

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As the term draws to a close, it is, sadly, time to say goodbye to several members of staff. Mrs Bentham has completed her one-year contract and is now moving with her husband to Durham, where we wish them every happiness, and Mrs Rawlins leaves after two years as a highly efficient Biology Technician, to take up a part-time post at Kent College, where I am sure she will be just as effective. Mrs Chapelard returned from maternity leave in late May, and has decided, after eight years at TWGGS, she would like to spend more time with her two lovely sons, which I am sure she will enjoy! Dr Seymour joined TWGGS initially on a temporary contract twelve years ago, and is now retiring, having taught part-time Geography, Politics and History; we wish him a relaxing and happy retirement.

Mr Charter joined TWGGS with me, fourteen years ago, and has been the driving force in taking TWGGS Economics Department to be consistently one of the country's finest, winning the top State School Award, year after year. Innumerable girls have enjoyed his superb teaching and benefited from his kind, supportive role as a Sixth Form form tutor, not least with UCAS. He leaves us to retire, but I am delighted that it is "au revoir" rather than goodbye, as he returns in early October next year to cover Mrs Colbear's maternity leave!

Finally, Mrs Har-Ewen retires this summer after twenty-one years at TWGGS and twenty-seven years working with Kent. The examination results of girls taught Psychology and Sociology by Mrs Har-Ewen have been consistently outstanding: her characteristic blend of clear, focused teaching, high expectations of girls and a terrier-like pursuit of those who might fall by the wayside is a potent blend for success! She has also been a fine Sixth Form tutor, supporting and challenging girls, as appropriate. We wish Mrs Har-Ewen the very happiest of retirements; I am sure she will remain busy, as I cannot imagine her otherwise!

Cripps Law Award – Mrs Wybar

Georgina Abbs has been given the Cripps Law Award 2013, following interviews on 26th June with two partners from Cripps Harries Hall. This is £500p.a. during her time at university and, perhaps even better, a great addition to her legal c.v. for the future!

Gabrielle Bailey Ladd, 9I

Many congratulations to Gabrielle Bailey Ladd, who is currently in Nijmegen representing TWGGS, the Air Cadets and Tunbridge Wells in a march, which is the biggest of its type in the world. She starts marching at 5.30am every day for up to 8 – 9 hours and will do the equivalent of 4 marathons in 4 days. Not only did she qualify with the air cadets, which involved marching for 18 miles per day over a weekend, but she managed to raise the most money for the chosen charities, earning her a special prize from the Royal British Legion.

Eleanor Hennebry, 11S

Congratulations to Eleanor Hennebry, 11S, who won the Kent 100-word story competition. There were 260 entries in the secondary school category (Year 7 to Year 11). This is her winning story:-

Through his window he could see the protesters below. Their contorted faces screamed at the sky, their anger burning against the invisible authority who remained insistent that, 'Together, we are building our future'. The shattering of glass tinkled through the symphony of enraged screams and percussion of marching feet. The fury of the riots whipped through the nation, a world gone mad, left to escalate and erupt in the streets.

He sighed again and began to write; as if his words of contemplation could ever heal the mess that lay before him.

"August 2013..."

The Indian Exchange – Libby Halsall, L6G

The Indian exchange of 2012/13 has been an unforgettable experience. It goes without saying that participants have no doubt made life-long friendships which have been strengthened by the enthusiasm and sense of community within the group. During our time in India, we were immersed in an entirely different culture; we soon found out that the food, weather and way of life was nothing like we had ever seen before. The vibrant colours and wonderfully bizarre smells of Kerala really made an impression on us; green oranges and the colours at the market certainly impressed us most. Personally, my most memorable moment was visiting the Lotus Temple. The sense of well-being and prosperity overwhelmed us, particularly when meeting the Guru, who spoiled us with gifts and sweets. Elephant riding also was a wonderful experience in which we all had immense fun, as well as visiting numerous cultural landmarks and vibrant market places.

Equally, all participants have enjoyed hosting their exchange partners in June/July 2013; being able to show someone from an entirely different corner of the world our culture is highly rewarding and has been an immense pleasure. Pub lunches, trips to Thorpe Park and seaside adventures have left each and every Indian visitor with (hopefully) incredibly happy memories of their time in England. This has enabled us to repay some of the hospitality of which we encountered when staying in India. Indians likewise have enjoyed experiencing an alternative culture; "freezing" temperatures of 25C, and the amount of tea and toast eaten have certainly been a shock!

Bronze D of E 2013 – Sophia Casimir, 10I

The Year 10's experience of D of E was one of excitement and struggle. There were many ups and downs but the result made it all worth it. We were straight to it; organising our skill, physical, and volunteer work. I, along with the majority of the year, decided on charity work once a week for 3 months. This proved to be my favourite part of D of E as I felt I got a lot out of it: confidence - through interacting with various customers, social skills and a desire to be better people as a result! The choice of physical work was endless. Some people chose yoga or tennis, gym workouts and other classes. The skill choices revolved mostly around music lessons. One person chose to take up cooking - this proved to be a very good idea!

