

Dear Parent/Guardian

As you are all aware, Mr Speller is unfortunately very unwell and likely to be off school for some time. He and his family have been very touched by the warmth and magnitude of the good wishes he has received and we all continue to wish him well on his road to recovery. We are most grateful to Mrs Waddington (a different Mrs W!) for assisting the Physics Department, to Mr Mahon, for stepping into the breach with A Level classes and to the many other staff who are assisting in so many ways. Mrs Pascoe leaves to go on maternity leave at half-term and we wish her well; we will welcome Mrs Hack after the holiday who will take over Mrs Pascoe's classes (with Mrs Newton and Dr Brimsted assuming responsibility for the U6th group).

Safer Internet Day/ Anti-bullying – Miss Parkinson

Tuesday 11th February was Safer Internet Day and we encouraged the girls to think about safe use of the internet and to ensure that they do not get involved in any type of bullying behaviour. We ask girls to report any bullying behaviour, as it will not be tolerated at TWGGS. We are updating our anti-bullying policy and this will be available on the website at the end of March. If parents have any comments to make we would welcome these. The school council have helped to design anti-bullying posters and these will be put up around school after half term.

Please note that we are hosting an e-safety evening for parents on Thursday 19th June. Places are limited so please return the slip from the letter you recently received from us, as soon as possible - assthead@twggs.kent.sch.uk

Debating Success - Mrs Johnstone

In January the TWGGS senior debaters had great success at the first round of the Oxford Debating Competition. For the first time, TWGGS hosted this major competition, which saw 40 teams from all over Kent and Sussex come together to debate whether public figures should be forcibly 'outed' by gay rights groups, and whether students from low-performing schools should be set lower entry grades by universities. Only five teams were able to progress to the next round, and we were delighted when all three TWGGS teams were selected. Congratulations go to the Sixth Form teams of Ellie May & Polly Smythe, and Coco Collard & Ellie Drewry, but also to the Y11 team of Laura Clarke & India Hicks, who saw off their Sixth Form competitors and emerged victorious!

The London Bar Mock Trial Competition – Mr Franklin

On Saturday 16th November 13 Sixth Formers went to the London Regional Heat of the Bar Mock Trial Competition, accompanied by myself and Mr Drewry (parent); thanks to Mrs Freeman, Mr Drewry and all the girls for giving up their time and for their efforts in producing a very impressive performance. This annual competition is held in real courtrooms in front of serving judges, allowing young people to take all the roles in a criminal trial. TWGGS competed against 15 other schools, prosecuting and defending successfully in three trials. TWGGS and Northolt School were the top two schools in the competition and fought in a final trial. TWGGS were defending our client in front of a serving "Red" Judge. Once again our team won its case in a highly professional way. We were declared victors of the London Regional Heat with a place in the National on March 22nd in Cardiff.

Our girls were divided into two teams acting as the defence and prosecution. Each side had two cases to master: a brawl at the door of a nightclub involving a bouncer and an underage student and a matter of fare evasion on the London Underground. Our two clients were found not guilty, and the two defendants from other teams (playing the same role) found themselves convicted by our team of legal eagles. Ellie May, Nancy Kelehar, Eleanor Drewry and Laura Newton made outstanding barristers performing in court with confidence and professionalism. Hannah Lindley deserves special mention for taking on two roles in alternate trials as Court Clerk and Usher; Daisy Jardine-Viner, Gemma Pring, Claire Hunt and Lucy Milson made an impressive series of appearances in the witness box. Nia Lewis, Bethan Young, Katharine Moulton and Hannah Cowdell were excellent jurors, and the team received compliments from sitting judges and practising barristers on an outstanding and mature performance.

Staff Bake Off! Imogen Cowdell, 10W

This term fifteen teachers have taken part in a Bake Off in the hope of being crowned 'star baker'. Over the past two weeks they have baked numerous mouth-watering cakes and cookies sold at Monday break times. So far the competition has raised over £300 for Ghana Education Project! The favourites to win are Mrs Radcliffe and Mrs Newton, but all could change in the next round. Mrs Wilson and Mr Smith, using their extensive baking knowledge, have judged what staff have made each week. Noteworthy bakes include Mr Breeze's amazing millionaire shortbread and Mr Nugent's excellent chocolate chilli brownies. So far the cake sales have been a great success and we hope the final, which will be judged principally on decoration, will sell out! The Ghana Team would like to say a big thank you to all the staff who have taken part and the girls who have supported the cake sales!

