

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As you are aware, this has been a profoundly sad time for TWGGS and our wider community with the tragic death during the October half-term holiday of Bethany Freeman. Beth's loss has been so keenly felt, by her friends and peers in her form, Maths and Economics classes and her year group; fellow team members in the hockey and netball teams; younger girls coached, mentored, inspired and supported by Beth; and by teachers and support staff alike. I am always enormously proud of TWGGS girls and my colleagues, but never more so than now: their respect, love, mutual support and thoughtfulness have been truly awesome, and we all draw both strength and comfort from the very special TWGGS community. Suffice it to say, that we miss Beth beyond measure, and feel both proud and privileged to have known her. Our most heartfelt thoughts and sympathies go to her mother, father, brothers and wider family, especially as Christmas approaches.

Beth's family have asked that we establish a fund in her name: The Bethany Gaia Memorial Fund, and I am proud to inform you that already close to £4000 has been raised to boost the fund, from donations on our sports clothes day, from Chiddingstone Church where Beth's funeral took place, and at the TWGGS carol service. The Fund has a two-fold purpose: to support TWGGS girls in sports-related activities, where these might otherwise not be financially possible; and to provide financial support as required to the local hockey, netball and cricket clubs whom Beth represented. Separately, the school has set up a prize to be awarded annually at TWGGS Speech Day, in memory of Beth: fittingly, it will be presented to an U6th Leaver for "supporting and inspiring younger pupils", the perfect legacy for Beth, who always found time for others.

Recognising the huge impact of Beth's death, especially on the Upper Sixth Formers applying to university, we have written to institutions informing them of the girls' uniquely sad circumstances. Letters regarding those girls being interviewed have already been sent (the U6th themselves having been asked to give us priority information), and further communications regarding others will go early in 2014. I have been touched by the genuine warmth and sympathy evident in the many responses we have received.

We must say goodbye this term to Miss Humpherson who leaves us on the return from maternity leave of Mrs Curtis; we are delighted that she has secured a well-deserved permanent post at Queen Elizabeth's Grammar school in Faversham, where we hope she will be very happy. More TWGGS babies have arrived this term: Mrs Colbear gave birth to Georgina, and Mrs Harrod welcomed Toby into the world; all are doing well! We have been pleased this term to welcome back TWGGS Old Girl, Miss Charlotte Andrew, who is teaching KS3 Music during Mrs Harrod's maternity leave.

Music – Mrs Vallely

Friday 6th December saw the return of the annual TWGGS Carol Service held in St John's Church. All of the school choirs are involved in this event and this year they surpassed themselves with the Carol Service being described as 'the best yet' by many of our regular attendees. A huge thank you and well done goes to all of those girls who helped to make the evening such a success. The retiring collection after the service went towards the Bethany Gaia Memorial Fund in memory of Beth Freeman.

On November 30th, a number of string players took part in a performance of Messiah at a concert at St Peter's Church, Southborough, organized by the Rotary Club of Southborough and Pembury. The players were heartily thanked by Mr Peter Cornish, who said that, "The instrumentalists were so talented and made such a difference to the performance". The outcome of the evening means that a complete ShelterBox (£590) will go to the Philippines and a £400 donation to Retrak (Street Children project in East Africa).

On Thursday 19th December a number of senior girls went with Mrs Field and Miss Andrew to Rusthall Lodge Residential Homes to sing carols to the elderly residents to much acclaim. The Mayor was also there and thoroughly enjoyed the occasion.

Careers - Mrs Vallely

In a joint venture, The Skinners' School, Tunbridge Wells Grammar School For Boys and Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School worked collaboratively to organise a series of Careers Evenings in November. The various careers subjects were divided between the three schools, and speakers invited to give a talk and answer questions on their career. The evenings were all open to Years 10, 11, L6th and U6th in the three schools, and in Skinners' Kent Academy. Parents and pupils were invited to book their chosen talks beforehand on a dedicated website set up for us by Larrytech, a local IT company.

