



# The Westcliff Diary

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## ISSUE 105 / SUMMER 2026



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# FROM THE DESK OF THE HEADMASTER

## Summer Term Examinations

We have a busy term ahead, with Year 11 and Upper Sixth students beginning the GCSE and A Level public examinations, and with important End of Year Internal Examinations for pupils in the other Year Groups. I would like to begin this edition by wishing all our students the very best of luck as they approach their examinations, and to remind them that support from their teachers and relevant pastoral office is close to hand should this be required. Please do not hesitate to ask for any guidance you think may assist.

For those students in the Upper Sixth, they can experience many emotions in these final months of their time at WHSB, feeling both excited and perhaps apprehensive as they anticipate a significant change once their A Level

examinations are complete. A great deal of work and preparation has been carried out by you, supported by your teachers and parents, and please do continue to draw on your School community for any assistance or guidance you may need. I have no doubt your hard work and preparation will pay dividends as you move forward to the next chapter of your life, and I wish you well with that exciting next step.

## Calendar of Extra Curricular Activities and Events

Our busy extra-curricular programme too continues this term, and I hope you enjoy this edition of *The Westcliff Diary*, which outlines many of the activities planned for the coming months. As has become our practice in recent years, due

to popular demand, we have also taken the opportunity to diarise events and activities from the previous term through some fantastic photographs. It is said that "a picture is worth a thousand words", and I am sure you will agree, with thanks to pupils, staff, and the support of Mr Hadley our School photographer, we have been able to capture many special moments from the Spring Term.

The photographs we include in *The Westcliff Diary* only 'scratch the surface' when it comes to celebrating the enthusiastic engagement of our pupils in the extra-curricular programme we offer at WHSB, and their remarkable achievements. Whether participating in House activities, sport, drama, music, the Combined Cadet Force, Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, competitions across the curriculum, clubs, societies, or trips and visits, and more, I am immensely proud of our pupils' determination, courage, enthusiastic and positive engagement, and the learning and successes they enjoy. It is a privilege to work with such talented young people and I commend them on their achievements. I would also like to record my thanks to the staff at WHSB who work tirelessly to ensure the very best of opportunities are made available,



A place in the Essex County Schools & Colleges U19 Division 2 League Cup Final for the First XI Football Team

enriching the experiences and development of our pupils while they are attending this School.

### **Celebrating our Alumni**

We are most fortunate to benefit from the support of our alumni, many of whom return to WHSB and/or provide a breadth of opportunities to support our extra-curricular offer, whether through presentations, guidance, careers events, work placements, or visits. Old Westcliffians know how it feels to be a pupil attending WHSB, the questions and concerns pupils face regarding future education and career possibilities, and how support from those experienced in relevant fields can make a difference. I am most grateful to the many Old Westcliffians and friends of the School who maintain contact with us, strengthening our community and providing inspiration and guidance for our pupils.

On the athletics field, with thanks in large part to the generous legacy of £34,000 from Old Westcliffian Barry Coker, our pupils will benefit from a brand-new tartan surface to replace the old, worn facility which is in very poor condition and due to be condemned. Whilst of course this surface is important to our talented athletes who train to compete at local and national level, this is also an important teaching resource for all our pupils

during Physical Education lessons, and therefore all will benefit from this significant investment in our sporting facilities.

Regrettably, due to funding pressures, the Government has not funded projects to replace, update, or improve sporting facilities for many years, and this means our sports accommodation and equipment continue to decline, and we cannot currently provide the pupils with the high-quality sporting facilities they deserve. We have appealed to our School community for funding on many occasions, but sadly have received only limited support. I appreciate that times are difficult and most are feeling the impact of the tough economy, however our pupils deserve the best we are able to provide and we need your help. I would be happy to meet with you to discuss how you or your company may be able to assist, and please do get in touch if you feel you could offer support. Alternatively, please do register to make donations through our Pupil Fund. Thank you. <https://www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/useful-information-for-all-parents/pupil-fund>

This year, it is 100 years since former pupils of WHSB formed the Old Westcliffian Association. The Association, and the many other means by which our former pupils have remained in touch with each other, and with their School, have provided wonderful opportunities for strengthening friendships which began at school, supporting one another across the years, and providing



*Celebrating Success in In2MedSchool Acceleration Programme's Hackathon Competition, Guy's Campus, King's College London*



*Winning the Southend Borough U15 Basketball Final*



*Paintballing, Royal Navy and RAF Joint Field Day*

valuable encouragement and inspiration for pupils attending WHSB. We believe this is worthy of celebration, and we have planned a special Centenary event for Saturday 12 September 2026.

Our celebration will include opportunities for our guests to join tours of the School, view displays of archive material, enjoy musical entertainment, and a special, professionally catered afternoon tea, all while catching up with friends old and new. This event will take place in our newly decorated School Hall and I look forward to sharing further details with our pupils and wider School community in the coming weeks.

### **Join us for this Term's Evening Programme**

You will note from the calendar of events on the back cover of this edition that we have some exciting evening events planned, such as our concerts and drama productions. Our actors and musicians, and those staff who support them, work hard to rehearse and perfect their performances for the benefit of their audiences. I encourage all pupils and parents to show their strong support for their School and its pupils by attending at least one of these fantastic events this term.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Headmaster*



*Celebrating Success in In2MedSchool Acceleration Programme's Hackathon Competition, Guy's Campus, King's College London*

## THE HOUSE SYSTEM

Interest and engagement in the House System has continued to grow and thousands of House Points have been awarded this academic year. House events run regularly, and pupils are encouraged to participate in at least one activity a fortnight.

There is healthy and friendly competition amongst the four Houses which are called Harrier (yellow), Kestrel (red), Merlin (green), and Osprey (blue). Participation and personal development are the most important elements of our extracurricular programme and are prioritised over winning. We want learners to try new things and have fun. Below is a table showing our current House Team, the members of which have done an excellent job throughout 2025-2026. New House Captains and Vice-Captains for the 2026-2027 academic year will be selected this Term.

Since the last edition of the Westcliff Diary, the events below have taken place with great success.

House Higher and Lower, House Indoor Cricket, House MFL Spelling Bee Finals, House MFL Translation Bee, House University Challenge Preliminaries, House Gu-Hi-Oh, House Pokémon later rounds, House Football Cards, House General

Knowledge Research, House Robert Burns Research, House Chinese New Year Art, House Chinese New Year Research, House Valentine's Day Art, House St's David's Day research, House St Patrick's Day research, and House Badminton.

### Upcoming events this Term include:

House Sports Day, House Drama, House UN Chinese Language Day, House Earth Day, House St George's Day, House UN Word Peace Day (UN Multilateralism and Diplomacy for Peace), World Penguin Day, House Board Games, House Crosswords, House Kings and Queens Quiz, House UN Reconciliation and Remembrance Day, House UN International Plant Day, House UN International Day of Light, House UN World Bee Day, House UN World Day for Cultural Diversity and Development, House World Environment Day, House D-Day Research, House World Oceans Day, House Sustainable Gastronomy Day, House Mario Kart, and House UN Public Services Day.

Most events are run by older students overseen by a member of staff. Students are encouraged to speak to a member of the House Team if they would like to help or have an idea about a new activity.

*Mr R Barber, Senior Head of House and Head of PSHEE*

	Harrier	Kestrel	Merlin	Osprey
<b>Head of House</b>	Mr Marrant	Mr Madrid	Mr Sexton	Mr Rayment
<b>House Captain</b>	Ethan Megraw	Henry Murrell	Jensen Larthe	Max Leigh Baker
<b>Vice-Captain</b>	Jamie Norris	Jack Gore	Alex Douglas	Zachary Cooper
<b>Vice-Captain</b>	Jessica Haase	Tessa Simon	Eni Kehinde	Dylan Sanders



*House Treasure Maps Activity*

## SCHOOL CAPTAIN'S LOG



*In the Lower School, Year 9*

As I approach my final few weeks at WHSB, alongside the rest of the Upper Sixth, it all feels slightly surreal. For years, getting ready each morning and walking through our gates has felt like second nature. But now that it is beginning to come to an end, there is a growing realisation of just how much Westcliff has shaped us. I think many of us will not fully understand its impact until we are no longer here every day.

It feels only right, then, to begin this Log with gratitude, for a school that has given me seven years' worth of wholesome and valuable memories. I would like to thank Westcliff for facilitating so many enjoyable, life-changing,

and genuinely treasured experiences. First and foremost, it is important to acknowledge the role that it has played in my academic development. Beyond the consistently excellent teaching we receive, what has struck me most is the generosity of staff, the countless extra explanations, the lunchtime interventions, the emails answered late in the evening, and the steady encouragement to push ourselves just a little further. WHSB has not simply prepared me for examinations; it has prepared me to think critically, to question confidently, and to strive for more than I ever thought myself capable of.

However, a Westcliff education extends far beyond the classroom. The breadth of opportunity offered here is extraordinary. In the space of a few years, I have found myself 2000 feet in the sky and, only weeks later, performing professionally onstage in Edinburgh. I have attended national theatrical events, pottery workshops, and obstacle courses, and travelled with friends to Wales, Scotland, and Spain, all experiences that once felt far beyond my reach. These opportunities do more than fill up your personal statement; they build integrity, independence, and perspective. They allow pupils to discover passions that they may never have realised they had.

And underpinning all of this (the academics, the opportunities, the achievements) is what I consider to be the most enriching and essential aspect of WHSB - its community. Through



*Enrichment Day Pottery Workshop*

memorial services, concerts, and drama performances, I have had the privilege of meeting countless former pupils who have returned and shared their journeys with me. A lot of their stories are diverse, inspiring, and entirely unique. If there is one consistent message I have taken from them, it is this: WHSB can take you anywhere. And I mean anywhere. The School does not confine you to a set path; it equips you with the character and confidence to choose your own. I am so thankful that I have been able to socialise and chat with all these individuals because they are living reminders that our School's drive to unlock its students' potentials is not just a motto; it is a reality.

On a more personal note, my deepest thanks go to the friends this School has brought into my life. Across all year groups, I have met talented, kind, and endlessly entertaining individuals who have shaped my experience here in both significant and subtle ways, from making a Monday morning brighter to rescuing me with a last-minute homework reminder. It may sound like a cliché, but it is true; there is little in life more valuable than a good friend. The laughter in corridors, the shared pressure before exams, and the collective relief afterwards - these are the moments that last and that I know I will cherish throughout my later life.

As my final entry draws to a close, I would like to wish the next School Captain and their team every success as they continue to contribute to School life. I encourage all of you, even if you have spent less than a year here, to pause and reflect on how much this School has already enriched your life. I am certain that, when I look at the School many years from now, I will find the same enduring sense of community, culture, and academic ambition that has helped shape my early life. And for that, I will always be grateful.

*Gabriel Williams, School Captain*



*Starring in the School's production of Sweeney Todd, Year 10*

## CCF TRIP TO MEREWORTH WOODS

Friday 17 – Saturday 18 April 2026

In April, Year 9 cadets in the Army and RAF Sections will be invited to their first overnight field exercise. During this trip, cadets will learn how to cook with military rations, and how to put up a basha shelter, in preparation for sleeping out in the field.

The cadets will also practise the routines involved in creating a harbour area. Cadets will build on lessons taught during our Thursday evening parade nights and will put into practice fieldcraft knowledge such as night stalking and patrolling. This is a popular exercise, and the cadets gain a great deal of experience towards their APC syllabus.

*Captain H Tresidder, Acting Officer Commanding, CCF Army Section*



## APPRENTICESHIP DEPARTMENT FOR WORK AND PENSIONS (DWP) PRESENTATION

Thursday 23 April 2026

On 23 April 2026, representatives from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will visit the School to lead an engaging and informative session on apprenticeships, for Year 8 pupils. The aim of this event will be to broaden pupils' awareness of the different routes available to them beyond traditional academic pathways, and to demonstrate how apprenticeships can provide a valuable start to a wide range of careers.

During the session, pupils will learn how apprenticeships combine real workplace experience with structured training, allowing young people to develop practical skills while working towards recognised qualifications. The DWP team will also highlight the variety of sectors offering apprenticeships, from digital and engineering, to business, healthcare and creative industries.

A key part of the event will be an interactive Q&A, giving pupils the chance to raise their own questions and explore areas that interest them. This will help them deepen their understanding of what an apprenticeship involves, including opportunities for progression, entry requirements, and what day-to-day learning on the job might look like.



With GCSE option choices approaching in Year 9, the timing of this session will support pupils as they begin to think more seriously about their future pathways. The School is looking forward

to welcoming the DWP for what promises to be an inspiring and meaningful careers-focused visit.

*Mr M Atkinson, Careers Adviser*



*WHSB's Apprenticeship Fair during National Apprenticeship Week, February 2026*

## WESTCLIFF CENTRE FOR GIFTED CHILDREN – GO FOR GRAMMAR!

*Saturday 25 April 2026*

The Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children *Go for Grammar!* Programme for local Year 5 pupils continued last term, with over 100 children attending the session on the theme “Bright Sparks!”. Each of our *Go for Grammar!* days includes English and Mathematics lessons designed to stretch pupils and aid their familiarity with 11+ style work, and there were also opportunities for pupils to engage in lessons such as Physics, Chemistry, Biology, and Earth Sciences.

In the afternoon, parents are welcomed into the School for a seminar, with the Director of Lower School, which discusses how parents can best support their child through the 11+ examinations.

During these days, the Year 5 pupils have the opportunity to engage with students from our Sixth Form who chaperon them around the School and join them for some of their lessons. This term, the School will welcome more Year 5 students for the Sports, Adventure, and Leadership themed day “Get up and Go!” on Saturday 25 April, which will see pupils engaging with activities provided by the Physical Education Department, and the School’s Combined Cadet Force. This promises to be an exciting end to this year’s programme.

*Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School*

## YEAR 10 PARENTS EVENING

*Monday 27 April 2026, 4.00pm – 6.00pm*

On Monday 27 April, the Year 10 Parents Evening takes place online, and provides an important opportunity for parents and pupils to receive feedback on pupils’ progress so far through the GCSE journey. Teachers will expand on the grades provided in the Year 10 Phase 2 Report and will also provide feedback on strengths and weaknesses, alongside advice on how best to make progress and revise effectively.

Our Parents Evening allows direct dialogue between teacher and parent, and provides key insights into performance both within and outside the classroom, encouraging positive changes in those pupils that require them ahead of the Year 10 End of Year Examinations (these begin on Monday 1 June). This process will form an invaluable part of what is an incredibly important term for Year 10 pupils, and we encourage all parents to attend.

*Mr A Barnett, Director of Middle School*



## JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

*Wednesday 29 April 2026*

The Junior Maths Challenge is an exciting national competition designed to encourage mathematical thinking, problem-solving, and a love of mathematics. This year, all pupils in Year 8 will take part in the challenge as part of their Mathematics experience, giving every pupil in this Year Group an opportunity to test their skills through a range of engaging and thought provoking questions. The challenge focuses on logic and reasoning rather than rote learning, making it accessible and enjoyable for pupils of all abilities.

In addition to Year 8, a selected group of Year 7 pupils will also be invited to participate. These pupils will be chosen based on the results of a pre test, which helps identify those who are ready for this challenge. Taking part in the Junior Maths Challenge is a great opportunity for pupils to build confidence, stretch their mathematical thinking, and gain recognition for their achievements.

*Miss A James, Director of Mathematics*



## LOWER SIXTH GEOGRAPHY TRIPS

Wednesday 29 April and Thursday 11 June 2026

The Summer Term will see A Level Geography students in the Lower Sixth hit the road again as they conduct two more days of fieldwork and data collection. These trips develop essential geographical fieldwork and analytical skills to support students in planning their own Independent Investigation in the summer holidays.

