

Dear Parent/Guardian

Thank you all very much for your responses to the Parent Questionnaire. These have now been sent off to the company which produces the data from them, and we should have this available to us by early February. We will, of course, both report back to you on the findings and let you know of plans to address issues raised.

Sadly, we need to say goodbye to Mrs Pascoe at the end of this term. Having been on maternity leave since early in the year, she has returned only briefly; a family relocation to another part of the country means she is unable to continue her work at TWGGS. In her eight years here, Mrs Pascoe has not only inspired and enthused girls in Chemistry, but supported Sixth Formers through UCAS and played an active role in staff development. We wish her and her family every happiness in their new life in Hertfordshire.

It was lovely to welcome back well over 90 of our U6th Leavers 2014 to Speech Day this Wednesday, as well as celebrating the considerable GCSE achievements of the now L6th. Buoyed by some outstanding musical pieces, our dynamic and inspirational speaker, Dany Cotton, Assistant Commissioner London Fire Brigade, and the happy buzz of Old Girls sharing their university and career experiences, we all ended the day on a high, having thoroughly enjoyed marking this important milestone with such special girls.

I would like to say a huge thank you to the TWGGS PTA and all parents who supported their fundraising efforts over the past year. During the half-term holiday, the floodlights on the netball courts were installed, courtesy of the PTA, following the school's refurbishment of the courts and surrounding fencing in the summer. The PE Department and CCF have particularly appreciated this excellent new facility, for which we are most grateful.

Congratulations to Mrs Joanna Challis who has joined the Governing Body as a parent governor following the recent election. Thank you too, to the other candidates; we are most grateful that they would wish to support the school in this way.

The Beth Freeman Memorial Hockey Match 16th December 2014 – Miss Parkinson

Edenbridge Hockey Club visited TWGGS to take part in the memorial match for Beth Freeman. The TWGGS team was made up of the old girls that Beth played with from last year, plus a couple of guests. It was lovely to see so many spectators cheering the teams on. Before the match started, both teams and the spectators gave a hearty three cheers for Beth.

The whistle went and both teams played competitively, wanting to do their best in memory of Beth. Edenbridge started well and TWGGS defended well to keep them out. Within 5 minutes, the TWGGS Old Girls looked like they had never been apart; all their patterns of play were there, and they clicked into action like a well-oiled machine. TWGGS took the lead after a fine individual effort by Sophie Maunder. TWGGS then scored another two goals before half time to give them a 3-0 advantage. Edenbridge started the second half strongly, and TWGGS did well to soak up the pressure. A couple of chances screamed past the post and you could hear the sighs of relief from the defence. TWGGS, however, got back into their stride and some lovely unselfish team hockey, which was a joy to watch, culminated in another 8 goals being scored. The final score was 11-0 to TWGGS with hat-tricks from Maddie Godfrey and Sophie Maunder.

Beth would have loved every minute of this match; seeing the supporters cheering everyone on, and of course, the delicious teas and hot chocolate after the game. Thank you to everyone for making the effort to come and support this event; the umpires and players, and for all who donated to Beth's memorial fund. It was a night to remember.

Ghana Trip – Sophie Morris, L6S

Over the last 18 months, 15 of us have been fundraising for the Ghana Education Project to help build a fully functioning secondary school for girls in a deprived region of north-eastern Ghana. In return for our work, in late October 2014, we were able to go out to Ghana for 3 weeks to visit the school, and see the results of our fundraising in action. We experienced lots of new things and discovered a culture very different from our own, making it a truly once in a lifetime trip.

We spent the first two weeks of our trip in Nkwanta, staying at the Kyabobo Centre, the community centre built under the guidance of Gill Norris, the founder of the project. We spent time in two local secondary schools, with ages ranging from 11 to 21. We taught them English, maths, biology and geography, encouraging them to read and speak English as much as possible. We soon discovered that what they most loved hearing about was what life is like in England - especially the weather and our fake snow! While we were in Nkwanta we were able to try lots of the local food, visit the vibrant markets and play intense games of volleyball and football against the Senior High School - unfortunately we lost very badly! We also attended an unbelievably enthusiastic

church service and climbed the mountain in the nearby national park, where we saw the camp site that TWGGS girls stayed at on the first Ghana trip in 1997.

