are awarded on a scale of 1 (Exceptional) to 4 (Unacceptable). The expected indicator grade is a 2 (Good). Grades of 3 or 4 would require a change in attitude by the pupil, and a Grade of 1 is awarded when a pupil has already exceeded the high expectations of this School. Parents should consider the indicators received against the explanatory table on the back of the report.

Following the pupil's receipt of this Report, Form Tutors will set aside dedicated time for pupils to reflect on their grades, and to develop goals for the rest of the academic year. Form Tutors will also discuss strategies to help pupils to improve their grades where a foundation performance has been recorded.

Parents should discuss the report with their sons, alongside the goals he has set, as recorded in his planner. Should there be any concerns, parents should contact their son's Form Tutor via the School Office. There are many mechanisms in place to support pupils, including Pastoral Support, Subject Support, and Mentoring.

Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School

YEAR 9 CCF EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST EVENING

Thursday 19 October 2023, 7.30pm – 8.30pm

The CCF looks forward to welcoming the new intake of Year 9 cadets later this term and will be holding an interest meeting for parents and cadets on the evening of Thursday 19 October in the Westcliff Theatre. At this meeting, parents and potential cadets will be able to hear from current cadets and officers about what the CCF is and what it offers to cadets.

Shortly thereafter the CCF will run a series of taster sessions for potential cadets to allow them to choose whether to join and, if so, which of the Sections (Royal Navy, Army or RAF) would suit them best.

Mr J Bleakley, Senior Master Lower School

LOST PROPERTY RECLAIM

Friday 20 October 2023 and Friday 15 December 2023, 3.35pm-5.00pm



Where named and unnamed clothes, bags and other items are found around the School, these are placed in the Lost Property Area located in the East Basement.

Each term, we will display items stored in the Lost Property Area in the School Hall, and this provides pupils and parents with an opportunity to identify and reclaim their items. This term, items will be displayed on Friday 20 October and Friday 15 December, and full details and timings will be provided in advance of these occasions.

Any unclaimed items left at the end of each term are recycled locally.

Ms I Gimbutiene, School Shop Manager



SUBJECT CURRICULUM MAPS

How to access them, what they show and how they can be used to support learning

From time to time during the academic year, we are pleased to remind parents of links to our Curriculum Maps, which we hope are helpful for parents in outlining the curriculum offer at WHSB. As such, all curriculum departments, and individual subjects within them, have provided Curriculum Maps for all Year groups.

For the Lower and Middle Schools, these maps can be found on the School's website (<https://www.whsb.essex.sch.uk>): lower-and-middle-school/curriculum-maps or by following this link <https://www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/lower-and-middle-school/curriculum-maps>.

For the Sixth Form, the maps can be found on the School's website (<https://www.whsb.essex.sch.uk>): sixth-form/curriculum-maps or by following this link <https://www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/sixth-form/curriculum-maps>.

Each Curriculum Map contains the content, skills and assessment for every subject, and for our PHSEE programme, in a single page for each division of the School. Copies of relevant Curriculum Maps are not only visible on the website, as pupils will be provided with copies to add to their exercise books at the beginning of each academic year.

Not only do the Curriculum Maps inform pupils and parents of what they will study during the current academic year, but they also provide an insight into future learning, which will assist pupils when it comes to choosing their GCSE option subjects during Year 9, and their A Level choices during Year 11. These Curriculum Maps are to be used alongside any option booklets pupils receive and they provide a quick and easy overview of the order in which topics are taught for all subjects within each Year group.

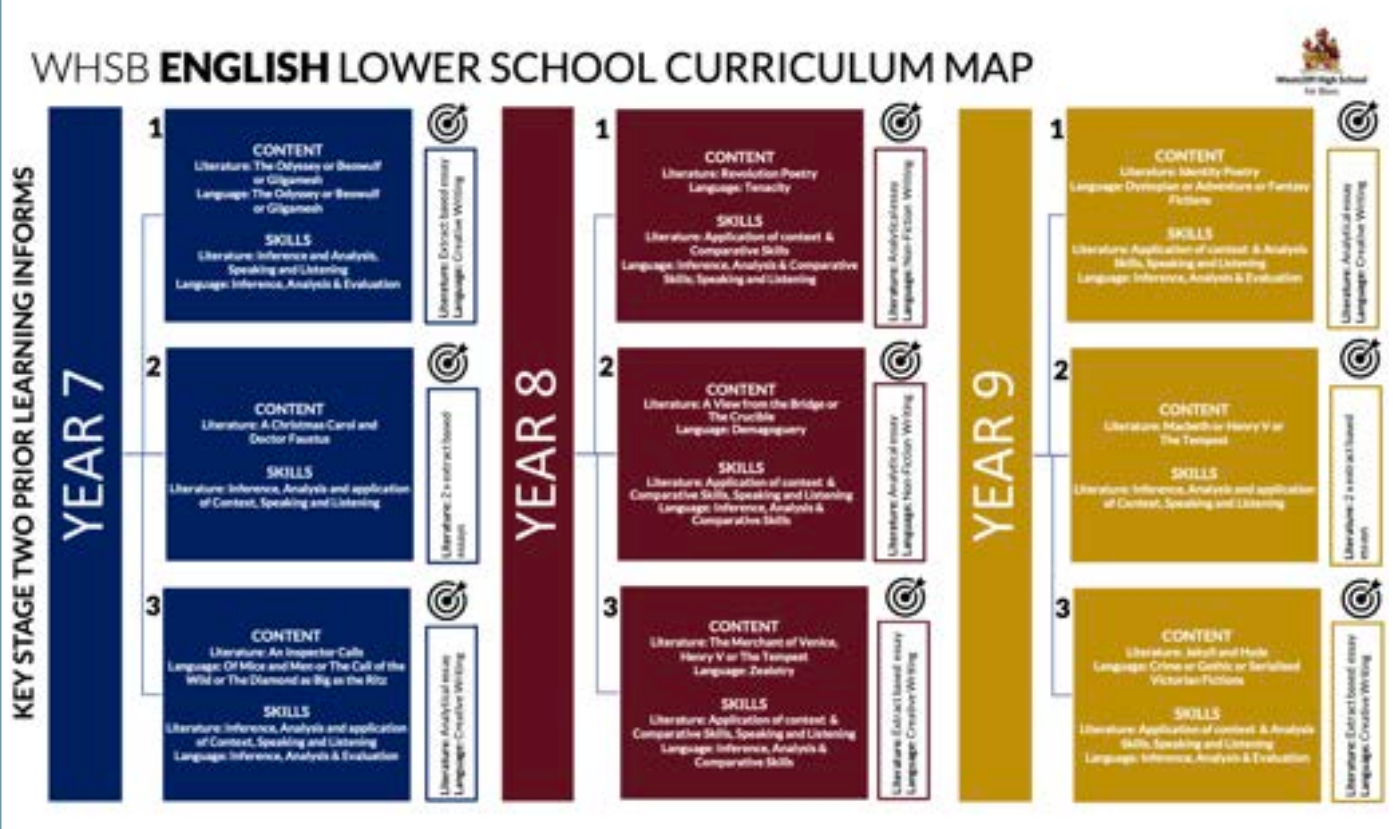
Curriculum Maps can also be used to help pupils revise for tests and, in particular, End of Year Examinations, as the required content is listed for each subject and provides a checklist to be used in conjunction with other revision materials.