The first of these dates will involve students comparing the quality of life and housing in two distinct areas in Southend, whilst Brick Lane in Spitalfields provides an exemplary location, on our second trip, for the study of gentrification, urban change, and population transition. The results that are collected on physical and human geography topics can also be used in the coursework, which counts for 20% of the total A Level marks.

*Dr M Shepherd, Head of Geography*



## SUMMER CHAMBER CONCERT

Thursday 30 April 2026, 7.30pm - 9.00pm

This much loved termly concert will spotlight WHSB's most exceptional soloists and ensembles, bringing together talented performers from every corner of the School—from our youngest musicians in the Lower School to those preparing to take their final bow in the Upper Sixth. Audiences can look forward to a vibrant programme bursting with variety, featuring Rock, Pop, Classical, Musical Theatre, Film Scores, and much more. Some of our finest pianists and vocalists will take centre stage with performances of well known favourites.

This year, we are thrilled to welcome back Upper Sixth musicians Ethan Wan and Bartholomew Ray Smith for their final appearance before they continue their musical journeys into higher education. We are also excited to introduce rising star James Everett (Year 9), who will be performing his first trumpet solo. Adding to the musical magic, several ensembles—including the ever popular String Ensemble—will showcase dynamic and uplifting repertoires.

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

*Mr A Wood, Assistant Director of Music*



## THE SCHOOL LIBRARY

The start of 2026 marked the beginning of the National Year of Reading, and WHSB's Library has been hard at work promoting reading and independent study during Supervised Study sessions for Sixth Form students, and Library lessons for Lower School Pupils. These Library lessons have now been adapted so that all pupils in Years 7, 8, and 9 have a dedicated time to read the books lent to them through the Lifelong Readers Initiative. This is then followed by discussions, debates, and quizzes on the vocabulary, morals, and themes of these books. Pupils have welcomed these as a great opportunity better to understand the context of the books and how they relate to the wider world around them.

The Spring Term also saw World Book Day take place on Thursday 5 March. As part of this, pupils in Years 7 and 8 were issued with Book Tokens which entitled them to claim, for free, one of a number of books, or purchase any other book for a discounted price. As expected, this was very well received by the pupils, many of whom took this as an opportunity to show their intellectual curiosity by choosing literature not linked to the curriculum.

The Library has long been proud of the degree to which students are involved in assisting with its daily operation. We have a number of dedicated Library Ambassadors across a range of year groups who help us to issue, return, and organise books. During the past term we welcomed the arrival of Year 7 pupils Josh Cavalier, Nate Cavalier, and Vivaan Veema to the group. We will be looking for more eager recruits later in the term and therefore urge all pupils to keep an eye out for notices and announcements if they are interested.

We would like to encourage all members of the School community to take the opportunity to visit the Library themselves, as it is a great environment for silent reading and study. Given the numerous internal and external examinations taking place, we expect that students will find this space particularly beneficial this term. We are open at 8.00am and close at 4.30pm.

*Mrs Oats & Mr Northfield, Librarian & Assistant Librarian*



Finally, we would like to share a poem inspired by WHSB's Library, written by Theo Moolman, Year 7.

### The Library

*The Library, what a wonderful place to be,  
I take a book,  
And have a look,  
And see if it's for me!  
The Library, it's free,  
If I want a good read,  
I won't have to sell grandma's priceless bead!  
I can borrow the book without a fee!  
To the library for the information that I need,  
I search the shelves,  
Like a bunch of elves,  
For my homework deed.  
You can take 6 books, remember when they're due!  
There's a 3-week deadline,  
Plenty of time!  
Though you can renew!  
The library, what a wonderful place to be,  
I take a book,  
And have a look,  
And see if it's for me!*

## LOWER SIXTH INTERNAL EXAMINATIONS

*Tuesday 5 May - Friday 15 May 2026*

The internal examinations provide an important opportunity for teachers to assess their students in a formal testing environment, with students completing their assessments under independent supervision in the Main Hall. The results will be used to compile predicted grades for use in the UCAS application process. Faculty members will offer guidance to students on the structure and content of the examinations, as well as effective revision strategies.

Students are encouraged to approach their teachers with any academic enquiries, while the Sixth Form Pastoral Team remains available to address any additional concerns, fostering a supportive atmosphere during this critical period. Guidance on the Lower Sixth examinations, along with the examination timetable, will be disseminated both to students and parents in the latter part of the Spring Term, ensuring thorough preparation and support for all involved.



*Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form*

## THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

*Practice Expedition: Thursday 7 - Saturday 9 May 2026*

*Assessment Expedition: Wednesday 10 - Saturday 13 June 2026*

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) plays a key role in developing the qualities set out in the Westcliff Learner Profile. Through challenge, service, and reflection, the Programme encourages pupils to become resilient, self-motivated, and socially responsible learners. This year, the School is proud to offer the Bronze and Silver Awards to pupils in Years 9 and 10. Sixth Form students interested in pursuing the Gold Award should speak to Mr Tresidder, who can provide guidance on local Gold Award providers.

### Silver Award

Twenty-eight pupils in Year 10 are currently working towards their Silver Award. Their Practice Expedition will take place in the South Downs from Thursday 7 to Saturday 9 May, followed by the Assessment Expedition in the Peak District from Wednesday 10 to Saturday 13 June. The Silver Award offers an increased level of challenge, requiring pupils to show leadership, sound decision-making, and adaptability, all of which are central to the Westcliff Learner Profile.

### More Than Just the Expedition

While expeditions are a defining feature of the Duke of Edinburgh Award, the programme strongly reflects the School's commitment to developing well-rounded learners. In addition to the expedition, pupils complete three further sections: Volunteering, where they contribute positively to their community; Skills, where



## LOWER SIXTH WORK EXPERIENCE WEEK

Monday 18 - Friday 22 May 2026

During this week, WHSB students in our Lower Sixth will undertake a week of work experience, which forms a vital part of our Careers programme and aligns closely with the Government's Careers Strategy. This experience is designed not only to help students explore potential career pathways and gain first-hand insight into the world of work, but also to support the development of the soft skills that employers consistently identify as essential for success in the workplace. These include effective communication, teamwork, problem-solving, creative thinking, networking, conflict resolution, and time management.

Students have been encouraged to secure their own placements through direct applications to employers and by making use of existing contacts. This process itself plays an important

role in developing confidence, resilience, self-advocacy, and organisational skills, as students learn how to present themselves professionally and how to engage appropriately with adults in a working environment.

Where students experience difficulty in securing a placement, the School will provide guidance and support in their search or enable them to remain at School for the week. During this time, students will undertake a structured programme of virtual work experience and supportive work within School departments. These activities will continue to emphasise the development and application of key soft skills, ensuring that all students gain meaningful preparation for future employment, higher education, and life beyond School.

Mr M Atkinson, Careers Adviser



they develop new interests or refine existing talents; and Physical, where they work to improve their health and wellbeing. These elements promote responsibility, commitment, and a lifelong approach to learning, enabling pupils to embody the values and aspirations of the Westcliff Learner Profile both in and beyond the classroom.

Mr H Tresidder, DofE Coordinator



## BASKETBALL TOUR - VALENCIA TRIP 2026

Monday 25 May - Thursday 28 May 2026

In May 2026, a group of 31 pupils from Year 9 and Year 10 will travel to Valencia, Spain for an exciting international basketball tour. The trip promises to be a memorable experience, combining competitive sport, professional training opportunities, and cultural exploration.

During their time in Valencia, pupils will take part in several basketball fixtures against local teams, providing them with an opportunity to test their skills in an international setting. In addition to competitive matches, the group will also benefit from a number of structured training sessions held in world-class basketball facilities, offering valuable development experiences both individually and as a team.

Alongside the sporting programme, pupils will also have the chance to explore some of Valencia's most famous attractions. Planned visits include the renowned City of Arts and Sciences, the Oceanogràfic aquarium, and a tour of Valencia Football Club's stadium. These excursions will allow pupils to experience the rich culture, architecture, and sporting heritage of the city.

This tour represents a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to develop their basketball abilities, build teamwork and independence, and experience a new culture beyond the classroom. We are confident that the trip will be both educational and inspiring, and that it will create lasting memories for all those involved.

We look forward to sharing updates and highlights from what promises to be an exciting and culturally enriching visit to Valencia.

*Mr J Sexton, Teacher of Physical Education*



# SUMMER TERM SPORTS UPDATE

## Athletics

The Athletics season will once again require strong commitment from students as they develop and refine key skills. Year 7 pupils will focus on learning new techniques and gaining their first experience of the Athletics programme, while pupils in other Year Groups will concentrate on closing performance gaps identified last year. This approach aims to ensure our pupils gain an enriching experience from their participation, and that WHSB continues to compete successfully at local, regional, and national levels.

Year 7 pupils will begin their athletics journey with the Indoor Championships at Lee Valley. The outdoor season will commence in late April, followed by the English Schools Championships throughout May, culminating in the National Final in Chelmsford on Saturday 4 July.

Last year, WHSB achieved a top-three ranking in the Junior competition. This season, the target is to secure top-three finishes for both teams, with the ambition of challenging for the overall title.

At borough level, our aim will be to reduce the gap to Southend Boys, who were champions last year, and compete strongly for first place.

*Mrs Oats & Mr Northfield, Librarian & Assistant Librarian*

### Key Dates: Summer 2026

29 April	Essex Schools Trials for pole vault and hammer at SHSB
30 April	Essex Schools Trials at Garons (Years 8, 9, 10, and Year 11 pupils)
7-15 May	English Schools Championships (First Round)
19 May	Chelmsford Athletics Open (Years 7, 8, and 9)
20 May	Essex Schools Multi Events (Years 9 and 10)
June	English Schools Regional Finals
13 June	Essex Schools Finals take place in Chelmsford
15 June	Southend Borough Athletics Championships (Heats Night) at Garons
19 June	Southend Borough Athletics Championships (Finals Day)
4 July	English Schools National Final, Chelmsford



*National English Schools Track and Field Cup final July 2025*

### Tennis: LTA Division 2 2026

The School enters the 2026 tennis season with strong ambition, having previously won the Division 2 County title two years ago. The focus this season will be on building upon that success and mounting a sustained challenge to regain the county championship.

Training will emphasise technical development, match play experience, and tactical awareness, with pupils encouraged to

show commitment both in lessons and at fixtures. Squad depth and consistency across singles matches will be a key factor as the season progresses.

Competitive fixtures will begin after the Easter break and continue throughout May, June, and July. The extended season will provide valuable opportunities for pupils to develop confidence in competitive environments and represent the School at a high standard.

### WHSB Cricket Success Across All Age Groups

Last year, WHSB enjoyed an outstanding indoor cricket season, with all four teams – U12, U13, U14, and U15 – crowned Regional Champions after completing their competitions unbeaten. Each squad showed fantastic skill, teamwork, and resilience, winning every match on their way through the regional rounds.

As a result of this impressive achievement, all teams now progress to the County Indoor Finals, which will take place in the coming months. These Finals promise to be a great opportunity for our players to test themselves against the strongest schools in the county and continue their excellent form.

Looking ahead, the outdoor cricket season will get underway in earnest from April through to July, with training beginning after the February half term. The School is once again entering teams into both the ECB National Competition and the State School Competition, ensuring plenty of competitive cricket throughout the Summer Term.

With such a strong start to the year, there is a great deal to look forward to, and the enthusiasm and commitment shown by our cricketers bodes well for another exciting and successful season at WHSB.



*The U13 Essex Indoor Cricket round winners now progress to Essex final*

### Essex KS4 Badminton Championships: 2 February 2026 at Rokeby School

The Essex Cup Badminton tournament proved to be an extremely competitive and physically demanding event, providing a challenging yet rewarding experience for all participants. Throughout the day, pupils demonstrated high levels of technical ability, resilience, and excellent sportsmanship, with every match being closely contested. The standard of play was consistently high, as rallies were fast-paced and intense, requiring players to show accurate shot placement, effective tactical awareness, and strong movement around the court.

WHSB faced tough opposition in their group matches, where each fixture tested the team's ability to adapt under pressure.

A particular standout performance came from Samarth Parashar, whose composure, court awareness, and control of rallies played a crucial role in the team's success. His leadership and consistency were instrumental in securing two wins out of three matches, helping WHSB remain competitive throughout the tournament.

The group stage results were as follows: Ilford 4 – WHSB 1; WHSB 3 – Eastwood 2; and Coopers Coburn 2 – WHSB 3. These results placed WHSB second within their group, reflecting their strong overall performance against high-quality opposition. Unfortunately, only the winners from each of the two pools progressed to the championship match, meaning WHSB narrowly missed out on the final despite their commendable efforts. Overall, the tournament was a valuable experience that highlighted the team's growing confidence, teamwork, and competitive spirit, while also identifying areas for continued development in future competitions.

The Essex KS3 Badminton Championships took place on the 13 February at SHSB, with strong wins over Coopers Coburn and Bancroft School, and a narrow loss to SHSB and the eventual winners KEGS; our pupils finished third on the day. The winners progressed to the Regional round.

### **Sixth Form Netball**

WHSB's Sixth Form Netball programme has continued to grow and develop positively this academic year, reflecting the School's commitment to expanding sporting opportunities for girls in the Sixth Form. A key highlight for the squad has been the introduction of new netball kit, which has been warmly received by players and has helped to strengthen team identity, pride, and professionalism both in training and during fixtures.

The Physical Education Department has been working hard to raise the profile of Sixth Form netball, with a clear focus on increasing participation, improving performance standards, and providing regular competitive opportunities. As a result, the number of fixtures has increased significantly this academic year, allowing players to gain valuable match experience and further develop their tactical understanding, fitness levels, and teamwork.



*WHSB's KS4 Badminton Team Essex Qualifiers*

Overall, Sixth Form netball at WHSB is moving in a very positive direction. With continued support from the staff, increased fixtures, and growing student interest, the programme is well placed to continue developing, providing meaningful sporting opportunities for girls in the Sixth Form in the years ahead.

*Mr M Fletcher, Director of Sport*

### **Basketball**

The 2025/26 season has once again highlighted Basketball as a flagship sport at WHSB, with teams across all Year Groups demonstrating commitment, competitiveness, and a growing maturity in performance. The programme continues to set high standards both within the borough and on the county stage, reinforcing WHSB's reputation as a school where basketball thrives.

The Year 7 team has enjoyed an outstanding introductory season to competitive basketball. Making significant progress throughout the year, the team secured several impressive victories in borough competition and advanced to the quarter-finals of the Essex Cup. Although they ultimately bowed out to exceptionally strong opposition in both competitions, the foundations laid this



*Celebrating the growth and success of Sixth Form netball*

season point to a very promising future for this cohort. Sportsmen in Year 8 have built impressively on last season's success, reaching the Borough Final for the second consecutive year. They now face a highly anticipated Final against SHSB, with the opportunity to convert consistency into the trophy. Their campaign was further strengthened by a quarter-final appearance in the Essex Cup, underlining their status as one of the most competitive teams in their age group.

The Year 9 season has been characterised by flashes of outstanding basketball, with the team frequently displaying a high level of skill and teamwork. However, inconsistency at key moments proved costly in the latter stages of competitions. Despite this, a quarter-final run in the Essex Cup reflects their quality, and with greater focus and discipline, this group has clear potential to progress even further.

Year 10 team has been the standard-bearer of the programme this season. The team's victory over SHSB in the Borough Final secured a remarkable third consecutive Borough Championship, a testament to their sustained excellence and winning mentality.

