

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Ofsted Survey Visit on Leadership and Management of Music – Mrs Wybar

On Thursday 21st March, TWGGS was visited by Mr Robin Hammerton H.M.I., as part of a survey of 40 primary and secondary schools nationwide, looking at the leadership and management of Music, looking also at the newly-formed Music Hubs, designed to stimulate and support musical education. He, therefore, also met with the Kent representatives of our local Hub, with whom the Music department at TWGGS has already forged links. Reflecting on his thoughts at the end of the afternoon, he stated that he felt TWGGS has a very purposeful vision for Music; it supports the whole school vision and whole school development, and is very well-embedded in the TWGGS culture. The Music department at TWGGS has very strong musical expertise; and strengths and weaknesses were correctly identified by the leadership. Lots of activity was noted in Music at TWGGS, with which he was impressed:

- ❖ Very large range of extra-curricular activities
- ❖ Very high participation rate in extra-curricular activities
- ❖ Very high numbers of girls have peripatetic music lessons.
- ❖ Whilst brass is underrepresented, he recognised that staff had taken several actions to try to remedy this situation.
- ❖ Take-up rate is well above average – 10% nationally take lessons with peripatetic music teachers; 30% at TWGGS
- ❖ Attainment in Music at GCSE and A Level is at or above the school average
- ❖ Take up is higher than the national average: 7% of cohort take Music GCSE nationally; well over 15% at TWGGS
- ❖ The focus on singing, both in other lessons (for example when learning languages), in assemblies, with staff and girls' choirs of varying types, and informally was seen as unusual in schools and a real strength.

Overdue Books in the Library – Mrs Wybar

School libraries are an essential part of learning, an important tool in exam preparation but also a fantastic place for discovering new authors and broadening one's reading horizon, and we are proud at TWGGS to have a well-stocked and well-used library. Books, however, are not a cheap commodity and can only earn their keep by being used and being available for use. At the very least they need to be looked after and returned on time, or renewed. Unfortunately, many girls do not seem to understand the responsibility that comes with borrowing a book from the school library, hence my request. Despite numerous reminders, many girls have library books long-term overdue, several for months and, in quite a few cases, even years! Written reminders sent by the Librarian simply seem to be ignored.

To give you an idea of the extent of the problem: currently 306 girls have a total of over 600 books long-term overdue. That is 30% of our total pupil numbers and 3% of the total stock in the library. It may not sound like a large number but from past experience we know that once books are long-term overdue they very rarely get returned at all. Apart from the inconvenience to other library users and the amount of time invested in the administration of chasing these overdue books, most will have to be replaced at some point. Libraries work on an average replacement cost of £10 per book, as textbooks are considerably more expensive than fiction titles. In this situation we could potentially face a cost of £6000 to replace these books; that is £6000 just to keep our library stationary, without investment in new books. This broadly equates to the Library's annual budget to spend on books.

I would therefore like to ask you please, together with your daughter, to spend some time over the Easter holidays to check whether she has had any overdue reminders and to locate and return these books to the library. If they are still being used, we are of course happy to renew for another 3 weeks, but Mrs Mattheus-Ratcliffe needs to see the books to establish they still exist. I hope that, if we all work together, we will achieve a considerable reduction in our overdue books and will be able to invest our limited funds on new titles rather than replacements for those which are missing.

Debating Success - Mrs Johnstone

The senior TWGGS debating team of Lucy McCann (U6) and Elle May (L6) have just completed an historic hat trick, in reaching the final of the three top national debate competitions, run by Oxford, Cambridge and Durham universities, and we are tremendously proud of the prestige they have brought to the school. The debating world is increasingly dominated by a small number of top private schools, mostly with professional coaches, so the girls' success is truly testament to their dedication, skill and enthusiasm for this most testing sport. Led by Lucy, fresh (if that is the right word after such a demanding experience!) from the World Schools Championships in Turkey, the girls were the only team from any school in the country to qualify for all these finals. It is an extraordinary achievement to have come in the top four in fields of over 500 teams, with a number of qualifying rounds for the Oxford and Cambridge competitions; and from over 100 teams, over two days and eight debates in the case of Durham. They have defended an incredible range of motions, from calling on MGM to cast the next James Bond as a woman, to demanding that the government should not give aid to dictators. It was doubly satisfactory to do so well at Durham, as this prestigious competition was organised by a TWGGS old girl, Harriet Tooze, who debates for the university, and has recently won a major Scottish competition!