As the practice weekend drew closer, we all thought it would be a bit of a breeze; we were wrong. With this new, and extremely heavy, weight on our backs and having to fend for ourselves in the wilderness for a couple of days without showers or make-up, really tested us as a team and as individuals. But it was called a practice weekend for a reason, so thankfully the fact that my group got lost for at least 6 hours on that first Saturday, along with other groups, didn't matter.

Nervously practising putting up tents and stuffing our pockets with sweets for easy access as we walked, we grew more nervous as the assessed D of E weekend came closer. That first night was great. Spirits were high as we piled into cake and sweets but the 12km walk the next day would not leave our minds. Thankfully no one got too lost that first Saturday and we all arrived at the campsite in one piece. With my team's luck we managed to have to pitch up in the campsite right next to a main road. It rained; we had soggy noodles and blistered feet. Sunday's walk hung over our heads and we were more than ready to get home!

Sunday's walk confirmed our worst fears. My team took a 2 hour hike to our next check point only to end up where we had started. With morale low and our feet really taking the strain, it was a miracle we all got to the finish line (even if it was a couple of hours late!) To be greeted by faces we recognised and access to a mobile to call our parents to take us all home, we were finally at peace.

I would definitely recommend D of E to younger years; it was one of the most tiring and exhausting experiences of my life but I wouldn't change it for the world. I am sure that almost all of the people who took part in this year's expedition are up for the challenge of Silver D of E. The experience widened many friendship groups and set a challenge for each and every one of us. And in the words of Beth Samuel - 'Honestly, it was horrific, but we got more out of it than we put in, and I am ready for silver and the struggle but then achievement that comes with it.'

Message for Lower Sixth parents – Mrs Field, Asst Headteacher, Head of Sixth Form

As Mrs Wybar and I recently mentioned to the girls in the Lower Sixth, due to changes in Government funding for Sixth Form pupils, we, like many other schools in the country, have unfortunately had to reduce the number of taught hours per subject in the Upper Sixth from 10 hours per fortnight down to 9. Curriculum Leaders have planned for this eventuality and in order to minimise both the impact on girls' learning and their chances of success at A level, independent study programmes have been designed for every subject in order to provide support for the girls. We are confident that girls' learning and achievements will not be impaired.

In addition to this change, our funding will now be calculated on the number of supervised hours received by each pupil (with a maximum allocation per qualification. We teach more than this maximum for each A Level subject, but, under the prescribed formula, a diet of 3 A Levels does not provide enough! Therefore, U6th girls will be required to complete an additional one and a half hours of supervised activity every week. The girls will be able to decide individually how to make the best use of this time by involving themselves in a range of activities, which are already offered as part of the Sixth Form provision. Options include: volunteering, work experience, the Arts Award Gold, Duke of Edinburgh Award Gold, conversation classes (for those studying a foreign language at A level) and supervised independent study. Ideally, every girl will select the activity which best suits her plans for the future.

I will provide assistance for the girls in helping them to select their preferred activity and will then monitor the process during their time in the Upper Sixth. It is our belief that the girls will value, for the most part, the opportunity to be involved in extra-curricular activities or the encouragement to develop their independent learning. Please be assured that we have made every effort to provide the best solution possible, to developments beyond our control, however, should you have concerns regarding this proposal, I am more than happy to discuss the matter further.

World Language Day - Beth Shaw, 8S

This week I went on the World Language Day trip at the University of Kent. I thought it was one of the best school trips I have ever been on as it was extremely interesting, fun and inspiring. To start the day off, we got to the University and had a look around, so that we roughly knew where we were going for our different sessions later on. I found it very exciting to be looking around the University, as it was like a village in itself! After that, we got given a map of the campus and our timetable so that we knew where we were going during the day, and when.

The sessions began with an introductory talk from the organisers of World Language Day about what was happening during the day. We then split into two groups for either the Spanish theatre play (Sherlock) or the French theatre play (Les Misérables). Before the trip, everyone had had to write down which play they would prefer to attend and a ranked list of the language sessions they wanted to go to. I went to the French play and I thought that it was very interesting. This was because the actors spoke very fast in French, and although I couldn't understand every sentence they were saying, I could get the general idea from their body language and a few words that I understood. I liked how instead of being just a random French play, it was a very popular one in England as well, that most people knew, so we could relate to the characters and the storyline a little better.

Our break began at 10:45 and it was nice to have another quick look around the University and the different rooms. After the break, everyone went off to their different language sessions, and I got one of my first choices, Russian. I chose this one because I have never heard or spoken Russian and I thought it would be exciting to try something so new and different. I was definitely right! The presenter, David Hornsby was very good as he only spoke Russian for the whole session, and left us to try and figure out what he was saying. This idea seemed daunting at first when he was asking us questions and we had no idea what he was saying, but when we settled into it, he managed to make it quite clear to us what he was saying. By the end of the session, I had picked up some phrases that will start me off in the Russian language.