When viewed across all divisions of the School, the Curriculum Maps provide a complete picture of how a subject is developed during the two, three, four, five or seven years that a typical WHSB pupil will study each subject, with the caveat that what is being viewed is the curriculum as it currently stands.

Our Heads of Department are constantly reviewing and revising schemes of work to provide students with the optimal sequence of lessons as they progress throughout their time at WHSB, as well as planning for and implementing any changes to Examination Specifications.

Mr M Manning, Deputy Headmaster

Example: Our Curriculum Map for English in the Lower School



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

The School would like to thank the Parents' Association for their generosity and support in paying for the badges awarded to pupils for their involvement in MFL Extra-Curricular Activities in 2022-2023. The Modern Foreign Languages Department awards badges to the following:

- Language Mentors;
- Language Leaders;
- Pupils achieving Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum Awards for participation in Extra-Curricular competitions and for undertaking independent language work at home;
- Pupils whose entries are included in the School's Anthea Bell Prize entries; and
- Pupils who have success in other MFL competitions such as the Stephen Spender Prize and the Mother Tongue, Other Tongue competition.

We are delighted with the success of Westcliff pupils in the Anthea Bell Prize competition since it began three years ago. In June 2023, we learned that Oliver Doel (Italian), Ewan Daltrey (Spanish), Rafael Gamma (German), Ethan King and Esme Larn (a joint Italian entry) had won the East of England competition.

We look forward to more such success in 2024.

European Day of Languages Tuesday 26 September 2023

On Tuesday 26 September, the MFL Department will be celebrating the European Day of Languages with class activities and competitions throughout the day. Pupils are encouraged to share their understanding of European languages other than French, German and Spanish on this day, and if any pupil wishes to get involved in helping to organise events for this day, they should speak to one of their Language teachers or to me. We would like to celebrate as many languages as possible, and encourage pupils and students to get involved.

This Academic Year

In 2023-2024, the MFL Department will be running the next *Never Such Innocence* international competition, which focuses on how war affects young people. Further details are not available at the time of writing, but it is likely that we will be able to launch the competition in November. Further details will be shared in School once these are known. We were pleased with those entries we received in 2022-2023 and we would like to encourage more pupils to take part in this very well organised and highly regarded competition, in which we are confident that our pupils can achieve success.

Along with the Stephen Spender Prize, the Anthea Bell Prize and the Mother Tongue, Other Tongue competition, we will be sharing with pupils the opportunity to take part in essay-writing competitions organised by the University of Oxford. Further details will be shared with pupils once the dates for these have been publicised. We will also be celebrating the Olympic Games in the run up to Paris 2024, following on from our successful World Cup and Africa Cup of Nations competitions in recent years.

Following the School's involvement last year, Mrs Genthe will be inviting top linguists in Year 9 to take part in the GCHQ National Language Competition 2023, to represent the School in this UK-wide competition. The competition will run from Monday 6 to Friday 10 November.

Mr Rayment and Mr Madrid will be organising the Spelling Bee for all pupils in Year 7. The competition will take place after the October Half Term break, and further details will be shared with pupils nearer the time. Year 8 pupils will be able to take part in the Translation Bee at around the same time.

Ms J McKeown, Head of Modern Foreign Languages

Three of our pupils achieved UK-wide success in the Anthea Bell Prize for Young Translators during the last academic year. Over 15,000 entries were submitted from across the country, as the competition is establishing itself as a prestigious translation competition.

Rafael (Year 11) won the UK-wide prize for his translation of an excerpt of the German novel *Im Westen nichts Neues* by Erich

Maria Remarque. Ewan (Year 9) won the UK-wide prize for his translation of an excerpt of the Spanish novel *La liebre mecánica* by Galician author Leticia Costas. Oliver (Year 9) was awarded the UK-wide runner-up prize for his translation of an Italian article linking reading and health. Oliver's translation read as if it had been originally written in English and stayed true to the meaning of the original text.



SPORT IN THE AUTUMN TERM

Following the considerable success of our Inter Boys Team in the National Finals of the English Schools' Track and Field Cup, the School is looking forward to another term of wide-spread and high-quality sporting action from all Year groups during the Autumn Term.

Basketball

Over the past year, the WHSB basketball programme has continued to develop in a positive manner. We are delighted at the progress and continued improvement made by all teams, and we aim to build on that during the coming year by winning multiple Borough titles, as well as advancing to more of the Essex Cup Finals. Various Year groups will also be competing in the National Cup Competition, and an important target for each Year group will be to progress to the knockout stages of the competition. We are excited as we look forward to what is to come with Basketball at the School this term.

Football

The School has thriving football teams in all Year groups, and we are looking forward to competing in the Essex Cup, the National Cup, and the SEE Cup. There will be continued training opportunities for pupils in this sport, and we encourage all our players to work hard on developing their fitness, their key skills and game awareness.

Rugby

Having enjoyed multiple successes through the 2022-2023 season, it is important to look back at what we did well, but also how we can improve for the coming season. Our most successful Year group, in terms of numbers, was our Year 8

Team; this team's achievements included winning the Essex Cup, coming Runners-Up in the Essex 7s, and winning all their Saturday morning fixtures. They will be keen to build on this impressive record as an Under 14s team. However, the team members that should serve as an inspiration to others, in terms of participation and work ethic, are last year's Year 10 players. The School fielded two Year 10 teams on a Saturday, numerous times, and this demonstrated the considerable depth of talent and a determination by the players to commit to their team and to play regular matches. This team is now in a fantastic position to succeed this autumn, as an Under 16 team, with its proven commitment to training and hard work in skills sessions.

The School will enjoy competing in a wide range of matches and competitions, including the Essex Cup, the Essex 7s Competition, and at Rosslyn Park. This has the potential to be a highly successful year for the Rugby programme and all members of the Physical Education Department are excited to see the season unfold.



Year 8 Football Team - Borough Runners Up 2023

2 : 588pts : Westcliff High School for Boys Academy, Essex									
Event	Name	Perf	Wind	Points	Name	Perf	Wind	Points	
Hurdles	Obaloluwa Ayegbe	11.8	+0.1	26pts	Oluwasemilore Mustafa	11.0	-1.2	30pts	
100m	Leon Agu	13.1	-1.2	12pts	Kwasi Prakah Asante	12.7	-1.4	16pts	
200m	Daniel Osei-Poku	23.6	+0.8	26pts	Folagbade Oyenubi	25.5	+0.7	19pts	
300m	Matthew Agbolegbé	38.1		26pts	Aseph Lawal	38.6		25pts	
800m	Anthony Odumusu	2:21.0		19pts	Haris Dean	2:14.0		22pts	
1500m	Lennon Parsons	4:52.0		19pts	Oluwasemilore Mustafa	5.36		18pts	
Long_Jump	Anthony Odumusu	5.89		23pts	Folagbade Oyenubi	1.71		23pts	
High_Jump	Matthew Agbolegbé	1.71		23pts	Kwasi Prakah Asante	12.82		26pts	
Triple_Jump	Daniel Osei-Poku	13.29		28pts	Aseph Lawal	13.69		28pts	
Pole_Vault	Haris Dean	2.80		21pts	Samuel Achogbuo	41.46		30pts	
Shot	Daniel Akanno	11.90		22pts					
Discus	Leon Agu	40.95		29pts					
Javelin	Obaloluwa Ayegbe	52.58		29pts					
Hammer	Rajat Negi	41.90		25pts					
Relay	Lennon Parsons , Samuel Achogbuo , Rajat Negi , Daniel Akanno			49.0				pts	

Individual Fitness

The School continues to provide individual fitness training facilities for our pupils in our well-equipped gym and through enrichment sporting activities. We are delighted to see the commitment of so many pupils towards developing their own individual fitness and strength.

