

**Dear Parent/Guardian**

Sadly, we must say goodbye to two members of staff this summer. Mrs Blake has supported the Technology Department superbly for the past five years and she leaves TWGGS to join her husband in their exciting travel business venture, where we wish them well. Mr Benford joined the school nine years ago, since which time he has not only inspired and enthused girls in Biology, but done likewise with many aspects of wider school life, perhaps most notably through football. Mr Benford, along with Mr Smith, has led TWGGS girls' football to superb heights! We will really miss him, but wish him every success and happiness in his well-earned promotion as Head of Biology at Cranbrook School. Other staff news: Mrs Murray is currently on maternity leave, with her baby due imminently, and Miss Smith goes on maternity leave in early September. We wish both mothers and their respective future offspring well.

#### **Miss Parkinson scores for England! - Mrs Murray**

Miss Parkinson was part of the England Squad that travelled to Wales for the hockey Masters Home Nations Tournament in June. Keen to retain their title from last year, Miss Parkinson and the team had a great weekend, winning all 3 games. They beat Scotland 6-0, Ireland 6-0 and in their last game against Wales, they won 4-1, where Miss Parkinson scored a goal, and set up 2! It's such an honour and achievement to represent your country, and we are all very proud of Miss Parkinson. Congratulations from all the staff and pupils at TWGGS.

#### **Mrs Murray – Kent Netball Teacher Award – Mrs Wybar**

I am delighted to inform parents and girls that Mrs Murray is the winner of the Kent Netball Teacher Award 2014; this award is presented to a teacher "who has made an outstanding contribution to the development of netball in school, outside their statutory teaching responsibilities". As you will be aware, Mrs Murray has truly inspired TWGGS netballers for several years, coaching them to attain at the highest regional and national level, as well as ensuring that large numbers of girls across the school enjoy their netball. Mrs Murray is currently on maternity leave, but we have sent her our warmest congratulations!

#### **Debating Success - Mrs Johnstone**

Congratulations go to the Sixth Form debaters, who came third at the Ibstock Place Worlds Schools tournament in July. The team of Coco Collard, Ellie Drewry and Polly Smythe won all three of their debates to make it to the semi final group, but were just pipped at the post, taking fourth place overall at this prestigious event organised by the England selectors. Ellie Drewry particularly impressed the judges, coming fourth on the individual speaker tab. The Y10 team came along to gain some useful experience, and did very well to win one of the rounds, against much older teams.

#### **Year 7 Trip to Regent's Park Open Air Theatre - Martha Rigby and Hannah Turvey 7W**

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July Year 7 went to Regent's Park to see an adaptation of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. As we took our seats, we surveyed the interesting surroundings and backdrop of the stage. It was based around the sea with buckets of water and there were also various props such as a piano, a bed, a reclining chair and several sunflowers dotted either side of the stage. Most of us hadn't heard of the play before; some of us did know it and some of us asked friends who knew it to give them a brief storyline. A man walked onto the stage and talked us through what we should do during the play. We learnt a Mexican wave, although it was an Albanian wave (but exactly the same), and were given a signal so we knew when to do it during the play. The play was very interactive and the audience joined in a lot, dancing, doing the Albanian wave and many other things as well.

Something that helped us, as it can be hard to keep track of who was in love with who, was a love hammer – The Loveometer! - this was similar to the ones in a fairground except that normally if the bell is struck, it shows that you are very strong, but on this one if the bell chimed it meant that they were in love! We found the story line very interesting. There were twins who, though they were different genders, were exactly alike. The girl (heroine) was called Viola and the boy was called Sebastian. They had no mother and their father had recently died. One day the twins sailed out to sea but an unfortunate storm caused both Viola and Sebastian to be shipwrecked. Both survive but Viola doesn't know this and assumes her brother had drowned. Viola is shipwrecked on the coast of Illyria and knows that to survive, she must find work. She dresses up as a boy to disguise herself, calling herself Cesario. "Cesario" finds a job working in service to the Duke of Orsino who is in love with a lady called Olivia. However, Olivia is grieving over the loss of both her father and brother and refuses to see any man for seven years. The Duke sends Viola, still disguised, to convince Olivia to love him. But when Viola attempts to, Olivia falls in love with her, thinking Viola is a "he". Later, Viola falls in love with the Duke and the three of them are caught in a love triangle, with Viola making this triangle complicated as she is pretending to be a boy. After the interval there was the remaining exciting part of the story, though we won't reveal what happens as you may be able to visit this amazing play in Regent's Park for yourself one day. All we will say is that everything turns out all right in the end!