They now await a challenging Essex Cup Quarter-Final against St Bonaventure's, with confidence high as they look to extend their success beyond the borough.

Year 11 has also represented the School with distinction. Reaching the quarter-finals of the Essex Cup, they were eventually defeated by a strong Barking Abbey side. Domestically, they have been consistently solid and are well positioned to reach the Borough Final, aiming to emulate the Year 10 team by securing a third consecutive Borough Championship and ending their early and middle years at WHSB on a high, before going on to new challenges in the Sixth Form.

Overall, Basketball at WHSB remains a significant strength of the School's sporting provision. Progress is evident across all Year Groups, both in results and in the quality of performances. However, continued success will depend on sustained hard work, focus, and ambition. If these standards are maintained, WHSB Basketball is well placed to achieve even greater success in the years ahead.

*Mr J Sexton, Teacher of Physical Education*



*Year 10 Basketball Borough Champions*

PERFORMING GODSPELL, MARCH 2026





























## SPOTLIGHT ON MATHEMATICS

### Meet the Department



*The Mathematics Department*  
From left to right: Mr A Rahman, Mr W Soares Davidson, Mr N Huntington, Miss A James, Mrs L Hammond  
Back, from left to right: Dr R McCarthy, Mr A Lo, Mr A Risk, Mr J Alexander, Mr A North, Mr A Barnett

The Mathematics Department is composed of a diverse and accomplished team whose academic backgrounds and teaching preferences reflect a strong commitment to mathematical education.

Miss James, a former student of Westcliff High School for Girls and a graduate of the University of Reading, particularly enjoys teaching modelling with parametric equations. She joined the department as Director of Mathematics in 2022, having previously taught at St Bernard's High School. Her favourite school trips include both the annual ski trip and Maths Fest. She also enjoys sharing her preferred joke: "Why was the skier great at algebra? She always found the slope!"

Mr Lo, Head of Key Stage 3 Mathematics, attended Westcliff High School for Boys before completing his degree at the University of Nottingham. His specialist interest lies in Further Statistics, a module he introduced to the A-Level Further Mathematics programme in 2022. He especially values teaching hypothesis testing, due to its applications in fields such as psychology and pharmaceutical research, as well as probability generating functions, which represent event probabilities within algebraic coefficients.

Mr Rahman, Head of Key Stage 4 Mathematics, was educated at King

Edward VI Aston School in Birmingham and later at the University of Birmingham. He most enjoys teaching trigonometry. Mr Rahman's lessons occasionally feature mathematical humour, including the well-known line "What does the B in Benoit B. Mandelbrot stand for? Benoit B. Mandelbrot".

Mrs Hammond, Head of Key Stage 5 Mathematics, completed her schooling at Bramhall High School before studying at the University of Manchester. Her favourite topics to teach are Further Mechanics and Binomial Expansion. Her second favourite mathematical joke is the following:

Student 1: I think Mrs Hammond is plotting something,  
Student 2: Why is that?  
Student 1: I saw her with graph paper!

Mr Barnett, who also teaches Mathematics, writes "I studied Mathematics, History, Chemistry, and Accountancy at A-level, and went on to York University to read Mathematics, where I learnt a little about Mathematics and a lot about people. I first arrived at Westcliff High School for Boys in 2009 where I cannot pretend I was fresh-faced but I did at least have some hair. I took an eight-year break to explore some other schools in the county of Essex and

then returned in September 2021 to lead the Middle School. I particularly enjoy teaching the non-Further Mathematicians at GCSE as I enjoy helping those pupils realise that they are a lot better at Mathematics than they give themselves credit for. Any Advanced Level teaching is fun teaching because at least some of the people in the room really want to learn about the subject. My favourite topic to teach is integration, and specifically integration by inspection as it is an opportunity for mathematicians to demonstrate intuition and flair and not just follow a formulaic process."

Dr McCarthy graduated from the University of Southampton with a degree in Mathematics before completing a PhD in Applied Mathematics at the University of Cambridge. After spending more than ten years in industry working in mathematical modelling, she changed career paths and moved into teaching. She joined the School in 2021 and also serves as an A Level Mathematics Examiner for Edexcel. The topic she most enjoys teaching is calculus, as she loves how it blends logical thinking with real-world applications.

Mr Huntington, who studied at William de Ferrers before graduating from the University of Southampton, enjoys teaching a wide range of mathematical topics, with the possible exception of



Mr M Manning, Deputy Headmaster and Mathematics Teacher

statistics! His sense of humour ranges from accessible wordplay “What did Zero say to Eight? Nice belt!” to more abstract mathematical jokes such as, “What’s purple and commutes? An abelian grape!”

Mr Alexander, an alumnus of Westcliff High School for Boys and a graduate of the University of Cambridge, particularly enjoys teaching vectors and probability. He often shares mathematical humour, including a favourite joke involving three mathematicians who, after remaining silent, simultaneously answer “yes” to a simple question from a bartender.

Mr North attended both William de Ferrers and Southend High School for Girls before studying at the University of Birmingham. His preferred topic is surds, and he frequently references elegant mathematical results, including Euler’s identity,  $e^{i\pi} + 1 = 0$ , which once prompted a student to remark, “That’s complex”.

Mr Risk, another Westcliff High School for Boys Alumnus, completed his degree at the University of Portsmouth and enjoys teaching graphical solutions to equations. His preferred humour includes geometric wordplay such as, “Have you heard about the over-educated circle? It has 360 degrees!”

Mr Manning is a graduate of the University of Cambridge and is Deputy Headmaster at the School. He mostly teaches our A Level Further Mathematicians and is a frequent guest at Mahjong Club. Mr Manning has so many favourite jokes that he cannot narrow it down to one – he particularly enjoys the following: “What are ten things you can always count on? Your fingers”, and “I knew a mathematician who couldn’t afford lunch. He could binomials”!

Finally, Mr Soares-Davison, who attended King’s School in Grantham

before studying at the University of Sheffield, enjoys teaching any topic with real-life relevance, as this allows him to incorporate engaging anecdotes into his lessons. A favourite line of his is, “My PIN is the last four digits of pi”!

### Maths Prefects and Extra-Curricular Activities

Sixth Form students can choose from a wide selection of activities to take part

in during Wednesday afternoons, one of these being STEP Club. STEP (the Sixth Term Examination Paper) comprises two three-hour examinations taken at the end of the Upper Sixth and serves as an entrance examination for students seeking to study Mathematics at leading universities such as Cambridge and Warwick. This club is an opportunity for students to explore mathematical ideas in a greater depth than offered in the A-Level curriculum, and to apply familiar ideas in novel and interesting situations.

STEP Club is tailored to the needs of the students, meaning that it is suitable for those wishing to study other Mathematics-adjacent subjects, such as Physics, Economics, or Computer Science. These may require other entrance examinations, such as the TMUA (Test of Mathematics for University Admission) and the MAT (Maths Aptitude Test). A notable aspect of these examinations is a focus on logic, a topic that students would not see in their usual A-Level studies. This gives students a first glimpse into the type of higher-order thinking required for these rigorous disciplines at university.



## UKMT Mathematical Challenges



At Westcliff High School for Boys, we place great emphasis on developing our students' mathematical problem-solving abilities through participation in the UK Mathematics Trust (UKMT) challenges. The UKMT runs a comprehensive series of competitions designed to encourage mathematical reasoning and precision of thought, with the following three main challenges held throughout the academic year:

- **The Junior Mathematical Challenge (JMC)**, which takes place in late April or early May, is open to pupils in Year 8 and below. At WHSB, all Year 8 pupils take part in the JMC, with selected Year 7 pupils also participating after passing qualifier rounds prior to the actual challenge;
- **The Intermediate Mathematical Challenge (IMC)** is held in late January and is aimed at pupils in Year 11 and below. Our participation

includes all Year 11 Further Mathematicians, along with our highest-achieving Year 10 Further Mathematicians and selected Year 9 pupils;

- **The Senior Mathematical Challenge (SMC)** takes place in early October and is open to students aged 19 and below. All our Upper Sixth students take part, and we also include our Lower Sixth Further Mathematicians.

Beyond the initial challenges, we actively support students who qualify for the various follow-on rounds, which provide even greater mathematical enrichment. These include the Grey and Pink Kangaroos (held in March) for intermediate-level pupils, the Cayley, Hamilton, and Maclaurin Olympiads for pupils at different levels within the intermediate range, and the prestigious British Mathematical Olympiad (BMO) with its two rounds for our most talented

senior students. We also participate in the Team Maths Challenge, which features regional rounds held between February and May, and the Senior Team Maths Challenge, both of which foster collaborative problem-solving and teamwork skills.

To prepare students thoroughly for these competitions, we provide extensive support both within and outside the classroom. This includes our twice-weekly Maths Help Club, a dedicated Mathematics Society, and specialist training sessions. Our Sixth Form Mathematics Prefects also play an important mentoring role, supporting younger pupils in developing their skills and confidence in tackling challenging mathematical problems, helping to foster a strong culture of mathematical excellence throughout the school

## Mathematics Trips

Our mathematics extra-curricular programme is enriched through a range of inspiring trips designed to extend students beyond the classroom. Sixth Form students are given the opportunity to attend Maths Fest in London, where they engage with interactive lectures and talks from leading mathematicians and industry professionals. Lower Sixth students take part in a dedicated problem-solving conference that develops advanced reasoning, teamwork, and creative approaches to unfamiliar challenges. In addition, Year 10 pupils benefit from an enrichment visit to the University of Essex, giving them an opportunity to experience university-level mathematics and explore future pathways in STEM.

One of our more popular Mathematics Trips is the trip to Nuclear Races Wild Forest in Brentwood, as part of Enrichment Day. For past trips, students have calculated different mathematical equations that can be modelled based on the "Death Slide". It is always a very enjoyable day and students get very muddy!

## Becoming a Mathematics Prefect

In the Sixth Form, we offer the opportunity for our students to become a Mathematics Prefect and, in the Upper Sixth, to become a Mathematics Leader. Our Prefects help to promote mathematics beyond the curriculum and are instrumental in fostering an enjoyment of everything that mathematics has to offer our pupils. This is a fantastic opportunity for which many students apply.



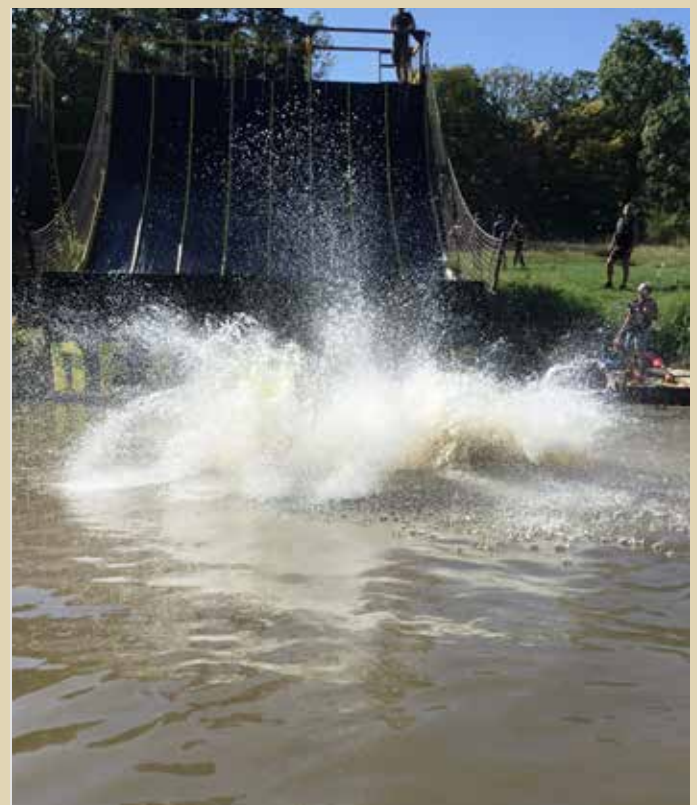
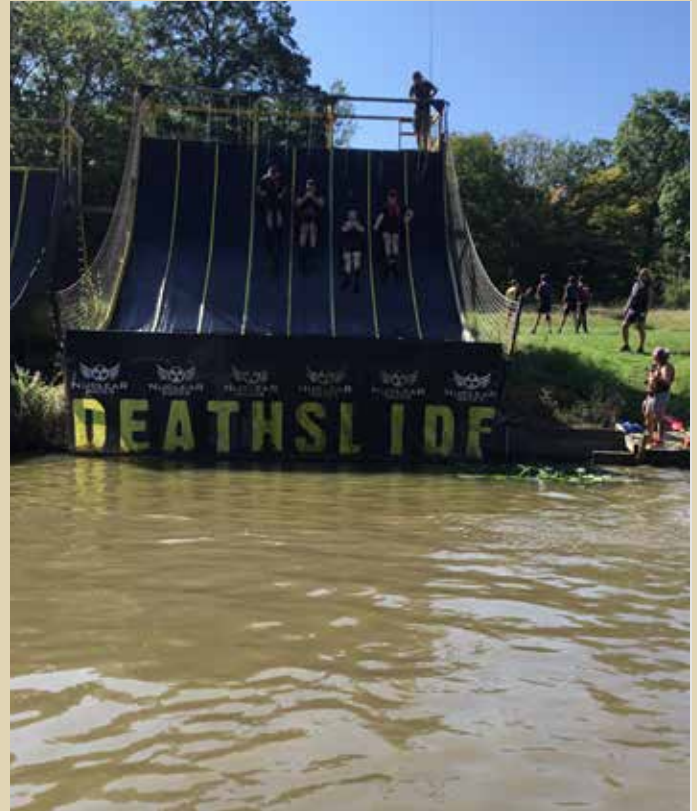
*Celebrating Success in National Competitions, Autumn 2025*

The first phase of the application process opens in early December of the Lower Sixth, with Prefects taking on duties from January of the Lower Sixth. A second phase opens in February, with duties continuing until the end of the calendar year. There is a third opportunity for applications at the end of the Lower Sixth, where previously chosen Prefects may

apply to become a Mathematics Leader. We also take on some additional Year 10 volunteers who are keen to mentor younger pupils to support them at the start of the next academic year.

The role of a Mathematics Leader is to innovate, and to add new and creative ideas for the next academic year. The

Leaders oversee our provisions each lunchtime and help to coordinate the activities in the background. Below, our Maths Leaders and Prefects have written about the activities they lead, and some of our pupils who have attended these activities have written about their own experiences.



*The Death Slide, Nuclear Races Wild Forest in Brentwood*

## Mentoring and Support Sessions

One of the most popular roles that our Prefects take on is the role of a Subject Mentor. Our Subject Mentors are keen to make a difference to a pupil's learning journey by offering weekly one-on-one support. They offer different and unique interpretations for approaching problem

solving questions and offer suggestions of useful strategies to help embed techniques and processes into long-term memory, which is vital for examination success.

Our Prefects also help to run our Help Clubs which run twice a week. These allow for more casual drop-ins when

pupils are struggling with a recently covered topic and want some further assistance with their homework. Our A-Level Further Mathematics students run our Key Stage 5 Help Club and offer great advice and tips to improve examination technique for other students.