Athletics

The School continues to work hard to develop our athletes in all disciplines, with a view to, next summer, continuing and extending our considerable success demonstrated in the National Finals this year, as celebrated last term.

Mr M Fletcher, Director of Sport



Year 9-10 Table Tennis Regional Finalists 2023



Year 7 Basketball Team - Borough Runners Up 2023



Year 8 Rugby Team - Essex Champions for 2023



Year 7-8 and Year 9-10 Tennis Teams for 2023



Year 8 Basketball Team - Borough Runners Up 2023



Year 9 Football Team - Southeast Essex Cup Runners Up 2023









SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING

Thursday 2 November 2023, 6.30pm – 9.00pm

Year 11 pupils and their parents are invited to see the variety of opportunities on offer in the WHSB Sixth Form. Talks delivered by the Headmaster, Mr Dean (Senior Master) and Sixth Form students will be held in the Main Hall. The presentation will explain the A Level curriculum offering, the application process, enrichment opportunities, and pastoral support. In addition, attendees can visit all subject departments to speak to staff and

current students and learn more about the transition from GCSE to A Level.

The evening is also an excellent opportunity to explore some of the subjects unique to the Sixth Form curriculum, for example, Politics and Psychology. This is an important event, and the School strongly encourages Year 11 pupils and their parents to attend in order to be best informed in a critical decision-making process.

Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form



ANNUAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

Friday 10 November 2023, 8.45am-9.30am

Our Annual Service of Remembrance for the whole School will take place in the School Hall on Friday 10 November at 8.45am. This important Service in the School's calendar will include hymns, readings, prayers and music to remember the fallen, and the School Captain, Will Midwinter, will lay a wreath in memory of those from the School who gave their lives in both World Wars and in other conflicts.

The School's Combined Cadet Force (CCF) will also participate in the arrangements for the Service.

Parents are warmly invited to join us for this occasion, and for coffee in the Centenary Room after the Service. Seating should be reserved in advance via [TicketSource](#).

Headmaster



YEAR 7 PARENTS EVENING

Monday 13 November 2023, 4.00pm – 6.00pm

This term, we have our Parents Consultation Evening for pupils and their parents in Year 7. This is particularly valuable as it gives parents the opportunity to discuss their son's progress with some of his teachers. These evenings are held remotely, using the online programme *SchoolBooking*. This programme allows parents to book meetings with teachers they wish to see, and for teachers to book appointments with parents.

Full instructions will be distributed nearer the time. Constraints of time dictate that there is not the capacity for all parents to meet with all of their son's teachers, so parents are encouraged to select subjects for which they believe a discussion would be most beneficial. Teachers will also arrange appointments with specific parents, where these meetings are judged to be particularly helpful or necessary. The instructions will detail the total number of appointments that parents are able to attend; this number will include requests made by teachers. Overbooking may result in cancellation and we therefore advise against this.

Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School



YEAR 8 PHASE 1 REPORT

Monday 13 November 2023

On Monday 13 November, Year 8 pupils will receive their Phase 1 Report.

This important report will provide parents with a current attainment indicator in the form of a grade from each of their sons teachers, using the School's internal grading system (please see diagram on page 32).

It is expected that pupils will achieve a grade 5a; an alternative grade would indicate if the pupil was performing above or below this level. The report also contains the pupil's Lower School target grade, the average target grade being 7b. Therefore, if a pupil has a target above this, the School would anticipate that the pupil would be achieving a 5a or better. If the target grade is below a 7b, a grade 5a would be considered a strong result. This informs parents, teachers and the pupil regarding his current level of understanding, areas of strength, and areas for development.

This report also contains attitudinal indicators; these are awarded on a scale of 1 (Exceptional) to 4 (Unacceptable). The expected indicator grade is a 2 (Good). Grades of 3 or 4 require a change in attitude by the pupil, and a Grade of 1 is awarded when a pupil has exceeded the already high expectations of this School. Parents should consider the indicators received against the explanatory table on the back of the report.

Form Tutors will set aside dedicated time for pupils to reflect on their grades, and to develop goals for the rest of the year. Form Tutors will also discuss strategies to help pupils to improve their grades where a foundation performance has been recorded.

Parents should discuss the report with their son, and the goals he has set, as recorded in his planner. Should there be any concerns, parents should contact their son's Form Tutor via the School Office. There are many mechanisms in place to support pupils, including Pastoral Support, Subject Support, and Mentoring.

Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School



AUTUMN SINFONIA CONCERT

Thursday 16 November 2023, 7.30pm – 9.00pm

This term's Sinfonia concert begins with a focus on the British countryside, with music from composers Carwithen and Holst, and focusing on two English counties.

Carwithen's Suffolk Suite was written in 1964 at the request of a Suffolk school's Director of Music to celebrate the opening of their new concert hall. The work was designed for young musicians and is therefore a perfect fit for our orchestra. Carwithen uses romantic and 20th century techniques to paint a picture of Suffolk in her various shades, with sweeping strings representing the green countryside, and bold brass portraying the might and power of Framlingham Castle.

Holt's Somerset Rhapsody was written at a time when it was fashionable for composers to venture into the countryside, collecting the folk songs of local villages and hamlets before they died out. His music features a number of these melodies, from the modal "Sheep-Shearing Song" to the march-like "High Germany." Holst makes the most of the songs' varied moods, amplifying them with his flair for orchestration.

The concert will also feature Respighi's suite for the ballet Belkis, Regina di Saba, translated as "Belkis, Queen of Sheba." The music is suitably exotic, making use of lush strings to depict this sensual biblical heroine.

Tickets are available from *TicketSource* and are priced at £5.00 for adults and free for pupils.

Mr T Derrick, Director of Music



YEAR 10 PHASE 1 REPORT

Friday 24 November 2023

On Friday 24 November, pupils in Year 10 will receive their Phase 1 Report. This is their first opportunity to assess the progress that they have made since starting their GCSE courses and to reflect upon their aspirations for their future achievement. It is an excellent catalyst for pupils to make any necessary refinements to their organisation and study habits.

Mr A Barnett, Director of Middle School



GCSE TRIAL EXAMINATIONS

Monday 20 November - Wednesday 29 November 2023

The GCSE Trial Examinations will take place in the week beginning Monday 20 November. These Examinations will give pupils an opportunity to experience the formal examination process, offering candidates invaluable insight into how to prepare thoroughly in advance, and how to conduct themselves during the examination. This period of rehearsal also allows pupils to acclimatise themselves to the conditions under which they will sit their actual GCSE examinations. The process of Trial Examination is an integral part of candidates' preparation which allows them to measure how successfully they have revised so far, highlighting what, if any, changes need to be made. Pupils should remember that these are a practice for their actual GCSE Examinations and should accordingly undertake appropriate detailed revision in order to ensure that they give a true reflection of their potential in each of their subjects. Sound revision at this stage will also lighten the forthcoming summer workload.

Mr A Barnett, Director of Middle School



SKI TRIP PARENTS BRIEFING

Thursday 23 November 2023, 7.00pm – 8.00pm

During February half-term, I look forward to returning to the slopes of Folgaria, Italy, alongside eighty Westcliff pupils and other members of staff for the Annual WHSB Ski Trip. In preparation for this, there will be a Parents' Briefing, which will take place at 7.00pm on the evening of Thursday 23 November. Participating pupils and their parents are all invited to attend this event.