### **“Roses of Eyam” triumphs at the Year 9 Drama Festival – Milly Evans, 9G**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014, Year 9 pupils took part in the Drama Festival, each form displaying a 15-minute dramatic interpretation from a modern play. The dress performance was scrutinised by Year 8 students during the day, before the actual performance took place before parents in the evening. Each form had to work together on all aspects of their piece to produce a convincing performance. There was strong competition between forms for each of the many prizes, judged by the guest adjudicator, Mr Ian Drysdale and the Sixth Form Drama prefects, Hannah Rayner and Zoe Erxleben.

The first performance was 'Blood Brothers' by 9I. Emily Camburn won Best Supporting Actress as Mrs Lyons, showing care and kindness to adopt Mrs Johnstone's child. Sasha Chown won the Best Actress in the form, with a clever and humorous performance as young Edward. 9I won the Best Promotions of the night, with the best foyer display to advertise the performance. The second performance came from 9T, with an energetic and loud performance of 'Lord of the Flies'. The contrast from schoolboys to savages was fascinating, and well created, particularly by Georgina Cremin and Matilda Holker who won Best Actress and Supporting Actress respectively. 9T won Best Sound and Lighting, with well-planned usage, adding to the quality of the performance. 'Sweeney Todd' was produced and performed by 9S, who gave an eerie performance, using special effects. They won Most Visually Exciting performance, due to the fantastic make-up, costume and smoke used to enhance the performance. Georgina Burns won Best Actress as the enigmatic Sweeney Todd. Kate Renton won Best Supporting Actress, as one of Sweeney's murder victims, producing a piercing scream which thoroughly shocked the audience.

My form, 9G, produced 'The Roses of Eyam', a play about the plague in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. We won the prize for best use of the stage and ensemble work, as well as the Overall Best Performance. Sophie Cherry won Best Supporting Actress with an energised performance as the angry Edward Thornley, and Charlotte Ratcliffe won the Best Lead Actress as Stanley, the old rector who was pushed from his position after the English Civil War. The final performance of the night was 9W, with 'Pygmalion'. This won Best Set, with plenty of work put in to create elaborate pillars. There was also some brilliant acting talent on display, particularly from Caitlin Large, who won Best Actress, and Bethany Reynolds who won Best Supporting Actress, with a fabulous performance as a stately lady. Caitlin Large's dynamic and enthralling performance as Eliza Doolittle also earned her the coveted Overall Best Actress prize.

### **Carnegie Shadowing Debate 2014 – Mrs Ratcliffe, Librarian**

The Carnegie Book Prize for Teenagers is never a boring event. The annual short list of best published teen fiction is definitely not “tame” or for the fainthearted. But this year the judges outdid themselves with their choices. For weeks the excitement about some of the books on the shortlist had spread through the school like wildfire. Shortlisted books borrowed from the library were swapped amongst the girls like valuable commodities and the waiting lists grew longer and longer. Let me help you gauge the level of excitement amongst the girls by quoting from Georgia Casimir's book review of Kevin Brookes' *Bunker Diary*: *“I'm never going in a bunker. Ever. This book draws you in and latches on like a vice in your mind. Once you pick this book up there's no going back, as much as you may want to release yourself from the sadistic, cruel and horrifying plot, you can't. Sorry. Blame it on Kevin Brooks and his twisted mind.[...] This book is a mixture of magnificence and horror, right and wrong and overall the power that comes with having power. This book isn't for the faint-hearted.”*

Well, this tension reached a thrilling climax on June 23<sup>rd</sup> when almost 100 pupils from 4 different schools got together at TWGGS to work in teams and chose their 2014 Carnegie winner. Passionately, eloquently, persuasively, and in brilliantly coordinated team presentations, they argued for their choices. Faced with so much excellence, it was not an easy decision for our judges, but the prize for best presentation went to the team from “All the Truth That's In Me”.