Miss A James, Director of Mathematics

### What do our pupils say?



*Having previously been a mentee and now a Mentor for GCSE Further Mathematics, I can confidently say that the WHSB*

*mathematics mentoring programme is extremely rewarding for both mentors and mentees.*

*As a mentee, I initially struggled with GCSE Mathematics, so having a mentor who had recently achieved highly at GCSE was invaluable. They offered not only strong subject knowledge, but also effective examination technique, time management, and revision advice, all of which I found crucial to improving rapidly. I also believe that success in mathematics largely comes from practising challenging questions, and mentoring sessions allowed me to bring forward topics I had struggled with during the week. Having these broken down for me step by step helped deepen my understanding and extend my learning beyond the classroom.*

*However, the programme is just as beneficial for Mentors. Having mentored GCSE Further Mathematics this year, I have found that explaining difficult concepts to others has helped reinforce my own understanding of GCSE content, which can easily be overlooked amidst the fast-paced demands of A-level study. In addition, mentoring has developed important transferable skills such as communication, teamwork, and commitment, which are valuable for both university applications and future employment.*

*Overall, the WHSB Mathematics mentoring programme offers significant benefits to both Mentors and mentees, and I would strongly encourage any student struggling with GCSE (or A-Level) to get involved, as it played a major role in my own improvement in the months leading up to my GCSE examinations.*

Reuben Thomas, Lower Sixth  
(Maths Mentor since Lower Sixth, and formerly attended GCSE Further Maths Mentoring since Year 11)



*Before attending mentoring, I struggled with quadratics and complex graphs, and often felt unsure how to approach questions. My Mentor*

*explained these topics clearly and guided me through problems step by step, which really improved my understanding. I am now much more confident when solving quadratic equations and interpreting graphs and I make fewer mistakes. Overall, mentoring has helped me a lot and has made me feel more confident and better prepared for my GCSE Maths studies. I would definitely recommend it to anyone who wants extra help in mathematics.*

Trishi Naddinuri, Year 10  
(Attended Maths Mentoring since Year 10)



*Attending the support sessions has really helped to improve both my understanding and confidence in my work. The direct teaching from my Mentor really*

*helps me to grasp the understanding of the questions.*

*The mentoring sessions also allow you to ask questions without feeling rushed or embarrassed. Instead, the explanations, coming from a student who has just completed their GCSEs, and clearer and more tailored to what I specifically need help with, allow me to fix the small mistakes that often cause you to lose many marks in examinations.*

*Overall, mentoring has made the subject not only more manageable, but enjoyable, where I less frequently find myself struggling with classwork and homework. It has been providing me with an increasingly positive attitude towards the subject.*

Reuben Smith, Year 11  
(Attended GCSE Further Maths Group Mentoring since Year 11)



*Mathematics is something I have been passionate about, especially since Year 9. I felt so excited about the fact that I could take on so*

*many problems and questions that I could not do previously, once I understood what I was learning. Naturally, I felt I had to share my excitement with other people so when I finally got the opportunity to officially share my knowledge with others by being a Mathematics Mentor, I felt passionate and excited about doing it.*

*Being a Mathematics Mentor is so rewarding; seeing how your own teaching helps someone understand a topic they could never understand before. When I see the joy on someone's face, I cannot help but also be happy for them and for myself. It also helps me be more confident and more responsible, as I have to stay committed to helping others.*

*Mentoring also gives you the chance to show off your knowledge, which is something I have been so eager to do. There is no better feeling than seeing your own success pay off through someone else. If you struggle with Mathematics, you can also come – the whole point is to learn and improve. At lunchtime, each person can have their own Mentor, so it is a place where you can relax and ask for help without feeling embarrassed.*

Anish Mallick, Year 11  
(Maths Mentor since Year 10)



*I became a Maths Prefect because I enjoy Mathematics, and it helps me to think logically and to stay patient, even when given a challenging task.*

*Mentoring younger pupils requires the ability to effectively explain ideas and be able to adapt for when a harder topic needs to be taught differently. It is a rewarding role as I get to see that I have made a positive impact on pupils' ability to understand new or difficult concepts.*

Demilade Okunoren, Lower Sixth  
(Maths Mentor since Lower Sixth)

## Countdown Club



Countdown Club is based on the long-running TV show Countdown. It is open to all Year Groups, taking place on Monday lunchtimes.

Students compete in three different rounds - Letters, Numbers, and Conundrum.

In the Letters Round, students are given 9 letters and aim to create the longest word they can with those letters. In the Numbers Round, students are given 6 numbers and a target number and are challenged to create that target number with the smaller ones, using addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division. In the Conundrum Round, they are given an anagram of a 9-letter word and race to unscramble the word. I have found it very rewarding to see students from all different Year Groups come together and make friends through friendly competition.

Archie Becks, Upper Sixth  
(Leader for Countdown Club)



Countdown Club is by far my favourite extra-curricular activity because I enjoy both mathematics and puzzle solving. Whether you like Mathematics or

English, or not, I think that anyone reading should give it a go. I would like to thank the Mathematics Department and the Sixth Form helpers for making Countdown Club possible.

Vinnie Ramakrishnan, Year 8 (Attended Countdown Club since Year 7)



Countdown is not only an intellectually enriching game, but it also offers a fun and engaging twist on the types of questions typically encountered in our Mathematics lessons. Furthermore, the Club challenges us to apply a wide range of skills to solve the problems and earn House Points. Personally, I would highly recommend Countdown Club to any pupils at WHSB who wish to further enhance their understanding of Mathematics in an enjoyable and interactive way.

Joshua Lord, Year 8  
(Attended Countdown Club since Year 7)



For me, like some other members of the Club, I watch Countdown at home and this Club gives me the opportunity to join in with the show instead of having to shout my solutions at the television. However, there are many people at the Club who have never heard of the game show before but, after understanding the rules, have found it easy to play. I encourage you to join in with us and not only improve your 75 times tables, but have fun while doing so!

Naiyan Shah, Year 11  
(Attended Countdown Club since Year 10)

## Gauss Group



As a Mathematics Leader, I oversee the Gauss Group, which is a group of students from all Year Groups who tackle challenging problems. We aim to develop

problem-solving skills by looking at different approaches to questions. The students benefit from the new techniques and tips that can help in their academic studies, through confidence and efficiency. Overall, it is an enjoyable atmosphere where everyone can develop their mathematical understanding.

Vincent Varney, Upper Sixth  
(Leader for Gauss Group)

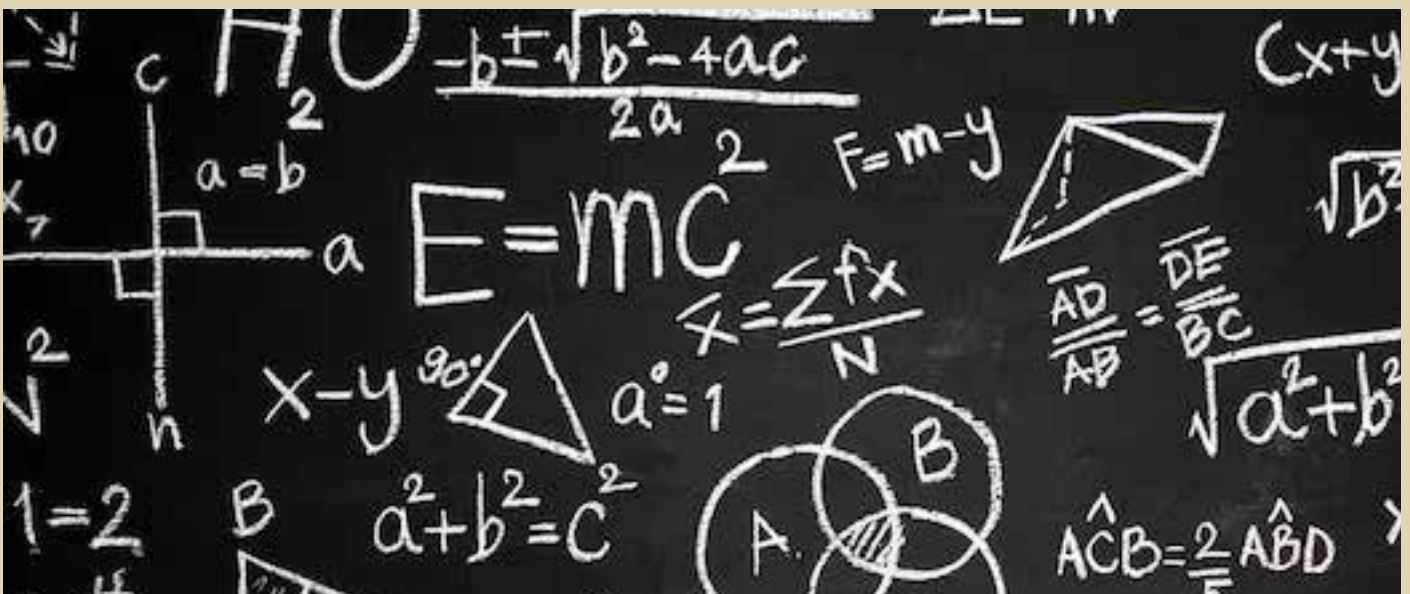
## Maths Matrix



I am responsible for running the Maths Matrix, the School's Mathematics newspaper, which I created last year. This involves editing and organising multiple

articles on a wide range of topics, including the Pythagorean Theorem to the Millennium Maths Problems, with the goal of inspiring curiosity and making mathematics enjoyable for all. I coordinate with contributors across the Sixth Form to ensure clarity and make sure each article is engaging for readers. Through the Maths Matrix, critical thinking and wider participation are encouraged, which helps students explore mathematics beyond the classroom.

Andrew Jose, Upper Sixth  
(Leader for Maths Matrix)



**Pi Day, March 2026, celebrating the mathematical constant  $\pi$  (pi)**



Pi Day is a day celebrated every year on 14 March (the 3rd month and 14th day) as the first 3 digits of Pi are 3.14. Pi is a never ending and seemingly random number that is used repeatedly across the large majority of topics that students will encounter when studying Mathematics.

Here at WHSB, we celebrate this every year and I was able to help run this celebration in 2025, as a Mathematics Prefect, where there were various activities that students could participate in. Some of these activities included biscuit decorating where students could use icing and fondant to decorate biscuits centred around the theme of Pi, together with a 'Reciting digits of Pi' competition where students attempted to recite as many digits of Pi as possible from memory with the winner managing almost 300 digits.

It was an incredibly enjoyable event and pupils had a great time immersing themselves in the world of Mathematics while having fun with their friends.

Zachary Cooper, Upper Sixth  
(Assisted at Pi Day 2025)



I think Pi Day is a day that everyone should try to participate in. Whether it be walking around the corridors looking at displays that normally are walked past in the day-to-day bustle to solve mathematical problems, or decorating a hobnob biscuit perfectly in the theme of pi, there is something for everyone!

Last year, I decorated my biscuits with the area of the biscuit - and I got to eat it afterwards! I look forward to participating again this year and I wonder whether there will be a new record for the number of digits of pi in the reciting competition.

Noah Tomide-Johnson, Year 9  
(Participated in Pi Day Events in 2025)



I remember the night before baking a Pi-themed apple pie. I recall using a variety of ingredients and the effort going into this apple pie (or Pi), ensuring my prominent victory. The day came to bring my apple pie into school and I remember receiving so many compliments before the competition started.

When lunchtime came, all the other contestants and I had our desserts lined up ready for tasting by Dana Conway, a former contestant on The Great British Bake Off. I remember her having one sample of my dish and her face changed, not for politeness in hiding displeasure, but in actual enjoyment when eating the pie. She asked me what my inspiration was, and I replied that "I come from a long line of apple crumble enthusiasts so I used our famous strudel recipe and I hand crafted the shortcrust pastry from scratch".

After all the other contestants' desserts had been judged, she announced the winner (that being me). As I walked up to the stage to say a few words and receive my certificate and have my picture taken, I felt a wave of euphoria that I had done it - I had won! I tend to look back on Pi Day when I see my certificate in a picture frame on top of our cabinet at home and, although I am not necessarily the biggest maths enthusiast, Pi Day 2024 was certainly a day to remember.

Robert Burn, Year 10  
(Winner of the Pi Day Bake Off 2024)





Pi Day 2026

## YEARS 7 - 10 INTERNAL END OF YEAR EXAMINATIONS

Monday 1 - Friday 5 June 2026

At Westcliff High School for Boys, all pupils in Years 7 to 10 have the opportunity to sit End-of-Year Examinations in the subjects that they study. This excludes Tutorial time (Year 7 only), Enrichment (Year 7 only), PSHEE, Core Physical Education, and Games.

This year, the School has been running a 'Revision for Learning' programme, led by Dr Shepherd, with staff investigating and studying best practice when it comes to helping students revise throughout their courses. This is in contrast to the outdated practice of seeing revision as a cramming exercise to be done immediately before a test or examination.

For Year 7 pupils, this will be their first taste of sitting examinations in such a wide range of subjects rather than only focussing on 11+ style questions or just English and Mathematics. Having been taught their subjects in mixed groups during Year 7, Science (including Computer Science) and Languages will be set for the first time during Year 8, with the examination results playing their part in this process.

Having experienced this for the first time last year, pupils in Year 8 will be able to learn from their mistakes in the Year 7 examinations, apply the advice given to them by their teachers, and achieve greater success in this round of examinations. Success in the Year 8 examinations is important for pupils in this Year Group, as this will be the last full set of examinations before pupils make their GCSE options choices halfway through Year 9. Performing highly in as many subjects as possible will allow these pupils to have the widest range of choices in Year 9 and will mean that their hand is not forced. In addition to Science and Languages, there will also be setting in Mathematics.

Having made their GCSE option choices in March, for pupils in Year 9 these results are especially important, as they will be used

to check to see if pupils have made realistic and sensible option choices for their GCSE studies. Furthermore, the Core GCSE subjects – English, Mathematics, and the Sciences – will all be set for GCSE, as will the three language options in their respective option blocks.

Once the examinations are marked, the results will make a significant contribution to the grade each pupil receives in their Phase 3 Report, although these are not the only contributing factor. Where setting takes place, results will also be used to inform which sets pupils are put in to for the next academic year, but again, these are not the only contributing factor.

In addition to assessing pupils' progress at the end of each academic year, WHSB's internal End-of-Year Examinations also give pupils an opportunity to condition themselves and to prepare for their GCSE examinations in Year 11 (and their A Level Examinations in the Upper Sixth) by providing an experience of sitting examinations in a range of subjects in a limited time frame.

As pupils progress through the Year Groups, examinations will typically increase in length, with pupils sitting multiple papers in an increasing number of subjects. However, the number of subjects will decrease as pupils move from the Lower School (13 - 15 subjects as Science splits into Biology, Chemistry, and Physics in Year 9) to the Middle School (11 or 12 subjects depending on whether a pupil is selected to study Further Mathematics) and finally into the Sixth Form (3 or 4 subjects). Furthermore, Trial Examinations in Year 11, End-of-Year Examinations in the Lower Sixth and the Upper Sixth Trial Examinations are held in the School Hall to mirror the surroundings of the Public Examinations.

With the continuing advancements in technology and AI, there is a temptation for pupils to use electronic devices, as well as written notes, to try and cheat in these examinations. Unfortunately, it is the reality that each year a number of pupils are found to be cheating. Appropriate measures are taken to ensure that this does not happen, and pupils will be sanctioned accordingly should they be caught. Sadly, a small number of



pupils have been disqualified from public examinations due to rule infringements.

Please note that a record of those not sitting examinations on the specified day is kept. Whilst some pupils may be tempted to take a day off during this period to find out about the questions from their friends who sat the examination at the correct time, it is the School's experience that examinations taken late usually result in poor outcomes. Appropriate arrangements will be made for those who miss a number of examinations through genuine illness or injury to catch up.

Finally, we hope that all pupils sitting these End-of-Year Examinations will take onboard the advice given to them by their teachers and that they attain the results that match all their hard work and dedication to their studies this academic year. We wish all the pupils the very best of luck in the examinations, and encourage them to seek support from their teachers and pastoral staff where this may be needed.