TWGGS speakers included: **Professor Stephen Keevil**, a medical physicist working with Magnetic Resonance Imaging at St Thomas' Hospital in London, and currently President of the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine; **Dr Paul Reynolds**, Consultant Physician, and the Clinical Tutor for Tunbridge Wells; **Dr Karen Finlay**, GP; **Dr Abigail Tucker**, a research scientist at Guy's; **Dr Melanie Abas**, Clinical Senior Lecturer in Global Mental Health at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College London;

Miss Karen Sparrow, Head of Professional Development at the Association of Optometrists; **Professor Peter Clifton**, Head of Psychology at Sussex University; **Mr Bradley Curtis**, a Partner at Dacre House Veterinary Clinic; **Mr Amir Tarki**, Dental Surgeon; **Ms Catherine Fearon**, Water Quality Performance Manager at Anglian Water; **Mr Sean Waddingham** from CGG, an international organisation which covers the full spectrum of Oil & Gas geoscience activities; **Miss Louise Tull**, registered Dietitian; **Mrs Pippa Hillen**, Principal Lecturer and Course leader for the Diploma in Nursing course and for the BSc (Hons) Nursing degree at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, at the University of Brighton; **Mrs. M.A.Keating**, Senior Lecturer in Pharmacy Practice and Recruitment and Outreach at the Medway School of Pharmacy; **Mr Sam Wickham** Frontier Conservation; and **Mr Ed Bentham**, AWF Conservation (Whales and Dolphins). In addition to the speakers, there were various stands available for parents and pupils to browse including representatives from STA Careers Consulting, Student Finance, universities, Oyster Worldwide, Gap 360, Whatuni.com, KATO Training (Apprenticeships), CXK/National Careers Service, The National Citizenship Scheme and AXA PPP.

We are very grateful indeed to the speakers and stand holders who gave their time without charge; to the Senior Prefects and CCF girls who helped enormously on the evening; and to the PTA for selling refreshments. Feedback from parents and pupils has been very positive. We will be running a similar event in 2015. If anyone is interested in offering to provide a talk on their career at a similar event, please do email me on careers@twggs.kent.sch.uk

Teatime Theatre – 10th December 2013 – Mrs Davis

For the first time in TWGGS' history, Year 7 braved the daunting world of live performance in a new event aptly named, "Teatime Theatre". Thirsty parents and cake-loving pals came out in their droves to support the dedicated group of Year 7 pupils in their presentation of the work they have been doing at Drama Club. The afternoon was a huge hit, showcasing extracts from popular Roald Dahl classics, including "The Twits", "The Witches", "James and the Giant Peach" and "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory". The audience indulged in some pre-show goodies: afternoon tea, accompanied by homemade cakes lovingly prepared by Drama Club attendees and girls doing their Bronze Arts Award in cake decorating. All of the performers worked tirelessly, committing to extra rehearsals and sourcing costumes in their own time. The result was a polished set of entertaining performances. The collaborative nature of the event was clear in every aspect of production. This was generously instilled by the Sixth Form Drama Prefects who have been working with the girls since September. Vanessa Burns and Eloise Martin, both Lower Sixth Theatre Studies pupils, have shared their energy, love of Drama and expertise at the weekly Drama Club, which takes place every Thursday lunchtime in the Performing Arts Centre. Not only did they direct each performance, they ran the event and brought a huge amount of fun to the whole affair!

Thank you to all parents able to attend. It was lovely having a live and encouraging audience for the girls. The next "Teatime Theatre" event will showcase the work of Year 8 and 9 girls in March/April. We hope you are able to join us for some more tea, cake and theatrical fun! Girls involved will be given a letter outlining rehearsal commitments and performance dates nearer the time.

Rachael Parker , 11G

Congratulations to Rachael Parker , 11G, who has been accepted for a place on Amnesty International's Youth Advisory Board. This is a huge honour for her, because only a few pupils in the UK are accepted onto the board each year. They are expected to advise Amnesty on campaigns, mailing, the website and getting more young people involved. Each school is only allowed to nominate two people, and only one person from any particular school can be accepted. It is a twelve month commitment, involving 4 meetings in London.

House of Lords 2013 Chamber Event – C/Sgt Ella Morris, U6G

After being lucky enough to make it through two rounds of selection days, Lcpl Constance Collard and I travelled to London on Friday 29th November for the House of Lords 2013 Chamber Event, which brought together cadets and veterans from across the country to debate the legacy of the First World War for Great Britain. We were given some final tips on speech delivery by the English Speaking Union, before being taken on a tour of the Houses of Parliament, which was a great opportunity to appreciate our incredible surroundings. Finally, we were called into the chamber to sit on the red benches. The Lord Speaker, Baroness D'Souza, introduced the debate, and we heard from the Clerk of the Parliaments about his role. The six Key Speakers and then the Floor Speakers were called upon to add points supporting the arguments. Lastly, the case for each perspective was summarized, and a vote taken. It was definitely a nerve-racking experience, but a brilliant one nonetheless; an unforgettable day. It was also particularly exciting to be able to watch ourselves on the TV when we got home! Being given the chance to speak in the House of Lords is not something I ever imagined I would be able to do, especially through the CCF, and I am very grateful for this opportunity, as well as the many others, it has given me.