With just two competitions left on the horizon, for the junior teams, the competitive debating year is drawing to a close, but clubs will continue to meet and we are particularly keen for girls who have not taken part so far to come and join us for discussion sessions and possibly some gentle in-school debating. The skills learned through debating, and the knowledge basis that can be developed, help girls to develop thinking and communication skills, as well as broadening their horizons academically and in terms of general knowledge. Many close friendships have been forged with other schools, and girls have the chance to visit a range of universities to which they may later want to apply. The skills they learn stand them in good stead for success both at school and in university applications. There will be more cake eating, and less fierce debating over the coming weeks, so we hope to see some new faces!

TWGGS U16 National Netball Finals Report 2013 – Mrs Murray

One of the biggest events in the netball calendar took place in Basildon on Saturday 16th March: the National Schools Netball Finals 2013, with the top 54 teams in the country from 3 different age groups. Our U16 squad was greeted by very wet and windy conditions as the action got underway at 9:30am. Despite the weather there was still a fantastic atmosphere with so many parents and friends supporting on the day. The U16's were split into 2 groups and TWGGS was in section A. TWGGS made a strong start to the day beating Brighton College 8-3; our defenders; Georgie Bailey, Hattie Montgomery and Ellie Durr completely controlled the circle, despite Brighton having a very tall goal shooter. TWGGS went on to win the next two games 11-6 against Broxbourne and 8-2 against Northants High; shooters Hattie Gomersall and Lily Wadsworth were outstanding despite the harsh winds. The next game against Penwortham was a real test of mental strength for TWGGS, with nothing between the teams; every turnover counted. TWGGS managed to hold on to a 10-9 win which certainly gave the team a lot to think about going into the second half of the day.

TWGGS kept up the 100% record for the next three games beating English Martyrs 15-0, Grammar School at Leeds 11-6 and Higham Lane 13-6, leading the section and confidently ahead on points. The girls could hardly believe what they were about to achieve, a spot in the semi-finals, but there was still a game to be played in the group section and a 100% record to keep. The next team to face was Bryanston who were chasing TWGGS for second place; it was always going to be tough. Bryanston were very agile and so quick to move the ball down the court; our centre court players Rose Hairs, Kath Taylor, Antonia Murray and Lydia Slaughter were working tirelessly to keep them under pressure. In the end, Bryanston won 8-6 which was obviously disappointing for TWGGS, however the girls were overwhelmed with joy and emotion to have confirmed their place in the semi-finals; despite losing the last game, their unbeaten record beforehand ensured they were group winners.

In the semi-finals against Aldridge, TWGGS picked up the momentum again; Hattie Montgomery and Ellie Durr made some vital turnovers to allow us to clinch a small lead at half time of 5-2, Aldridge came back with a vengeance and TWGGS just managed to hold the lead winning 9-8; with the whole squad celebrating, TWGGS were overwhelmed with emotion to be in the finals. After a good strong team talk to re-focus by coach Mrs Murray, the finals saw TWGGS take on Beaconsfield High. It certainly was a fantastic match with both teams not giving anything away. Our defenders worked vigorously to keep the ball out of the danger area and shooters Lily Wadsworth and Hattie Gomersall moved very well despite a very strong defence to set up a slight lead of 4-2 going into half time. In the second half it was all change; Beaconsfield shooters were outstanding, and TWGGS started to feel the pressure giving away some crucial turnovers to allow Beaconsfield to claw back. With such a high standard of netball being demonstrated again, it all came down to which team could make the most of the opportunities under pressure. Beaconsfield managed to convert more turnovers into goals and on the whistle the score was 8-7 to Beaconsfield High. TWGGS were naturally disappointed to have lost, however it really was an outstanding final, and all of the squad should be so incredibly proud of what they have achieved. They certainly showed they can compete at the highest level of netball and to be crowned second best in the country is an incredibly accomplishment.

Congratulations to the girls who received their medals from England player Lindsay Keable: Captain Antonia Murray, Kath Taylor, Georgie Bailey, Lily Wadsworth, Emma Johnson, Hattie Gomersall, Hattie Montgomery, Rose Hairs, Lydia Slaughter & Ellie Durr.