After Russian I had French Theatre Workshop. In this session, we put some of our French knowledge to practice, and picked up a few new words. It was a very fun workshop as we did a lot of acting whilst doing French. The main thing we did was in groups of four, when we had to come up with a short play, and the only rule was we had to speak in French. I really enjoyed this because it let me push myself to my French limits and also have a lot of fun acting! We then enjoyed our lunch break in which we went to the World Fayre where we could ask for as much free stuff as we wanted, as long as we asked for it in a language other than our own!

After lunch we had our final session, in which I attended The Land of Eagles: Albanian Language and Culture. I thought this session was a very good one to have and I really enjoyed it. It offered a contrast to the Russian one I had already had as, instead of just learning the language, I also learnt a lot about the way that Albanians live and their culture. Probably the most interesting thing I found out was that unlike the rest of the world, Albanians nod their heads for 'no' and shake them for 'yes'! I was very pleased about how much I knew about Albania when I left, and some sentences of their language. At the end of the day, we attended a fun Plenary Closing Session where World Language Day finished, and we found out the winners of the European Quiz, which was a session that unfortunately, I didn't go to! I really enjoyed my trip to the University of Kent for World Language Day, and I hope that I will be able to go again sometime!

Bastille Day – Amy Tyler, L6S

On Monday 15th July TWGGS pupils and staff partook in a wide array of activities as part of an extravaganza celebrating the French National Festival of Bastille Day, officially celebrated on the 14th. During lunchtime girls participated in a French treasure hunt organised by L6th French students and many tried their hands at the traditional game of Pétanque (Boules). There were also opportunities to quite literally taste some French culture; a French themed cake and sweet sale at break raised money for Kent Air Ambulance, while the canteen offered a French themed menu comprised of Poulet Provençal and Profiteroles au Chocolat among other dishes. The festivities were additionally embraced by the library, where new French books were displayed alongside 7S's fantastic Bastille Day posters. The day was topped off by both students and staff sporting their bérêts, allowing everyone to thoroughly enjoy themselves and get involved. A huge thank you to the French Department and to all those that made the day such a success!

Year 7 Mediaeval Day - Lily Willis-Powell and Bethany Cary of 7W

On April 24th-25th Year 7 had a chance to experience life in the Middle Ages. The school hall was transformed into a village in mediaeval England. A pair of mediaeval enactors gave each form a two hour experience of mediaeval life.

We thought this day was great fun and very memorable. It was really interesting learning about the ways of life in mediaeval England in more detail. We participated in many enjoyable activities such as: dressing up as peasants and royals from different families and learning about the Yorkist and Lancastrians, taking part in role-plays as different characters e.g. Lords, ladies and peasants, making a cure for the plague and building a master piece to be accepted into the guild, and many more. Our favourite part of the day was when we tried on and looked at different types of mediaeval armour, and how it changed over the mediaeval period. All in all it was a very educational yet exciting day, which we thoroughly enjoyed.

Accommodation for Student Teacher from Universität Lüneburg – Herr Link

We are cooperating with Universität Lüneburg *Leuphana* where students studying to be Modern Languages teachers in Germany are working for 3 months at TWGGS in cooperation with the German Department. They are in their mid-twenties and will work as part of their requirement to spend 3 months abroad for their studies. They may have a European grant for their stay but will not be paid for the experience at TWGGS. We would like to help find affordable accommodation in Tunbridge Wells for them. There is one student coming to TWGGS in Autumn Term 2013 and another in Spring Term 2014. If you can offer a room (initially for October 2013 to January 2014 excluding the Christmas period) please contact Herr Link at TWGGS (german@twggs.kent.sch.uk).

Year 8 Visit to the Europa Centre – Herr Link

This year's German trips offered each of our Year 8 forms the opportunity to visit the Europa Centre in Hornchurch, Essex. The Europa Centre is a model village with shops, market square and café where the girls could practise their German with native speakers buying items in the shop and finding out information. Also popular was the authentic German cake (Marmorkuchen) on sale in the café. This was appropriate preparation for our "real" visit to the Christmas markets in Cologne in November when the girls are in Year 9.

Germanovision Contest Year 9 – Herr Link

For the third year in succession now Year 9 forms have produced a music video to a German song they have chosen. They chose the song after research, analysed the text, prepared a storyboard and acted and filmed their video. They presented their final product to the KS3 assembly on 5 July and 9Ts video received the most votes. 9I and 9S were the runners-up. The prize for the best storyboard went to 9W. It was nice to see that the girls found out about and appreciated popular German music acts like "Die Prinzen", "Cro", "Luxuslärm" and "Glasperlenspiel".

Lauren Galloway – 9T

Congratulations to Lauren Galloway who was selected for the Youth United Voyage with the Sea Cadets, one of only two army cadets to secure this prestigious placement. The voyage was between Weymouth and Dartmouth between the 22nd and 28th June.

