

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As ever, this has been a busy half-term, beginning with Year 11 mock examinations and ending with a Sixth Form History trip to Russia, where the current temperatures of -18°C make our recent cold spell seem positively tropical! I should like to reiterate my thanks to all those parents and girls who helped us clear the school site of snow earlier this term; we do very much appreciate support in ensuring that we are able to keep the school open safely.

Absence Procedure

Please can I remind you that if your daughter is absent from school we must be informed before 10.00am on each day of absence. If you wish to email rather than telephone, please contact reception@twggs.kent.sch.uk and [NOT admin@twggs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:NOTadmin@twggs.kent.sch.uk). Thank you.

Debating Success – Mrs Johnstone

Lucy McCann (U6) and Elle May (L6) won the second regional round of the prestigious English-Speaking Union Mace competition at TWGGS on 24 January, beating teams from Tonbridge Grammar, Tonbridge and Sevenoaks Schools. They convincingly defeated the motion that This House would prosecute parents for their children's crimes.

On Saturday 2 February, three TWGGS teams travelled to the University of Kent at Canterbury for the Southern Schools Debating Competition, where they acquitted themselves well, with their usual flair. After four tough rounds - with very tricky motions to debate - we were delighted that two teams made it through to the semi finals. The Y11 team of Coco Collard and Kat Moulton narrowly missed the break, coming a very respectable 10th out of 64 teams, while Y11s Polly Smythe and Ellie Drewry came second overall on the tab in this first part of the competition, and Y12s Elle May, supporting Jodie Clark in her first ever competition, came sixth. Elle and Jodie made it through to the final, where they were beaten only by a very experienced team from City of London Girls' School. Particular congratulations to Elle and Jodie, also to Ellie Drewry (3rd on individual tab) and Coco and Polly (7th and 10th respectively on the tab).

Then, on Thursday 7 February, TWGGS hosted the second round of the Cambridge University competition. The only school to have got three teams through from the first round, it was a mathematical impossibility for them all to break to the next round, as only the winners from two rooms could progress. TWGGS did manage to win both rooms, after two rounds of debating, with Lucy McCann (who had returned from the World Schools Championships in Turkey at 2am that same day) and Elle May, together with Polly Smythe and Laura Moulton scoring convincing wins. Bad luck to Coco Collard and Ellie Drewry, who were drawn against Lucy and Elle, but debated superbly and were unlucky not to be able to progress further.

We are immensely proud of Lucy McCann's achievement in being selected to debate internationally. The England team were unfortunately knocked out by a very experienced team at semi final stage, but Lucy scored well on the individual tab, and was the second highest of the four England team members. It has been an amazing experience, and I hope will encourage other TWGGS debaters to aim high.

Drama – Mrs Davis

It has been an exceptionally busy term for Drama as the AS and A2 practical examinations for Theatre Studies are well underway. For their Unit 2 examination, "Performance of an Extract of a Play", the Lower Sixth showcased two amazing pieces of theatre to a live audience on Friday 1st February. The first group's performance of "4.48 Psychosis" proved to be a highly successful and challenging piece; the added benefit of performing in-the-round really helped the girls to interact with the audience and to create a visually spectacular result. The second performance of the night, "The Fall of the House of Usher", was also very well received; the audience were hugely impressed with the girls' stark Victorian adaptation in the style of Steven Berkoff. A special mention goes to Sophia Wallace for obtaining a total of 99% for her coursework and performance! Mrs Davis and Miss Dorman couldn't be more proud of the Lower Sixth and their considerable achievements. The moderator was highly impressed by the standard of work produced and agreed that all pupils should be awarded top band marks for their individual performances.

Thank you to Rozzy Adams, Erin Rutter and Ellie Wade for their technical assistance on this occasion. Gillian and Rob Norman-Reid also deserve huge thanks for their support with the technical rehearsals and installation of the hired lighting equipment. Thank you!

The A2 examinations take place on the 1st March at 7pm in the PAC. The Upper Sixth have produced two original pieces of theatre, "The Poplar Tree" (in the style of Physical Theatre), and "Please Hold: Tales from the Third Story" (Narrative Theatre). Please speak to Mrs Davis if you would like a complimentary ticket.

U16 Regional Finals Netball Report – Sunday 3rd February - Mrs Murray

The U16 Netball Squad had their London and South East Regional Finals on Sunday 3rd February; the girls were hoping to produce a repeat performance of 2 years ago when they qualified for the national finals. The team had a very unlucky time leading up to the tournament with 5 injuries occurring throughout the squad. Understandably they were very anxious, though very determined to get the matches started, and with lots of heavy ankle supports and strapping applied, the girls were ready to start their campaign to get to this year's Nationals.