Debating – Mrs Johnstone

The TWGGS debating team of Elle May and Polly Smythe have won through to the second round of the English Speaking Union's prestigious Mace competition, in the first senior competition of the year, with one of the longest and trickiest debate motions yet covered: This House believes that governments in developing countries should prioritise the economic development of their poorest citizens over environmental concerns! It was a very difficult subject to cover in the time available, but the girls dealt with it with style

and aplomb. TWGGS will be hosting the first round of the Cambridge University competition in December, and a number of trips are planned for the New Year. We always welcome new recruits, from any year group.

MUNGA – Mrs Johnstone

TWGGS pupils took part in a variety of capacities at this year's Model United Nations at the Town Hall - you may have seen the photograph in the Courier recently. It was an excellent day, with lots of committed students acting as Press, Secretariat and as Country Delegations, with Elle May proving a confident and highly effective chair for the Women's Rights Committee. We were delighted that our Syria delegation of Ellie Drewry, Polly Smythe and Laura Newton won the trophy for best delegates, beating 33 other delegations; the judges remarked on the quality of their research, and ability to deploy their knowledge in all three committees: Energy, International Conflict and Women's Rights.

Iceland 2013 – Alice Pavey, U6W and Izzie Tol, U6W

In October half term a group of Upper and Lower Sixth girls went on a trip to Iceland, accompanied by Miss Smith, Mr Breeze, Miss Dorman and Miss Lloyd-Jones. As soon as we stepped off the plane, we drove to the Blue Lagoon, immediately allowing us to appreciate Iceland's beauty and incredible natural landforms. Throughout the trip we changed hotels every night, meaning we could really experience the different areas within Iceland. One of the most memorable nights was when staying in a rural hotel with little civilisation around us. We were lucky enough to see the Northern Lights, which no previous TWGGS Iceland Trip has ever been fortunate enough to see. During the trip we saw multiple waterfalls, glaciers and volcanoes, including Eyjafjallajökull (the one that caused so much chaos in 2010) and Mr Breeze was able to add to his volcanic ash collection. Given the circumstances it was an amazing opportunity to appreciate such a beautiful landscape unlike anywhere we have ever been. The students, teachers and, of course, the awesome geography, definitely made it a trip to remember!

Kenya 2014 – Cadet Lcpl Beth West, L6W

In the Easter term of 2012, the CCF offered the opportunity for any members over the age of 16 by 2014 to apply for an expedition to Kenya for 23 days, leaving in July 2014. I thought I was very lucky to be given such an opportunity and wrote a letter of application. Consequently, I passed the next two rounds of selection which involved a weekend of team-building to get to know the other cadets and a week of mountainous training in the Lake District. Fortunately, I got through and am now one of 41 cadets from all over the UK going to Kenya this July. Whilst in Kenya we will be climbing peaks such as Mt. Kenya, white water rafting, and visiting the David Sheldrick elephant orphanage. In the final week, we will be helping to construct a school in a nearby village for children who would otherwise not be able to afford an education. I am incredibly excited about going and am very grateful to Captain Reynolds for such an amazing opportunity as without the CCF, this experience would never have been open to me.

CCF Orienteering – Cadet Madeline Wood, 10W

On the 2nd November, the CCF orienteering team accompanied by Miss Jaworska and Sgt Preston travelled to Catterick Camp in North Yorkshire. After arriving on Saturday evening, we started preparing for the competition the next day: we were given the briefing and then a quick lesson from Sgt Preston on compass and map skills. On Sunday, after an amazing CCF breakfast, we drove to the start of the course. After a nervous wait in the minibus, we lined up on the start line: the course was extremely muddy and wet with a lot of people tripping in rabbit holes. It was all worth it: as we started the long journey back, the phone rang to inform us that we had come first in the country in the team competition. In the junior girls individual competition Cdt Emily Shailer came 14th, Cdt Alex Davsion came 11th, Cdt Ellie Miles came 4th and I came 2nd. In the senior girls' individual competition, Cdt Evie Crouch came 4th. Overall, we had an amazing time, despite miserable weather; we hope to defend our title in years to come.