Regional Netball Report – Mrs Murray

Both our U16 and U19 netball squads represented Kent at the London and South East Regional Netball Tournament on Sunday 9th February. With extremely wet and stormy weather postponing the tournament half way through on the original date back in January, the girls had their work cut out to continue the second part of the tournament that was re-scheduled for last Sunday!

The U19s had a tough tournament with exceptional netball being played by all teams. The girls played well under enormous pressure as well as having to cope with very windy conditions, injuries and changes within the team for the second day. TWGGS came 7th overall with the following results; they won 9-1 against Goldolphin and 8-3 against Bancrofts, and lost to Barking Abbey 2-7, St Catherines 3-7, L.E.H 4-9, Benenden 8-13 and Guildford High School 6-7. A huge well done to all the team involved for making it this far; it is such a huge step up to the U19 age group and they must remember that this is the first time any U19 TWGGS netball team has made it to a regional final which is a great achievement in itself. Congratulations to the U19 Squad – Captain Amy Moriarty, Maddie Nagel, Georgie Stafford, Izzie Tol, Alice Pavey, Hattie Montgomery, Georgie Bailey, Antonia Murray, Hattie Gomersall and Lily Wadsworth.

It was a different story in the U16 competition: after narrowly missing out on qualifying for the regionals when the team members were in Year 9, they were ecstatic to reach the regionals this year and couldn't wait to get their tournament started. The team showed great composure in the toughest of conditions which was ultimately their advantage over the opposing schools. The girls played some very smooth netball with incredible shooting, winning all matches: Cooper's Coborn 11-6, Tormead 9-5, Maidstone 9-7, St Pauls 9-7, L.E.H 12-3 and Guildford High School 12-5. The squad has qualifying for the national finals in March where they will go onto represent London and the South East. Congratulations to the U16 Squad – Captain Kath Taylor, Ellie Durr, Sophie Morris, Katie Exall, Yazmin Absolon, Sophie Hannam, Beth Moriarty, Emma Wadsworth and Margot Roberson-Leech.

AS Examination Evening – Mrs Davis

Lower Sixth Theatre Studies pupils have been working tirelessly over the past few months in preparation for their Unit 2 AS examination: Performance of an Extract from a Scripted Play. The cohort of 15 split into three groups providing the examiner, moderators, staff, friends and family with a varied set of impressive professional performances.

The evening began with a naturalistic duologue from Tennessee William's poetic memory play, "The Glass Menagerie". Vanessa Burns and Gabriella Montague-Smith impressed the moderators with their sensitive and subtle portrayal of Amanda and Laura Wingfield, a mother and daughter who live alongside one another, despite appearing to be worlds apart. This unique piece played out in a confined stage space against a backdrop of beautifully projected images and film; all other items, including real wallpaper, period costumes and authentic props created the illusion of reality.

The second piece of the evening was Steven Berkoff's adaptation of the Greek classic, "Agamemnon". Exploring the relationship between pleasure and pain, comfort and agony, the cast of six worked as an ensemble to produce a truly stark and unnerving piece of theatre. White costumes, with white hair and white make-up enabled the girls to deliver a highly stylised and polished final performance; their impressive and cohesive movement sequences were particularly successful owing to the often comical use of unnerving music and stark lighting. Elizabeth Dawson, Holly Hamilton, Olivia Howitt, Eloise Martin, Megan Moore and Yasmin Rose should feel extremely proud of their powerful interpretation which generated both laughter and horror in equal quantities.

Last, but by no means least, saw a tight ensemble of seven produce an Artaudian version of Caryl Churchill's, "The Skriker". The group impressed the examiner with their ability to work as a collective, producing mesmerising and highly physical sequences. Taking on the Seven Deadly Sins in order to present the ever-changing figure of the Skriker, Breeze Cockburn, Kathryn Djemai, Zoe Erxleben, Millicent Everett, Hannah Rayner, Kellie Stevens and Sophie Thornhill produced a haunting and unnerving final piece. The humorous and challenging use of wordplay utilised myth, fairytale and modern cultural references to disorientate the audience. Their sophisticated performance completed a truly enjoyable evening's entertainment.

World Book Day – Mrs Mattheus-Ratcliffe

Our annual World Book Day celebrations for Year 7s will take place on Friday, 7th March. Please look in your daughter's planner from 27th February for further details of what she will be required to bring.

Years 7 and 8 Short Story Competition – Mrs Mattheus-Ratcliffe and Mr Hodges

"We believe that the short story is one of the most exciting and important literary forms, and that it can, and should, reach the widest possible readership. We believe that the short story matters."