The Ski Trip Parent Briefing is designed to disseminate information regarding arrangements for the trip, as well as offering equipment suggestions and setting out broader requirements. There will also be the opportunity for parents and pupils to ask questions of trip leaders on any aspect of the trip.

Mr H Tresidder, WHSB Ski Trip Leader

This year, I have also invited Snow Union to attend this event. Snow Union is a local kit company which offers both hire and purchase options to suit your needs, as well as offering invaluable expert advice on all kit matters. With their support, and that of my colleagues, we are all looking forward to facilitating another wonderful experience for our younger pupils.

MUSIC OPPORTUNITIES

Cultural Enrichment Project

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

Songs from the New World, performed in London by the Philharmonia Orchestra
Thursday 23 November 2023

Dvorák's 'New World' symphony may be the most popular symphony composed in America, written by the Czech composer as he worked in New York City in 1890. The spirituals and folk songs heard by the composer on his travels around America's diverse and expansive land inspired him to write music that is now a familiar part of the canon.



But for the most popular symphony composed by an American, we must look to William Grant Still, a prolific and trailblazing black composer and a key figure in the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s and 1930s. His First Symphony is an audience favourite in the US, but not often programmed by British orchestras. Its four short movements, 'Longings', 'Sorrows', 'Humor', and 'Aspirations', are threaded through with the sounds of the Blues, ragtime and jazz, and it culminates in a triumphant hymn of hope.

Soprano, Julia Bullock, will also join the orchestra to sing two settings by Margaret Bonds of poems by Langston Hughes – both composer and writer were leading lights of the Harlem Renaissance. Bonds discovered Hughes' poetry while at university and was inspired to continue her studies in the face of terrible racism. Later, she and Hughes became lifelong friends. Between the Bonds songs are three Gershwin classics, including the poignant lullaby from Porgy and Bess, 'Summertime'.

Tickets are expected to cost around £41.00, including travel (to be confirmed early this term).

Mr T Derrick, Director of Music



UPPER SIXTH PARENTS EVENING

Monday 27 November 2023, 4.00pm – 6.00pm

The Upper Sixth Consultation Evening offers parents the opportunity to speak to teachers directly via the School's virtual conference platform. This evening enables teachers to provide parents with an update on the academic progress and their son's/daughter's attitude towards study since the start of the academic year and the issuing of the Phase 1 Report. Additionally, time can be spent discussing how best to prepare for the January 2023 Trial Examinations, as well as responses to any further general queries.

Further details regarding the booking of appointments and access to the virtual platform will be circulated to Upper Sixth Parents in the Autumn Term.

Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form

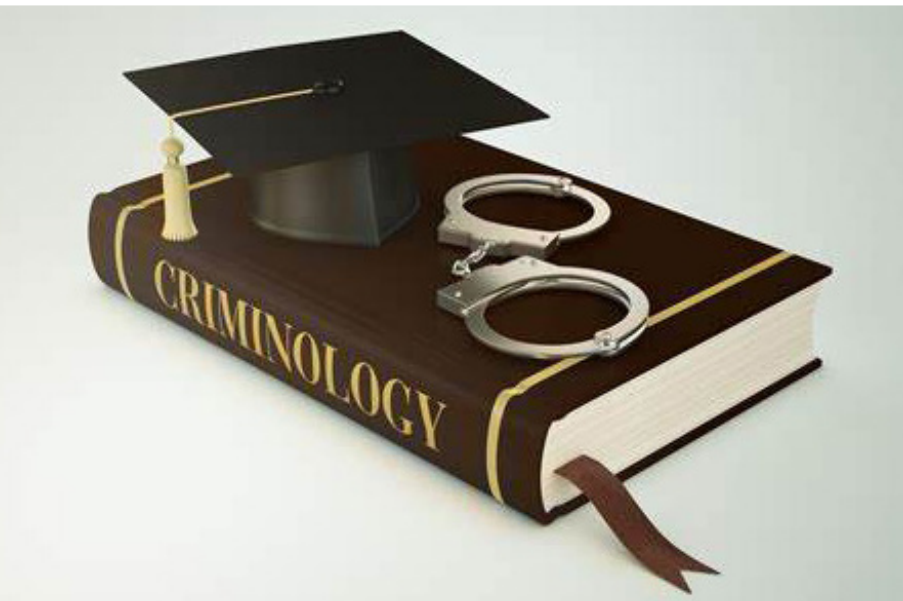


CAREERS EVENING

Wednesday 29 November 2023,
7.00pm – 9.00pm

After taking feedback from both our former guest speakers and pupils, WHSB is planning to introduce a new format to our popular Careers Evenings. The launch of our 'Audience with ...' will change the focus of these evenings from a presentation-based event to one of interviews and panel discussions. Our first Careers Evening will be on Wednesday 29 November, where we will be inviting a variety of experts from within the field of Criminology to discuss their respective roles and responsibilities, and respond to audience questions. We hope that this will be a more interactive and meaningful encounter with employers. Further details of this event will follow shortly.

Mr M Atkinson, Careers Adviser



DECORATING THE HALL AND CHRISTMAS TREE

30 November 2023

As in recent years, the Old Westcliffian Association will kindly present a beautiful Christmas Tree to the current pupils of the School. This special tree adorns the School Hall for the festive season and adds additional sparkle to our exciting programme of festive events.

The tree will be presented by Mr Terry Birdseye, President of the Old Westcliffian Association, in the week beginning 27 November and the pupils will decorate it later during that week.

Headmaster



Mr David Norman, former
President of the Old
Westcliffian Association



THE HOUSE SYSTEM

When students join Westcliff in Year 7 or the Lower Sixth, they are placed into one of four Houses – Harrier (yellow), Kestrel (red), Merlin (green) and Osprey (blue). If they have a brother or sister currently at the school, then they are placed into the same House. The bottom of their tie features a logo with the image of a coloured bird, the colour indicating the House to which they belong. Each House has one House Captain and two Vice-Captains from the Sixth Form who work with the younger pupils and help organise activities. There are also two House Representatives from each Year group.

Placing pupils in Houses enables inter-School competition and activity at all levels. There are many existing House Competitions and Activities, and new ones are being added to the programme all the time. Recent additions include House: Poetry, Lord of the Rings, Magic the Gathering, War Hammer, Bake-Off, Christmas Cards, Star Wars, Sports Quiz, Combined Sciences, Algorithms, Cartography, Harry Potter, Improvisational Theatre, Spelling, General Knowledge, Current Affairs, Music, Badminton, Rugby and Business.

This term, we are looking forward to enjoying the following House events:

House: Countdown; ‘Keepy-Uppy’ Football challenge; Mario Cart; Rocket League; Online Chess; Chinese New Year Report; Capital Cities; Robert Burns

Research Project; Year 7 Mission to Mars Habitat Challenge; Design and Create a Species; Spanish/Languages; General Knowledge.

At the end of the year, the points gained during House competitions, together with those achieved during Sports Day, are totalled up, and the winning House receives the Phoenix Cup. This is presented in a whole School Assembly. At this Assembly, prizes are also awarded in a variety of categories, and all four House Captains address the whole School.

(Below) Congratulations to Harrier House, winners of the Phoenix Cup 2023



Pictured: House Captains and Vice-Captains 2023-2024

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Westcliff High School for Boys offers a wide range of extra-curricular and co-curricular clubs, societies and other opportunities for pupils, with more than fifty running each academic year. Alongside Drama, Sport, Combined Cadet Force, Music, Duke of Edinburgh and House activities, pupils have a wide range of optional activities to choose from every lunchtime.