Kent Schools Athletic Association - Cross Country – Mrs Field

TWGGS had three athletes representing Kent at the English Schools X Country Championships, which were held at an extremely muddy Catton Park in Derbyshire. Alice Ralph and Ellie Cohen helped the Junior Girls' Kent team to become English Schools Champions out of 43 counties, and Alice Wood was part of the Senior Girls' Squad that finished 6th out of 34 complete teams. We are very proud of the girls' achievements this season and we are particularly grateful to Mrs Helen Cohen, mother of Ellie, for all her hard work with the team. We are reaching the end of the season and would like to thank all the runners for their efforts and enthusiasm this year, particularly the regular Friday runners, who turn out in rain and snow!

Natasha Saunders, 91

On 22nd March Natasha will be representing Great Britain in an international canoe marathon race in Belgium. We wish her luck and are very proud of her.

Dux Award Winners 2013 – Mr Walker

Congratulations to Mariam Ahmed and Georgina May in Year 9 who have been selected to visit King's College London on 25th June as part of a national programme aimed at high achieving pupils in state schools. They will be given the opportunity to attend lectures and meet current undergraduates to give them a taste of university life.

Child Protection – Miss Parkinson

Child Protection/Safeguarding - We would like to inform you that we have rewritten our Child Protection/Safeguarding policy and this can be found on the school website for your information.

e-Safety

We do a lot of work regarding e-safety with the girls, and would ask you to support us with this at home. We would like to draw your attention to a site called ask.fm. This is where children can make anonymous comments, and they tend to be unpleasant comments, about other children. We find that many girls are upset about the comments made about them and we are keen to stop girls from taking part in this, as it can lead to incidents of bullying. We would ask you to monitor your daughter's use of the internet to ensure that she is safe from this type of activity.

Uniform – Ms Hogben

Please be aware that I am writing to you separately with full details of the uniform changes, following consultations and discussions with pupils, parents and staff.

Simmonds 10% Discount Week

Please see the attached flyer giving details of the 10% discount on uniform.

Sixth Form trip to Russia - Miss Sowerby

On a cold morning in February 40 sixth formers and 4 staff met at 5am: destination Russia. The first 2 days of the trip were spent exploring Moscow; highlights included Red Square, the Kremlin and St Basils Cathedral which looks like something from a fairy tale. Russia's capital still has many buildings and monuments from the communist era, and the girls were able to further their knowledge of how Stalin tried to instil socialism into the people through constructions such as the Moscow metro with its unique and palatial stations and the famous statue by the sculptor Vera Mukhina: the Factory Worker and the Collective Farm Girl. We were also able to view the city by night on a special coach tour. The famous sights looked even more beautiful illuminated by different coloured lights against a carpet of thick snow, in which the girls (and some of the staff) enjoyed playing!

After an exciting overnight rail journey, we arrived at our second destination: St Petersburg. It snowed quite heavily during our stay in Russia's beautiful second city and the 18th Century buildings, many of which are painted in different colours such as blue and yellow, looked magnificent as they rose majestically out of the fresh snow; they certainly did look their best. The girls admired sights such as the Church of the Spilt Blood, the Peter and Paul Fortress and, of course, the Winter Palace with its opulent rooms and world-famous art collection. No TWGGS visit to Russia would be complete, however, without the now traditional "Storming of the Winter Palace" with Miss Sowerby convincingly playing the part of Lenin. The girls participated with a level of enthusiasm equal to the Bolsheviks, much to the puzzlement of the Russian guide.

We ended our trip with a visit to the Yusupov Palace, scene of the murder of Rasputin in 1916, and the magnificent Catherine Palace, one of the many summer residences of the Tsars. This stunning building was a fantastic way to the end the trip in which all the girls participated with so much interest and enthusiasm.

CCF – Captain A Reynolds

Many thanks to all of you who were able to make it to the inaugural TWGGS CCF Dinner held at the Spa Hotel on 7 February. It was a lovely evening with the girls adhering to elegant dress requirements, caring for guests and all other protocols. The speakers were varied and inspirational and the support of parents was very much appreciated.

Congratulations to Olivia Anderson-Lynch for winning a coveted place on the Canadian Exchange this summer, Karis Gill for completing a ski trip to Bavaria and best of luck to the applicants for the Kenyan Exchange this summer too.