The Kyabobo School was absolutely incredible with outstanding facilities and lovely welcoming staff. The girls were exceedingly confident compared to the girls at the other schools and were enormously eager to learn and improve. It was very rewarding to see what all our fundraising had built and what an impact it has had on the girls' lives. On our last day in Nkwanta we attended a cultural day where the Kyabobo girls and the TWGGS team performed dances, songs and plays. Having thought how similar we were to all the girls there, their play really shocked us in showing that their biggest struggle in life was still simply persuading their parents to allow them to go to school. However, we all felt confident that having been given the opportunity of attending this exceptional school and grow very strong academically, that the perception of girls having to stay at home to help with the housework would soon change.

We spent the final week of our trip travelling around Ghana; we visited Wli Falls (the tallest waterfall in Western Africa), a Cape Coast slave fort and did a canopy walkway through the rainforest. The team were also able to get involved in making some traditional Ghanaian crafts such as tie-dying, bead-making and batik-printing as well as having a few days relaxing by the pool. My three weeks in Ghana was one of the best times of my life; we grew extremely close as a team and made memories that will stay with me for a long time. I hope the Kyabobo School continues to be the huge success that it is and would like to thank all our teachers and parents for their fantastic support, which allowed us to have this amazing experience.

India Exchange October 2014 - Georgia Edgley, 11W

In October, 16 girls from TWGGS and 12 boys from Judd went on the journey of a lifetime to India. After the first few days where we stayed at a nice beach resort to get acclimatised, spending our days travelling around the southern state of Kerala, we met our exchange partners who would be our hosts for a further two weeks. Visiting temples and palaces in the area, learning about the production and cultivation of spices and tea, spending a day or two in our exchange school, having traditional Indian head massages and riding elephants were just some of the activities we did during our 3-week stay. As well as these day trips, we also learned an astounding amount from our hosts, experiencing every aspect of Indian culture and family life, not forgetting to mention their incredible hospitality, generosity and warmth. We were so welcomed by everyone and the trip was a truly inspiring and life-changing experience for everyone who took part in the exchange. Even now, a month after our return, we all miss India's dynamism and vibrancy very much, and the special friendships we formed through the trip – both with our Exchange partners and with the other members of the TWGGS and Judd group - are unlikely to be broken; we will continue to hold on to these special memories for many years to come.

An Eventful Term For TWGGS CCF Unit – Nigel Bourne, Governor

This has been a busy and eventful term for the CCF unit. The cadets were fortunate to have a once in a lifetime experience planting poppies at the Tower of London in mid October. This was followed by the Remembrance Sunday parade in Tunbridge Wells, where the TWGGS cadets were a most impressive sight and a great credit to the school and the training they have received. We have received glowing comments from all over Tunbridge Wells, many from people with no previous connection with the school.

There were then two major events during the last week of November, the first of which was the re-badging of the unit. This was as a result of a change in the sponsoring regiment from the Princess of Wales Royal Regiment to the Royal Engineers. A maximum turnout of cadets delivered a programme that included displays of first aid, signals, command tasks and a display from regular soldiers from the Royal Engineers. The highlight was the cadets' display of rifle drill to music with no commands, an amazing achievement and brilliantly executed. The formal re-badging was undertaken by Lieutenant Colonel Nicky Bell, who had not visited TWGGS before and was understandably impressed by the high standards she witnessed. Following the formal ceremony the contingent now wears blue rather than khaki berets – very smart!

This notable event was followed at the end of the week by the Annual CCF Charity Dinner at High Rocks. Over 160 TWGGS and visiting cadets, parents, staff and other VIP guests were there. This was, of course, an opportunity for everybody to dress up for the evening which added to the splendour of the occasion. However, there were also a few problems indentifying some of the girls with entirely different hairstyles and not wearing their usual uniforms! The evening was a formal dinner followed by speeches from the CSM, Iona McCaul, Major Patricia McParlin and Sgt Luke Price who was leaving the Cadet Training Team, having been involved with the contingent from the outset. The main speech was given by Lieut Colonel Dickie Hawkins who thought that giving the speech was a far more forbidding task than his day job defusing land mines!