The first match against Robert Clack school was a real tense time for all players and Mrs Murray. The team started off well and soon settled down and took complete control of the game to win 10-5, which was a fantastic start and showed how strong and determined they all were. Although no match they played was easy, TWGGS managed to gain successive wins beating Lady Eleanor Holles 7-5, Guildford High School 6-4, Barking Abbey 14-6, St Paul's 6-4 and Sevenoaks 8-5. With one match to go TWGGS knew they would finish in the top 4, however needed a win to ensure they had secured their place at the Nationals. Against Cranleigh, TWGGS was put under a lot of pressure, struggling to play their game against a tough defence. Going into the second half we were losing 2-4; with some fantastic turnovers by our defence, TWGGS suddenly found another gear and made the most of the opportunities, shooting calmly under pressure, and finally winning 9-6. This resulted in TWGGS being crowned regional winners, qualifying for the National Netball Finals in March. It truly was an amazing performance by the whole squad; through injury, tribulations and triumph, they showed their strong team spirit and determination to succeed.

Congratulations to the following: Captain Antonia Murray, Harriet Gomersall, Lilly Wadsworth, Kath Taylor, Rose Hairs, Emma Johnson, Ellie Durr, Lydia Slaughter, Georgie Bailey and Harriet Montgomery. A special mention goes to players of the tournament Georgie Bailey and Hattie Montgomery for their outstanding defending, despite both carrying injuries on the day.

TWGGS 'Question Time' – Mr Walker

Year 9 pupils had the opportunity to debate a range of topical issues with local politicians during their PSCHE lesson on Tuesday 22nd January. Amongst the topics discussed were reducing the voting age to 16, Britain's future in Europe and the development of the old cinema site in Tunbridge Wells. The majority of girls were in favour of a multi-purpose venue offering more leisure opportunities for all ages in the centre of town, including a cinema, bowling alleys and an ice-rink. I hope the politicians took note!

Design and Technology Competition – Mrs Bence

Earlier in the year a number of girls entered into a Design competition run by Tunbridge Wells Council and Wildside Cycles. The girls were asked to design a cycling jersey for TWITA (Tunbridge Wells is Traffic Aware). They set to work and used Adobe Photoshop to create a wide range of imaginative responses to this brief. The girls researched smart materials and labelled their drawings highlighting the use of reflective strips, specific fabric and LED lighting components. A few weeks later it was announced that Sarah Grant in year 9 won first place. Her design will be made into a cycling jersey for her use. Well done Sarah.

Exciting new resource for French learners! - Miss Lloyd-Jones

The French department is delighted to announce the arrival of *Mon Quotidien*, a daily news magazine from France. A digital file (PDF) will be available online via *Frontier* and a printed version will appear on the library's newsstand every day. With *Mon Quotidien*, pupils can explore a wide variety of topical news items in accessible French. We hope that the girls will enjoy developing their language skills through this genuine, age-appropriate resource. Happy reading!

More information is available at: <http://www.monquotidien.fr>

Year 7 French Club – Anna Wells L6G and Alice Pavey L6W

Year 7 French Club has been a great success so far this year with an impressive turnout since September. We have played bingo, charades and board splat as well as classic game show games such as Million Pound Drop, Flog it and Who Wants to be a Millionaire - all in French of course! We are looking forward to another term of fun with French and hope to encourage even more girls to join us!

Le Septième Art – Megan Delahunty-Light L6S

Our French film club is aimed at Key Stages 4 and 5. We show a range of French films from cult classics such as *Les Visiteurs* and *Bienvenue chez Les Ch'tis* through to more traditional films and dramas. Turnout has been good and we hope to encourage even more girls to join us after school each Monday, week 2 in A6.

German Theatre – Herr Link

On Friday 15 February we welcome Onatti Theatre Company with their play "Nichts zum Anziehen" at TWGGS. Two native professional German actors are performing a play for a teenage audience in German to girls in Year 8 and Year 9. Every year these performances are a great success and very well received by the girls.

German Intern – Herr Link

We are lucky to have Silvia Homp from the University of Lüneburg near Hamburg as an intern in the German Department from 1 February until the end of April. This is a new scheme which we have developed in cooperation with the University of Lüneburg who will send an intern to TWGGS twice a year: February to April and October to December. Silvia is helping us to give the girls more practice with their spoken German and also functions as a cultural ambassador from Germany.

CCF – Miss Reynolds



YOUR CCF NEEDS YOU!!