Vicious Vikings and Wonderful Workshops - Bea Turner and Charley Harris 8I (and Mrs Mattheus-Ratcliffe, Librarian)

On Tuesday 19th November, Victoria Campbell, the author of the brilliant book *Viking Gold*, visited TWGGS. She gave an inspiring talk to Year 8s, telling us all about how she wrote her book, learning about the armour that the Vikings wore to battle, and why they have a long spike on the top of their helmets. We even got to try on Viking helmets and swords! Victoria also explained to us how she first studied to be a lawyer, but later decided to write a book. She had always been passionate about Vikings, so that was her inspiration. Later in the day Victoria held a writing workshop for selected girls to learn more about her techniques for creative story writing. We all gathered in the library and were greeted by Victoria who was carrying a rather mysterious looking box. Inside this box was some treasure! Not real treasure of course, but unusual items. We each chose one, then had to do a brainstorming exercise using our own items. It was a competition to see who could think of the most words linked to her object. Our winner found over 50 words and was rewarded with some sweets! After this we each thought of a power or secret that our object had to have. For example: a tiara that can teleport you back in time, or a nail varnish that is really blood, or a green velvet bag which will help you find the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow. As soon as we had thought of an idea, another slide came up on the screen. On this slide were questions such as: How old is your character? Does your character have a job? We had to answer these questions, building up suspense and the characteristics of the people in our stories. Then we wrote a quick summary and an opening line to really set the scene for our story. Overall we learnt a lot from the workshop, and we all know the secrets to building up a story plan now. Finally, at lunch time there was the chance to buy Victoria's book, and get it personally signed.

Language Day, University of Kent – Laura Newton, L6W

On Wednesday 13th November, 6 A Level Languages pupils set off to the University of Kent in Canterbury for a taste of studying languages at university and a chance to learn more about the culture of the languages we study. After only getting a *little* bit lost on the way, we finally made our way from the train station to the university and sat down in the lecture theatre ready for the day to begin. During the day we heard a variety of stimulating and thought-provoking talks on studying languages: on Spanish cinema, modern Spanish theatre and Kafka's Metamorphosis, which gave us an interesting insight into the cultural side of studying languages. In the afternoon we heard from a graduate of a European Studies degree, which offered a totally different take on studying languages. Finally we heard from a lecturer in Linguistics, which was interesting not only because of the subject matter, but because of the different paths it showed us when it comes to studying languages. Overall, the day offered a real insight into doing a languages degree, and also showed us some of the other routes available to us.

German Exchange – Sam Parsons, 10W

On 6th December 20 girls from Year 10 embarked on a trip to Bonn for the German Exchange. Upon arrival the atmosphere was full of excitement, nerves and eager anticipation as we were greeted by our German partners. Each girl spent the weekend with their hosts, getting to know the family and participating in the activities organised by them such as; ice skating, hiking, Christmas baking, visiting Bonn etc. Very early on Monday morning we arrived at our partner's school where we sat in on two lessons. This was intriguing and an interesting insight into German schooling. Afterwards we visited a number of locations including Beethoven's house, Christmas markets and the Cathedral in Bonn. Later, we visited the place that we were all longing see – the infamous Haribo Shop. As we stepped through the doors everyone was salivating, eagerly waiting to fill their trolleys with goodies.

On Tuesday we visited Aachen together with our exchange partners. We were placed in groups and participated in a discovery tour with them which tested our map reading skills! We also visited the Cathedral which was an unusual octagonal shape, the ceiling decorated by incredible mosaics. After that we visited more Christmas Markets where we were able to practise our German language skills and happily managed to make ourselves understood! Our final visit was to a Glassblower's workshop where we were shown how glass is coloured and shaped. This was really fascinating; afterwards we had the opportunity to buy little glass ornaments. On Wednesday morning we visited Cologne and were entranced by the overwhelming size of the Cathedral and its beautiful features. We then visited the Lindt Chocolate Museum: everyone was delighted as we were each given a wafer dipped in the chocolate fountain. Our very last outing was to another fabulous Christmas market. As it drew closer to leaving, we were all filled with sadness as we loved our German families and didn't want the experience to end. A massive thank you goes to Herr Link and Frau Ceuvorst who organised the trip and made it so enjoyable; we look forward to seeing our partners on in March.