This is the opinion of Booktrust, a national charity which has promoted reading and writing of books for more than 90 years. We at TWGGS decided to enthuse Year 7 and 8 with the same spirit by entering them into the National Short Story Week Young Writers' Competition 2013/14. Nationwide some 250 secondary schools entered their 10 best stories into the competition and later this spring 30 finalists out of the 2,500 submissions will be chosen for publication in an e-book. So, over 8 weeks during November and

December, the girls applied themselves at home, in English lessons and creative writing sessions, to produce a gripping short story on the theme of "The Mistake". More than 80 girls managed to complete the challenge and finally, at the beginning of January, Mr Hodges and I had to make the difficult decision to choose our 10 entries. The stories were extremely creative and diverse, but our contestants are: Megan Biggerstaff, Freya Bowden, India Farnham, Matilda Knapp, Thuraya Lawal, Francesca Morris, Thea Pengelly, Tabitha Preston, Ava Smiles and Lily Willis-Powell. Now all we can do is wait to hear whether one of them will make it into the final 30. Let's keep our fingers crossed.

Year 10 Debating Competition – Mr Hodges

The afternoon of 29th January saw the annual Year 10 Debating Competition. The whole year group watched five inter-form debates that were lively, thought-provoking and healthily controversial at times, topics ranging from Facebook to religious schools. The standard of the speakers was exceptionally high this year, with strong and compelling arguments from all teams; in response, there were plenty of challenging questions from audience members to keep the team members alert and on their toes.

Because the standards were so high, it was difficult to choose winners, so huge congratulations are due to all participants but especially to those to whom the prizes were awarded: Mariam Ahmed (Best Individual Speaker), Charlotte Martin and Isabel Challis (Best Team) and Autumn Levitt (Best Chair). Thank you to the four highly successful debaters from the Sixth Form (Constance Collard, Ellie Drewry, Ellie May and Polly Smythe), who gave readily of their time and knowledge to help in the run up to the competition and also gave up their afternoon to give expert opinions as judges.

In what has become a TWGGS' tradition, music was provided, while the judges discussed their decision, by other members of the year group. For singing and playing so beautifully, further thanks and congratulations are due to Charlotte Bartholomew, Ellie Barker, Iola Palmer-Sterling, Imogen Laurie, Maia Willis, Olivia Ziani and Miar Murphy. Thank you to Mrs Waddington for providing this.

Kent Schools Cross Country Championships – Mrs Field

We are very proud of our runners who represented the Tunbridge Wells District at last Saturday's event in Dartford. Despite the very muddy terrain, the girls performed admirably against the best in the county! Congratulations to Jasmine Lewtas who came 6th and Abigail Johnstone at 12th in the Year 7 girls' race, Charlotte Knudson, Eleanor Cohen, Romane Balcomb Nevill, Imogen Ellis and Elise Overd in the junior section, and Lucy King Powrie for coming 19th in the intermediate race. We wish our top runners all the best of luck at the National Finals in March.

Cambridge University Science and Technology Competition Winners – Mr Willis

On Tuesday 7th January, six teams, all winners of their local rounds of Science and Technology competitions, attended Cambridge University's Engineering Department for the National Finals. After successfully winning their area competition at Canterbury University last year, Isobel Fuminger, 10G, and Megan Brown, 10G, along with two boys from Hugh Christie, went on to compete. The challenge was to design and build a robot that would move forward onto a line, follow it around a course, pick up an object and deposit it at a specific location. The robot was to be built in Lego and controlled with electric motors with inputs from a computer control unit. This control unit was to be programmed in a language unfamiliar to the competitors. This exercise, we later found out, is given to the first year Engineering undergraduates at the university, to be completed over a six week period. The objective was, to say the least, an extremely challenging task, but the girls performed magnificently under pressure, modifying and reprogramming their robot to get the best results. It seemed very difficult for the judges to separate the various teams' work but Megan and Isobel's team effort was judged to be the best. They were a credit to both themselves and the school and should be congratulated on a most remarkable achievement.

Autumn Levitt – 10I

During the half-term holiday, Autumn Levitt, 10I, is performing with the Royal Hippodrome Community Theatre Company's youth section in Disney's "The Little Mermaid" in Eastbourne. The theatre has asked us to publicise the event as follows: "Disney's classic musical movie comes to the stage for the first time. Meet Ariel and her friends Under The Sea as the evil Ursula tries to get revenge on King Triton, whilst Flounder and Sebastian try to stop Ariel swimming to be Part of Prince Eric's World. This promises to be a fun-packed, lively show from some of the area's brightest young talent. Stunning costumes, dazzling choreography and lots and lots of bubbles! Wednesday 19th - Saturday 22nd February. Full details of show times and how to book tickets can be found at www.royalhippodrome.com."