As a School, we are fortunate that we have a full hour for a lunch break. This gives pupils more time to participate in such events. Pupils are permitted to bring a cold lunch to eat during the activity, under the supervision of the teacher. Joining a club or society can bring many benefits, such as making new friends and improving confidence and communication. Pupils can also develop leadership and teamwork skills.

A list of new clubs and societies will be published on the School website in October, once details have been finalised. There is currently a list of existing clubs on the School website and this may be helpful for parents and pupils new to the School, as this provides an indication of the type of activities that are offered. These include those clubs and societies listed below.

Afro-Caribbean Society (open to all)	Tuesday	Key Stage 3 Creative Writing	Thursday
AI and Machine Learning	Monday	Key Stage 3 Maths Help Club	Tues & Thurs
Animation Society	Tuesday	Keyboard and Theory Club	Thursday
Astronomy Society	Wednesday	Latin for Year 10	Weds & Thurs
Bibliophiles (alternate Weds)	Wednesday	Latin for Year 7 and 8	Mon & Thurs
Big Band	Tuesday	Lego Club	Friday
Brass Ensemble	Thursday	Lower School Film Club	Friday
Bridge Club	Thursday	Maths Help Club	Wednesday
CCF Army Section	Thursday	Medical Society	Friday
CCF Navy Section	Thursday	Model UN Society	Friday
CCF RAF Section	Thursday	Morals and Ethics Committee	Wednesday
Chess Club	Tuesday	Oxbridge and Medics	Monday
Comic Club in the Library	Tuesday	Pokémon	Friday
Concert Band	Tuesday	Psychology Society	Tuesday A
Dungeons and Dragons	Tuesday	Puzzler Club	Tues & Thurs
Economics Society	Monday	Screenwriting Club	Monday
Engineering Society	Thursday	Sixth Form Choir	Monday
Finance Club	Wednesday	Spotlight	Half Termly
First Aid Club	Tuesday	Star Wars Society	Monday
GCSE Art Club	Friday	String Ensemble	Wednesday
Geography Society	Thursday	Theatre Club 4 Trips	Across year
Horn Group	Wednesday	TOC Art Club	Tuesday
Investment Society	Thursday	Treble Choir	Wednesday
Jazz Band	Monday	Wargaming Club	Friday
Junior Concert Band	Tuesday	Westcliff Choir	Friday
Junior Medical Society	Thursday	Westcliff Sinfonia	Wednesday
Jurassic Park Society	Thursday	World Literature & Mock Oxbridge	Friday
Key Stage 3 Art Club	Friday B Thursday A		

A daily list of activities is published in the registers and read aloud by Form Tutors each morning. These are also promoted on noticeboards around the School, in Assembly, and on *Microsoft Teams* pages. I would encourage pupils to listen carefully to announcements each morning so that they are aware of what is being offered that day.

Many of our clubs are pupil-led, and if pupils have their own idea for a new club or society, and if there is enough interest, then this can be set up. I would encourage pupils to come and speak to me if they have any new ideas for a club or society.

Mr R Barber, House Coordinator and Senior Head of House



CHRISTMAS WITH THE BIG BAND

Friday 1 December 2023, 7.30pm - 10.00pm

The festive lights may be twinkling, the tinsel may be sparkling, but the festive season has not really begun until the Big Band take to the stage for their annual Christmas show. This hotly anticipated event features the Westcliff Jazz Band and the Saxophone Quartet, among other groups, and is headlined by the Westcliff Big Band.

Expect to hear a set of recognisable hits covering a variety of styles, from Herbie Hancock to Frank Sinatra, from Dizzy Gillespie to Bruno Mars - this is an eclectic evening of funky music and Christmas crackers that should not be missed!

Reserve your tickets via [TicketSource](#) at a price of £8 for adults and £5 for pupils.

Mr T Derrick, Director of Music



GCSE MUSIC RECORDING

Monday 4 December - Tuesday 5 December 2023

On Monday 4 and Tuesday 5 December, those pupils in Year 11 who are studying Music will record one of their final NEA performances, forming half of their requirements for Component 1.

This performance will be either an ensemble or solo performance. Pupils must ensure that this performance lasts at least **one minute**, and that the combined total of their solo and ensembles performances lasts at least **four minutes**.

Pupils should already know what they intend to perform and should be practising regularly in preparation for this important submission. Those who have yet to finalise their decision can and should seek further support from their Music teacher at their earliest convenience.

Mr T Derrick, Director of Music



SENIOR DRAMA PERFORMANCE

Wednesday 6 - Friday 8 December 2023, 7.30pm - 9.00pm

"You start to freeze, as horror looks you right between the eyes". No, I am not talking about embarking on a lesson with my Upper Sixth students, but instead quoting lines from the Michael Jackson song *Thriller*, the glue that binds three Agatha Christie short plays that form our Senior Production in December. There is nothing so exciting as the chills, thrills and collywobbles of a good ghostly mystery, and Mrs Christie delivers three Christmas crackers for us to enjoy, full of snap and hats and a trick or two.

Agatha Christie certainly knows how to spin a good yarn. Dubbed "the Queen of Crime", Dame Agatha Christie has been outsold only by Shakespeare and the Bible. Born in Torquay in 1890 and writing up to her death in 1976, Christie wrote 66 detective novels and 14 short story collections, as well as the world's longest running play, the *Mousetrap*. Her works have sold over a billion copies in English and a further billion in translation. If there was a Golden Age of Detective Fiction, she has been its *Mansa Musa*, and readers all around the world have been gripped by her wonderful stories, such as those featuring the well-groomed moustaches of celebrated Belgian detective Hercule Poirot, or the doddering detection of that razor sharp old spinster, Miss Marple.

Masterpieces such as *Murder on the Orient Express* and *Death on the Nile* are well loved and much presented (and we all know whodunnit on the train and the steamboat) so this autumn the Senior Drama Production will bring to life three shorter Agatha Christie plays that we hope will really keep you guessing. The first, classically a radio play, centres around a series of ghostly phone calls made by a lady in white. Who is telephoning from Newton Abbott Station and how dark are her intentions? Our second tale is a classic whodunnit, with a sequence of colourful characters to suspect before the final denouement reveals a cold-blooded killer.

In our final play, a prominent lawyer meets with a new flame. But who will end up burnt? These are three tried and tested tales that show all the hallmarks of a Christie classic - clever twists, intriguing puzzles and engaging mysteries.

Can you feel that shiver running down your spine? There are two possible explanations. Either you have forgotten your homework for the scariest of teachers, or Dame Agatha is coming to the School Library Theatre this Christmas with her thrilling mysteries and exciting twists. Fortunately, I am delighted to say it is the latter! We hope to see audiences of all ages secure their tickets on [Ticketsource](#) and come along for an enjoyable evening that will keep you guessing.

Mr B Jeffreys, Director of Drama



CHARITY EVENTS DAY

Friday 8 December 2023

Westcliff High School for Boys continues its active commitment towards supporting excellent causes with another Charities Events Day scheduled for December. All money raised will be shared between the School's two charities this year.

Gold Geese supports young people suffering with cancer, funding mental health therapy and transport for affected families to and from centres of care. The Motor Neurone Disease Association funds and promotes research into MND, analysing its causes and finding methods of treatment, to help sufferers of this terrible disease.