The speeches from senior Army personnel at both of these events had a common theme, the growing reputation of TWGGS CCF, the largest all-female contingent in the UK. This reputation is clearly growing throughout the cadet movement and the regular army. What the girls have achieved this term certainly proves that this is richly deserved.

“Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red, where angels dare to tread”- Cdt Bethany Cronin, 11T

So begins a poem written by an unknown soldier as he considered the horrors of World War One. And these were the words borrowed by artist Paul Cummins as he set about creating the amazing art installation that gradually evolved in the dry moat of the Tower of London to commemorate the centenary of the outbreak of WW1. By the time the final poppy had been planted on Armistice Day, November 11th 2014, there were 888,246 ceramic poppies in place, each one representing the loss of one life, one Commonwealth or British soldier killed in the war.

On October 12th, a good number of TWGGS CCF contingent, plus a few parents and friends, travelled up to the Tower to take part in one of the four hour planting shifts. Dressed in our uniform we were greeted by one of the Tower's Beefeaters or Yeomen Warders as they are more properly known. We were given goggles and gloves, to comply with health and safety regulations, and shown how to assemble and plant each poppy. I will never forget how I felt when I planted my very first poppy – just one in a huge sea of red – but representative of one more life lost, and possibly a young soldier just a few years older than me. It was a very moving experience that I will never forget.

The poppies are gone now, just a passing art installation reminding us of the transience of life. Each one has been 'picked' by more volunteers and after cleaning and packaging they are being sent out to the thousands who have bought them and donated to charities who support our heroes and their families. I'm waiting for my poppy to arrive any day now, and look forward to displaying it as a lasting reminder of the Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red.

Poppy Selling – Victoria Tester, 11I

On the 8th of November, the TWGGS CCF volunteered as a varied group of cadets to help the British Legion sell poppies for Remembrance Day in the Tunbridge Wells centre. The cadets were separated into pairs and were placed at two points in the town for one hour each. Their presence and politeness helped the charity sell an impressive amount of poppies to the public and each cadet spread the importance of Remembrance Day. The girls seemed to enjoy the opportunity to take part in and help a worthwhile cause that is important to the cadet force. Each volunteer should feel proud of the way she represented the TWGGS cadet force to the public and should be content with her contribution towards the marking of the centenary.

News From the German Department - 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 February 2015. If you can offer a room please contact Herr Link at TWGGS (german@twggs.kent.sch.uk).

We said goodbye on 17 December to Bianca Schleinkofer who has been with us since September as the latest intern in our programme. She has helped and supported us a lot and we hope that she takes lasting memories from TWGGS back to Germany.

Cologne Christmas Markets Trip for Year 9 - Hannah Naismith 9S

On my initial visit to TWGGS, as a naive, eager Year 6, the Cologne trip stood prominent as something I really wanted to do - it was legendary. Three years later, I was drifting through school in a typical German lesson when Herr Link announced that letters would be coming round about Cologne. A tsunami of relentless questions poured upon him and we gasped in triumphant excitement: Cologne! Then finally, it was Thursday 27th November, the date circled in festive red on my calendar, 5 o'clock in the dreary morning, and we were huddling with everyone and anyone, in a futile attempt to conserve heat from the torrential downpour, waiting for the coaches. Fast forward ten hours of binge eating Starbursts and Mean Girls prancing around on the TV screen, we were there – actually in the cobbled square, gazing up at the Kölner Dom. Our first Christmas Market was certainly the most remarkable with lights seemingly hanging from the sky and “Stille Nacht” echoing through the air. It was also the first time I ever sampled potato pancakes with apple sauce, which is apparently a true German delicacy and I completely understand why!

The following day we visited three additional markets and had the opportunity to tour round the Kölner Dom or go to Primark. My friends and I actually concluded that voyaging up a 1000 steps was definitely worth it and, with some coffee and team morale, we managed it. Another highlight of the trip was when we cruised in a luxury vessel (we kid you not!) along the Rhine where we slurped hot chocolates and eventually got heaved up onto the stage by Santa to sing our favourite German carol: “Laßt uns froh und munter sein”. Throughout the whole trip I didn't stop laughing and to anyone who is not feeling particularly festive, I chant with the whole of Year 9, FROHE WEIHNACHTEN!