*Mr M Manning, Deputy Head*



# LOWER SIXTH EXAMINATION DATA REPORT

Friday 5 June 2026

Students in the Lower Sixth will be issued with their examination data following the recent internal examinations. This report, known as the Lower Sixth Exam Data Report, is a crucial tool that provides information regarding your child's progress and indicates the suitable universities to visit with a view to future applications. This report will not include UCAS predictions, which will be included in the more detailed written report issued on Friday 26 June. Additional support for the application process will be given during Form periods.

Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form



## YEAR 10 MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES SPEAKING EXAMINATIONS

Monday 8 June 2026

Pupils in Year 10 will have a Speaking Examination as part of their End of Year Examinations. This will give pupils the chance to practise the following elements one after another, which to date have been assessed separately:

1. Reading aloud, followed by two questions;
2. A role-play;
3. A photo card, with two follow-on questions;
4. A general conversation.

Pupils will be given a choice of two topics from those studied this year for the photo card and general conversation. They are advised to prepare carefully for the Speaking Examination, paying particular attention to tenses and appropriate vocabulary. Pupils will be able to take responsibility for managing their own revision programme for this examination,

but they will also be supported in class by their Modern Foreign Language teachers with revision guidance and advice.

The Speaking Examination is worth 25% of the total examination result.

Ms J McKeown,  
Head of Modern Foreign Languages



## JUNIOR KANGAROO AND JUNIOR OLYMPIAD

Tuesday 9 June 2026

The Junior Kangaroo and Junior Mathematical Olympiad are follow on competitions designed to challenge pupils who perform particularly well in the Junior Maths Challenge. These competitions offer a step up in difficulty, encouraging deeper mathematical thinking, perseverance, and creativity. Questions are more demanding and require pupils to explain their reasoning clearly, helping to develop strong problem solving and communication skills.

Pupils are invited to take part in the Junior Kangaroo or Olympiad based on their results in the Junior Maths Challenge, making participation a real achievement. Taking part provides an excellent opportunity for pupils to stretch themselves mathematically and to experience high level problem solving in a supportive environment. Success in these competitions is a great source of pride, and it can inspire continued enthusiasm and confidence in mathematics.

*Miss A James, Director of Mathematics*



## SUMMER SINFONIA CONCERT

Thursday 25 June 2026, 7.30pm – 9.00pm

The year's programme of orchestral concerts ends with a bang, with possibly the most famous pieces of music ever composed: Beethoven's Symphony No.5 in C Minor begins with a four-note motif so vital and enigmatic that it has penetrated global culture; from being used to signal 'V for Victory' at the end of the Second World War, to decades later being adapted to be a number one disco hit, the cultural impact of this colossal work cannot be understated. For all its pomp and grandeur, the symphony was composed as a very personal response to the composer's encroaching deafness; his resistance to 'fate knocking at the door'. To depict this, Beethoven takes the audience on a thrilling journey from tragedy to triumph, a narrative that becomes the archetype for subsequent composers.

Narrative archetype provides the backbone for this concert's first half, which explores depictions of one of the most important components of any fairy tale - the princess. Tchaikovsky's traditional approach to this elegant heroine can be seen in the bright waltzes of Sleeping Beauty, tinged with darkness in Swan Lake. A later, more exotic presentation is found in Stravinsky's Firebird, while John Williams' 'Princess Leia's Theme' for the Star Wars movies softens the edges of a character that subverts what one might expect from a princess.

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

*Mr T Derrick, Director of Music*



SPRING SINFONIA CONCERT: MARCH 2026















## MUSIC DEPARTMENT TRIP: THE YOUNG MUSICIANS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA PERFORM BERLIOZ, RACHMANINOV & MUSSORGSKY

Tuesday 16 June 2026, departs 4.00pm



This opportunity for pupils to experience live classical music in London features performances of three well-known works. The concert opens with Berlioz's 'Hungarian March', a spirited piece derived from a popular folk tune that was originally part of his dramatic legend, The Damnation of Faust.

Pianist Radu-Gabriel Stoica is the soloist for Rachmaninov's Piano Concerto No. 2, an emotional tour-de-force which needs no introduction.

To end the evening, the Orchestra performs Modest Mussorgsky's Pictures at an Exhibition. Each movement, masterfully orchestrated by Ravel, depicts a different scene or portrait, ranging from a bustling market to the Great Gates of Kiev.

Tickets are available at a cost of £36.50 including travel.

*Mr T Derrick, Director of Music*

## SOUTHEND UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL VISIT

Wednesday 17 June 2026

Twenty aspiring Lower Sixth medical students from Westcliff High School for Boys will soon have an exciting opportunity to attend a Careers Morning at Southend University Hospital. The visit will be offered exclusively to members of the WHSB MDV Society who have shown dedication and active participation throughout the year.

During the event, the students will hear from doctors at a variety of career stages – from junior doctors to seasoned consultants – each sharing insights into their professional journeys. These talks will give our students a valuable look into the realities of medical training, and the daily challenges and rewards of working in healthcare.

The speakers will discuss their routes into medicine, the choices that shaped their careers, and the lessons they have learned along the way. They will also offer practical guidance on everything from medical school applications and interviews to managing workload and maintaining wellbeing, all of which will be particularly useful for students preparing for the next steps in their medical aspirations.

Our students will also have the chance to ask questions during an open Q&A session, enabling them to explore topics such as specialty choices, work-life balance, and the continually developing landscape of the NHS.

The visit promises to be both motivating and informative, giving WHSB students deeper insight into the world of medicine while strengthening their enthusiasm for pursuing medical careers.

The School looks forward to this valuable opportunity and extends its thanks to Southend University Hospital for supporting the development of future healthcare professionals.

*Mr M Atkinson, Careers Adviser*



## A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM

Wednesday 17 - Friday 19 June 2026, 7.00pm - 9.30pm

This summer, our younger pupils take the lead as Westcliff Drama presents our Summer Production of A Midsummer Night's Dream. One of Shakespeare's most popular and lyrical plays, the story takes its audience into the heart of Ancient Greece, where demigods and monsters mingle with humans and legendary figures.

At the heart of the Dream is a battle between Oberon and Titania, King and Queen of the Fae. The fae occupy a peculiar space in human imagination – not quite gods, not quite ghosts, but something altogether stranger. These beings, known by many names across cultures – fairies, the Good Folk, the Gentry – have haunted the edges of fields and forests for millennia, representing humanity's uneasy relationship with the wild and unknown.

Unlike the sanitized fairies of Victorian children's books, traditional fae were dangerous, capricious creatures. They could bestow blessings or curses with equal ease, steal children from cradles, or lead travellers astray with enchanting music. The rules governing interactions with them were strict: never eat their food, never reveal your true name, always leave offerings of milk or cream. Iron repelled them; rowan trees protected against them. These were not whimsical guidelines, but survival instructions passed down through generations.

The fae existed in liminal spaces—twilight rather than day or night, crossroads rather than straight paths, the edge of the forest rather than deep within or safely outside. They embodied threshold moments; birth, death, seasonal changes. This placement reveals something profound about their role in folklore - they represented the uncertainty inherent in transformation, the danger of transitions, and a superstition sitting at the heart of nature.

Different cultures developed their own versions. Ireland had its Sidhe, aristocratic and terrible. Scotland spoke of the Seelie and Unseelie Courts, one relatively benevolent, the other decidedly not. Welsh mythology described the Tylwyth Teg, beautiful and cruel. Each tradition carried the same warning: these beings demanded respect, and the consequences of forgetting that could last generations. Perhaps the fae endure in modern imagination because they represent something we have never quite conquered—the untameable wildness that exists just beyond the safe circle of firelight, reminding us that some mysteries resist explanation.



This aspect of the story will be the focus of our exploration in this version of the Dream, with humans pushed to the sidelines and into the role of facilitators, functionary to the needs of the Fae on this occasion.

Oberon and Titania are at war. The subject of their battle? An orphan, left behind by his mother, a handmaiden of Titania. As a supernatural boy, his rightful place is in the service of Oberon. But Titania cannot so easily give away the only remaining memory of her close friend. As a result, they argue and their conflict resonates across Nature - storms, tempests, blighted harvests, perpetual winter. How can this be resolved? Oberon is determined to end the war strictly on his own terms and a chance encounter with a band of human actors, together with inside knowledge of the real power of the pansy flower, gives him an idea....

We hope you will join Westcliff Drama once more in the Westcliff Theatre this Summer Term for another evening of music, performance, and a daring wander into the forests of Ancient Athens.

*Mr B Jeffreys, Director of Drama*



## YEAR 10 GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO WALTON-ON-THE-NAZE

*Friday 19 and Monday 22 June 2026*

In June, pupils studying Geography in Year 10 will take part in the first of their two compulsory days of fieldwork and data collection when they visit Walton-on-the-Naze in north Essex. It is always a good trip, enabling pupils to apply their classroom learning to a real-world setting and giving them the chance to get to grips with essential fieldwork skills. The heady combination of sea air and measuring coastal processes will mean some tired legs and sleepy eyes on the coach home, but pupils will have broadened their knowledge of physical geography and their practical skills. A human geography trip is scheduled for the start of Year 11.

*Dr M Shepherd, Director of Middle School*



## OPEN EVENING

*Tuesday 23 June 2026*

On Tuesday 23 June, the School will close at 12.50pm in order that staff and students can prepare for our Open Evening, which will be held between 5pm and 9pm.

The Headmaster's Talks will be at 6.30pm and 7.30pm.

We very much look forward to welcoming prospective pupils and parents into our School, and we would like to thank in advance all members of the School community involved in this very special event.

*Miss G Fairfax, Deputy Headteacher*



## LOWER SIXTH INDUSTRIAL CADET GOLD AWARD GRADUATION, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Wednesday 24 June 2026

This year's Awards Ceremony for the EDT Industrial Cadet Gold Award will take place at the University of Cambridge on Wednesday 24 June. The day brings together Industrial Cadet Bronze, Silver, and Gold Teams from the East of England. It will consist of interactive stands, topical STEM talks, opportunities to find out what peers have done during their projects, and the chance to find out even more about the future career opportunities that are available in the world of engineering. Westcliff High School for Boys has enjoyed considerable success in recent years, picking up awards for Innovation, Teamwork, and the prestigious Project of the Year. This year's team have been working with their mentors from Aerospace, the Defence and Security specialists Leonardo UK, to design and manufacture their working prototype. Our team has produced an exciting and very different project this year, making use of an AI camera to carry out surveillance, detection, and deterrence of an enemy or threat from encroaching upon a zone or piece of equipment. We will be keeping our fingers crossed for another rewarding event.

*Mr C Wright, Head of Design and Technology*



## SIXTH FORM INDUCTION DAYS

Thursday 25 and Friday 26 June 2026

All pupils who received an offer to study in the WHSB Sixth Form are expected to attend various sessions during the day, organised by way of guidance and support, including introductions to A Level subjects, advice on independent Sixth Form study, and a visit to the Sixth Form Café. These Induction Days are not just a formality but a crucial step in preparing pupils for their Sixth Form journey.

Pupils will also receive appropriate summer work from subject departments in order to help them prepare for the new courses. Sixth Form preparatory work will be made available on the School's website, ensuring everyone is fully prepared for the next academic year.

*Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form*

## LOWER SIXTH PHASE THREE REPORT

Friday 26 June 2026

All Lower Sixth students will receive a detailed written report from their subject teachers. This report serves as an extension of the Lower Sixth Examination Data report provided earlier this month. It will include insights into students' progress in terms of attainment, UCAS predicted grades, and attitudinal scores for each A Level subject. Furthermore, the Director of Sixth Form will provide a pastoral comment that considers subject grades, teacher feedback, and broader School matters. Please note that UCAS predicted grades are final and will not be changed. This policy allows students and their families to begin preparing for university applications for entry in 2027, which will open in June 2026.

*Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form*



## CHARITY EVENTS

Friday 26 June 2026

Last term, we welcomed our new Charity Committee, which is ably led by Karmanya Panchal, along with Niamh Williams, Lennon Parsons, Feyi Ayodele, Eddie Zhao, and Jasmin Forsyth.

On Friday 26 June, there will be a return of a favourite event - Sumo Wrestling. See if Mr Mansfield can keep his title or will this be Mr Madrid's year of success (after several attempts!). There will be a tuck shop so you can buy yourself a treat while you cheer for your favourite contestant.

This year, the School will be raising money for two charities:

- HARP, which works with homeless people in Southend, provides housing advice, and aims to end sleeping rough
- Active Essex Foundation. This charity works with local young people to support mental health by showing them the transformative power of physical activity.

We hope that there will be an opportunity for you to hear from these Charities directly later in the year.

*Mrs K Revell, Director of Sixth Form*



## SPEAKING UP: THE AQA SPOKEN LANGUAGE ENDORSEMENT

Monday 29 June 2026

This year, pupils will complete the AQA Spoken Language Endorsement, a compulsory part of the GCSE English course. The assessments will take place in the week commencing Monday 29 June 2026.

Each pupil will choose a topic from a list provided by teachers and prepare a short presentation. The assessment includes five minutes of speaking, followed by five minutes of questions from the teacher or classmates.

Pupils will receive one of three results: Pass, Merit, or Distinction. While it does not affect the final GCSE grade, it is still an important part of the course.



The endorsement is a great opportunity for pupils to develop confidence in speaking, presenting ideas, and answering questions. These skills are valuable for future work experience, job interviews, and workplace communication, helping pupils prepare for life beyond school.

*Miss C Bailey, Head of English*

## WARHAMMER TOURNAMENTS

*Tuesday 30 June and Thursday 9 July 2026*

The tabletop miniature wargame Warhammer continues to be popular at WHSB's Wargaming Club. Warhammer 40,000 is a sci-fi setting whilst Warhammer Age of Sigmar is a high-fantasy, mythic setting, both featuring deep lore and tactical combat.

Warhammer Alliance runs annual National School Tournaments at Warhammer World, Nottingham. Teams from our School have previously been very successful at these tournaments.

For the Warhammer Age of Sigmar Tournaments, James Jennings (11S) achieved third place in 2023, second place in 2024, and first place in 2025. In addition, at the 2025 tournament, Max Ramage (11W) achieved second place and Prajin Darragh (11E) achieved third place.

For the Warhammer 40,000 Tournaments, Elliot Grove and Finlay Davis (both Upper Sixth leavers) achieved first and third places respectively in the 2025 tournament.

This year, pupils are once again preparing to compete in both Warhammer Tournaments. The School will be represented at both tournaments by a squad of eight pupils ranging from Year 7 to Year 11. In a change-up to the format, there will be a 'Veteran' Tournament and a 'Recruit' Tournament. The Veteran Tournament will be an excellent challenge for our more experienced pupils, whereas the Recruit Tournament will be an excellent stepping stone for our new and inexperienced players into the world of competitive play.

Each pupil will compete in a series of three games against pupils from other schools, in the hope that their strategy and good luck will achieve victory. Pupils will also be preparing the aesthetics of their chosen army, ensuring they are painted and based to a high standard to be in the mix to be voted 'Best Painted Army'. A culmination of game victories, well-painted armies, and good sportsmanship will ultimately decide the winner of the tournament.

We wish all our pupils all the best for the upcoming tournaments.

*Mrs Lo-Whitford, Head of Wargaming Club*



*Warhammer Age of Sigmar  
Tournament, July 2025*

## ENRICHMENT DAY

Friday 3 July 2026

Enrichment Day offers pupils a chance to have a go at the unfamiliar. And there is indeed something deeply human about the urge to test ourselves against the unfamiliar. Whether it is learning a new language, taking up rock climbing, or pivoting to a different course of study, stepping outside our comfort zones taps into a fundamental truth: we grow most when we are stretched.