We are very proud to be supporting these charities this year, and our events give pupils and staff an opportunity to be entertained by staff members while purchasing food and drink to help raise funds.

Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form



YEAR 8 PARENTS EVENING

Monday 11 December 2023, 4.00pm - 6.00pm

This term, we have our Parents' Consultation Evening for pupils in Years 8 and their parents. This is particularly valuable as it gives parents the opportunity to discuss their son's progress with some of his teachers. These evenings are held remotely, using the online programme, *SchoolBooking*. This programme allows parents to book meetings with teachers they wish to see, and for teachers to book appointments with parents. Full instructions will be distributed nearer the time.

Constraints of time dictate that there is not the capacity for all parents to meet with all of their son's teachers; therefore, parents are encouraged to select those subjects for which they believe a discussion would be most helpful. Teachers will also arrange appointments with specific parents, where these meetings are judged to be particularly helpful or necessary. The instructions will detail the total number of appointments that parents are able to attend; this number will include requests made by teachers. Overbooking may result in cancellation and we therefore advise against this.

Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School

YEAR 11 TRIAL EXAMINATION RESULT ISSUED

Friday 15 December 2023

Year 11 Pupils will receive their Trial Examination Grades on Friday 15 December. For many, this will be a cause for celebration and confirmation that good study habits yield positive rewards.

For others, this may be an opportunity to reflect on where future revision can be best directed, as well as a prompt towards more vigorous study throughout the remainder of the Academic Year.

Mr A Barnett, Director of Middle School

GEOLOGY CONFERENCE

Friday 8 December 2023

The Geology Conference is an annual event, and an excellent introduction to the study of Geology. Throughout the morning sessions, speakers will be invited to address our Year 10, 11, Lower and Upper Sixth Geology students on a wide range of geology issues. Previous topics have included 'Mining methods and hazards'; 'Resources and Exploration'; 'Natural hazards and Volcanology' and 'the Permian mass extinction'. The speakers often pick up on strands of learning from Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 (especially the latter), and set out to stretch and challenge our students, whilst also giving them ideas about potential careers in geology.

Visiting speakers are Leicester University lecturers or geologists who are currently working in industry and are therefore exceptionally well placed to provide the latest ideas and research. Additionally, Old Westcliffian geologists are invited back to share their university experiences with existing students at the School and to provide information on university courses and university life. The afternoon session will take a different focus, introducing Year 9 pupils to interesting aspects of geology and encouraging them to consider studying Geology at GCSE level and beyond. Stanley Upton, an Old Westcliffian and current Oxford University student, is due to support the afternoon element of the Conference this year, and we will be delighted to welcome him back to School.

Mr P Marlow, Head of Geology



HISTORY DAYS OUT

Saturday 16 December 2023

In December, the History Department will continue its 'History Days Out' programme of interesting one day History trips with a return visit to the Tower of London. Our previous visit, some years before Covid, was a hugely enjoyable experience for all who attended, as well as a reminder of the diverse attractions that this key historic site offers. Pupils attending this trip will depart School (not too early) in a coach and travel with accompanying staff to the site. Once inside the Tower (as visitors, thankfully, rather than being hauled through Traitors' Gate prior to execution), pupils will be able to enjoy meeting Beefeaters and ravens, walking the battlements, and seeing the Crown Jewels, which were most recently used in the Coronation of King Charles III. Tourists will also be able to visit the historic White Tower, one of a range of London towers developed first by William the Conqueror a thousand years ago to monitor entry to London and trade along the Thames. The White Tower was developed in the south west corner of the old Roman London wall, an even more ancient piece of London history which can also be seen on the day. We further hope to see inside the stunning Chapel Royal of St Peter ad Vincula, a real highlight of any visit to the Tower. The day promises to be another fascinating insight into London's rich history, and we encourage all History enthusiasts to sign up and join us on a day of historical discovery.

Mr B Jeffreys, Head of History



FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Monday 18 December 2023, 7.30pm - 9.00pm

One of the final events of the term and, for many, marking the beginning of the festive period, our annual Festival of Lessons and Carols, is a wonderful opportunity for our School community, together with friends and families, to join together to celebrate Christmas communally in a traditional service. Modelled on the annual 'Carols from King's' service broadcast by the BBC, WHSB's service will feature readings and hymns sung by the congregation. The Westcliff Choir will perform traditional carols such as *Stille Nacht* and *Coventry Carol*, as well as more modern carols by composers such as John Rutter, all illuminated by the warm glow of the Christmas tree, kindly donated by the Old Westcliffian Association and decorated by the pupils.

This is always such a joyful occasion and we warmly invite parents, pupils, staff, Old Westcliffians and friends of the School to join us for this traditional celebration. Following the Service, those in attendance are invited to join us for mulled wine, mince pies and coffee. Seating should be reserved in advance via *TicketSource*.

Headmaster



LEAVERS' CERTIFICATE COLLECTION

Monday 18 December 2023, 3.45pm-5.00pm

To coincide with the end of the first term at University, our leavers from the Summer 2023 are invited to the Sixth Form Forum to collect their A Level certificates. This informal event offers our newest cohort of Old Westcliffians, and recent School leavers, an opportunity to share stories about their new adventures with their ex-peers and former teachers. Teaching and Support Staff members will attend and are always keen to hear how their ex-students have settled into life post-WHSB.

Refreshments are served during the event, and the leavers are also most welcome to join us in the evening for our annual Festival of Lessons and Carols.

Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form



PETER PAN: JUNE 2023





OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION



Whilst the rebuilding of the Old Westcliffian Association continues apace, I am delighted to report that our annual dinner held on 30 June was a tremendous success, with the highest turnout for some time.

It is clear that members' ability to invite a guest was hugely popular, and the evening was particularly special as it followed the official opening of the School's Centenary Room. The Room hosts a great collection of archive material and memorabilia, including much from the Old Westcliffian Association's history. During the dinner, we had the pleasure of wonderful live background music provided by the School's talented musicians.

We were particularly pleased to welcome Phyllida and Jeremy Stoke to both the official opening of the Centenary Room and our Annual Dinner. Jeremy's father, Mick, was the most highly decorated midshipman of the Second World War, and his bravery was astonishing. Jeremy has very kindly lent to the School part of his father's archive, including copy medals and some correspondence between Mick and a warmly remembered School Master, Ivan Brown. We were so pleased to also recognise Phyllida and Jeremy's kindness by awarding them Honorary membership of the OWA.

For members and guests wishing to visit the Centenary Room, arrangements should be made directly via the School. Whilst the School holds much archive material, there are significant gaps from the 1950's and 1960's. Therefore, any material held by Old Westcliffians from these decades, or indeed other periods in the School's history, would be gratefully received, whether as a donation or on loan. On that matter, we would like to thank Paul Sanders, Old Westcliffian (1949-1954) who visited the Headmaster during the summer holiday break to share with him some School and OWA publications and newsletters from 1950 onwards. We are delighted to have received these and will share them through the displays in due course. Should you wish to contact the School, either to make arrangements to visit or to discuss a donation or a loan of archive material, please contact Mrs Holly, the Headmaster's Personal Assistant.

Our knowledge of the School's past continues to grow. At the Dinner, I learnt that girls from St Bernard's School were taught A Level Physics at WHSB in the 1950s. Of course, we already know that pupils from WHSG received A Level Politics tuition at WHSB in the 1970's / 1980's, and pupils from both WHSG and St Thomas More have studied A Level Music at WHSB in the last decade or so. I anticipate that there is so much more of the School's history which was not available to Dr Alan White for his excellent book, and we are always pleased to hear more from Old Westcliffians who may be able to fill in any gaps.