German Exchange - Sasha Chown 10I

I wasn't really awake when we left Tunbridge Wells last Thursday morning, 4 December, at 7am, but it prepared me for a whole week of very early starts. The journey to Bonn-Bad Godesberg was long and tiring, and although we were all very nervous and

scared when we arrived at Clara Fey Gymnasium – the grammar school with which the exchange was organised – we had an absolutely brilliant time in Germany with the families. The highlights of the week have to be the Haribo Factory Shop, the Lindt Chocolate Factory Shop and the Christmas markets, although the museums, time in the German school, glassblowing workshop and cathedrals were all very interesting and exciting too. There was so much to buy in Haribo that it has to be seen to be believed! There was every type of sweet imaginable as well as bags, folders, T-shirts, cushions, toys...My friends and I managed to fill two trolleys between us! The Christmas Markets were even better than I remembered from the Cologne trip in Year 9, and the cathedrals in Aachen and Cologne were simply breath-taking. My family took me to a Saint Nikolaus celebration where I made pretzels and cookies with the young children and they arranged for me to meet the man himself! I met some of my friends at Drachenfels (one of mountains in the Siebengebirge – The Seven Hills – just outside Bonn) on Sunday where we watched a German production of 'A Christmas Carol' and I was able to recognise some of the well-known lines. We were all very sad when we left Bad Godesberg early Wednesday morning, as our exchange partners and their families were all lovely. However, we were all very glad to see our own families again after a week away. I can't recommend this trip highly enough, as I know my German has improved and I had a fantastic time – my younger sister has already booked her ticket!

Debating – Mrs Johnstone

The TWGGS senior debaters have got off to a flying start this year, with convincing wins in the first rounds of the Cambridge and English Speaking Union Mace competitions. All of our teams won through in the Cambridge University first round, held at Sevenoaks School, where we won three of the five rooms, and our 'swing team' of Y11s Rosie Judd and Charlotte Martin (called up on the day to stand in for another school) were only narrowly beaten by a sixth form team from Sevenoaks which included an international debater! Congratulations go to them, and to Coco Collard, Ellie Drewry, Eve Drysdale, Phoebe Segal, Polly Smythe and Rachel Weatherley.

There will be a raft of further junior and senior competitions starting early next term. Could parents of debaters please respond to the letter which was circulated recently asking about availability.

MUNGA – Mrs Johnstone

The annual MUNGA was held in late November in the Town Hall, and once again the TWGGS pupils distinguished themselves, with Polly Smythe, representing Russia on the Intranational Conflict Committee, given an award as runner-up for best delegate. Special mention is also given to the girls who played such an active role in the Press team, particularly Laura Newton as the very professional editor of the broadsheet, Georgia Edgley, who helped pull together the tabloid team, and Ollie Howitt, who filmed the day's proceedings. Thanks also to Mr Walker and Miss Mundy for their help with preparing the delegates for the MUNGA.

Parents' Reading Group – Mrs Johnstone

The parents' reading group is going strong, but we are always looking out for new members, particularly parents of younger pupils. If anyone is interested in joining, please get in touch with me for more details. Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 21st January, when we shall be discussing 'We are all Completely Beside Ourselves' by Karen Joy Fowler and 'The Last Runaway' by Tracey Chevalier –and probably eating cake as well!

Books Galore – Half-price book fair – Mrs Mattheus-Ratcliffe, Librarian

Forget Black Friday or Cyber Monday. At TWGGS we had our book fair which created as least as much interest as any discount sales on-line or in a retail store. Excitement levels in the library rose to new heights with over 200 book titles, plus stationery, little gifts and posters - all at 50% discount. Excited shrieks and lots of chatter about individuals books could be heard everywhere. Our girls enthusiastically entered into the pre-Christmas spirit and bought many presents for siblings, friends, cousins and parents, and, of course, themselves. The latest bestsellers like *Maze Runner* and *If I Stay* flew off the shelves in the first 20 minutes on the first day and I can safely vouch that the e-book has not pushed 'real' books out of the market yet. In fact, we liked the fair so much that we have already booked another one for next Christmas; keep watching this space for further details next autumn.