We are looking for any men or women from the community who may have the time and energy to become a Cadet Force Adult Volunteer with the TWGGS CCF. Do you have any military experience? Were you ever a cadet yourself? Have you got any Map and Compass skills? First Aid qualified? Do you like Adventure Training? Are you able to help with band tuition? If not, are you willing to learn? Would you like to know more? There are many ways we could use some willing volunteers in our rapidly expanding programme. If you have any interest at all, please write a brief email to ccf@twggs.kent.sch.uk

Cross Country – Regional Finals – Mrs Field, Cross Country Coach

The re-scheduled Kent Schools Championship at Danson Park in Bexleyheath was so muddy that the girls who had put 15mm in their spikes, made a wise decision. All our runners should be congratulated on coping so admirably with such difficult conditions. For the Year 7s, Romane Balcomb-Neville was first home for TWGGS in 4th place which guarantees her a place in the Kent Squad for the national race in March, and Imogen Ellis was the next home in a very creditable 12th out of 80 finishers.

In the Junior section, Ellie Cohen was placed 6th and Alice Ralph 7th. These places should guarantee their selection for the English Schools X Country final in Derbyshire in March. Charlotte Knudson finished 16th, closely followed by Georgie Maddison-Brown and Lucy King Powrie and Rosie Fenton finished in the top half of the field in 35th and 39th positions. The Intermediate and Senior girls' race was combined, with Alice Wood completing the course in a very strong 6th position, which guarantees her a place in the Kent Team, and Charlotte Cohen, finishing in 11th position, which makes her a reserve.

Equestrian Competition – Saturday 12th January - Mrs Murray

Well done to the TWGGS girls in their first equestrian competition of 2013! On Saturday 12th January at Sands Farm, Micky Holding (Abbie), Sophia McDonald (Taffy Twister), Maisy Wallington (Velvet Moon) and Emily Dodd-Pacitti (Burtie) competed in the following:-

60cm Grass Roots Team 2nd (of 8 teams) and qualified for regional team championship on June 16th.

Micky Holding placed 1st and 5th (of 44 entries) and qualified for regional individual championship.

70cm Regional Points League Team 2nd (of 10 teams)

Micky Holding placed 1st and 3rd (of 48 entries)

It was a great start to the year; Mrs Murray would like to say a huge thank you to parent Mrs Holding for co-ordinating the training in preparation and the team on the day.

Kent School's Swimming Championships – Sat 19th January – Mrs Murray

Charlotte Scholes 81 competed in the 12/14 Yrs 100m Butterfly and swam an impressive 1:17:76 making it into the finals later on in the afternoon where she finished 5th. She also swam in the 200m IM with a time of 2:53:81. Olivia Sherry, Year 7, swam the 100m breaststroke for TWGGS, however despite swimming really well, she had false started after slipping on the blocks which led to a disqualification. Rosie Fenton swam 1:20:01 in the 100m freestyle and with less than 5 minutes to catch her breath, went on to swim 1:20:04 in the 100m Backstroke and narrowly missed out on a place in the finals. In the 200m freestyle relay event, we came 13th out of 23 schools. The girls really enjoyed representing the school; the competition was much tougher than last year. Well done to the girls for their commitment and enthusiasm and a huge thank you goes to Mrs Fenton for her support managing the team on the day.

South East Regional Biathlon – Saturday 20th January - Mrs Murray

Due to the snow on 20th January, the Regional Biathlon semi-finals were cancelled and therefore the organisers had no choice but to select from virtual results for the National Finals! The TWGGS team which included Charlotte Scholes, Rosie Fenton and Eleanor Cohen have come 4th and have qualified for the National Finals which is fantastic as the girls had worked really hard to improve their times enormously from last year. On top of this success Rosie's time was strong enough to qualify for the Nationals in the individual category. The girls should be really proud of what they have achieved and we wish them all the best in March.

Chelsea Dance Festival – Saturday 26th January 2013 – Miss Guy

On Saturday 26th January our senior dancers once again drove down to Eastbourne to take part in the University of Brighton's annual dance festival where schools from all over East Sussex display the talent and work within their school. Our girls performed 2 pieces which covered a range of dance genres. The first piece was inspired by the new name of our company "Spectrum" which was created solely to enhance the powerful music by Florence and The Machines ("Say My Name"). It allowed our girls to show a range of movements of which challenged them in new ways and with so many girls taking part allowed for some very inventive choreography. The opening verse got the crowd rallied up and the girls' natural performance qualities held the crowd's attention from the start. Our second piece was of a very contemporary nature called "Wild Horses", a lyrical piece which tells a story of a horse trying to break free from its reins. The movement expresses emotions such as entrapment, rage and exhaustion, influenced by the power and soulful voice within the music. The girls performed with elegance and grace, which really made the performance stand out within the programme. The day was an overall success; it was a great way to show the dancing potential we have at this school and for our senior dance group to become established as "Spectrum Senior Dance Company". Well done girls; it was great to see all your hard work pay off. A thank you must also go to the parents who came to support and transport the girls.