Whilst progress has been a little slower than hoped, we are continuing to analyse the data from the recent Members' Survey. The response was pleasing and we hope to be able to publish and act upon the clear messages received in the coming weeks.

*Mr J Gershinson, Secretary to the Old Westcliffian Association
secretary@oldwestcliffianassociation.org*

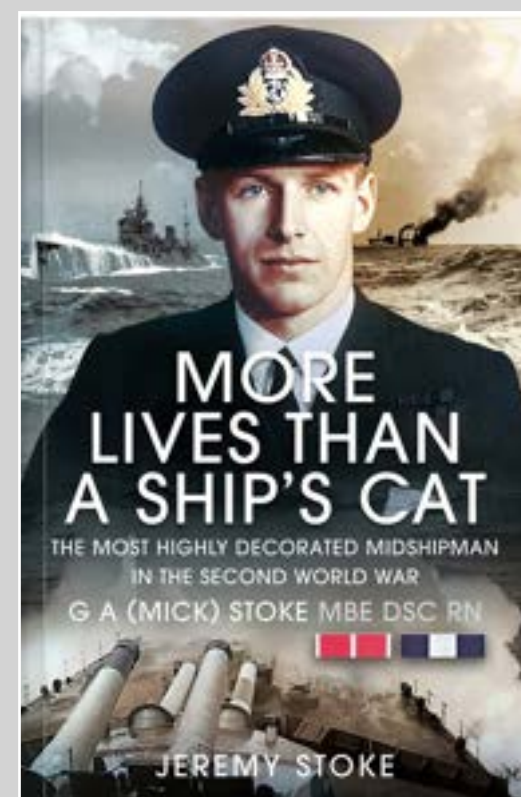


As Jon Gershinson notes, we were indeed delighted to officially open our Centenary Room on 30 June, to commemorate the School's Centenary Year in 2020. This is just one of a number of projects or events which were organised in celebration of Westcliff High School for Boys' 100 years but which, for reasons associated with the pandemic, had to be put on hold. However, we are now pleased to have this wonderful resource in place.

Aside from a dedicated space to display artifacts and materials collected since the School's opening in 1920, this room will double as a meeting room and a special resource for teaching, for example in History. We hope that in the years to come, Old Westcliffians will continue to donate items, documents and other materials which can be shared with the wider School community and for the benefit of our current pupils.

I must also record my thanks to Phyllida and Jeremy Stoke for attending this special event. Jeremy's father, G A (Mick) Stoke MBE DSC RN (Old Westcliffian, 1933 - 1939) sadly passed away in 1991 and, since that time, Jeremy has researched and recorded his father's remarkable life in his excellent book *More Lives than a Ship's Cat* (www.stokebooks.co.uk), a copy of which Jeremy has kindly donated to the School Library.

I shall leave you to enjoy the more detailed information, documents and copy medals that Jeremy has kindly shared with the School when you visit our Centenary Room. In the meantime, you will be interested to learn that Mick Stoke left WHSB in July 1939, having just turned eighteen, with the start of the Second World War only two months away. At WHSB he was a good all-rounder - 1st XV rugby, the tennis team, cross country team, athletics team and secretary of the sailing team, as well as the school pianist. All his School Reports are preserved in a hard covered binder and they are displayed in our cabinets.



Mick joined the Royal Navy as a regular officer and, from that point, the extent of his service to his country, his decorations and achievements are truly remarkable and I can promise you a fascinating read when you visit the display.


I would also like to record once again my sincere thanks to Jon Gershinson, our former Chair of Governors (2016-2022), for his support in connection with this project and for attending on this special occasion in June to officially open the Centenary Room.

The official opening was timed to coincide with this year's Old Westcliffian Association Annual Dinner and I would like to thank all those Old Westcliffians for their support in attending that occasion. It was a wonderful evening and I hope that you enjoy some of the photographs shared in this edition of *The Westcliff Diary*.

Headmaster

Many in our School community will have taken time to enjoy our display of the many vignettes which capture aspects of the School's history and/or the remarkable achievements of Old Westcliffians from across the generations. Our excellent series of vignettes is displayed around the corridors of the Main School Building and, if you have not yet had an opportunity to view them, I would encourage you to do so during a visit to the School.

In June this year, during the evening of the Old Westcliffian Association Dinner, it was my great pleasure to invite Honorary Alderman David Norman MBE, Old Westcliffian, to unveil the latest addition to our series of vignettes – a record of David's own outstanding personal and professional achievements, and the valued contributions David has made towards his School and wider society.



Westcliff High School for Boys

Honorary Alderman David Norman MBE

David Norman was born in Leigh in 1943. He attended Leigh North Street Primary School and passed the 11 plus, obtaining a place at WHSB in 1955.

David became politically active at an early age and proved himself a confident debater in the School's Debating Society. In 1965 he was elected to Southend Council and, at the time, he was said to be Southend's youngest ever Councillor.


At the age of 25, David was awarded a TUC Scholarship for a Diploma Course in the Industrial Relations Department of the London School of Economics. After a period of working for the then Labour Government's Prices and Incomes Board, he was successful in obtaining a scholarship to enable him to take up a degree course in Philosophy, Politics and Economics at St Peter's College Oxford.

Having always aspired to a career in the Labour Movement, after unsuccessfully contesting the Solihull Constituency in the March 1974 General Election, David went on to work as a Research Officer for the Post Office Engineering Union and was later promoted as General Treasurer (a post of Deputy General Secretary rank), which he held for 23 years. Throughout this time, David was heavily involved in adult education both inside and outside the Union, and served on several outside bodies, notably the Industrial Tribunals. In 1998 he was elevated to the Employment Appeal Tribunal, a prestigious Crown Appointment.

He served on the Labour Party Committee drawing up the Low Pay Policy, and on the Board of The Labour Weekly 'Tribune'. David also served for some 20 years as a Governor of the Ruskin Adult Education College in Oxford, including 12 years as Chairman. He was awarded an Honorary MA Degree for services to Adult Education by the Open University, and an MBE for services to Ruskin College.

Nearing retirement from his "day job", David was drawn back into local politics and he and his wife, Jane, were both elected to Southend Borough Council in 2001. He served for a further 19 years as a Councillor, during which at various times he was Labour Group Leader, Cabinet Member for Housing and Mayor in 2010-2011.

Although now officially retired, among other roles, David continues to serve as a Governor at WHSB, and he served as President of the Old Westcliffian Association (2011-2022). When he retired from Southend Council in 2019, he was awarded the post of Honorary Alderman.



Among his many current commitments, we are so grateful to David as he continues to serve on the Governing Body at WHSB, devoting his time and expertise in support of our current pupils. We are delighted to recognise his many impressive achievements through this latest vignette, which should also serve to inspire our current pupils.

Headmaster



On 20 May 2023, I had the pleasure of joining the many guests who gathered to enjoy a special celebration lunch to mark the 80th Birthday of Old Westcliffian, David Edwards, who left the School in 1961. This was a wonderful occasion and, during that afternoon, I was delighted to meet a number of Old Westcliffians with whom David has kept in touch, and to share in some of their memories and reflections of their School.

David and his wife, Sally, have remained strong supporters of WHSB over the many years since their sons, Iain, Jeff and James, left the School - Iain in 1992, Jeff in 1994, and James in 2001. Sally and David continue to attend our music concerts and other events to show their support for our current pupils, and I would like to record my thanks to them both for that support, which is greatly appreciated. We look forward to welcoming them back to the School for our programme of events this year.