News from the Art Department – Mrs Curtis

It has been a busy term in the Art Department, commencing before the term even began with a number of our girls giving up their time to run a voluntary art project for Manna Café in Tunbridge Wells. Rosie Brain and Ella Decelis, in particular, gave up much of their time to face paint and run children's workshops during the summer holiday, raising money for the café's charity. In September, we took the L6 to the Folkestone Art Triennial for the day. The various contemporary artworks installed around the town and seaside provided great inspiration for the L6 who spent the day collecting, photographing and exploring. The trip has provided inspiration for their work throughout this term; in particular, themes of nature overcoming decaying manmade structures, changes within the sea and sky, and inspiration from Folkestone's buildings have prevailed.

October saw a visit from ex-TWGGS girl and fashion designer, Lucy Hayes, as the first in a series of 'creative careers' talks. The talk was very well attended with girls impressed to hear of Lucy's career pathway following on from her fashion degree. Many stayed to ask questions, with Lucy giving them a good overview of the fashion world. Most recently, we took the Year 10 GCSE

girls to two excellent London exhibitions: Anselm Kiefer at the Royal Academy and Pipilotti Rist at the Hauser and Wirth galleries. The girls were thoroughly engaged throughout the day, gleaning much information from the tour guides at the Royal Academy and then spending time to experience and contemplate the enormity of Kiefer's works. Pipilotti Rist's video installation provided a welcome contrast to Kiefer's bleak outlook on life. With duvets to wrap themselves up in (very welcome after the cold walk to the gallery), the girls were soon immersed fully in Rist's sensory video piece to the extent that they were reluctant to leave the gallery! These two exhibitions will now provide inspiration for next term's project.

News from The Music Department – Mrs Waddington

The TWGGS string quartets have had a busy term. In October we were asked to play at the Mayor's Civic Dinner - a prestigious event attended by many local dignitaries. The girls represented our school admirably and they received many enthusiastic comments from the assembled guests. The Senior Quartet also played at the CCF Annual Dinner. Again, there were many glowing comments from those present and we are so grateful to those girls for giving up their Friday evening to support the CCF. Our thanks and congratulations go to Lizzie Millar, Olivia Ziani, Harriet Mullis, Ellie Waddington and Poppy Walters.

One of the other major events of the year is the Junior Concert which gives girls the opportunity to demonstrate their work from both inside and outside the classroom. This year we were treated to a variety of performances from our junior orchestras and ensembles, some excellent composition and performance work from Year 8 and 9 groups, and many inspirational soloist performances. It is always a pleasure to see the level of talent that our KS3 girls have to offer and their commitment to extra-curricular activities is to be commended. Thank you girls for everything you do for the department; have a well-earned break.

Friday 5th December saw the annual TWGGS Carol Service held in St John's Church. All of the school choirs are involved in this event and this year they surpassed themselves with the Carol Service being described as 'the best yet' by many of our regular attendees. A huge thank you and well done goes to all of those girls who helped to make the evening such a success. There were some beautiful solos from Abby Clare, Ellie Waddington, Eleanor Hennebry, Lily Wadsworth, Gabrielle Morris, Poppy Walters, Rosie Waddington and Betty Reynolds. Mr Corse of the Maths Department produced an arrangement of Away in a Manger for the service which was sung very enthusiastically by Staff Choir supported by Senior Chamber Choir and Year 7, with Naomi Record as a charming soloist. Another highlight was the Carol 'Keep on Walking' composed especially for the occasion by girls in 7G - Annie Chown, Eve Palmer, Emily Blackwell, Eleanor Herman and Izzy Jones. Congratulations to all those involved.

News from the Drama Department – Mrs Davis

Another busy term in the Drama department! Girls across all key stages have been working hard, enjoying a range of activities, trips and special events. Zoe Erleben and Hannah Rayner, the Senior Drama Prefects, organised a delightful afternoon of festive fun when they directed the annual "Year 7 Teatime Theatre". Working alongside 47 keen girls at the weekly drama club, they were able to put on a series of delightful extracts from Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" to entertain parents, friends and staff. All of the girls who took part should feel very proud of their accomplishments. They took responsibility for acting, singing, costume sound and lighting. A special mention must go to Annie Chown; her piano playing was both accomplished and festive! Hannah and Zoe's dedication and enthusiasm for drama is highly commendable; we are very grateful to them for all of the opportunities they provide the younger girls. Drama club will continue to run every Friday from 1pm in the Performing Arts Centre next term – do come along if you would like to join in!