Year 10 Art Trip - Mrs Curtis

Each year, GCSE pupils take part in a gallery visit as part of their GCSE course. This year, we were excited to be able to take the girls to the recently refurbished Tate Britain with its excellent permanent collection of 20th century art. The girls worked studiously on tasks set in response to the theme 'Concept and Construction', working in groups or individually to interpret and analyse artwork, as well as making immediate artistic responses in the gallery (girls were to be found sculpting with paper, collaging and drawing

throughout the gallery). Needless to say, their behaviour was exceptional and it was an absolute pleasure to see how enthused they were by the work. We look forward to seeing their projects develop in response to this trip in weeks to come.

Bronze Arts Award Club - Georgina Harvey U6S and Jade Goodwin U6G

As Art prefects, last year we ran a Bronze Arts Award club for all girls wishing to partake in art based activities in contribution to completing the award. We focused on technical skills using a variety of painting media. Despite positive feedback, this year we decided to concentrate on the exploration of each girl's inner identity as an artist. We began with a mixed media piece - a collage representative of themselves. Looking at Grayson Perry, in particular his tapestries, the girls have reflected in depth on how to represent themselves using colour, composition and collage. We are very impressed with the work the girls have produced; some have even taken the activity to a new level, constructing three-dimensional elements. Following this we wish to introduce different media such as textiles and ceramics. We cannot wait to see what they will create!

German Department News – Herr Link

On 24th January Onatti Theatre company visited TWGGS again with their latest play in German: "Erster Eindruck" (First Impression). Girls in Year 8 and Year 9 watched separate performances and thoroughly enjoyed it. They again found it easy to follow and after some preparation in their German lessons understood a fair bit of the dialogue. Some Year 9 girls commented that it was even better than last year's play. They particularly enjoyed being involved in some scenes of the play and that the actors were available to answer some questions (in German and English) after the performances. All girls agreed that the company should be invited for another performance next year.

UK-German Connection, a body promoting relations between the UK and Germany, facilitated a visit of a German teacher to TWGGS for 3 weeks this term. Melanie Koch, a Head of English and Art teacher at her grammar school in Herford in North Rhine-Westphalia, observed lessons in several subjects, liaised with various departments and helped the German department with some conversation lessons for Sixth Formers and KS4. We hope that additional connections with her school may evolve in the future.

After half term another student from Leuphana Universität in Lüneburg, Lower Saxony in Germany is going to join TWGGS for her 3 month long internship. Caroline Wood (she is German!) will mainly support the German department and our exam candidates but also observe lessons in other subjects and be part of the TWGGS family until 10 May. We are very pleased that we now have a working relationship with the university and are able regularly to welcome 2 interns per year.

My Three Months at TWGGS – Elise Henke

My experience as a German student at an English school is very nice. But first I want to introduce myself. My name is Elise Henke and I'm from Germany and 15 years old. I have been at TWGGS in the class 10W for nearly 4 months and I have really enjoyed my time here. I have learnt English in school for 5 years now and I came to England to improve my English and to get to know the culture and the country better. On my first day at TWGGS everyone was so kind and welcoming and I really want to say thank you because I didn't expect that everyone would be so understanding. My time in England was very inspiring because I learnt so many new things and got to know the English culture and school life. The first difference between English school and German school was that everyone was so kind to me and there was always someone who offered me help and everyone tried to make my time at TWGGS as nice as it could possibly be. My Germany school (Gymnasium am Silberkamp) is a mixed school and we don't have uniforms, so to wear uniform and be at a girls only school was completely new for me and it was a great experience. The part I like most about TWGGS is the school life because it is like a big community and everyone tries to support each other which is very nice in my opinion. I would always come back to TWGGS and I am really happy that I had the chance to go to school at TWGGS and to have this experience. I will always look back at my time in England with a smile.