Headmaster



Old Westcliffians (from left to right)
Back: Iain Edwards, James Edwards, Sean Myles, Robin Brooks, Headmaster
Front: Phil Gendall, David Edwards, Paul Rickard

OLD WESTCLIFFIAN ASSOCIATION DINNER





SUMMER TERM 2023 IN PICTURES



Art projects



Anna Firth MP



Chamber Concert



Chamber Concert



Citizenship Day



Combined Cadet Force Passing Off Parade





Combined Cadet Force Passing Off Parade



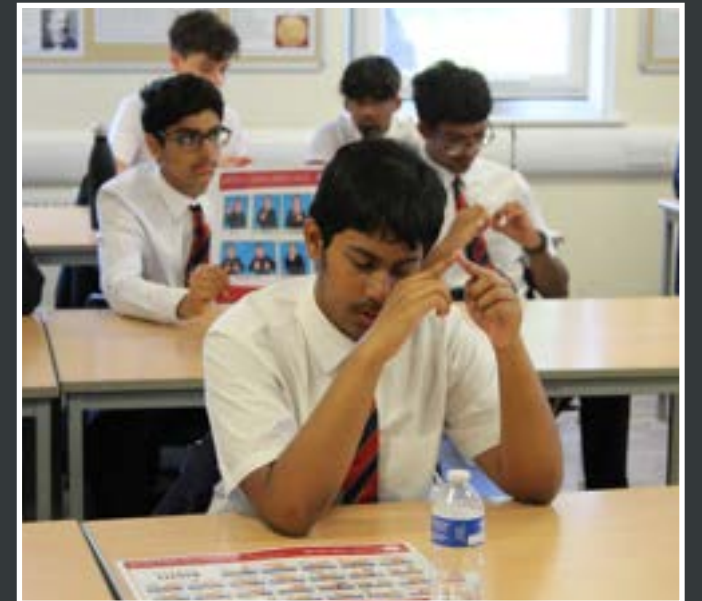
Economics Society



Edward Melville, Team GB, World Space Modelling Championships, Texas, USA



Enrichment Day





Enrichment Day



Essex & Herts Air Ambulance



HARP24 Running Festival



George Odina, Maclaurin Mathematical Olympiad



Honour Guard Duty at Buckingham Palace



Loci and Constructions in Mathematics





Old Westcliffian Annual Dinner



Parents' Association Bollywood Night



PE Colours Assembly



PE Colours Assembly





Preparing for the ESAA National Athletics Final



Working on Technology



Warhammer Age of Sigmar School Tournament



Year 7 Field Trip to Southend

















CALENDAR FOR AUTUMN TERM 2023

Friday 1 September	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY	Thursday 19 October	Year 9 Phase 1 Report Issued
Monday 4 September	AUTUMN TERM BEGINS, 8.40am		Year 9 CCF Expressions of Interest Evening, 7.30pm-8.30pm
Monday 4 September	Photographs for Year 7, Year 9, Year 11 and new Lower Sixth Students	Friday 20 October	Lost Property Reclaim, 3.35pm-5.00pm
Thursday 7 September	Battlefields Trip Parents Briefing, 7.30pm-8.30pm	23-27 October	AUTUMN HALF TERM
Thursday 14 September	Year 7 Road Safety Event	Monday 30 October	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY
	Sixth Form Education Evening, 7.30pm-9.00pm	Monday 30 October	Mid Year Entrance Examinations
Friday 15 September	Enrichment Day	Thursday 2 November	Sixth Form Open Evening, 6.30pm-9.00pm
15 - 16 September	Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award	Thursday 9 November	SPEECH DAY - SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 12.50PM Speech Day, 7.00pm-10.00pm
15-17 September	Year 11 Battlefields Trip	Friday 10 November	Annual Service of Remembrance
18-22 September	Upper Sixth Formative Assessments	Monday 13 November	Year 8 Phase 1 Report Issued
Monday 18 September	Parents Association Y7 Parents Welcome Evening, 6.30pm-7.00pm		Year 7 Parents Consultation Evening, 4.00pm-6.00pm
	Parents Association AGM 7.00pm-8.00pm	Thursday 16 November	Autumn Sinfonia Concert, 7.30pm-9.30pm
	Year 7 Helping Parents To Help Their Sons, 7.00pm-8.30pm	Monday 20 November	GCSE Trial Examinations begin
Wednesday 20 September	Year 11 Road Safety Event	Thursday 23 November	Music Trip: Philharmonia Orchestra in London
21 - 23 September	CCF Army Year 10 Skill At Arms Training		Ski Trip Parents Briefing, 7.00pm-8.00pm
Thursday 21 September	Mental Health Information Evening, 7.30pm-9.00pm	Friday 24 November	Year 10 Phase 1 Report Issued
Saturday 23 September	11+ Entrance Examinations	Monday 27 November	Upper Sixth Parents Consultation Evening, 4.00pm-6.00pm
25-29 September	Year 11 Formative Assessments	Tuesday 28 November	Spanish Trip Information Evening, 7.00pm-8.00pm
Tuesday 26 September	European Day of Languages	Wednesday 29 November	Careers Evening: Criminology, 7.00pm-9.00pm
Thursday 28 September	Year 9 Helping Parents To Help Their Sons, 7.30pm-9.00pm	Thursday 30 November	Decorating the Hall and Christmas Tree
Friday 29 September	Lower Sixth Phase 1 Report Issued	Friday 1 December	Christmas with the Big Band, 7.30pm-10.00pm
Saturday 30 September	WCGC Go for Grammar Day	4 - 5 December	GCSE Music Recording
Tuesday 3 October	Take Your Child to Work Day (Year 9)	6 - 8 December	Senior Drama Performance (Agatha Christie), 7.30pm-9.00pm
	11+ Entrance Examinations (alternative day)	Friday 8 December	Charity Events Day
Thursday 5 October	Year 10 Education Evening, 7.30pm-9.00pm		Geology Conference
5 - 6 October	Year 10 Geography trip to Walton-on-Naze	11 - 19 December	Lower Sixth Formative Assessments
Friday 6 October	Year 9 Road Safety Event	Monday 11 December	Year 8 Parents Consultation Evening, 4.00pm-6.00pm
	CCF Royal Navy and RAF Field Day	Friday 15 December	Year 11 Trial Examination Result Issued
	Upper Sixth Phase 1 Report Issued		Lost Property Reclaim, 3.35pm-5.00pm
Monday 9 October	Lower Sixth Geology Trip to Folkestone	Saturday 16 December	History Days Out: Tower of London
Thursday 12 October	Autumn Chamber Recital, 7.30pm-9.00pm	Monday 18 December	Leavers' Certificate Collection, 3.45pm-5.00pm
Friday 13 October	Year 11 Phase 1 Report Issued		Festival of Lessons and Carols, 7.30pm-9.00pm
	Year 7 Phase 1 Report Issued	Wednesday 20 December	AUTUMN TERM ENDS, 2.45pm
	Charity Events Day	Thursday 4 January	SPRING TERM BEGINS, 8.40am
Wednesday 18 October	Information Day for Year 6 Passes 2.30pm-4.00pm		
	Information Evening for Year 6 Passes 7.00pm-8.25pm		

Tickets for all Westcliff Diary events can be purchased via TicketSource at
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/whats-on/westcliff-on-sea/westcliff-high-school-for-boys/>



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