The benefits of taking on new challenges extend far beyond simply acquiring a new skill or checking something off a bucket list. They reshape how we see ourselves and what we believe ourselves to be capable of.

When we tackle something unfamiliar, we inevitably stumble. The first time you try to speak French, you may mangle the pronunciation. Your initial attempts at watercolor painting might look nothing like what you envisioned. But it is precisely this discomfort that builds resilience. Each time we push through frustration and keep going, we are training ourselves to handle adversity. We learn that failure is not fatal and that struggling does not mean we are incapable— it means that we are learning. And what could be more enriching than a new wave of learning?

*Mr B Jeffreys, Associate Assistant Head*

### Year 8: Modern Foreign Language Plays

The MFL Department is pleased to announce the return of the Year 8 MFL plays on Friday 3 July. It is a busy day which requires some planning on the part of the pupils, and which lends itself to many of the Learner Profile characteristics: Open to Opportunities, Effective Communicator, and Collaborative and Supportive being the main ones that come to mind.

Pupils will be provided with dialogues approximately two weeks before Enrichment Day, with roughly 63 pupils allocated to German, 63 pupils allocated to French, and 62 to Spanish. They will be organised into groups of five or six pupils, all of whom study the same language. Together they will designate roles for one another, and they may choose to bring in costumes and props for the day. There are two settings - at the reception of a hotel, and in a restaurant.

The morning is spent practising and perfecting the dialogues in the classroom. Once they have had time to rehearse, one group will be chosen from those in the classroom to compete against two other groups in that language and against the other two languages. The afternoon is given to the winners from each class performing in the Westcliff Theatre, with the other pupils providing the audience. A winner and a runner-up are chosen by the MFL teachers, and there is often a special award for a standout performance.

It is a really fun day for pupils and teachers alike, and an excellent way to practise language skills in a different way from the usual classroom activities. We hope that Year 8 pupils will enjoy the day - we look forward to working with them in the morning and seeing their performances in the afternoon.

*Ms J McKeown, Head of Modern Foreign Languages*

### New Year 7: Pupil Induction Day

As we move towards the end of the School Year, we turn our attention to those pupils who will be joining the Westcliff High School for Boys community in September. On this day, we look forward to welcoming the incoming Year 7 pupils to the School to meet staff, pupils, and each other before arriving in September 2026. The aim of the day is to familiarise them with the School, and its community, in order to help them prepare to join us.

*Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School*

### Year 7: Geography trip to Southend

A highlight of the School calendar is always Enrichment Day and this term will be no exception. The traditional Year 7 Geography trip to Southend will once again take place, bringing a mix of human and physical geography activities. Pupils can expect to study land use in the city centre, measure coastal processes on the seafront, and investigate tourism with a trip onto the longest pleasure pier in the world. If the weather is good, pupils should come prepared with sunscreen lotion and maybe some money to buy a lunchtime ice cream.

*Dr M Shepherd, Head of Geography*



## Year 9: Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

Forty-eight Year 9 pupils began their Bronze Award journey in February, following the School's application process. A structured training programme, delivered primarily after school, will culminate in a local training day on Friday 3 July, preparing pupils for their Assessment Expedition from Friday 18 to Saturday 19 September. Throughout the training and expedition phases, pupils are encouraged to demonstrate independence, perseverance, and effective teamwork, developing confidence and resilience while applying practical skills in an outdoor setting.

*Mr H Tresidder, DofE Coordinator*

## Year 9: House Drama

On Enrichment Day, pupils in Year 9 will start to put together the 2026 House Drama event. By this point, our Lower Sixth Directors will have chosen mythologies and cast actors, so this is a very good opportunity to undertake a day of rehearsals and to start to piece together a final rehearsal. Other Year 9 pupils will carry out further tasks in support of this day, such as preparing material for a Programme, organising costumes, and making props and set. We hope also to offer pupils the opportunity to learn about reviewing theatre, as well as to undertake a course in British Sign Language - it promises to be a truly enriching and (in all the right ways, one hopes) dramatic day!

*Mr B Jeffreys, Associate Assistant Head*



## Year 10: Careers Day

This year's Year 10 Careers Day promises to be one of the most engaging and inspiring events yet, with a strong focus on the importance of soft skills – the personal qualities that employers consistently say are just as crucial as technical knowledge.

Soft skills such as communication, teamwork, creative thinking, problem solving, and time management play a vital role in every workplace. To bring this message to life, pupils will experience a series of highly interactive sessions led by professionals who rely on these skills every day.

The British Army will deliver an energetic and hands-on workshop designed to show pupils how teamwork, communication, and leadership operate in high-pressure environments. Through problem-solving challenges and group tasks, pupils will see first-hand how essential soft skills are, not just in the military but also in any future career they may pursue.

Their session will highlight how qualities like determination, discipline, and collaboration are developed and valued, helping pupils understand that these personal strengths can set them apart in the world of work.

Also joining the event are representatives from Essex Police's Crime Scene Investigation (CSI) unit, offering a fascinating look into the world of forensic investigation. Pupils will explore



All the fun we had making the play!



how CSIs use analytical thinking, observation, and meticulous attention to detail to solve crimes and uncover the truth.

The practical activities planned will allow pupils to test their own detective skills while learning about the crucial non-technical abilities that support scientific expertise in the field. We also welcome Paul Robinson Solicitors, who will provide valuable insight into careers in Law. Their involvement will help pupils understand the importance of communication, empathy, negotiation, and professionalism, qualities that underpin every successful legal career.

Additional guest speakers and businesses are expected to join, giving pupils a broad view of different professions and reinforcing the message that soft skills matter in every path they might



choose. Year 10 pupils will not only gain a clearer understanding of the careers available to them and undertake work-related tasks but will also come to appreciate the key personal qualities that employers are increasingly prioritising. Whether a pupil dreams of becoming a forensic investigator, a solicitor, a soldier, a designer, an engineer, or anything inbetween, the underlying message is the same; soft skills are just as important as qualifications and developing them now will open doors later.

*Mr M Atkinson, Careers Adviser*

### **Lower Sixth: Looking Towards the Future**

There has never been a more promising array of opportunities for young individuals upon completion of their A Levels. On Friday 3 July, students in the Lower Sixth will embark on a thoughtful exploration of their preferences through a series of lectures and research activities designed to uncover their interests and talents.

Participants will have the chance to gain insights into student finance, interact with Student Ambassadors to gain firsthand knowledge of student life, learn how to craft a compelling personal statement, utilise Unifrog to compare apprenticeship and degree options, and investigate offerings from their preferred universities or companies. The day will begin with a carousel of activities in the morning, followed by an Inter-House rounders competition in the afternoon, where students can earn points for their respective Houses. We kindly ask that students wear t-shirts in their House colour for this event.

*Mrs K Revell, Director of Sixth Form*



### **Lower Sixth UCAT Workshop**

Medicine, Dentistry, and Veterinary Medicine (MDV) remain highly competitive university courses, to which many of our students aspire in pursuit of careers as doctors, dentists, and veterinarians. The School has a very well-established MDV programme to support students in the Sixth Form with their personal development and preparation of applications for these courses.

As part of the application for Medicine and Dentistry, students are required to sit an admissions test called the University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT). This is a challenging admission test, which requires careful planning and rigorous practice to develop an aptitude for it. Universities use the UCAT to shortlist candidates for interviews, which means students would want to be in the 9th or 8th decile (top 10% or 20% respectively) to be competitive.

To support students who intend to sit the UCAT, we have invited Old Westcliffians currently at medical school to run a workshop for the Lower Sixth as part of Enrichment Day, providing their expertise on how to navigate this tricky test. All aspiring Medicine and Dentistry students will be in attendance, including students who may be taking an alternative pathway into Medicine/Dentistry (such as a gap year).

Students will be taking the UCAT on a date of their choosing between July and September 2026.

*Mrs E Lo-Whitford, Higher Education Adviser for Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary*



*Old Westcliffians, studying either Medicine or Dentistry at university, return to WHSB to offer their support (July 2025)*

*September 2025*

## ART AND DESIGN EXHIBITION

Wednesday 1 July 2026, 4.00pm – 7.00pm

On Wednesday 1 July, from 4.00pm until 7.00pm, the School will be hosting its annual celebration of Art and Design work from across both the Art and the Design and Technology Departments.

It has been yet another exciting year for the Design and Technology Department. We have seen tremendous ambition, innovation, and creative approaches to problem solving across all disciplines of the subject, all of which will be evident in the work displayed on the evening. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome students and parents from across the School to celebrate the work produced and become inspired yet again by our pupils' achievements.

Work will be on display from all Divisions of the School. From the Lower School, we will be exhibiting work that incorporates technical skills used in woodworking, plaster casting, and electronics. GCSE candidates in the Middle School were tasked with providing solutions to contextual challenges, including products to help in the home, reducing waste, and supporting charities. The interpretation was varied and has led to a range of original and inventive outcomes. A-Level students have been given an opportunity to provide their own context and have stretched the boundaries of possibilities with their own personal project choices. The effort and dedication all our students have shown to their projects has been exceptional this year and is evident in the high quality of finished products. Amongst the work exhibited, we have a multi-functional games table, an aid for transporting disabled pupils, a device to help with target practise in the CCF, and even a robot to help deliver items around the School!

*Mr C Wright, Head of Design and Technology*

WHSB ART & TECHNOLOGY **SUMMER**



JOIN WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOL FOR BOYS AS IT CELEBRATES THE FANTASTIC ACHIEVEMENTS OF IT'S TALENTED YOUNG ARTISTS ACROSS ALL YEAR GROUPS

**1 JULY**  
**2026**

E26, E27, E28, E30  
4PM-7PM



## YEAR 8 IMMUNISATIONS

Wednesday 1 July 2026

The School-Aged Immunisations Team will visit the School on Wednesday 1 July in order to complete any outstanding or missed immunisations, including the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine. The HPV vaccine protects against the types of HPV that cause most cases of genital warts and cervical cancer, as well as some other cancers. It does not protect against all types of HPV.

The School acts as a venue only for the vaccinations, and is not involved in the arrangements, provision of information, or requesting of consent regarding the vaccinations. This is managed entirely by the Immunisations Team, and the School is unable to answer any questions relating to this process. Such questions should be directed to the School-Aged Immunisations Team.

*Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School*

## HIGHER EDUCATION EVENING

Wednesday 1 July 2026, 7.30pm - 9.00pm



We kindly invite students and their parents to attend the upcoming Higher Education Evening, marking the start of formal preparation for the students' future endeavours. This event features a series of informative presentations that outline the essential processes and critical considerations involved in making post-18 decisions.

Attendees will have the opportunity to engage with our experienced staff, who will be available to address any questions or concerns. Furthermore, all participants will receive a Higher Education Guide, which will equip parents with comprehensive information to support their child's journey towards Higher Education. We look forward to your participation in this valuable event.

*Mr A Dean, Senior Master Sixth Form*

## NEW YEAR 7 PARENTS INFORMATION EVENING

Thursday 2 July 2026, 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Parents of the incoming Year 7 pupils will be welcomed to the School on 2 July, where they will have the opportunity to meet with each other, and members of the Parents' Association, before being welcomed and introduced to the School by the Headmaster and Lower School Pastoral Office staff. This important evening will provide parents with the final information they will need to help support their sons through the transitional phase between Primary and Secondary School.

*Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School*



## HISTORY DAYS OUT: CASTLE ACRE PRIORY AND MOUNTFITCHET

*Saturday 4 July 2026*

The History Department is pleased to invite pupils to join this Term's History Days Out trip to Castle Acre Priory and Mountfitchet. The History Days Out Programme is designed to offer opportunities to those students with a love of History to participate in a one-day trip to a place of historical interest. They take place on a Saturday towards the end of each Term, and previous trips have included visits to the Tower of London, to Bletchley Park and the National Museum of Computing, to Canterbury, and to Sutton Hoo and Colchester. This Term's trip also promises to be enormously interesting, engaging, and enriching.

Nestled in the picturesque village of Castle Acre in Norfolk, Castle Acre Priory stands as one of England's best-preserved monastic sites, offering visitors a captivating glimpse into medieval religious life and Cluniac architectural grandeur. Founded around 1090 by William de Warenne, the 2nd Earl of Surrey, the priory was established as a daughter house of the Cluniac abbey at Lewes. This thriving religious community endured for over 400 years until the Dissolution of the Monasteries under Henry VIII in 1537. At its height, the priory housed around 30 monks and was a significant landowner, controlling extensive estates and playing a central role in local economy and spiritual life.

Despite centuries of exposure, the priory retains remarkable architectural features. The west front of the church is particularly striking—an elaborately decorated façade with interlaced arcading and ornamental blind arches showcasing Norman craftsmanship. The substantial church remains reveal the building's impressive scale, while the prior's lodging, converted into a residence after the Dissolution, is exceptionally well-preserved. The recreated herb garden displays medicinal and culinary plants the monks would have cultivated, and interpretive displays illuminate daily monastic life. The peaceful setting, surrounded by water meadows and earthwork defences, creates a contemplative atmosphere that combines impressive architecture with a tangible sense of England's monastic heritage.

Nestled in the Essex town of Stansted Mountfitchet, Mountfitchet Castle offers visitors an immersive journey into Norman England through its unique reconstructed motte-and-bailey fortification. This remarkable site brings the 11th century vividly to life with its authentic recreation of a Norman village and castle.

Built originally around 1066 by the Norman baron Robert Gernon, the castle was strategically positioned to control the important route between London and Cambridge. The site saw conflict during the First Barons' War when it was besieged and destroyed by King John in 1215, after which it was never rebuilt. The earthwork motte and defensive ditches that survive from the original medieval fortification form the foundation for today's reconstruction.

The present-day site features a complete reconstruction of the Norman timber castle and village, created in the 1980s based on extensive historical and archaeological research. Visitors can explore the great hall, domestic buildings, workshops, and defensive palisades, all populated with lifelike figures depicting daily medieval life. The site includes a working siege engine, animals that would have been common in Norman times including deer, goats, and chickens, and craftsmen's workshops showing activities like pottery and blacksmithing. The elevated motte provides excellent views across the surrounding countryside, illustrating the castle's strategic defensive position. With its hands-on approach and engaging reconstructions, Mountfitchet Castle offers families and history enthusiasts an accessible and entertaining way to experience Norman England, making medieval history tangible in a way few other sites can achieve.

This trip should be of particular interest to pupils in Years 9 and 10 who would like to extend their understanding of the Norman legacy, a topic that represents 25% of the GCSE course. Booking for this trip will open in June and we do encourage those who wish to go to be ready, since the popularity of these trips means



that most of them sell out in minutes!!

*Mr B Jeffreys,  
Head of History*



## LOWER SIXTH GEOLOGY TRIP TO THE ISLE OF ARRAN, SCOTLAND

Saturday 4 - Friday 10 July 2026

Seven A Level Geologists will visit the Isle of Arran between Saturday 4 and Friday 10 July 2026 in order to undertake their compulsory fieldwork studies. The field group will be based at the Lochranza Field Studies Centre on the north of the Island and, from this location, Geologists are able to study the nature of the rock, and record how they were formed including their fossil content, folding and faulting, and their plate tectonic settings.

Part of the week will be spent undertaking investigative and problem-solving field exercises related to the origin of the North Atlantic Ocean approximately 65 million years ago, before which Scotland and Greenland were joined. Part of such work will include students building their own geological maps. The Isle of Arran is considered to be a world-class location for geological studies and the students will develop knowledge and understanding of field geology, being then able to relate such work to their class studies. Transferable skills such as numeracy, problem-solving, and teamwork are all developed within an area of outstanding natural beauty, characterised by mountainous glaciated terrain.