Bowl Water Review 2013 - Eleanor Schone 8T

On the 28th of June all of Year 8 went to Bowl Water for the day to participate in various team building activities, water sports and an orienteering exercise around the park. It was a great day and many new skills were acquired in each activity. We were split into three groups called Dragonflies, Lacewings and Kingfishers. My first activity was water sports. We were given the choice of kayaking, sailing or raft building. Once we were dressed in bright red waterproof trousers, tops and life jackets, we set off sailing down the reservoir. I learnt many skills during my time on the water including how to tie a figure 8 knot; how to steer the boat accurately and how to control the front sail. My favourite experience of sailing was when the wind finally picked up and we shot across the lake, leaving a wash behind us. My next activity was orienteering. Despite the wet weather, I still had a good time. We were firstly taught how to orientate our maps. Then we were given a map and a score sheet and we set off around the park. In total, we had forty-five minutes to search for as many points as possible. Our group decided to search the western area of the park and came back with several points.

After lunch, Kingfishers went to the final activity - Team Building. We split up into groups of ten. In these groups we took part in various team building activities. My personal favourite of them all required a lot of teamwork. There were two wooden crates set apart from each other. We stood on one crate and had to cross to the other crate using a rope swing. However, if anyone touched the ground, we would have to start again. A lot of encouraging words and tips on how to make the swing all helped and in the end we eventually succeeded in getting everyone to the second crate. Bowl Water has been a really enjoyable experience. I feel that my teamwork skills have been improved, living up to the purpose of the day. Despite the dreary weather, I had an amazing time!

Biology Field Trip to the Cevennes National Park in the South of France – July 2013 – Mrs Lewis

It was 1pm on a hot, sunny Sunday when 57 lower sixth girls, their parents and four staff waited on St John's Road for the two coaches which would whisk us off to the south of France for our Biology coursework. We set off in high spirits, Mrs Lewis and Mrs Jardine-Viner on the first coach and Mr Benford and Mrs Rawlins on the second. The ferry crossing was smooth and we were soon making good progress down through France. The coach journey was long, 17 hours in total, and we arrived at The Eagle's Nest field centre, very tired, in time for breakfast on the Monday morning.

But any thoughts of a rest were soon blown away as we slapped on the sun cream and headed out onto a very sunny ski slope to practise a wide range of terrestrial sampling techniques and equipment in preparation for our all important coursework. Back to the field centre for lunch out on the terrace overlooking the valley, before a brisk walk to a freshwater stream where we practised our skills at data collection and identification in an aquatic environment. After a hearty, home-cooked dinner, the games began, with 7 teams of girls competing against each other to complete a variety of team activities against the clock, everything from passing each other physically through gaps in a rope maze, to working as a team to tie a knot in a giant piece of rope. The stakes were high, but one group emerged triumphant to claim the crown. By this time it was 9pm and we had been on the go for 36 hours with varying amounts of sleep on the coach and our beds were calling!

Breakfast on Tuesday morning was early, but we were all refreshed and it was time to put some of the techniques we'd learnt into practice. After a statistics session, we headed out onto the meadows to sample the grasshopper and cricket populations and the squeals were barely stifled when we found some mega-beasties! We went for a walk through the coniferous and deciduous woodlands, passed an ephemeral stream and back through the hay meadow, all the time looking for sites to carry out our wide range of projects. Back at the centre, the girls started to formulate their coursework titles and were seeking advice from TWGGS staff and the very knowledgeable centre staff. After a working lunch, we split into smaller groups and travelled to 7 different ecosystems that the girls wanted to investigate. They spent the afternoon testing their hypotheses and refining their methods and equipment lists to ensure that their coursework investigations would run to plan. After another lovely dinner, we were back in the classroom, analysing our pilot data and preparing our experimental methods.

Wednesday was coursework data collection day. After a classroom session in the morning, we went down to the local village of Pont-de-Montvert to send our postcards and sample the delicacies of the patisserie, before we headed out in our small groups to our chosen ecosystems, for six hours of ecological investigation. There were groups at sites as varied as a peat bog, open meadow, freshwater stream, sewage plant and a ski run. The titles ranged from the impact of light levels on plant diversity to the petal colour preferences of butterflies; we even had one girl examining the micro habitats inside cowpats!! It was hard work and, after two very sunny days, it was a little overcast, but each girl was dedicated to her project and motivated to get the best possible data. After an enormous home cooked dinner and another session in the classroom, it was time for the ultimate show down - the pub quiz! And to add to the tension we were competing with the staff and students from the other school at the centre, so the pressure was on! The bar was packed to the rafters and the tension was high, but it was worth it! TWGGS teachers were the overall winners, successfully putting the other staff into second place and winning €40 for the school charity! And of the students' teams, TWGGS girls were also top, Catherine Holkham-Coates, Paige Edmonton and Alex Young triumphantly collecting third prize! The evening finished with a disco and we all fell into bed truly exhausted.