Year 11 pupils also had the chance to perform to a live audience this term in preparation for their final Unit 3 examination, which will take place in May. Working in groups of 6, they showcased their devised performances based on the popular game of Cluedo for their mock examination. Their light-hearted ensemble pieces were both entertaining and impressive owing to the range of innovative ideas presented. Well done to all of the girls involved.

The Sixth Form pupils are also working tirelessly in preparation for their practical examinations which will take place early next year. Any girls considering taking Theatre Studies at A Level are encouraged to attend to see the high standard of work produced. Please keep a close eye on the school calendar for moderation dates and let the department know if you would like a seat reserved. In preparation for these examinations, the girls have been to see a variety of theatre, both in London and closer to home. We took the Upper Sixth to Tonbridge to see an ensemble performance called "Riot", a physical theatre piece that was highly entertaining. A collection of girls studying naturalism also saw "The Cherry Orchard", directed by Katie Mitchell. Both AS and A2 pupils were also lucky enough to see two sell-out productions: "A Streetcar Named Desire" at the Young Vic, for which Gillian Anderson has just been awarded Best Actress, and "John" a physical piece at the National by the prestigious theatre company DV8.

There are a huge number of girls who still need to return their consent forms for the "Wizard of Oz" DVD. Please do this as soon as possible so that we can progress with editing and producing the DVD for purchase. Spare letters are available on the Drama noticeboard in the Performing Arts Centre.

U16 County Netball Tournament – Miss Auer

On 6th November the newly formed U16 Netball Squad started their campaign to get to the county finals, to join the U19 team.. The team started confidently winning 17-2 against Rochester Grammar, a staggering 28-0 against Herne Bay High and 9-8 against Chislehurst and Sidcup. The final game of the day saw TWGGS take on Langley Park Girls. Nerves and jitters were felt by all, as would be the decider of which team came top of the pool to go through to finals. Both teams were under pressure, however the girls worked tirelessly to win 10-8 and gain their well-deserved position in the county finals.

Netball County Finals - Miss Auer

The netball county finals were held on Saturday 6th December, where TWGGS U14, U16 and U19s were ready to take on the other 7 top schools in the county. In Baltic conditions of -1, everyone slowly started to congregate at Rainham School for Girls where the courts in the morning were looking rather lethal blanketed in frost, however as the morning sun rose this didn't stop the girls from fully preparing themselves for their matches ahead.

A snapshot of the results:- The U14s came 4th, the U16s came 5th and the U19s came 1st in their age group, which is a fantastic achievement for all. The U14 and U16 had been hit by absences and injuries in the run up to the qualifying rounds as well as on the day of the tournament, and all showed great versatility along with the determination to succeed given the tough circumstances.

U14 A highlight was their win against Dartford, the school that knocked them out of the tournament for the past few years. After only being 1-0 at half time, they then went on and beat them 8-2. The U14s throughout the day showed their ability to support each other on court, look after their shooters and slow their play down to allow the movement in the shooting circle to rotate to put up some blinding shots. There were some fantastic interceptions made by the defence throughout the day, which contributed to their successes of 4 of their matches. Congratulations to the following girls from the U14s:- Anna Lumley, Thuraya Lawal, Connie Howard, Alice Waters, Emma Holmes, Jess Smith, Michaela Holding, Sophie Whitaker and Elena Holland.

U16 There was some strong play that saw TWGGS link the play effortlessly down court within a forever changing centre court structure, and they should be proud of how they performed. A highlight was beating Invicta who before this tournament provided TWGGS with a challenging match. Winning 3 games, drawing 1 and then losing 3 in such narrowly scored games is a good set of results. Congratulations to the following girls from the U16s:- Flo Colengelo, Elissa Moon, Daisy Macnutt, Lucy Ritson, Margot Roberson-Leech, Grace Corcoran, Katie Nunn, Imogen Cowdell, Grace Collins and Emma Wadsworth.