German Trip to Cologne 28-30 November – Herr Link

On Thursday 28 November we started the weekend of the first of Advent early, and in style, by taking 88 Year 9 girls to the Christmas markets in Cologne. The girls had the opportunity to try German specialities like the different kind of sausages at the snack stalls, Christmas biscuits and cookies, potato fritters with apple sauce and many other traditional foods. They were able to put the German they learnt at TWGGS into practical use. One of the cross curricular parts was the visit to an art gallery which had completely changed since last year but still offered many interesting works from Picasso and other famous artists. Eleanor Sainsbury (9S) writes: *We arrived at Cologne in the evening and went straight to a Christmas market beside the cathedral. There were lots of beautiful Christmas lights and everyone was really excited. The next day, having chosen our Christmas hats, we drove into Cologne and went to the Museum Ludwig art gallery where there were a lot of abstract pieces of modern art of the 20th and 21st centuries; we then got the opportunity to visit the cathedral or go shopping. We walked wearing our Christmas hats to another Christmas market which seemed very traditional. We then went on a Rhine cruise and sung carols on stage. After that fantastic experience we went to the final Christmas market, where the highlight was a huge Ferris wheel. It was an amazing trip!*

Accommodation for Host Teacher from Germany

From 18 January to 7 February we are hosting a German teacher in connection with the programme UK-German Connection. We are looking for accommodation in a TWGGS family for her as a paying guest. Please contact Herr Link on german@twggs.kent.sch.uk.

Design and Technology Competition – Mrs Bence

I am delighted to announce that Hannah Rayner, L6W, was awarded first prize in the BMW i4 Competition. After careful consideration the design team at BMW selected Hannah's work as it clearly demonstrated a thorough understanding of the style associated with the company's image. Her design sheets are currently being professionally made into posters for the BMW showroom; her work is due to appear on the website in the near future and she has also received £150 of iTunes vouchers. The company was very impressed with all of the work from the pupils at TWGGS.

Design and Technology STEM Challenge Finals – Mrs Bence

Two Design and Technology pupils have been chosen to represent TWGGS at the London Science and Technology Challenge Finals. Megan Brown, 10G, and Issy Furminger, 10G, will compete with students at Cambridge University on 7th January, and we would like to wish the girls the best of luck with this challenge.

Hockey – Miss Parkinson

The TWGGS 1ST X1 hockey team came runners up at the Kent county tournament and thus qualified for the National Schools Championship East Round in Norwich in November. TWGGS had a very tough group and they lost their first game narrowly against a very impressive Framlingham College. A draw against Spalding High gave the team confidence and this was followed up by a win against Wymondham college. TWGGS came second in the group which meant they had to meet the winners of the other group – Queenswood, a very talented side hosting several Junior England players. TWGGS gave their all but Queenswood were just too good. TWGGS came third overall, and they should be very proud of this performance particularly as the tournament came on the back of the tragic loss of the joint captain Beth Freeman. Beth was missed terribly but she would have been extremely proud of the team's performances. Congratulations to the team: Vicky Witter, Frankie Williams, Olivia Whittome, Sarah Gold, Hattie Montgomery, Tilly Wood, Alice Pavey, Jemima Sneddon, Lucy Milson, Alice Wood, Sophie Maunder ©, Maddie Godfrey, Izzy Tol, Rose Hairs

Junior Knole Run – Friday 29th November – Mrs Field, Cross Country Coach

A huge congratulations to our junior cross country runners for bringing the winners' shield back for the girls' race. Special mention to the 4 girls who were placed in the first 29 amongst over 250 runners: Abigail Johnstone, Romane Balcomb, Imogen Ellis and Jasmine Levitas. Congratulations to the rest of the team, who ran with real courage and endurance in the very muddy and hilly conditions: Olivia Moran, Jennifer Kearney, Rachel Moran, Isobel Macnutt, Martha Rigby, Alice Sanderson and Alice Tune. We hope that our runners do as well in the forthcoming Kent Schools Championship on Saturday 18th January in Dartford.