Then it was time for the pupils to vote: not surprisingly “Bunker Diary” finished first with a sizeable majority. And the double whammy for 2014 – the Carnegie judges awarded the top prize to..... yes, you guessed it, “Bunker Diary”. All that's left to say now – if you haven't read it yet, get “Bunker Diary” and read the most talked about book at TWGGS 2014.

### **GCSE and A Level Art – Mrs Curtis**

This term has seen the culmination of the GCSE and A Level Art courses, with girls and staff working all hours to meet deadlines. We held two exhibitions of work; the A Level featured first, encompassing four rooms with vast amounts of exciting creations. Viewers were greeted by Jade Goodwin's huge distorted faces as they entered the Art department. On arriving at the top of the stairs, Polly Murdoch's piece 'Look Again' amused and enthralled as people followed instructions to interact with her kinetic recycled objects. Two rooms of AS work showed real confidence in this year's L6. Media and scale were wide ranging from Melissa Dewar's gigantic woven ceiling to Sylvia Villa's beautifully intricate tiles, with everything in between; painting, sculpture, mixed media and digital media were all represented with skill and consideration.

The A2 girls' exhibition continued into two rooms with diverse and individual outcomes reflecting the creativity of the girls who made them. There were obvious areas where the girls influenced one another: the excitement of neon paints in the work of Darcy Williams, Emma Luxton, Bethan Crouch and Georgina Harvey; the obsession with hanging and suspending in the work of Emily

Murayama, Ella Szembek, Karis Gill. Yet there were also areas of complete individuality: Fiona Fraser's astoundingly intricate paper cutting (who else would spend a 15 hour exam cutting so meticulously?!), Beth Stephens' emotive paintings based on children from Cambodia, Victoria Coleman's ephemeral wax paintings but to name a few. We will miss this year's highly creative and enthusiastic U6 and wish them all the best for the future; as usual, we are very pleased that a number will go on to foundation and degree courses in Art and Design at highly prestigious institutions next year.

The GCSE Art exhibition, held a couple of weeks later, saw an exceptional turnout from pupils, parents and staff. Everyone I spoke to was highly complimentary about the work and the diversity on show. Influences from the girls' trip to 'The Light Show' at the Hayward Gallery were highly evident throughout; fairy lights, strobe lighting, disco balls and even a miniature circus tent featured at every twist and turn. Yet again, the girls are to be congratulated on their hard work this year.

### **Schizophrenia Talk - Mrs Burgess and Miss Paterson**

The Psychology Department hosted a thought-provoking seminar on schizophrenia, a major A Level topic in Psychology. Our speaker, Professor Tony Lavender, is Pro Vice-Chancellor (Research & Knowledge Exchange) at Canterbury Christ Church University, and a prolific author renowned in the field of mental health research, specializing in schizophrenia.

The seminar was well attended by U6 girls, and their questions indicated an intelligent appreciation of many of the complex issues surrounding the classification and diagnosis of schizophrenia. They engaged with Professor Lavender on the latest thinking on the causes and treatments of schizophrenia, and he was most impressed with their knowledge, and their questioning approach. His views on mental health offer a stimulating critique of many of the standard 'textbook' portrayals, which the girls found extremely useful. Professor Lavender's daughters attended TWGGS and he has always very kindly accepted our invitations to speak. We are especially grateful to him for taking time out to visit us this year as he currently has a long list of responsibilities and a very busy schedule in his university role.

### **News from the French Department**

#### **La Fête Nationale – Mrs Lloyd-Jones**

On Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> July, pupils and staff partook in a variety of activities to celebrate La Fête Nationale, (officially celebrated on the 14<sup>th</sup>). During lunchtime girls took part in a French treasure hunt around the school organised by L6th French students and many staff and pupils tried their hands at the traditional game of Pétanque (Boules). A French themed cake and sweet sale at break organised by 7I, raised money for this term's charity, while the canteen offered a French themed menu. New French books were displayed in the library alongside some fantastic Bastille Day posters and the History department included some "revolutionary" starters! The day was topped off by both students and staff sporting their bérêts, allowing everyone to thoroughly enjoy themselves and get involved. A huge thank you to the History Department, 7I, the Lower 6 French group and to all those that made the day such a success.