U19 U19s won and therefore have qualified to represent Kent at the regional tournament in January. After scoring 134 goals and only conceding 9 in the qualifying rounds, TWGGS went to this tournament being a very threatening team. With this comes a pressure that the girls are then put under to perform to the expected top standard with minimal errors made. The girls in the U19s did themselves proud, as they stormed the tournament with some of the best play seen. The pressure seemed not to faze them and they remained focused, calm and controlled through some tough matches. A highlight for the U19s was their final match, which saw them facing Sevenoaks. Both teams had won all their matches so far, so this was the decider as to who won the tournament. TWGGS had a shaky start with Sevenoaks defence making some vital turnovers, which they scored off and were up by 2 within minutes of the game. TWGGS clawed back and by half time the score was even at 4-4. The intensity of the game rose and it was a nail biting second half as each team scored goal for goal till it was 6-6. TWGGS then stepped up the gears and continued to sink the goals winning 12-6. Huge congratulations must go to:- Georgie Bailey, Hatty Montgomery, Lydia Slaughter, Yasmin Absolon, Rose Hairs, Emma Johnson, Antonia Murray, Hattie Gomersall, Kath Taylor and Lily Wadsworth. Congratulations and we are all looking forward to the regional round on 25th January.

Weald of Kent Acrobatics Competition – Miss Guy

On Monday 10th November our gymnastics team participated in the Weald of Kent Sports Acrobatics competition for the fourth time. As always our girls showed true professionalism and ability with many entries spread across the Novice Pairs, Regional Pairs, Regional Trios and Advanced categories. This year the girls were in charge of putting their routines together and their choreography showed precision, musicality and variety. The majority of girls competed in the novice and regional pairs categories where the level of competition was extremely high. Walthamstow Hall and Charles Darwin were strong opponents and their experience within this competition stood out. The girls' routines however were still very strong and we managed to take away medals in each entered category, which is a first for TWGGS in this competition.

In the Novice pairs category, Sophie Whitaker and Lucy Berkeley secured bronze with a very high score of 9.0. In the regional pairs, Sophie Semmens and Imogen Hunt took the silver which was a fantastic achievement. The regional and advanced trios got the gold, as well as the group. A special mention must go to Emily Arnold who stepped in at the last minute (learning the routine in just a day). Even though we did not all achieve medals, all our girls worked exceptionally hard and still achieved points which meant that as a school we came first, winning the cup! This is the first time TWGGS has won overall; congratulations to all involved.

Tunbridge Wells Junior Badminton Tournament – Miss Guy

On 16th November, our U12 & U14s went to the Tunbridge Wells Junior Badminton Tournament at the Angel Centre, Tonbridge. The competition was a doubles format with 2 pairs per year group competing for TWGGS. Considering the pairs only have half an hour a week to practise together, TWGGS did very well. Amelia Fowler and Ciara Barry (L6) have been doing a fantastic job coaching the juniors and this has been evidenced by the medals won. Our U12 pair, Indigo Gentry and Maia Pearmine, 7W, won the gold, whilst Lucy Waters and Tiegen Green, 7S came 2nd winning a silver. The U14 pair Lily Montague, 9T and Jemima Morris, 9G also gained a silver medal. Well done to all the girls who competed including those who did not receive any medals.

Kent School Games U14 & U16 Badminton Tournament – Miss Guy

On Thursday 27th November 8 girls went to the Kent School Games badminton tournament at TGS. The competition was a doubles and singles format with 2 pairs per year group competing for TWGGS. Amelia Fowler (coach) supervised the juniors through their games whilst the U16 team supported one another throughout. Our U14 team was made up of Year 8s Kitty Prust, Alice Saunderson, Olivia and Rachel Moran. The U16 team consisted of Hannah Johnson, Laura Johnson, Charlie Duthie and Catherine Bird. Both teams did really well to beat Bennett and TGS (B), winning almost every game. However, TGS (A) proved to be our toughest opponent winning 4-2 in games. Taking 2nd place in both age groups is a great achievement; well done!

Equestrian Team - Regional Points League Competition - Miss Guy

The TWGGS Equestrian team had their first outing of the season this month at the Regional Points League competition at Golden Cross. Micky Holding (9W) riding Carnival King and Elinor Steward (8S) riding Trivie had good double clear rounds in the 70 and 80cm classes with Elinor finishing 10th out of 60 entries in her first schools competition. A good start to the season!