*Mr P Marlow, Head of Geology*



## CCF ARMY SUMMER CAMP

Sunday 5 to Saturday 11 July 2026

This year, CCF Army Summer Camp returns to our home Brigade at Beckingham Training Camp. It will be open to cadets in the Army Section, in Years 10 - 13 (under 18 years of age). The camp will comprise a wide range of activities, including field exercises, adventurous training, personal development, and much more. This promises to be an exciting and enjoyable camp!

*Captain Tresidder, Acting Officer Commanding, CCF Army Section*



## LAMDA EXAMINATIONS

Monday 6 July 2026

July sees the fourth cycle of LAMDA examinations at the School, with more than 200 pupils from Years 7 to 10 undertaking examination in Acting, Public Speaking, or Speaking Verse and Prose. Pupils have worked very hard alongside their teachers to learn speeches, rehearse lines, and prepare presentations, and these examinations represent an important culmination of those efforts. Please refer to the calendar for further dates in July.

Please do wish the best of luck to those pupils whom you know to be undertaking the examination, and our best wishes to these candidates too – along with an exhortation to produce the best results yet, both for themselves and for their cohort. Speak up!

*Mr B Jeffreys, Director of Drama*

# LAMDA



*Celebrating LAMDA success, September 2025*

## SPORTS DAY

Tuesday 7 July 2026

Once again, Sports Day has been organised this year along the lines of a House Competition, in a format that we hope will continue to offer excitement for spectators and further increase the significance of the event for competitors. Points awarded in these events are added to the overall House points total for the year, comprising all points that have been awarded to each House for their success in competitions across a range of sports and other activities throughout the year. Thus, the points awarded on Sports Day contribute to the overall Inter-House Championship.

The Athletics Programme will commence at 11.10am on the School's Lower Field. We are sure that the standard of competition will continue to be high and hope that everyone derives a great deal of enjoyment from participating in events, assisting in organising the proceedings, or from watching friends and family compete.

All competitors who take part in the events will gain points for their House team, as long as they finish their race or record a valid throw or jump in Field Competition. It is important, therefore, that all House teams are complete so that each may score as many points as possible.



### Order of Track Events

- 11.10am -12.45pm: Track (see running order below)
- 1.50pm - 2.45pm: Track (see running order below)
- 2.45pm: Relays
- 3.20pm: Results and Presentation of Trophies by the Headmaster
- 3.35pm: Pupils may leave after being dismissed

### Running Order

- FIELD EVENTS: (N.B. 3 attempts in throws and jumps)
- 11.20am: All Year 7 Field Event competitors report to event judges
- 11.50am: All Year 8 Field Event competitors report to event judges
- 12.20pm: All Year 10 Field Event competitors report to event judges
- 1.55pm: All Year 9 Field Event competitors report to event judges
- 2.20pm: All Lower Sixth Field Event competitors report to event judges

*Mr M Fitcher, Director of Sport*

## YEAR 10 PHASE 3 REPORT

Tuesday 7 July 2026

On Tuesday 7 July, pupils in Year 10 receive their Phase 3 Report, which includes written comments from their teachers. This is a vital checkpoint in their progress through the GCSE journey, with more than half of all the content in each of their subjects already having been covered. It is an opportunity for pupils, and their parents, to reflect on the positives so far, the successes already achieved, and the areas of weakness that will need addressing before the beginning of Year 11 and pupils' final GCSE year.

Whilst there will be much for many of the pupils to celebrate, there will be those pupils who require a little more support and direction at this stage, and in these cases appropriate interventions will be provided.

*Mr A Barnett, Director of Middle School*



## HOUSE DRAMA EVENING

Thursday 9 July 2026

We hope that you will join us again this Term for the festival of ham and cheese that represents the Annual House Drama Festival. Each of the four Houses will present a short play centring around mythology from all around the world. It may be the North American story of why bears have no tails, or the Chinese tale of Chai the Brickmaker, or Swedish sagas about Thor and his great big hammer. Whatever the tale, we can promise it will be told with vividness and colour by the most unlikely of actors who will demonstrate, once again, that there is no limit to what a Westcliffian can achieve when they put their mind to it.

*Mr B Jeffreys, Director of Drama*

## SUMMER BIG BAND AND BBQ

Friday 10 July 2026, 7.00pm - 10.00pm

This popular open air Summer Big Band event is our final music event of the academic year, featuring wonderful performances from our talented musicians from across the School. Our audience will enjoy pop, rock, jazz, and funk music from artists and composers as diverse as Queen, Prince, Gershwin, and Cyndi Lauper. Our musicians will perform this eclectic mix of styles in smaller pupil-led groups supporting bigger ensembles like the Westcliff Choir, the Jazz Band, and, of course, the Big Band.

Tickets are available via [TicketSource](#), and can be purchased with or without our summer BBQ, which includes vegetarian options. Join us for our last music event of the year, which is sure to usher in the summer break with a bang!

*Mr T Derrick, Director of Music*



## TRIP TO THE SGDP CENTRE AND BRAIN BANK AT KING'S COLLEGE LONDON

Friday 10 July 2026

Our Lower Sixth Biologists will once again have the exciting opportunity to visit the Social, Genetic & Developmental Psychiatry (SGDP) Centre at KCL, where they will explore the cutting edge of neuroscience research. The trip will include a live brain demonstration, offering a unique insight into the complexities of the human brain. Students will also tour the molecular biology laboratory to see first-hand how scientists study neurological disorders at the molecular level. To conclude, they will attend a research lecture, providing a deeper understanding of the latest advancements in the field. This promises to be an eye-opening experience for all those attending, offering a rare look into the fascinating world of neuroscience.

*Mr S Marriott & Mr A Williams, Teachers of Biology*



## CCF PASS OFF PARADE AND MESS DINNER

Wednesday 15 July 2026, 5.00pm - 10.30pm

The Annual CCF Pass Off Parade and Mess Dinner is the culmination of the year for the Combined Cadet Force. It offers an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of cadets in the CCF, and showcases the CCF to the whole School community.

The event starts with a formal parade and inspection, before awards, certificates, and promotions are awarded to the Cadets. Later, the Mess Dinner takes place in a traditional military format, and gives cadets, parents, former cadets (Old Westcliffians), staff, and guests an opportunity to enjoy an experience which is unique to the Armed Forces.

This is a particularly important evening, as it gives the CCF an opportunity to bid farewell to the Senior Cadets who will be leaving the CCF at the end of Year 13, and to recognise the outstanding contribution they have made both to the CCF and to the School.

*Lt Col A C Baggs, CCF Contingent Commander*





*CCF Cadets in the Upper Sixth, who leave us in July 2026*

## UNIFORM SHOP



### Opening Times during the Summer Holiday Break

During the summer holiday break, the School Shop will be open between Monday 24 August and Wednesday 26 August from 10.00am to 3.30pm. This will allow for students' fittings and purchase of School uniform for years 8-13.

Sixth Form ties will be available for purchase from the main Reception desk on the day that GCSE examination results are collected (20 August).

Details of uniform fitting days for incoming year 7 pupils can be found on the Year 7 Entrants section of the School website: <https://www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/newyear7/the-uniform-shop>

### Purchasing School Uniform and Merchandise

Westcliff High School for Boys' uniform is sold exclusively through the School Shop. Parental feedback indicates that parents find this convenient, and we believe that by selling uniform in-house, we are able to offer a more personal service, and competitive prices.

The School Shop, located in the East Basement, will normally open during term time on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 1.00pm to 4.00pm, as well as on specified dates/times at the end of the School's summer break and prior to the start of the new academic year. During the Shop opening times, items of uniform can be tried on for size, and purchases can be made. Cash, cheque, and debit/credit card payments are accepted.

Full details of dates and opening times are available on the School website. For items of uniform required in a size that is not normally stocked by the shop, please email [uniform@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:uniform@whsb.essex.sch.uk)

Items of School uniform and merchandise can also be purchased online using the link provided in the Uniform section of the School website. Parents will be advised by email when their online order is ready for collection from the Shop.

Details of the WHSB School Uniform Policy can be accessed via the School website: [www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/uniform](http://www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/uniform)

### LOST PROPERTY

Named and unnamed clothes, bags and other items which are found around the School, are placed in the Lost Property area located in the East Basement.

Each term the Lost Property area is cleared, and students are given an opportunity to reclaim their items. Full details and timings are provided in advance of these occasions.

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

## Second-hand Uniform

We are pleased to advise parents that the School Shop has increased its provision of second-hand uniform. Please contact [uniform@whsb.essex.sch.uk](mailto:uniform@whsb.essex.sch.uk) for further details if this should be of interest.

If you have any clean, unwanted uniform which you wish to donate to the School in order to assist other pupils, please bring it to the School's Reception.

Thank you for your support.

*Ms I Gimbutiene, School Shop Manager*



## LOWER SCHOOL REPORTS

This term, the Phase Three Reports for pupils in the Lower School will be issued on the following dates:

Year 9: Tuesday 7 July 2026

Year 8: Tuesday 14 July 2026

Year 7: Thursday 16 July 2026

The Phase 3 Reports provide parents with important information concerning their son's progress during the academic year.

The Year 9 Reports are prepared to assist pupils in understanding what is required of them as they prepare to embark on their GCSE courses. With reference to the School's internal grading system, parents will receive a current attainment indicator in the form of a grade from each of their son's teachers.

Reports for Year 8 pupils will also contain attainment grades from each of the pupil's teachers, expressed as a letter and number combination according to WHSB's internal grading system. These Reports will include a full set of written comments from teachers, which should assist parents in understanding their son's progress in greater detail.

Following the full written Report issued in March, the Year 7 Report this term will provide parents with an important update on their son's progress, to support their understanding of how he is developing across all subjects during his first academic year at WHSB.

Parents will now be familiar with the School's internal grading system, but guidance to support them in fully understanding the attainment grades included will once again be provided. The

Report also contains the pupil's Lower School target grade, which provides parents with an indicator as to whether their son is on track and progressing as expected. This information is designed to help parents, pupils, and teachers to understand a pupil's strengths and identify areas that may need further development. For pupils in Year 9, parents will be able to see whether their son has met the potential identified by teachers at the start of Year 7, and to understand areas of strength, and areas for development as he begins his GCSE studies.

Attitudinal indicators included within the Reports for pupils in Years 8 and 9 are awarded on a scale from 1 (Exceptional) to 4 (Unacceptable). The expected standard is 2 (Good). A grade of 3 or 4 signals that a change in attitude is needed, while a grade of 1 is awarded when a pupil exceeds the School's already high expectations. Parents should refer to the explanatory table on the back of the Report when reviewing these indicators.

Once the Reports have been issued, Form Tutors will dedicate time for pupils to reflect on their grades, and to develop goals for the rest of the year, recording them in the pupil's planner so that parents can easily see what their son is working towards. The Form tutors will also discuss with pupils strategies to help them to improve their grades where a less convincing performance has been recorded.

We encourage parents to discuss with their son the content of the Report, and the goals which have been set by him. Should there be any concerns, parents should contact their son's Form Tutor via the School Office, or the Lower School Pastoral Office. There are many mechanisms in place to support pupils, including Pastoral Support, Subject Support, and Mentoring.

*Mr A Baggs, Director of Lower School*



## SPRING TERM 2026 IN PICTURES



*Trip to the BFI Southbank*



*Basketball tournament success*



*Biology Live! Conference, London*



*Cambridge Chemistry Race*



*Careers Evening Panel: Old Westcliffians and Parents Shine a Spotlight on STEM*



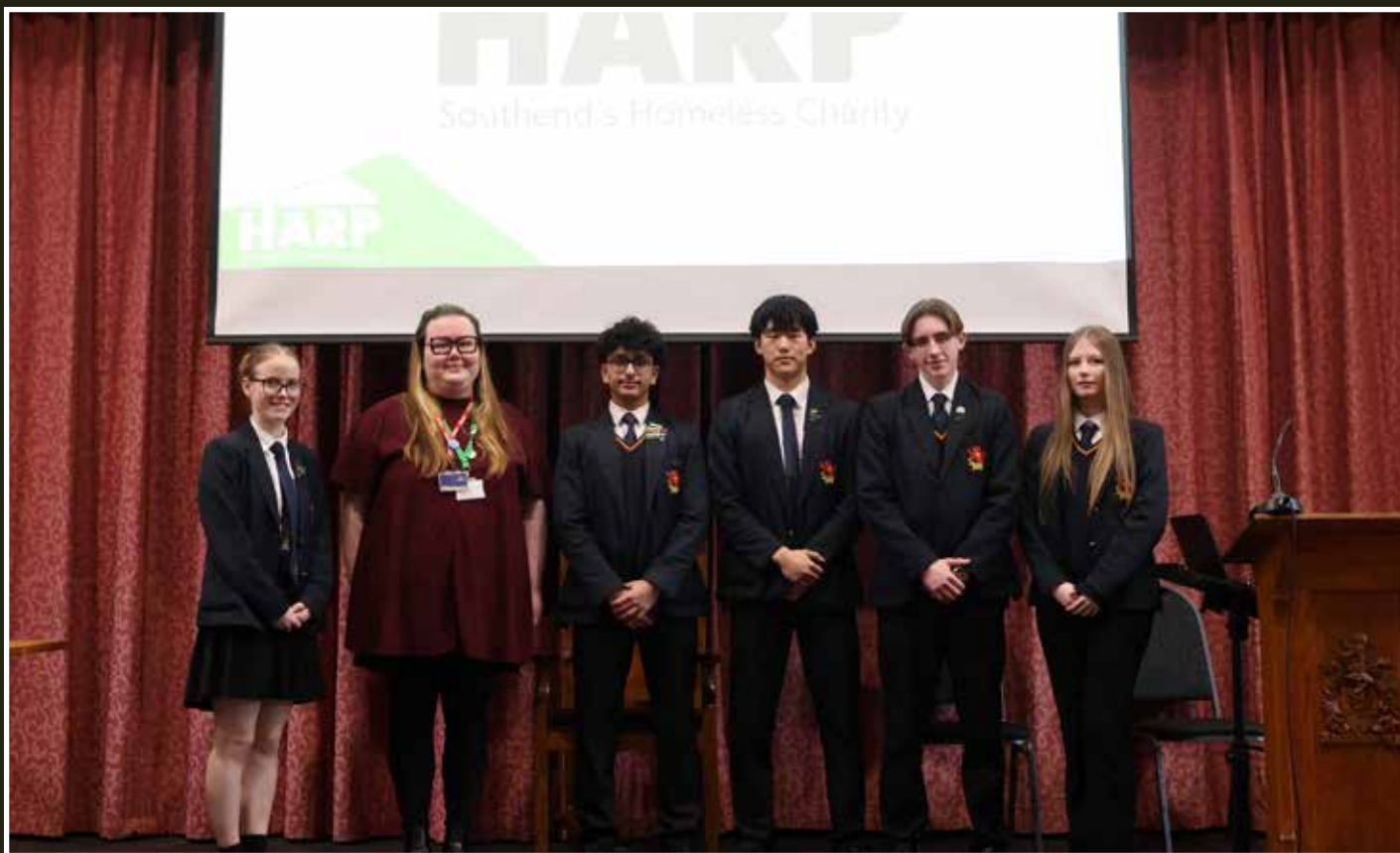
*Careers in Accountancy Seminar*



Careers Interviews



*Celebrating Success in In2MedSchool Acceleration Programme's Hackathon Competition, Guy's Campus, King's College London*



*Charity Committee Assembly with Guest Speaker from HARP*



*Charlie (Year 7) and Sai  
(Year 9), Southend City  
Day Art Competition  
Winners 1*