#### **French Exchange – Harriet Bunnett 10G**

The week after we said goodbye to our exchange partners, we set off for la Teste de Buch near Arcachon. Our first trip was to Bordeaux. We visited a museum, *le musée d'Aquitaine* and also had an opportunity to shop in one of the longest shopping streets in Europe. We tried to buy as much stuff in as little time as possible. We ate by the *Miroir d'eau*, a huge, still plate of water which reflected the *Place de la Bourse*, a magnificent building, like a mirror on a calm day. Although it was not as calm a day as expected, the image was streaky but nonetheless beautiful, and we did get the chance to see it turn into fog. After our little lunch overlooking the river Garonne, we caught a mini train, complete with touristy headphones. It began to rain, and so we all covered under the little roof, shielding our hair and possessions.

The following day, with hopes of better weather, we caught the bus even earlier, to arrive beside a little chocolate factory, *l'atelier de chocolat*. There was a short tour, and then a tasting session: we emerged much larger! We then drove to Bayonne, a typical Basque village, adorned with dried chillies hanging from roof tops, with the Pyrenees in sight. The bus drove us to St. Jean de Luz, a lovely town on the sea front, which offered another opportunity to shop, and wander along the sea front. We separated that evening to spend the weekend with our exchange families. Many people revisited Bordeaux or climbed the *dune du Pyla* the tallest sand dune in Europe, and saw the blend of trees and sand meld into the ocean.

On Monday, for our last little trip, we visited the *Chateau de la Brede*, a small castle which was made famous by philosopher Montesquieu, who was the owner at one point. It was small and sweet, surrounded by a little moat. In the afternoon, we went to the ornithological park. It was beautiful, sunny and quiet. We ate lunch in the sunshine, just outside on the grassy fields and picnic tables. The following morning, we were sitting back on the bus, waving goodbye to our exchange partners in the early hours of the morning. We talked of promises to return, and how much we enjoyed it. It truly was a wonderful experience, one I would thoroughly recommend.

### **Boulogne Trip – Maddy Sanderson, Grace Worsell and Morgan Bradley 7G**

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July we went to Boulogne( France) and it was really fun! The forms T, G and S set out at 6.50 for just over an hour coach ride, arriving at the terminal with some time to spare. As we boarded the train to France it felt strangely closed in-but quite futuristic compared to a usual train journey. We made it to France in no time, and stopped at a shopping centre, where many various shops, mainly fashion, which appealed to us, including a giant department store near the entrance. Our group loved it and we bought many things! After another short drive, we arrived in Boulogne, parking right next to a fish market! We did some shopping on a pedestrian street away from the seafront and then went on to a café, ordering many French drinks. Sadly we had to go back home after that. The coaches drove back onto the Eurotunnel and eventually, when we were back at the Boys ' Grammar school car park, the trip was over. We really enjoyed it!

### **World Languages Day 2014 – Anna Lumley 8G**

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of July, I joined a group of Year 8 TWGGS girls to go to The University of Kent, Canterbury. We were due to take part in many activities ranging from lectures and classes to quizzes, theatre performances and dance sessions. I was really looking forward to the day and the anticipation of what was yet to come. Shortly after arriving we found ourselves walking through the University's campus filled with its many students. This made me think about when it would be my time to leave school and how I would choose to move forward in life. Currently, I do picture myself furthering my education at University; however, I am still very open-minded on what and where I would like to study.

There were lots of seminars on offer such as Danish, Welsh, Norwegian, Russian, Japanese and Mandarin, to name a few! First of all we attended a 'welcome session' and some of us then watched a Spanish Theatre Presentation, while others watched the French Theatre Presentation. I very much enjoyed the production and found myself pleasantly surprised by how much I could follow the amusing story. To my surprise, I was pulled out of the crowd to stand at the front and have a conversation in Spanish with the actors. After break, I attended a lecture named 'Farsi'. Farsi is the most widely spoken Persian language. We received a sheet of the alphabet letters and pronunciations in Farsi from which we used to sing the alphabet collectively. We got taught a lot about Iran and its culture. This was inspiring because it was completely different from what I would possibly first thought before when I heard the word 'Iran'. The lesson was very interactive and we even got to try some common sweets from Iran called Pashmak and Gaz. They were certainly very different from the sweets I've tasted in England!! Next, we were taught some Indian Dance accompanied by a man playing the Indian Drums – the Tablas. We used Dandiya (dancing sticks) to progress the unique sounds used in Indian Dance.