Georgie Grant, IIT, gains place at GB Rowing Trials - Mrs Murray

Congratulations to Georgie Grant from 11T who was invited to the Great Britain Rowing Trials with the hope of being selected for the World Rowing Junior Championships. Georgie represented Bewl Bridge Rowing Club. In the 250 sprint Georgie was the only girl sub 50 seconds and came first. Overall Georgie came 45th out of 62 in the 2k piece and according to her coach she will definitely be invited back for the next trials.

Spanish Volunteers – Mrs Rodriguez

The Spanish department would like to thank our Spanish volunteers Mr. Cánovas, Mrs. Green and Mrs. Page who come to help Sixth Formers and Year 11 girls practise Spanish speaking. Their time, effort and enthusiasm is invaluable to the pupils and to us.

Spanish For Everyone!

Native Spanish speaker offers bespoke conversation lessons for all ages and abilities. Experienced with students and adults. If interested, please contact: Álvaro Cánovas on 07528814333 or via email alvarocanovas@hotmail.com

Show Jumping – Megan Bruce-Smythe – 11W

On 3rd November Megan Bruce-Smythe and her horse Wallace competed in the schools' show jumping competition at Felbridge Showground. They jumped clear in both classes, coming 4th out of a large field of 70 in the 85cm class, and a very respectable 7th out of 40 in the 95cm class.

Equestrian Results – Mrs Holding

TWGGS took a team of 3 to Golden Cross last weekend for the NSEA Mayfield School East Sussex County SJ Champs. As we are out of area, we couldn't qualify but could collect Regional Points. Each class was full with 70 – 90 entries in each. Micky Holding came 5th in the 70cm on Abbie with Emily Dodd-Pacitti also having a fast clear round on Ollie, a borrowed pony. We entered as a team for the 80cm with Emily and Micky joined by Megan Bruce-Smythe on Wallace. The team jumped amazing rounds and lost winning only due to a navigational error! They still came 7th as a team, with Megan in 4th as an individual. Megan then finished the day brilliantly in 8th in the 90cm with only 0.7 seconds between the 2nd and 8thriders. So rosettes all round in a very close competition. Well done girls.

Thursday 28th November – Weald of Kent Sports Acrobatics Competition – Miss Guy

On Thursday 28th November our gymnastics team took on many clubs and schools in the Weald of Kent Sports Acrobatics competition, showing true professionalism and ability. We had many entries spread across the Novice Pairs, Regional Pairs, Regional Trios and Advanced Categories. For the first time we also competed in the Advanced Group category. This year the girls were in charge of putting their routines together, and their choreography showed precision, musicality and variety. Within the Regional trios we achieved bronze place, thanks to Matilda Holker, Charlotte Scholes and Abigail McDougall. The majority of our girls competed in the novice and regional pairs category where the level of competition was extremely high; the girls' routines however were still very strong. Most pairs were awarded similar scores, so it was a tough call to make who would take the gold.

With a score of 8.2, Sophie Smith and Imogen Hunt managed to take away the silver, which was a fantastic achievement. In the advanced trios section Sophia Rolf, Margot Roberson-Leech and Emily Arnold were awarded gold, a great result. Their routine displayed dynamics, speed and advanced skills which they performed to a very high standard. We also took away both bronze and silver for the group routines. As a school we came second for overall points; well done girls!

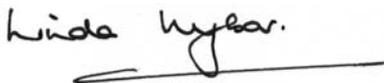
U16 & U19 through to Regional Netball Finals – Mrs Murray

On Saturday 30th November our U16 and U19 netball squads had their long awaited county finals day which saw the top 8 teams from each respective age group compete in a round robin competition to decide the top 2 teams qualify through to the regional finals in February. Our U19's had a cracking start against Colfes winning 8-5, thus going into the next 3 games with lots of confidence: they beat Tonbridge 13-3, Walthamstow Hall 17-1 and Sevenoaks 15-4. They next faced Benenden who had also not lost a match so this was a crucial must win game: in the end TWGGS came out on top with a 7-5 win. Against Cranbrook, TWGGS gained a short lead to win 8-5, whilst the last game against Sutton Valence saw TWGGS take complete control again to win 12-4. TWGGS therefore finished top in the county. With the tragic loss of team mate Beth Freeman earlier in the term, Mrs Murray was very proud of how the team showed true courage and determination to do Beth and themselves proud. Congratulations to Captain Amy Moriarty, Vice Captain Maddie Nagel, Georgie Stafford, Izzie Tol, Alice Pavey, Hattie Gommersal, Hattie Montgomery, Antonia Murray and Georgie Bailey.