Upcoming events include a competition team for military skills on the weekend of the 23/24 March and a first aid competition on 27/28 April. There are also two camps happening over Easter - a music camp in Liverpool and the Longhill camp in Folkestone. We are also sending eight girls shooting at Tonbridge School each Monday. Please be aware that due to traffic, the girls will be back in school around 5.30pm on the nights that they shoot. Apologies for this, but it is somewhat unavoidable given the time of day when the minibus is returning to school. A parachuting trip is planned for first time and returning jumpers in May (Mr Jones will be organising) and annual camp will be going on 6-13th of July. It is certainly a busy time for staff and girls.

Qualifications in Signals will be available to girls soon. We have had the offer of tuition and certification from Maj Caroline Dyer who will be conducting training on a couple of Saturdays at TWGGS, should your daughter be interested. This opportunity will be timetabled for next term. If your daughter is interested in this qualification, please ask her to stay aware during parade notices.

Drama – Mrs Davis

Well done to the Upper Sixth Theatre Studies class who recently took their final practical examination. The girls showcased two innovative and contrasting pieces of original work, which they conceptualised and wrote themselves. The first piece, "The Poplar Tree", utilised the features of Physical Theatre to explore the theme of marriage. The girls worked with puppetry, projection and a wide range of movement to realise their inventive ideas culminating in a visually spectacular final piece. The second piece, "Please Hold: Tales From The Third Storey" employed the stylistic features of Narrative Theatre to deliver a highly comedic outcome. The audience were thoroughly entertained by their imaginative concept, which featured references to musical theatre, Feminism and the Hippy Movement. All of the girls achieved Band 1 for their individual performances and should be commended on their professionalism and dedication throughout the devising process. Thank you to Erin Rutter in the Lower Sixth who worked alongside Mrs Norman-Reid, our experienced technician, to tech the performances.

The Year 8 Shakespeare Festival – Katie Dawson U6I, Senior Drama Prefect

The Year 8 Shakespeare Festival is a fantastic opportunity for younger members of the school to showcase their talents in different aspects of the theatre, whether it be acting, directing, set or costume design. The productions produced by each form were creative portrayals of Shakespearian classics. "The Tempest" impressed the audience with live music, rustic costumes and energetic performances. "Romeo and Juliet" transposed the play to the 1950s showcasing an innovative approach to costume and set design. "Macbeth" built suspense with dramatic performances and a unique soundtrack. Finally, "A Midsummer Night's Dream" wowed the audience with their creative staging and magical interpretation of theme and character. The winning play of the night was 8G's adaptation of "Much Ado About Nothing" owing to the varied and strong performances; the finished product was comedic, imaginative and polished. Best Performance was awarded to Sasha Chow for an impressive portrayal of Ariel/Harpee in 8I's version of "The Tempest". Thank you to Mr Speller for assisting the novice technicians with the sound and lighting. We are also very grateful to our visiting professional adjudicator, Mrs Drysdale, who gave up her time to assist with the judging. It was an enjoyable evening and demonstrated talent, teamwork and innovation.

Music Department – Mrs Waddington

On Friday 7th February, our chamber music groups competed in the first round of the Pro Corda Chamber Music Festival for Schools. This is a prestigious, national competition in which TWGGS is proud to be one of the very few state schools taking part. We were delighted when three of our groups were selected to perform in the semi-finals at Sevenoaks School. This was an incredibly tough round and girls taking part played brilliantly, tackling huge pieces of repertoire with immense skill and maturity. A huge amount of work has been done by all of the girls involved in the competition. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and want to congratulate them for their incredible motivation and perseverance. Well done to the following: Telemann Violin Quartet – Olivia Ziani, Rosie Waddington, Harriet Mullis, Ella Frost; Mozart Quintet – Elizabeth Millar, Charlotte Dixon, Ellie Waddington, Amy Jackson-McIlwham, Catherine Millar; Mendelssohn Trio – Natasha Smith, Catherine Millar, Leah Holm-Mercer; Brahms Piano Quintet – Elizabeth Millar, Olivia Ziani, Ellie Waddington, Catherine Millar and Ella O'Neill.

Earlier this month, TWGGS hosted the Beginner Recorder Festival. This is an event where budding recorder players from our local primary schools come together to play the pieces they have learnt in class. Nearly 200 Year 3 & 4 pupils took part and they were delighted to be conducted by Helen McGregor and accompanied by a live band, ably provided by TWGGS 6th formers. Thank you to all those girls who gave up their study time to help inspire a future generation of musicians: Elspeth Collard, Sophie Swarbrick, Alice Radley, Immy Goring, Ella O'Neil, Leah Holm-Mercer, Natasha Smith, Jessica Coomber, Catherine Millar, Lucy Gripper.