During lunch, we sat by a lake having just tried out our language skills to ask for items they were giving out. You could ask in any language (other than English!!) so I used the French phrase 'je voudrais...' meaning 'I would like...' to receive a pen. The "Whitstable Samba band" also played throughout lunchtime and they were really entertaining. We then had a Spanish Theatre Class where we put expression and feeling into the language to advance our dialect before ending the brilliant day with the 'Plenary European Quiz Final'. Overall, I enjoyed a really stimulating and interesting day. In particular, I was so pleased to have the opportunity to learn such a lot about different cultures and languages in a beautiful academic setting. This really left me with the strong desire to learn and study more about how different nations communicate and connect with each other in the modern world. Whether this is to be through formal study or just general interest in my spare time, this experience has made me realise the importance and opened my eyes into the world of languages...

### **French Theatre Production: Mon père ne me comprend pas! – Emily Arnold 8G**

On 24th June, all of year 8 went to the PAC to see the second edition of our language plays, this one in French. This French production did not fail to please! It was the girl's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday and her father mistook it for her 14<sup>th</sup>. She was expecting to receive some money or some new clothes, but was only given a pink pencil case, a magic wand and a tiara. So, she wishes for a cool, rich and clever Dad with her new wand and does indeed get what she was wishing for on various occasions, one even turning out to be her school drama teacher! However, in the end she decided she didn't like the cool, rich dad she wished for and wants her own father back. This was a highly enjoyable performance to watch, as well as being educational on our behalf and also was surprisingly easy to understand despite it being in a different language to our own.

### **News from the German Department – Herr Link**

In June and July the last 3 Year 8 forms visited the Europa Centre with their German teachers and practised shopping dialogues, general conversations and information gathering with supportive native speakers. Although they had to hand back the purchased goods in most shops and at the market they were able to buy and enjoy drinks and German marble cake in the café. The girls worked and concentrated hard and really enjoyed their visit. One girl remarked how weird it was to speak English again after the visit – mission accomplished!

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July saw the long awaited Germanvision contest 2014 where each Year 9 form chooses an original contemporary German song and produces a music video for it. The girls analyse the text of the song, produce a story board, practice routines, direct and edit themselves. The standard this year was again higher than ever, and all girls could be proud of their finished

products. All videos caused a lot of laughs and enjoyment with the carefully choreographed dance routines and the involvement of teachers and other forms. The eventual winners were 9S with *Augenbling* by *Seed* followed by 9G with the German World Cup song *Das dicke, dicke Ding* by *Mr. Santos*.

### **Music Department –Mrs Waddington**

It has once again been an amazingly busy and successful term for the Music Department. Our Year 7 Music Festival took place on the 30th June. Over the last few weeks girls in Year 7 have been working hard towards this event with each class providing their favourite soloist, composition, and band. They also work together on a full scale production number from a musical. The Year 7 forms then compete against each other and winners are selected from each category. This year 7I were the winners overall. The judges were particularly impressed however, by the level of creativity shown by each Year 7 class across several art forms and the team work they displayed. Well done girls!

Maths Fun Day on the 7th July was another enjoyable event. Using the Olympics as a theme, Year 7 explored the relationship between Maths and Music using binary numbers to create rhythmic pieces from the colours of the Olympic Rings. Confused? Perhaps your daughters can explain!

One of the last 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 and have a well-earned break.

### **Arts Award – Mrs Harrod**

The Arts Award moderation took place in June and over 100 girls passed either the Bronze or Silver Awards which involve developing an art form through participation and sharing their art form with others. Some of the art forms developed were photography, cake decorating, music, dance, textiles, art and creative writing. All the girls that were entered for the award passed and there were some fabulous examples of extensive creative development. Congratulations to the girls for all of their hard independent work.