Sainsbury School Sports Hall Athletics – Miss Auer and Miss Guy

Twelve KS3 girls went to Skinners' to compete in the qualifying rounds for the sports hall athletics county final competition. This involved the girls competing in track and field events from individual to team races. After a shaky start due to illnesses, the girls proved themselves to be very adaptable with some taking on events they had never participated in before. TWGGS came 1st which is a tremendous achievement and will be representing Kent in the near future. Congratulations to Year 7s Lucy Waters, Aimee Hopley, Eve Palmer, Amalie Duggal and Rosie Froome, and Year 8sw, Rachel Moran, Abigail Johnstone, Lottie Van der Zanden, Izzie Porter, Jennifer Kearney, Thea Pengelly and Hollie Niccolls.

Junior Knole Run, Friday 21st November – Mrs Field, Cross Country Coach

Congratulations to our junior cross country runners for showing such courage and determination at this annual, local event. The team was placed sixth out of 30 teams in the girls' race, which is a real achievement, particularly in such muddy and hilly conditions. A huge "well done" to the whole team, especially our novice runners, of whom we were especially proud: Isabelle Baker, Jennifer Kearney, Bella Callaway, Olivia Moran, Abigail Johnstone, Tabitha Preston, Jessica Ash, Zoe Ugarow, Phoebe Cavanagh, Jasmine Lewtas, Alice Sanderson and Freya Henderson. Many thanks also to the parents who came along to provide such enthusiastic support, it was much appreciated. We hope that our runners do as well in the forthcoming Kent Schools Championship on Saturday 17th January in Dartford.

Georgina Grant, L6T – Mrs Wybar

Congratulations to Georgie who qualified for the next set of GB rowing trials held in Boston (Lincolnshire) in November. To qualify she had to do a 2km piece on an erg (rowing machine) rating capped at 24. Georgie came 23 out of 125 girls with a time of 7.31.

Molly Sacker, 10I – Mrs Wybar

Congratulations to Molly, who has been selected as part of the Royal Yachting Association UK Youth/ Junior Squad, thus recognising her potential to progress within the Great Britain Sailing Team. She has been selected on the basis of her performance and commitment to a programme of training and competition and this establishes her status as a UK Squad sailor, whom the RYA hopes will represent Great Britain at major international events in forthcoming years. We are very proud of Molly's achievements and wish her every future success.

Congratulations to Caitlin Fearon, 10S – Mrs Wybar

Caitlin has qualified for the 2015 British Championships, which is a competition held in March at the London Aquatic Centre, and will include British Olympians competing - a fantastic opportunity for her to swim alongside older elite swimmers. She has already qualified for the 400m and 800m Freestyle events, and she will be swimming in Northampton to try and qualify for the 200m Freestyle.

Sophie Whitaker, 9W – South East Regional Floor and Vault Competition - Miss Guy

On Sunday 19th October, Sophie competed in a South-East regional floor and vault competition in the silver category. She competed against 20 gymnasts who train up to 5 hours a week. Sophie showed her true TWGGS spirit as she performed with confidence and grace. Even though she had some tough competition, Sophie was awarded a gold medal which is a fantastic achievement.

Lucy King-Powrie ,11S – Biathlon

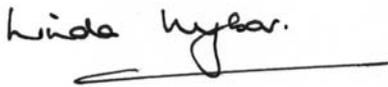
Lucy took part in the South of England Biathlon Championships earlier this month, representing TWGGS in the U16 age group. She came sixth overall, out of many tough competitors, qualifying for the national event at the Olympic Park. This will be the second time she has qualified to such a high level. Well done, Lucy and good luck in the next round.

CRICKET – Miss Parkinson

Girls have the opportunity to take part in coaching sessions on the following days. For the sessions at Tonbridge School, we would need parents to take girls to these sessions. Please sign the list on the PE notice board if you are interested in taking part, or email – assthead@twggs.kent.sch.uk

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|----------|-------------|---------|------------------|
| Thursday | 12 February | 5 – 6pm | Tonbridge School |
| Thursday | 26 February | 4 – 5pm | TWGGS |
| Thursday | 5 March | 5 – 6pm | Tonbridge School |
| Thursday | 12 March | 4 – 5pm | TWGGS |
| Thursday | 19 March | 5 – 6pm | Tonbridge School |
| Thursday | 26 March | 4 – 5pm | TWGGS |

Finally, it only remains for me to wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful 2015. With best wishes,



Mrs L Wybar
Head Teacher