World Book Day 2013 – Mrs Mattheus-Ratcliffe, Librarian

On Friday, 8th March we proved once again that the girls at TWGGS are not just brilliant academically, but have real talent and flair for creative projects, too. Every year we invite our Year 7 girls and staff to celebrate World Book Day by dressing up as a character from a novel. Prizes were awarded for the best costume in each class, the best overall individual costume, best group costume and best dressed form. The girls really pulled out all the stops this year! We had a whole form (7T) dressed as Smurfs, with Mr Corse being Papa Smurf. I have never seen so many blue faces in an assembly together; it was quite impressive. In fact, we even decided to award them an additional group prize for ingenuity and Mr Corse won the prize for best individual costume in 7T.

The Best Form prize went to 7G for their vast array of very creative costumes. Best Group prize went to *Three Little Pigs* (Stephanie Hillier, Cleo Morris and Charlotte Hobbs, 7S) who looked incredibly life-like and cuddly in pink. Individual prizes went to Eleanor Alderslade (7W) for her White Queen, Sasha Moon and Olivia Sherry (7I) for Thing 1&2, Molly Anderson and Alice Milner (7S) for *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, and Niamh Kroes (7G) for the Queen of Hearts. Our Best Individual Costume overall was the brilliantly devised Marvin from *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, which turned out to be Rosie Neville from 7S. Congratulations to all!

Many of our teachers also made a tremendous effort to come in fancy dress. We had characters from *Harry Potter*, *The Green Lantern*, *Les Miserables*, *The Hobbit*, *Alice in Wonderland* (dressed as the Mad Hatter and Alice, Mrs Davis and Miss Dorman won the staff competition), *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *Memoirs of a Geisha*, *The Ancient Mariner*, and many others. All in all, a great effort all round and the challenge now will be to surpass ourselves in 2014.

West Kent Schools' Themed Book Awards – Gala Awards Evening – Mrs Mattheus-Ratcliffe, Librarian **2013 Theme – The Book Came First: From Page to Screen**

On Tuesday 19th March, after 5 months of hard work as book and film judges, girls and English staff attended a well-deserved gala evening held at Kent College Pembury. Our theme for 2013 was "The Book Came First. From Page to Screen" and the evening was organised like an Oscar-style event: red carpet, photographers, we had it all. The girls all looked fantastic, either dressed in their best red carpet frocks or in fancy dress as book characters. The entertainment provided on the evening did not just include a bookshop with free book vouchers, book signings, and glamour photographs, but also dance from Hillview School and the opportunity for some of our girls to get up on stage and tell the audience why they liked some of the books we had read. Kira Prowse (7T) and Emily Brook (8T) confidently addressed the audience with their reviews. "It was great," they both agreed. Just when we thought it couldn't get any better, we were treated to a presentation and discussion between famous teen book author Anthony McGowan and film maker David McKean, which gave us lots of insight into what inspires authors and how difficult it can be to make a book into a good film.

The Gala Evening followed five months of fortnightly reading club meetings based around five books in a teen category and five in a young adult category. This year we also had to watch some of the movies to be able to analyse how well a book had been turned into a film. Around 15 other schools took part and their votes, when added together with ours, meant that "The Hobbit", by J R R Tolkien was awarded best book in the teen category and best book in the young adult category went to "The Other Boleyn Girl" by Philippa Gregory. We were very happy that "The Hobbit" won best teen book, as that happened to coincide with our own, internal vote. The TWGGS vote for best young adult book went to "The Outsiders" by S. Hinton. All in all it was a fantastic evening, and I was proud of the girls' effort and enthusiasm. We look forward to next year's WKSTBA, which will start in September.

Y10 Spanish Exchange 2013 – Ellis Fish 10G

On 7th March a group of Year 10 girls went to stay with our exchange families in Spain, in an area called El Escorial in northwest Madrid. The teachers organised trips to Madrid and Segovia and, as well as some Spanish, we learnt some really interesting facts about Spanish history and culture - and we got in some shopping time too! Though most of us were really scared and nervous before we met our exchange partners, by the end of the week everyone had settled in fine, with the families organising weekend activities for us. Some of us got to try some traditional Spanish food, which was really lovely. Overall, everyone loved the trip and we are really excited about receiving our Spanish exchange partners in England in May.