Kent and Sussex Courier Sports Awards – Thursday 9th January – Mrs Murray

Back in the summer of 2013, Mrs Murray nominated our current L6th Netball Squad for the local Sports Award, to be recognised for their outstanding achievements last year at the U16 National Schools Netball Finals. For those of you who can't recall the events, the U16 team took the Kent tournament by storm to become Kent Champions and, at the Regional Finals in January, beat the top 8 teams from London and the South East to gain a well-deserved place at the National Finals. For a school that does not have a sports hall or floodlights and with only 1/2 hour training each week, it certainly was a fantastic achievement, taking on the top 18 schools in the country! The team's dreams came true: they won their group and the semi-finals, to reach the final, where TWGGS lost out by 1 goal to come runners up! They were presented their medals by England players, and Mrs Murray, parents and the school are still so incredibly proud of them. The Courier and local public also recognised the girls' achievements and the team was announced winners of the Secondary School Team of the Year at the Sports Awards presentations. It was a lovely evening, hearing from local sporting heroes and sharing the celebrations of their achievements. The girls were presented with their trophies by ex-England football player Gary Stevens and TWGGS was also represented across other awards: Hattie Montgomery and Maddie Godfrey, L6th, were winners of the Club Team of the Year as part of Tunbridge Wells Ladies 1st XII, and Caitlin Fearon in 9S won both the Young Team of the Year with Monson Swimming Club and the Young Sports Star in Tunbridge Wells. All the girls are a

true inspiration for the rest of the school for their dedication to their sport and drive to succeed. Mrs Murray would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that voted for the team through The Courier.

TWGGGS Qualify for the National Schools Biathlon Finals – Mrs Murray

Seven of our TWGGGS athletes have made it through to the finals of the British Schools' Biathlon Championships at the Olympic Park. All the girls have qualified individually, but will form teams in two age groups. Qualifying to represent TWGGGS are Jasmine Lewtas, Olivia Moran, Abigail Johnstone, Rachel Moran, Charlotte Scholes, Lucy King-Powrie and Rosie Fenton. We wish the girls the best of luck on April 5th. Mrs Murray would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Fenton for organising and managing the girls.

Parents' Reading Group – Mrs Johnstone

The next meeting of the TWGGGS parents' reading group will be held on Thursday 3 March, when we shall be discussing two books: Harriet Beecher Stowe's 'Uncle Tom's Cabin' and Pat Barker's 'Toby's Room'. We meet either at TWGGGS or in various members' houses, and are always keen to welcome new members. If you are interested in joining us please contact me for further details. What better way to set a good example for your daughters, and encourage them into reading more!

Kent Swimming Championships – Saturday 11th January – Mrs Murray

Some of our talented swimmers competed at the Kent County Championships and gained some impressive results:-

Caitlin Fearon - 200m Individual Medley - 1st / 100m Freestyle - 2nd

Lucy Reeves - 100m Butterfly - 17th

Olivia Sherry - 100m Breaststroke - 20th

Milly Young - 100m Breaststroke - a very unfortunate disqualification

Junior Girls 4 x 50m Freestyle Relay team - 7th Overall

Caitlin Fearon, Rosie Fenton, Lucy Reeves and Milly Young swam in both relays!

Jasmine Lewtas - 100m Freestyle - 28th

Rosie Fenton - 100m Backstroke - 12th

Olivia Moran - 100m Backstroke - 23rd

Junior Girls 4 x 50 Individual Medley Relay team - 7th Overall

Overall the girls did a brilliant job of representing the school and well done to those girls experiencing Kent Schools' Swimming Championships for the first time.

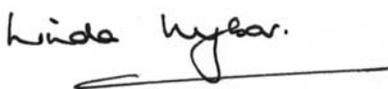
Regional Schools Gymnastics Floor and Vault Competition – Miss Guy

On Sunday 2nd February, our U19 Gymnastic Team competed in the Regional section of the Schools Team Floor & Vault Competition. The team consisted of Sophie Smith, Ruby Swain, Sophia Rolf and Margot Roberson-Leech. Each girl had to perform a one minute floor routine and a vault of their choice. With Kent College and St John's performing at their best, it proved to be a tough competition. Sophia Rolf performed an outstanding straddle over a 1.30metre vault which scored a high score of 14.90, and Sophie Smith showed excellent precision in her floor routine to score 14.60. With some brilliant scores from all 3 teams, it was going to be a close result. Overall, with a score of 115.90 our team took the Gold and the title of U19 Girls South East Champions. What a fantastic result for TWGGGS Gymnastics. Miss Guy would like to say a huge thank you to parents who helped with travel and supervision on the day.

TWGGGS Gym and Dance Workshare 2014 – Miss Guy

Our biannual Gymnastics and Dance Workshare is back for 2014, taking place from 6.30pm on Monday 31st March and Tuesday 1st April. The theme for this year is "Countries and Cultures". Each performance has embodied the different traditions and styles from their particular country. With over 400 pupils involved, it is going to be a great way to celebrate the talent that we have here at TWGGGS. The tickets are £5 per person and these will go on sale after half term. There will be a raffle during the interval, hosted by the Ghana team with some great prizes to be won!

With best wishes,



Mrs L Wybar
Head Teacher