Thursday was 'write up day', up for breakfast at 7.30 and clearing rooms and then to the classrooms for an intensive write up session. A few girls headed back out into the field to collect their last minute data, some carried out chemical tests in the 'al fresco' laboratory and the rest slaved over results tables and statistics tests in an attempt to tame their data into a useable form. The sun was shining brightly, so lunch was a BBQ on the terrace, before we headed out on a walk to the Tors high up on the mountain to blow away the cobwebs and stretch our legs before the return journey. It was a tough hike, but the view from the peak made it all worth it. After a few final checks and thanking the staff, we started off on our epic journey back at about 6pm. With a brief stop at a hyper-market in Mende to stock up on some French goodies, we were back on the road, exhausted, but satisfied that we'd really achieved a lot! The journey was uneventful and smooth, culminating in our arrival back at school mid-morning – with a beautiful sunny weekend to look forward to!

Debating Report - Mrs Johnstone

The debating year came to a very successful end in June, with a Year 11/12 TWGGS team reaching the final of the England Worlds Schools competition, held at Ibstock Place School in London. Having spent the rest of the year debating in the rather confrontational, quick-fire British Parliamentary style (think Prime Minister's Questions and you have some idea of the usual atmosphere), we had to make the transition to the more polished, reflective World Schools style used in international debating. The team, led by the new Debating Prefect, Elle May, won all three of their first rounds and were only eventually beaten an extremely experienced team from Dulwich College in a final on the subject of arming the Syrian rebels. Congratulations to Elle, and to the Y11 debaters: Coco Collard, Ellie Drewry and Polly Smythe.

Carnegie Shadowing 2013 - Mrs Mattheus-Ratcliffe, Librarian

Every year TWGGS participate in the Carnegie Children's Book Award Shadowing Scheme. Over 10 weeks we read the 8 shortlisted books, discuss their merits and vote for our winner. Finally, our task is to crown one fortunate entry, in a balloon debate with 3 other schools, the winner for 2013. Our big day was Wednesday, 19th June, the day of the official Carnegie announcement. We set off to Skinners' Kent Academy to meet our collaborators in debating the books and competitors in winning prizes; they were Skinners' Kent Academy, The Boys' Grammar and Skinners' School. As part of the event all students had to design a fresh new cover for one of 8 shortlisted books, write a masterpiece review and present a 3-minute debate which would hopefully sway the audience to vote for the book they were arguing for. It was a ferocious battle of words and all schools overwhelmingly voted for "Wonder" by RJ Palaccio to be the winner. The winning team for the debate (they defended "Maggot Moon") was lead to victory by our own Hannah Naismith, Hannah Roberts and Lily Tait. However, you can imagine our surprise when we found out that that the official prize committee disagreed and awarded the medal to "Maggot Moon" by Sally Gardner! It proves that there no sure-fire winners in the world of book-awards.

TWGGS Literary Evening – Charlotta Neely L6G

On Thursday 4th July the English Department hosted the 5th TWGGS Literary Evening in the Performing Arts Centre. A poetry competition on the theme of "The Sea" had been organised prior to the event, including participants from both TWGGS and various local primary schools; winners and runner-ups from several categories were selected by Kieron Winn – a successful poet who has had many works published in renowned anthologies and magazines. Kieron presented prizes to the winning poets: Agatha Fuller,

Nellie Kottler, Holly Saw, Georgia Edgley and Hannah Cottrell were awarded for their beautifully creative poems about the sea, while Hannah Roberts, Beth Slatter, Emily Neale, Hannah Naismith and Lauren Gray won prizes in the science-related category. All of the winning poets read their carefully crafted works to the audience, and Kieron offered many complimentary observations from an analytical perspective, before presenting an engaging selection of his own poetry. In the second part of the evening, former TWGGS pupil and award-winning author, Bridget Collins, was welcomed for an interview by the Lower Sixth English prefects, Eleanor May, Charlotta Neely and Lottie Persad. The entire audience warmed to Bridget's light-hearted sense of humour, while her thought-provoking and often entertaining responses to each question provided a valuable insight into the life of a full-time writer. The Literary Evening was not only a very enjoyable event, but also provided an opportunity to appreciate and celebrate written achievements across a range of talent, from those who have achieved success in their fields to those who are just beginning.

Drama Report – Mrs Davis

July has been a busy month for the Drama Department! We kicked off with the annual "Year 9 Drama Festival", a joint venture with the English Department, showcasing contrasting scenes from five modern plays. The standard this year was particularly high and the whole evening felt very professional. The new lighting system and refurbished stage curtains helped the girls to give of their very best in delightful surroundings. Mr Speller and Mr Bartlett gave freely of their time to help the girls with their sound and lighting requirements; they proved invaluable, both in the run up to the event and on the evening itself, and the girls benefited from their expertise. Our guest adjudicator, Mrs Reid-Brown, was accompanied by Senior Drama Prefect, Eleanor Fitz-Gerald, and two Sixth Form Theatre Studies pupils, Polly Murdoch and Madeleine Nagel. The judges expressed how impressed they were with the standard and gave valuable feedback before making their important decisions...