The Spanish host families were absolutely delighted with the way our girls behaved during their stay. They all complimented them on how polite and well-mannered they were. We would like to thank the girls for their impeccable behaviour and on making the trip so easy-going - Señora Rodríguez and Señorita Spokes.

6th Form Architecture Workshop - Mrs Bence

On Thursday 21st March, fifteen 6th form students took part in an Architecture workshop which took place here at TWGGS. The event was run by Ambassadors from the University of Kent and their aim was to give the students an insight into a career in Architecture. The workshop outlined the structure of an Architecture course, portfolio requirements for an interview and the typical work schedule of an Architect. In addition, the girls learnt how to draw plan views, in detail.

This workshop complemented the A Level Design and Technology course which focuses on the built environment and also reinforced the students' career knowledge. The University of Kent are running a three day summer school for students (Year 11,12 and 13) who are interested in Architecture. Please see Mrs Bence for details.

U13 County Netball Tournament – Mrs Murray

On Thursday 7th February TWGGS U13 Netball Team competed in the annual Kent County Tournament at Rainham and with over 60 teams involved TWGGS were in really high spirits and keen to get playing, despite the very wet and cold weather. The team had a tough first round and showed great strength and determination when playing against Sydenham High to win 6-3. After a steady start TWGGS dominated the next few matches beating Dane Court 15-2, Fort Pitt 13-1 and Highworth 9-5. The girls' confidence was on a high going into the second round against Invicta, though as soon as the whistle was blown to start the game, both teams were showing their nerves. On the final whistle the game was 6-6, so they had to play on for a golden goal. Fortunately TWGGS held their nerve to keep possession and with calm shooting by Libby Horobin, TWGGS were through to the quarter finals.

Next up TWGGS faced Tonbridge Grammar who the week before had beaten TWGGS by 1 point at the local district tournament. After a tense start it seemed there was nothing between the two teams; again the score was 6-6 and another golden goal had to be scored. Lara Smith this time was the star for TWGGS, who shot very calmly under pressure to win 7-6. After the excitement of the last two games, TWGGS were certainly on a high and needed to re-focus for the tough task ahead against Benenden in the semi-

finals. Both teams were playing very strong netball, the defenders working tirelessly; in the last few minutes Benenden scored to win 7-5. So with TWGGS out of the finals and disappointed with the loss, they had 2 minutes to bounce back and tackle the playoffs for 3rd and 4th place against Sutton Valance. TWGGS had a 6-0 lead at half-time; the girls were exhausted and allowed Sutton Valance to come back to 7-7, then, with 30 seconds left of play, TWGGS managed to gain an 8-7 lead and hold onto to it until the whistle.

All of the team should be incredibly proud of their achievements, coming 3rd in the County is fantastic and they also have the title of top state school in Kent. Congratulations to all the team; Captain Lucy Ritson, Libby Horobin, Lara Smith, Charlotte Wager, Charlotte Moran, Emma Street, Charlotte Knudson, Ellie Searby and Jane Green.

Climbing Courses During the Easter Holidays

Kent and Sussex Climbing www.ksclimbing.co.uk will be running indoor and outdoor climbing courses during the Easter holidays. On Tuesdays (2nd and 9th April) and Wednesdays (3rd and 10th April) indoor courses will be held at The Skinners' School in their Sports Hall. There is an opportunity to climb outdoors on Friday (5th and 12th April) at Harrison's Rocks in Groombridge (TN3 9NH). 10:00-15:00 each day at a cost of £30 per person. Spaces are limited so please book in advance. Call Chris on 077 22 187 335 or 01892 861069 or email: info@ksclimbing.co.uk

Sociology Department – Mrs Burgess

Professor of Sociology Lord Anthony Giddens has kindly accepted an invitation to visit TWGGS to deliver a lunchtime lecture and Q & A session; he will be speaking in the PAC on Tuesday 23rd April from 12:35. His current field of interest incorporates the risks and opportunities posed by climate change and globalisation, and he has been collaborating with scientists on his latest work. In addition to Sociologists, girls studying (or thinking of studying) Politics, Geography or Economics may benefit from attending, although any pupil interested will be extremely welcome. Please encourage your daughter to take advantage of this unusual opportunity by attending this event.