The U16s were anxious to succeed, having just lost out on a spot at the regionals in Year 9. Up against strong opposition Bromley High first, TWGGS managed to win 15-4; they then continued to dominate the next 2 games, beating Benenden 12-4 and Sevenoaks 12-2. Next we lost 6-9 to Maidstone Grammar. After lots of team talks from Mrs Mesher, TWGGS managed to hold on to the next 3 games winning 12-10 against Tonbridge, 10-6 against Invicta and 8-7 against Hillview. It was a long tense wait at the end of the day; both TWGGS and Tonbridge had the same points, so it all went down to goal average. With the slightest of margins, it was announced at the presentations that TWGGS came out on top which meant they had gained the second spot to the regionals. There was elation in the room from all the girls, parents and staff as they thoroughly deserved a place. Congratulations to Captain Kath Taylor, Vice Captain Ellie Durr, Sophie Morris, Katie Exall, Yazmin Absolon, Sophie Hannan, Beth Moriarty and Emma Wadsworth. Mrs Murray would also like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Mesher for coaching the U16s on the day and to Miss Guy for scoring and cheering the girls on.

Finally, it only remains for me to wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful, prosperous 2014. With very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Linda Wybar (Mrs)
Headteacher



PTA NEWSLETTER CHRISTMAS 2013



FUNDRAISING SUMMARY

We have got the academic year off to a fantastic start, raising approximately £8000 to date, with key fundraisers listed below:

- **£4,400** from the charity ball held in October at the Spa Hotel. Half of this will be donated to the school's chosen charity, Voluntary Action Within Kent. A huge thank you must go to Sian Sandeman and Liz Moffat who worked so tirelessly to make this event such a success.
- **£2,500** from the September and November discos, which were both very well-attended - thanks go to Zoe Taylor and her 'disco' team for all their hard work. We are always on the look out for parents to help out at discos, so if you feel you could help, please email pta@twggs.kent.sch.uk for more information.
- **£800** from the Christmas Bring & Buy sale for the girls with its ever-popular chocolate tombola. Thanks go to Alison Ribbon who organised the event and to all the volunteers who helped package the donations beforehand and who helped on the day.

Thank you to all the parents, staff and pupils who have supported us so enthusiastically this year.

100+ CLUB END OF YEAR REPORT

Our 100+ club goes from strength to strength. **For just £12 a year**, your ticket is entered into a monthly draw with two prizes of £75 and £50. There is also a bonus post-Christmas draw.

Membership of the club is from January to January and we would ask anyone who is not a member to consider joining - you can join at any time during your daughter's time at TWGGS, not just Y7.

Members can purchase any number of tickets. A membership form is attached should you wish to register/buy more tickets for the coming year. Please note that it is too late to set up standing orders for the coming year, so we ask that any new/additional tickets are paid by cheque.

The winning numbers for the November and December as follows:

£75 prizes - Nov - ticket 338, bought by LK; Dec - ticket 22, bought by SS

£50 prizes - Nov - ticket 323, bought by CC; Dec - ticket 192, bought by MP

In order that we may keep winners up to date with any prizes that they may have won, can we ask existing members to email the 100+ Club administrator on 100club@twggs.kent.sch.uk with your up-to-date email address and contact details?

EASY FUNDRAISING

If you are shopping online this Christmas, can we ask you to consider using **easyfundraising**? It includes most retailers - Marks and Spencer, John Lewis, Amazon, eBay, Apple, Urban Outfitters, Gap, Asos to name a few! Some PTAs raise thousands of pounds this way - it costs you nothing - instead of the retailers paying advertising agencies/search engines, they pay us for your custom!
<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/twggspta>

PLEA FOR LEGAL EXPERTISE!