9T set the standard with their Victorian version of "Sweeney Todd". Solo piano playing, superb characterisation and imaginative set changes kept the audience enthralled throughout. The form won a prize for *Best Publicity* owing to their beautiful pie programme and detailed box set. Charlotte Bartholomew's interpretation of the chilling Mrs Lovett saw her win *Best Overall Performer* in the festival. 9I was second with their fast-paced presentation of "Olivier". They won *Most Visually Exciting* on account of their beautiful set changes, costume and hilarious pie throwing scene! 9S was third with the more challenging "Pygmalion" which they performed with genuine aplomb! They rightfully won *Best Concept* as their interpretation showcased the rise of Eliza Doolittle beautifully played by Charlotte Martin. 9W's stark realisation of the less known "Roses of Eyam" was the penultimate performance of the evening. They told the true story of a plague-ridden town in Derbyshire in the 1600s. 9W had one of the largest casts and, owing to how masterfully they blocked the piece, won *Best use of Space*. The final performance, and overall winner of the festival, was 9G with their dramatic and imaginative adaptation of "Lord of the Flies". The girls worked hard to produce a slick, shocking and dynamic piece of theatre which kept the audience enthralled throughout. There were moments of comedy juxtaposed with chilling childhood games and fast-paced action.

Well done to all girls involved! You should feel enormously proud of your combined efforts; the evening was a testament to your enthusiasm, commitment to teamwork and talent. Thank you to the English staff and Sixth Formers who helped each form to achieve their collective best.

The Lower Sixth Production, a very different occasion, took place on the 11th and 12th of July in the Performing Arts Centre. Working alongside three boys studying Drama at Skinners', the AS Theatre Studies class took on the almighty challenge of performing Timberlake Wertenbaker's, "Our Country's Good" in just five weeks! This A Level text, about which the girls will write in their Unit 3 examination next summer, explores the place of capital punishment in a society stifled by a rigid class system. Set in Australia in the 1780s, the play looks at the relationship between the convicts and Royal Marines who were sent to live in the first penal colony. They play exploits the Georgian judicial system and exposes the theatre as a humanizing tool that can bring about great change.

The Lower Sixth should feel extremely proud of how beautifully they realised such a challenging play. Each pupil gave a strong performance showing a detailed understanding of status, class, prejudice and power. Opening with the flogging of a convict as the troupe travelled across treacherous seas to New South Wales it became clear why the audience was restricted to Year 10 and above. Polly Murdoch delivered a mesmerising performance as the Aborigine, introducing each scene and watching the action from various corners of the stage, be it with the musicians, under the disheveled blue and rusty sails, or sitting on an island of sand. The girls played both officers and convicts, showing enormous range and the ability to manipulate the audience.

It was a pleasure working with such a dedicated group of talented people. Miss Dorman and I are hugely grateful to cast and crew for giving so freely of their time, energy and enthusiasm. Mr Speller, Mr Bartlett and Mrs Norman-Reade were, as always, invaluable members of the team.

King's University Trip – Mariam Ahmed, 9G

On Tuesday 25th June 2013 I was fortunate enough, along with Georgina May, to be selected for the Dux Award, spending a day at King's College, London. I found the day very inspirational, interesting and fun. There was a question and answer session with the Minister of State for Schools – David Laws: I found it extremely thought-provoking. This was followed by two academic presentations: "Can pigs and seaweed cure diabetes?" and "Militant Suffragettes". The first session was very fascinating and exciting; the second I

particularly liked as Ms Riddell (the speaker) was very enthusiastic and her passion influenced the audience. We then had a presentation of university study, which I found informative and useful. After lunch we had a tour of the campus; I liked the campus, especially the fact that it was situated in the heart of London. We then had a question and answer session with the Student Ambassador panel, which gave me a real insight in to what university life actually is in reality. The last part of the day was by far my favourite: the motivational session with "Action Jackson". It certainly motivated me, and, although cheesy at times, it proved to be a fun session that made me feel very happy and great by the end.

Anna Ballara – 8I

Congratulations to Anna Ballara in 8I who has won an award at the Sevenoaks 3 Arts festival for her singing. She won the Rose Bowl in the 'Songs from the Shows' class.