German Department – Herr Link

This term we have been proud again to welcome our German exchange visitors from Bad Godesberg in Tunbridge Wells. They arrived on Friday 15 March and stayed until 22 March. Unfortunately, the weather – at least in the first few days - was not as welcoming as our girls who took their partners on days out to Brighton, London and a Bowling alley amongst other things. On the first day at school, on Monday 18 March, our visitors had the chance to sample English school life by participating in a full school assembly, visiting a lesson with their partners and taking part in their own History and English lessons taught by Mrs Sowerby and Mrs Bentham. Organised trips by the school gave them the opportunity to have a guided tour of Tunbridge Wells to find out a bit more about its history, and trips to London, Hever Castle and Chartwell offered more insights into the tourist attractions of Kent and South England. On Wednesday 20 March, German visitors and their partners visited the Tate Modern and Covent Garden in London. Luckily, the weather improved during the week and at least it did not rain as much anymore. The exchange has now been going for over 60 years and we are proud that it seems as strong as ever, and the girls enjoy bonding with their German visitors and showing them their native country.

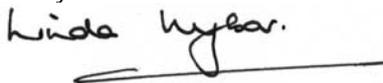
Easter in the German Department

Our intern, Silvia Homp, is organising a traditional Easter experience for our Year 7 girls. In preparation for Easter, German people boil eggs and colour them in different colours. They will then be eaten over the Easter holidays. Our Year 7 girls have the opportunity to try all this out themselves and create their own coloured eggs in the week running up to Easter.

Finally, it only remains to me to wish you all a very happy Easter.

With very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,



Linda Wybar (Mrs)
Headteacher

PTA NEWSLETTER MARCH 2013



This term our main fund-raiser has been the PTA Quiz Night. This was held on Friday 1st February and we are delighted to have raised a record £2200. Congratulations go to Fran Braham for a very successful inaugural TWGGS quiz, to all those who organised the food and to Mr Jamieson for organising the bar with his band of jolly helpers. The evening was, as always, very popular with a packed hall of 23 tables. In a nail-biting final, Mr Speller's 'The Quiz Waddles' beat Mr Jamieson's 'I'm sorry I haven't a clue' by 1 point.

The disco season has now come to an end - our discos have raised just over £3500 this academic year - a huge achievement which is all down to the hard work of Angie Foote and her 'disco' team. Angie will be leaving this year as her youngest daughter goes on to university. Since she joined the PTA, Angie's series of discos have raised well over £20,000 for the school so a huge thank you to her for all her hard work. Zoe Taylor will be taking over from Angie as disco co-ordinator.

The PTA has now completed its commitment to fund the furnishing of the new Hazell block (containing the sixth form centre and the RS department). This was taken on some ago with an estimated cost of £50-60,000. Final costs came in at over £71,000 and we have now covered all these costs. It is a great achievement and something which will benefit every pupil.

We have also agreed to jointly fund the planned orienteering course. The CCF have been awarded a grant to the tune of £500 towards the cost; the PTA is funding the remaining costs.

Our final planned expenditure this year will be to pay for a defibrillator and associated staff training. This will be installed in the school next term and I am sure everyone will be reassured by its presence. The proceeds from our forthcoming May raffle will be used primarily for this purpose.

Support for the easyfundraising shop, <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/twggspta>, continues to grow steadily, with nearly £700 raised since we joined the scheme. Can we ask anyone buying online from John Lewis/M&S/Debenhams/asos/amazon/apple (to name a few) to consider going via our PTA link? Thank you.

The 100+ club continues to be well-supported. For an annual payment of just £12 you are entered into a monthly draw with prizes of £75 and £50. Contact Alhaji on 100club@twggs.kent.sch.uk.

Future Diary Dates

Thursday May 2nd 2013 - May Raffle Draw

Tickets will be posted/delivered to every TWGGS family after Easter. We are delighted that Gen Business Solutions Ltd are sponsoring the raffle, the main aim of which will be to pay for the above-mentioned defibrillator.

Friday July 5th 2013 - 'Call my Bluff' Wine tasting

Following feedback, this event has been postponed to a later date as many parents felt that they wanted this event on a summer's evening.

Saturday October 19th 2013 - Harvest Ball at the Spa hotel. Details to follow.

Calling all Film Buffs!

The PTA are considering setting up a film club - parents would pay a small annual subscription in the region of £5 and then be entitled to see regular screenings of films in the PAC. Are there any parents with a keen interest in films who would like to be involved? - please email Judy on pta@twggs.kent.sch.uk

Many thanks for all your support

Karen Dodd & Judy Barrett (PTA joint chair)