*Debating Team*



*Finance and Law Careers Evening*



First Prize for Donall (Year 11) in International Piano Competition, Bavaria Germany





*German Study Day*



*Gold award winners in the British Biology Olympiad 2026*



*Gold Medals in the Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition*



*History trip to Normandy*



*History trip to Normandy*



*History trip to Normandy*



*Holocaust Memorial Day Service*



*Holocaust Memorial Day Service*



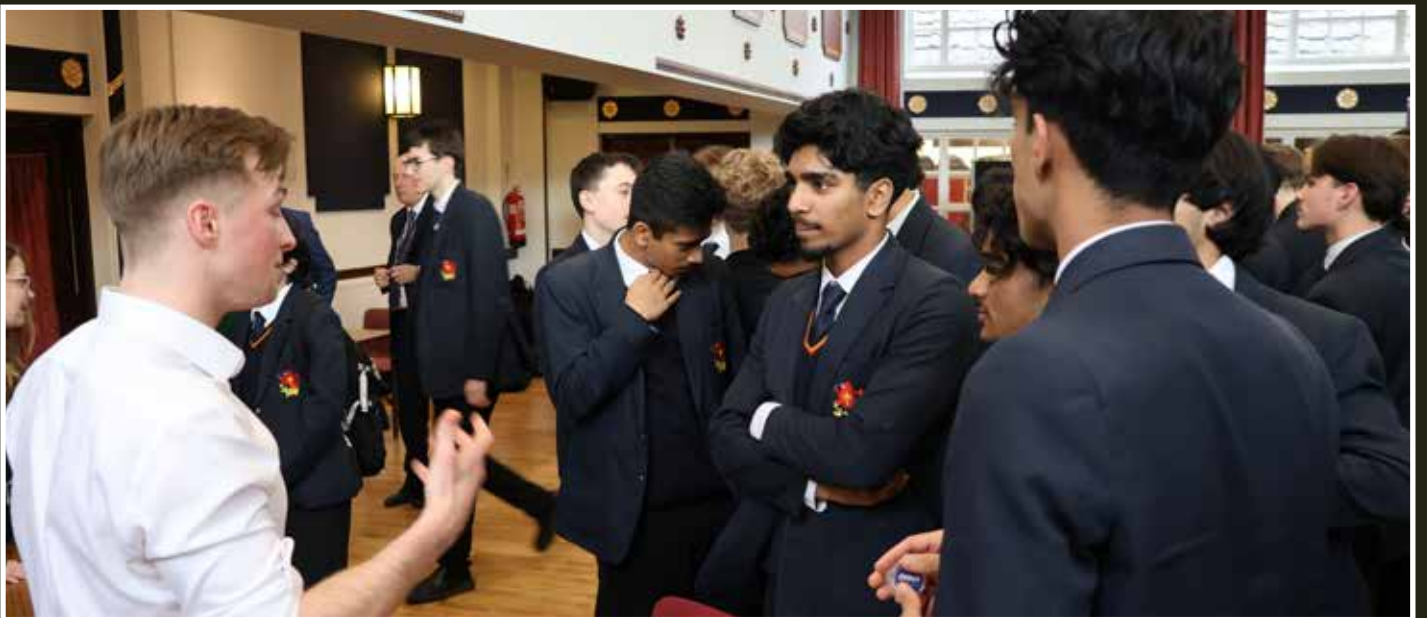
*International Women's Day Assembly*



*Linguistics Awards (Late Autumn Term)*



*Lower Sixth Apprenticeship Fair*



*Lower Sixth Apprenticeship Fair*



*Lower Sixth Chemistry Field Trip*



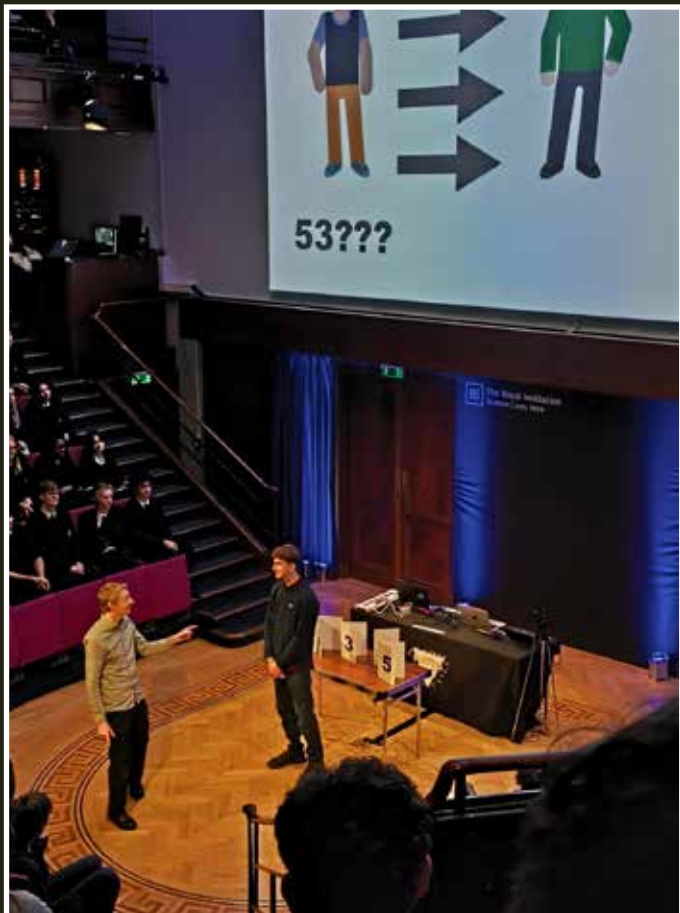
*Maths Challenge*



*Maths Fest*



Maths Fest





Paintballing, Royal Navy and RAF Joint Field Day



Paintballing, Royal Navy and RAF Joint Field Day



*Skiing in the Italian resort of Sestriere*



*Skiiing in the Italian resort of Sestriere*



*Skiing in the Italian resort of Sestriere*



*Spring Chamber Recital*



*Spring Chamber Recital*



*Spring Chamber Recital*



*Spring Chamber Recital*



*Spring Chamber Recital*



Study Skills Day

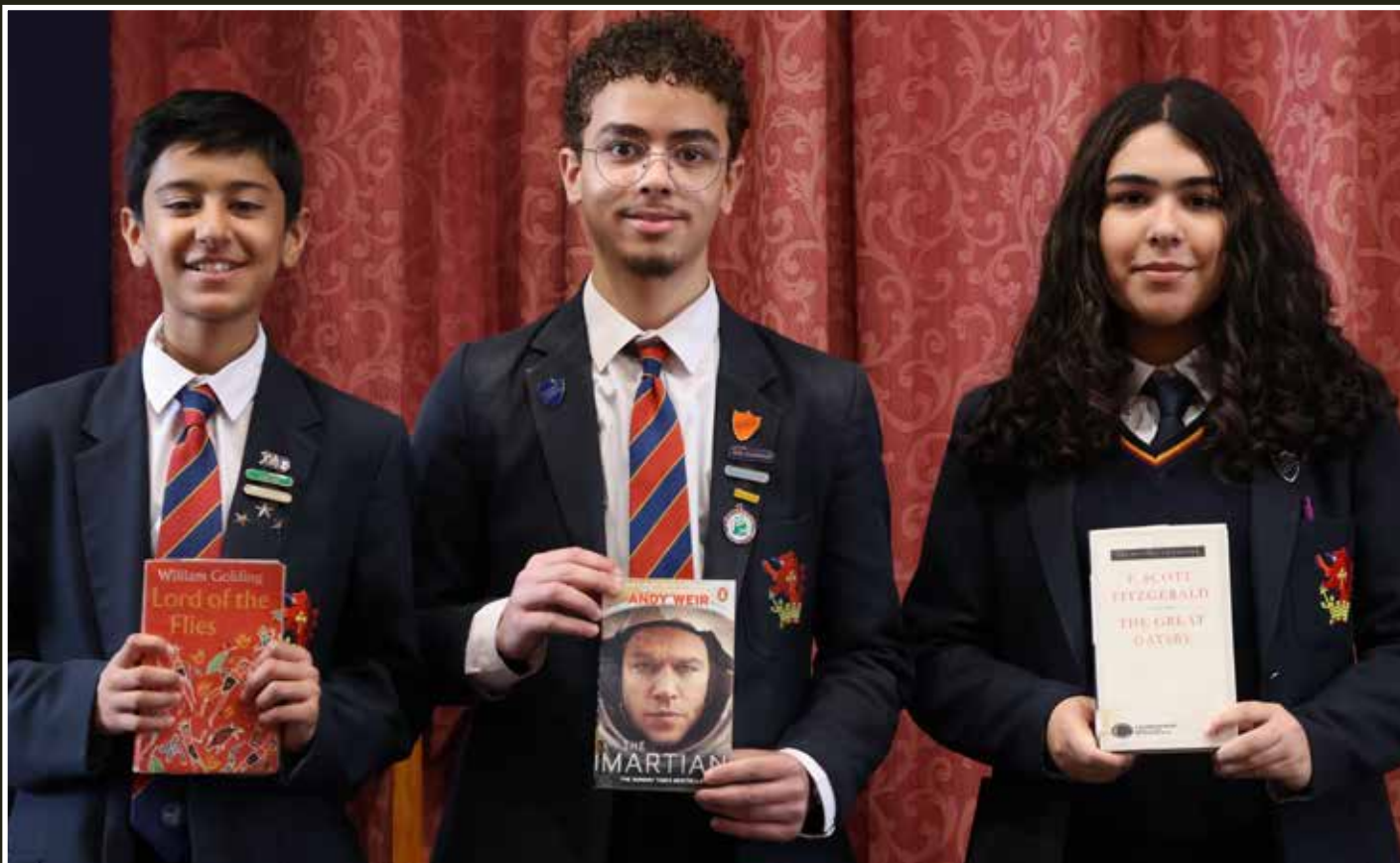
*Tessa and Daniel (Upper Sixth) represent WHSB in the Final of the Giles Wilson Mooting Competition at the Court House, Southend*



*Thirty Club Tie Awards*



*Winning the Southend Borough U15 Basketball Final*



*World Book Day Assembly*



*Junior Science Challenge*



*Sixth Form Lecture with  
Old Westcliffian Matthew  
Parkhill*

*Matthew is a writer, director and Showrunner known for creating the TV series Young Sherlock, Deep State and Rogue, and for feature films The Caller and dot the i. His first novel was published in 1995 and Matthew was hired to adapt it into a screenplay, then taking his career into the film industry. Following his education at WHSB, he graduated from Cambridge University with First-Class Honours in History.*



# CALENDAR FOR SUMMER TERM 2026

Monday 13 April	<b>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY</b>	27 - 28 June	HARP 24 2026, Westcliff Rugby Club, starts 12.00pm
Tuesday 14 April	<b>SUMMER TERM BEGINS, 8.40am</b>	Monday 29 June	Speaking Up: The AQA Spoken Language Endorsement
14 - 16 April	Lower Sixth MFL Speaking Examinations	Tuesday 30 June	Warhammer 40K Tournament, Warhammer World
17 - 18 April	Year 9 CCF Trip to Mereworth Woods	Wednesday 1 July	Art and Design Exhibition, 4.00pm - 7.00pm
Tuesday 21 April	Lower Sixth EDT to Leonardo, Basildon, 8.30am - 1.30pm		Y8+ Immunisation Catch-up
Thursday 23 April	Apprenticeship DWP Presentation to Year 8		Higher Education Evening, 7.30pm - 9.00pm
Saturday 25 April	WCGC Go for Grammar! Get Up and Go!	Thursday 2 July	New Year 7 Parents Information Evening, 7.30pm - 9.00pm
Monday 27 April	Year 10 Parents Evening, 4.00pm - 6.00pm	Friday 3 July	New Year 7 Pupil Induction Day
Wednesday 29 April	Junior Maths Challenge		Year 7 Enrichment: Geography trip to Southend
	Lower Sixth Geography Fieldwork Day		Year 8 Enrichment: Modern Foreign Language Plays
Thursday 30 April	Summer Chamber Recital, 7.30pm - 9.00pm		Year 9 Enrichment: House Drama
5 - 15 May	Lower Sixth Internal Examinations		Year 9 DofE Bronze Award Practice
7 - 9 May	Year 10 DofE Silver Practice Expedition		Year 10 Enrichment: Careers Day
Friday 8 May	Year 11 Study Leave Begins, 3.35pm		Lower Sixth Enrichment UCAT Workshop
13 - 22 May	Year 10 MFL Speaking Examinations		Lower Sixth Enrichment: Looking Towards the Future
Thursday 14 May	Upper Sixth Study Leave Begins	Saturday 4 July	History Days Out Trip to Castle Acre and Mountfitchet
18 - 22 May	Lower Sixth Work Experience Placement Week	4 - 10 July	Lower Sixth Geology Trip to the Isle of Arran, Scotland
<b>25 - 29 May</b>	<b>SUMMER HALF TERM</b>	5 - 11 July	CCF Army Summer Camp
25 - 28 May	Year 9 & Year 10 Physical Education trip to Valencia departs	Monday 6 July	LAMDA Examinations
1 - 5 June	Year 7 - Year 10 Internal Examinations		Upper Sixth Leavers' Dinner
Friday 5 June	Lower Sixth Examination Report (Examination Grades Only)	Tuesday 7 July	Sports Day
Tuesday 9 June	Junior Kangaroo and Junior Maths Olympiad		Year 9 Phase 3 Data Report Issued (Data Only)
10 - 13 June	Year 10 DofE Silver Assessment Expedition		Year 10 Phase 3 Data Report Issued (Full Written)
Thursday 11 June	Lower Sixth Geography Fieldwork Day	Thursday 9 July	Warhammer Age of Sigmar Tournament, Warhammer World
Tuesday 16 June	Music Trip to London: The Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra, departs 4.00pm		House Drama Evening, 7.30pm - 9.00pm
Wednesday 17 June	Lower Sixth Southend University Hospital Visit	Friday 10 July	Trip to Brain Bank, King's College London
17 - 19 June	A Midsummer Night's Dream, School Junior Production, 7.00pm - 9.30pm		Summer Big Band and BBQ, 7.00pm - 10.00pm
Friday 19 June	Year 10 Geography Fieldwork, Walton on the Naze	Tuesday 14 July	Year 8 Phase 3 Data Report Issued (Full Written)
Monday 22 June	Year 10 Geography Fieldwork, Walton on the Naze	Wednesday 15 July	CCF Pass Off Parade and Mess Dinner, 5.00pm - 10.30pm
<b>Tuesday 23 June</b>	<b>OPEN EVENING - SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 12.50pm</b>	Thursday 16 July	Year 7 Phase 3 Data Report Issued (Data Only)
Wednesday 24 June	Lower Sixth Industrial Cadet Gold Award, University of Cambridge	<b>Friday 17 July</b>	<b>SUMMER TERM ENDS, 2.45pm</b>
Thursday 25 June	Sixth Form Induction Day 1	Thursday 13 August	A Level Examination Results Day
	Summer Sinfonia Concert, 7.30pm - 9.00pm	Thursday 20 August	GCSE Examination Results Day
Friday 26 June	Lower Sixth Phase 3 Data Report Issued (Full Written)	<b>Tuesday 1 September</b>	<b>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY</b>
	Sixth Form Induction Day 2	<b>Wednesday 2 September</b>	<b>AUTUMN TERM BEGINS, 8.40am</b>
	Charity Events		

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/>



Facebook:  
/WHSforBoys



LinkedIn:  
Westcliff High School for  
Boys