Netball Umpires Wanted - Mrs Murray

As our Netball grows from strength to strength at TWGGS, finding umpires for all of our fixtures can be tricky! If any parents or family members have experience of umpiring club netball matches and would like to volunteer their time for a few after school fixtures, then please contact Mrs Murray asap. kerry.murray@twggs.kent.sch.uk

Kent Schools Athletics – Sat 8th June – Mrs Murray

This year saw a record number of girls meet qualifying standards to enter the Track and Field Trials for Kent. The day was a real success with the following results:-

Year 7 Girls	100m	Ayesha White 7S - 6 th in Final with 14.00
Year 7 Girls	200m	Amira Carew 7S - 6 th in Final with 29.95
Year 7 Girls	800m	Romane Balcomb-Neville 7S – 2 nd in Final with 2.33.24
Year 7 Girls	1500m	Imogen Ellis 7G – 8 th in Final with 5.48.73
Junior Girls	1500m	Ellie Cohen 8I - 9 th in Final with 5.15.07
Junior Girls	High Jump	Imogen Cowdell 9W - 5 th in final with 1.45m
Junior Girls	800m	Alice Ralph 9W - 3 rd in Final with 2.25.43 (School record)
Junior Girls	800m	Charlotte Knudson 8G - 4 th in heat 2.36.7
Junior Girls	800m	Rosie Fenton 8I - 7 th in heat 2.47.2
Inter Girls	200m	Rose Hairs 11I - 2 nd in Final with 26.07 (School record)
Inter Girls	100m	Rose Hairs 11I - 2 nd in Final with 12.80

Rose Hairs and Alice Ralph break School Records – Mrs Murray

A special mention goes to our champion sprinter Rose Hairs from 11I who qualified for the regional finals in both 100m and 200m. Rose also gained her 5th School Record in the 200m; the previous record had been held for 29 years! Another special mention goes to Alice Ralph who broke the schools Year 9 800m record, where the record had been held since 1998!

Kent Schools Doubles Tennis Championships, Bromley, 14th June 2013 – Mrs Murray

On Friday 14th June, 6 U14 girls went to Bromley Tennis Club for the Kent Schools Doubles Tennis Championships 2013. The team consisted of Emma Wadsworth ©, Maddy Wood, Imogen Collard, Genevieve Hull, Sophie Radley and Grace Collins. There were 14 Kent schools competing in the girls' tournament from years 9 and 10. We once again had some fantastic successes. The 1st and 2nd pair went through after the morning round to an afternoon championship tournament, but were unfortunately knocked out in the 1st round. Our 3rd pair, Imogen and Genevieve had the greatest success and did very well in the round robin as they won 5 matches, only losing to Sevenoaks. They went through to the afternoon Championships where they were knocked out in the 1st round. Unfortunately for us, Sevenoaks, Beneden and Kent College played some outstanding tennis and dominated the top of the score boards. Despite no trophy on board a very enjoyable day was had by all. Well done girls.

Cricket – Miss Parkinson

The U13 team performed brilliantly in the Kent 8-a-side tournament winning all of their games. The girls demonstrated excellent teamwork, fielding skills and batting skills to win the trophy. Well played to the squad: Georgie Madison- Brown, Evie Dodd, Jane Green, Emily Rundle, Millie Holford, Charlotte Moran, Emma Cameron, Georgie Newman, Kate Daw, Imogen Berger-North, Lara Smith. Player of the tournament was the captain - Emily Rundle.

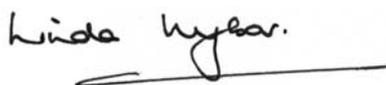
The U14 team were also winners of the U15 tournament, again winning all of their games. Maddie Wood and Lucy Fyson were outstanding as opening batswomen, scoring vital runs which contributed to the team's success. Everyone bowled very well and the team took many wickets through impressive bowling and catches. Well played to everyone in the squad: Lucy Fyson, Maddie Wood, Alice Bowen, Georgie Williams, Jess Tetley, Sophia Rolf, Alice Carey, Laura Holmes, Emma Wadsworth, Ellie Miles.

Ms Hogben has already written to parents several times regarding school uniform, and our requirements from September for Years 7 and 10 in particular. These requirements will apply to the whole school from September 2014. May I therefore please ask that, if you are replacing school uniform, you ensure that your daughter's uniform remains **unaltered**; we would also appreciate your support in ensuring that, when **all** girls return to school in September, their skirts and dresses are of a modest length, letting hems down where necessary. I was especially disappointed to observe at KS3 Awards afternoon that some Year 7 parents have taken up the new dresses (those with pleats in the back) making these very short.

May I finally take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy and relaxing summer; let's hope now that the lovely weather has finally arrived, it stays with us for a while!

With very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Wybar." The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Linda Wybar (Mrs)
Headteacher



Our main fund raiser for the summer was the May raffle, sponsored by GEN Business Solutions. This raised a record-breaking £3600. We had some fantastic prizes donated, so thank you to anyone who donated and to all of you who bought tickets. The monies raised have provided a defibrillator for the school, along with staff training and jointly funded the orienteering course. The remaining balance has been added to PTA funds.

In addition this summer, we have supported the school at the new parents evening by providing refreshments and running the second-hand uniform shop. We also hosted an afternoon tea for the Indian exchange students and their partners, where demand for cucumber sandwiches and strawberries and cream seemed to meet Wimbledon levels!