The PTA is currently reviewing its constitution and would appreciate any parents with legal expertise getting involved. If you feel you can help, please email the pta on pta@twggs.kent.sch.uk

Future Diary Dates for the Academic Year

- *Friday 10th January* - Murder Mystery postponed from November. Due to the change of dates, a few tables are now available - please email pta@twggs.kent.sch.uk should you wish to attend. Suitable for Y7 upwards (KS3&4 must be accompanied by paying adult). £10/ticket to include fish and chip supper.
- *Friday 24th January* - Y7&8 disco.
- *Friday 7th February* - Quiz night. Application forms will be available next term for this event which is invariably a sell-out, so please apply quickly when the forms are issued to avoid disappointment!
- *Friday 28th March* - Y7&8 disco.
- *Friday 25th April* - Auction of promises
- *Saturday 28th June* - Summer fair and military tattoo - watch this space for more details!
- *Friday 4th July* - Round the World in 80- Questions Quiz

Get in Touch!

We are always looking for volunteers, so if you feel you would like to help in any way or if you have any suggestions/feedback or ideas for events, please email Judy/Karen on pta@twggs.kent.sch.uk

For 100+ club registration and information, email Kathleen on 100club@twggs.kent.sch.uk

For second-hand uniform (sales and donations), please email Fran on uniform@twggs.kent.sch.uk

Wishing you a happy Christmas and a peaceful holiday,

Karen Dodd & Judy Barrett (PTA joint chair)





TWGGS 100+ CLUB



To: 100+ Club Co-ordinator, PTA (return to school reception)

Please enrol me in the School's 100+ Club. I would like ticket/s at £12 for the 2014 calendar year
and enclose a cheque payable to 'TWGGS PTA' for £.....

Name:(Block Capitals please)

Address:

.....**Postcode:**.....

Telephone Number: **E mail address:**

Daughter's Name: **Form:**.....

I have read and agree to the 100+club rules overleaf

Signature: **Date:**

TWGGS 100+ Club Rules

1. The object of the Club is to raise funds for the school, and will be used to support various school events/activities/projects.
2. The Club will be run under the supervision of the PTA who will also administer the Club.
3. The Club is open to all parents, grandparents, carers/guardians and staff of Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School.
4. Subscription is on an annual basis by standing order or cheque (made payable to TWGGS PTA), to be paid by January 15th of every calendar year, entitling the member to one number. This will be entered into thirteen draws throughout the calendar year.
5. Subscriptions are currently £12 per calendar year.
6. There is no limit to the number of members to the 100+ club and the number of subscriptions each member may purchase.
7. There will be 13 draws per year – one for each month plus a bonus 'post-Christmas' draw.
8. Draws will be performed on school premises or at school/PTA functions with a minimum of two PTA members present at each draw. No draws will take place until all annual subscriptions have been received, cleared and processed.
9. Draws are nominally allocated to every month but may be delayed until a suitable meeting/event occurs. Any outstanding draws for a calendar year will be performed by January 15th of the following year.
10. The prize money will be reviewed on an annual basis with a maximum of 50% of the annual subscriptions used as prize money. Prizes currently stand at :
 - 1st prize = £75
 - 2nd prize=£50
11. The winners are published via all or any of the following means: inclusion in the School/PTA newsletter; on the school website; in PTA notices. By becoming a member of the 100+ Club, it is understood that you are agreeing to have any of your wins publicised in this way. For example: 1st Prize £25 - May 2012, number 72, winner's initials AS.
12. A list of full names of winners is available from the 100+ club secretary by emailing 100club@twggs.kent.sch.uk
13. Registers will be kept recording the name and address of each member, the number(s) allocated to them and the subscriptions received from them.
14. Subscriptions are not refundable.
15. After the draw has taken place, the 100+ Club Administrator will send out the prizes in the form of a cheque. Cheques are made payable to the name/s on the 100+ Club application form and are sent/delivered to the address provided.
16. Cheques not cashed within 6 months of posting/delivery will be cancelled and unclaimed funds donated to the PTA.
17. Any changes to these terms and conditions will be emailed to all members with email addresses and publicised via all or any of the following means: inclusion in the School/PTA newsletter; on the school website; in PTA notices.
18. In the event of the 100+ club administrator being unable to contact the member by email, the member gives permission for the 100+ club administrator to check registered details with the school office and for the school office to pass on up to date contact details to the 100+ club administrator.
19. Subscription applications received after Jan 15th of any calendar year will not be included in draws until payments have cleared and bank confirmation has been received. No allowance will be made for draws missed in that calendar year.

TWGGS PTA is a registered charity, no 307812. All information you supply will be used by the TWGGS PTA purely for administrative purposes within the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998.

This document was last reviewed: 16th Dec 2013