Sportshall Athletics – Friday 1st Feb – Mrs Murray

The Year 7 & 8 Athletics team were victorious in the first round of the Sportshall Athletics competition. Held at Putlands Leisure Centre, TWGGS dominated the track and performed very well in the field events to win both year groups. The girls will now go on to represent the Tunbridge Wells Area at the Kent Finals.

Congratulations to:- Year 7 Team – Captain Alice Walters, Freya Zabroski, Romane Balcomb-Neville, Imogen Ellis, Ayesha White, Georgie Newman, Amira Carew and Elena Holland. Year 8 Team – Captain Imogen Berger-North, Charlotte Scholes, Louisa Truscott, Emma Cameron, Charlie Wager, Ellie Cohen, Rosie Fenton and Charlotte Knudson.

Regional Schools Floor and Vault Gymnastics Competition Sunday 3rd February 2013

A huge congratulation is in order for our gymnasts who performed on Sunday 3rd February in the Regional Schools Floor and Vault Competition 2013. We had three teams competing in three different categories. Just having three weeks to practise and get their routines together, the girls felt underprepared and nervous to compete. However everyone gave a fantastic performance and represented TWGGS to the highest standard. The gymnasts choreographed their floor routines themselves, as well as organising their own music; the routines were personal and very creative.

Our U14 Regional level team took away the silver missing out by 7 points to Tormead. Congratulations to: Sophie Semmens, Sophie Whitaker, Astrid Roberson-Leech and Margot Roberson-Leech. The U14 National team who were nervous to compete in a higher level took away a very well earned bronze medal. Congratulations to Imogen Rayner, Imogen Hunt, Imogen Berger-North and Matilda Holker. Finally, the U19 Regional team had a fantastic result taking gold!! Congratulations to Sophie Smith, Ruby Swain, Sophia Rolf and Lauren Martin.

The day overall was a huge success and the girls should be very proud of themselves. I would also just like to say a very big thank you to parents who came to support the girls throughout the day.

Sixth Form PSHE – Mrs Vallely

The Sixth Formers have had a varied programme of speakers on wide-ranging topics in their PSHE lessons. To help them decide on where to study when they leave school, the Lower Sixth girls have had, or will have, talks from various universities on “Why Go To University?”, “Study In Scotland”, “Study Abroad”, as well as from a representative from WorldWide Volunteering, a recent old girl speaking about the Deloitte Scholars scheme and a representative from “planmygapyear”. In addition, they have had a few sessions learning good study and thinking skills. Interspersed with these scholarly topics, there have been some wider topics: a speaker from the Friends of Israel Foundation prompted plenty of debate and discussion from both Lower and Upper Sixth Formers about the state of affairs in the Middle East; a representative from the Antony Nolan Trust gave a very moving talk about his own experience of the effects of leukemia on his life; and a nutritional therapist, Ms Abir Hamsa-Goodacre from locally based “My Newtrition” gave the girls some new insights on the links between nutrition and health in her talk, “Eating For Health And Vitality”.

The Upper Sixth girls have had a speaker from various universities on “Best Practice in Interviews”, “Student Life”, from Student Finance England on student finance as well as a talk on personal safety from PC Vernon Barker, and a wider careers talk from Mrs Dawn Waldron. They look forward to a student cooking session from our own Mrs Mary Wilson and a joint session with the Lower Sixth sharing their experiences of applying for university through UCAS. If anyone is interested in a particular talk and would like details about a particular speaker, please contact me: careers@twggs.kent.sch.uk

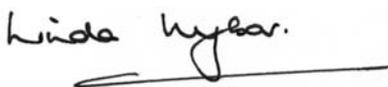
TWGGS Old Girls

Calling all former pupils: The Old Girls' Network have recently set up a website which is at www.twggsoldgirls.net. We are having a lunch at The Beacon on Sunday 28 April 2013 to which all former pupils and members of staff are welcome. Please visit the website for further details.

Simmonds

Simmonds realises that on-line shopping is growing in popularity, but that shipping costs can be prohibitive, therefore, with immediate effect, all Simmonds uniform purchased online at www.simmonds-ltd.com is despatched free of postage and packing costs when sent to a UK destination. For added convenience returns can be accepted through a Simmonds shop with proof of payment or returned through the post. Full details are on the Simmonds website within the section detailing Shopping Online. Simmonds is also holding its annual discount week, when there is a 10% reduction on the cost of uniform; for TWGGS in 2013 this is the first week in June.

With best wishes,



Mrs L Wybar, Headteacher