2012-13 has been a fantastic year for the PTA - we have raised a staggering £22,000 and have been delighted to accomplish the following:

- Provision of proper stage lighting for the hall - something that will benefit every child who performs in the hall. This has been an ongoing project for many years with funds reserved from previous years but has finally come to fruition
- New stage curtains for the hall
- Finish our commitment to furnish the Hazell block (sixth form centre)
- Purchase a defibrillator and finance associated staff training
- Jointly fund the orienteering course with the CCF

This year we say good bye to Angie Foote who has been running the TWGGS discos for the past 7 years - her series of discos have raised in excess of £20,000 during her time on the PTA so a huge thank you must go to her. Alison Adams also leaves us - she has been a stalwart member of the PTA, being our secretary, running the second-hand uniform shop and tirelessly helping at events. Finally we say goodbye to Lisa Solley who has been a champion quiz author over the years, providing many hours of enjoyable competition for parents and teachers alike.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the PTA committee for their ongoing help and support without which we would not be able to make such a huge contribution to the school.

Support for the easyfundraising shop, <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/twggspta>, continues to grow slowly, with over £750 raised since we joined the scheme. Easyfundraising have recently announced a toolbar (<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/find-and-remind/>) which, if you install it, will remind you every time you visit a retailer belonging to the scheme, so once you have registered, you don't need to go via their site to raise funds any more.

Finally we would like to wish you all a relaxing and "sunny!" summer and look forward to seeing you at one of our events next term. A calendar of events for the 2013-14 year is attached.

Judy and Karen (joint chair)

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 Karen/Judy on pta@twggs.kent.sch.uk

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

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

SEPTEMBER		
Friday 27 th	Key Stage 3 Disco 7:30pm-10:00pm TWGGS School Hall	For TWGGS, Skinners and TWGSB Yrs 7-9 only. Tickets will go on sale that week to pupils at all 3 schools. Attendees must be collected by an adult known to them from TWGGS entrance.
OCTOBER		
Thursday 3 rd	AGM 8:00pm-9:00pm Centenary Block	Following the new parents' Cheese and Wine, a brief summary of the past year and election of committee. All welcome, not just committee members. Committee nomination forms will be sent out in September
Saturday 19 th	Charity Harvest Ball 7:00pm-midnight Spa Hotel	Limited tickets available at time of going to press (10/7/13) Charity ball with 50% of proceeds going to TWGGS via the PTA and the other 50% to the school's chosen charity for the term (tba)
NOVEMBER		
Friday 15 th	Murder Mystery 7:00pm - 11:00pm TWGGS School Hall	Come and play detective - TWGGS staff stage a murder mystery. Ploughman's platter and licensed bar. Tickets on sale mid-October - don't miss your chance to see the teachers in a whole new light!
Friday 22 nd	Key Stage 3 Disco 7:30pm-10:00pm TWGGS School Hall	For TWGGS, Skinners and TWGSB Yrs 7-9 only. Tickets will go on sale that week to pupils at all 3 schools. Attendees must be collected by an adult known to them from TWGGS entrance.
DECEMBER		
Friday 13 th	Girls' bring & buy sale/tombola TWGGS School Hall	Ever popular with the girls! A lunchtime Christmas bring and buy/chocolate tombola. Girls will be asked to bring in donations of chocolate and gifts. NB This is an internal, girls-only event.
JANUARY		
Friday 24 th	Key Stage 3 Disco 7:30pm-10:00pm TWGGS School Hall	For TWGGS, Skinners and TWGSB Yrs 7-9 only. Tickets will go on sale that week to pupils at all 3 schools. Attendees must be collected by an adult known to them from TWGGS entrance.
FEBRUARY		
Friday 7 th	Quiz Night 7:00pm-11:00pm TWGGS School Hall	Our ever popular general knowledge quiz - have you got what it takes to beat the teachers? Fish and chip supper and licensed bar. Tickets will go on sale in January - this event often sells out so don't miss out!
MARCH		
Friday 28 th	Key Stage 3 Disco 7:30pm-10:00pm TWGGS School Hall	For TWGGS, Skinners and TWGSB Yrs 7-9 only. Tickets will go on sale that week to pupils at all 3 schools. Attendees must be collected by an adult known to them from TWGGS entrance.
APRIL		
Friday 25 th	Auction of Promises 7:00pm-11:00pm TWGGS School Hall	In conjunction with the Ghana Education Project, a must for every bargain hunter! Catalogues will be sent out in the Spring term, with tickets on sale before Easter. Tapas platter and licensed bar.
JULY		
Friday 4 th	Round the World in 80 Questions Quiz 7:00pm-11:00pm TWGGS School Hall	Celebrate Independence Day with our 'round the world in 80 questions' quiz. Summer supper of international platter and licensed bar. Tickets will go on sale in June - our quizzes are very popular out so please apply in good time!

Questions? Email pta@twggs.kent.sch.uk