### **Skinner's Kent Academy – Lily Wadsworth, L6I**

Once every two weeks, Mrs Field and a group of 15 Lower Sixth girls travelled to Skinner's Kent Academy on a Wednesday afternoon, in order to use our free time constructively and to give something back to the community. Once we arrived, we were paired with Year 8 pupils and our aim was help them feel calmer and more relaxed in a reading environment. For most of the students, reading aloud was a scary and daunting idea, and it was up to us to help them feel more at ease and to help them progress through a book of their own choice. TWGGS girls worked admirably with their partners in order to help them to achieve their best and reach their maximum potentials. The improvements seen in each pupil were great, despite the lack of time we had to work with them; this was most clearly evident when at the end of our time with the students, each and every one of them wrote their own poem and the pupils felt happy and comfortable to read out their creations in front of the whole group.

### **Design and Technology Trip – Mrs Bence**

On Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July the L6th Design and Technology students visited Studioilse, a smart design studio in London run by Ilse Crawford a previous TWGGS girl. The experienced team of designers with combined skills in interior architecture and design, construction supervision, creative direction, brand identity and product design operate from a very stylish design studio not far from Tower Bridge. Their projects range from residential to commercial and from new build to historic buildings. Ilse Crawford was awarded the 2013 AD International Prize for Contribution and Influential Work in Architecture Design and Interior Design.

On our arrival we received a very warm welcome, and Ilse spent around two hours with the group describing the process of design and how students can become involved in this field as a career choice. Ilse is a lecturer at a Design Academy in Eindhoven, The Netherlands. See link [www.designacademy.nl/](http://www.designacademy.nl/) It was a thought provoking talk and we discussed how following a degree course in Eindhoven could prove to be an alternative and cost effective way to pursue a career in this field. We also listened to three designers who had followed various degree courses, two at Eindhoven Design Academy and one at Loughborough University. We were able to view various projects, from boarding lounges for Cathay Pacific through to furniture for IKEA. The presentation was very informative and some of the students will be able to utilise the skills shown in their own A2 coursework projects.

Following our visit, the pupils were encouraged to take photos in London to support their own research for their architectural project at A2. The current A2 pupils are completing a Product Design A Level and we follow the Built Environment pathway which has proved popular for girls who wish to pursue a degree course in architecture, interior design, engineering, product design etc. Visiting designers in their environment has proven to be quite inspirational. This group previously visited BMW and looked at car

design with sustainability in mind. With this recent visit to Studioilse we have seen an alternative approach and learnt how different approaches to the world of design can shape a brand.

### **The Bewl Water Year 8 Trip, 2014 – Hettie Rockell and Kira Prowse, 8T**

Bewl Water had a range of activities to work on teamwork but most of all to have fun. The activities included were water sports, orienteering and Team building. Each class was split into 3 groups: Lacewings, Kingfishers and Dragonflies. Each group took part in all three tasks throughout the course of the day. First of all our group (Lacewings) took part in orienteering. It was great fun as it challenged our navigational skills and sense of direction. We were split into groups of 3. We got around an hour to find as many control points as possible. Each control point was scattered over around 1200 acres of land. We had to race against the clock to collect as many as possible and get back in time to not get disqualified. This exercise particularly worked on our teamwork and our individual stamina.

Next we took part in team building. Each group was split into 8. Each person took part in a variety of challenges such as the Tarzan swing, low rope courses, bridge building and the rope leaning game. Each challenge, challenged different people. For example for the rope leaning challenge, people had to stretch their body over the rope to the limit. Finally we did water sports. There were lots of different water sports to be chosen from: sailing, kayaking, and rafting. Sailing and raft building focused on teamwork within the groups. Kayaking focused on individual work. They were really fun but we got extremely wet and freezing cold. This is a trip we will never forget. It was a lovely way to end the year as a form.

### **Lower Sixth Biology Field Trip, 29<sup>th</sup> June – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2014 – Mrs Lewis**

At 2pm on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June, 46 girls and 4 staff members gathered to get on the coach to head off to the south of France to the Cevennes National Park. Mrs Lewis, Mr Benford, Miss Fischer and a volunteer helper, Mrs Flux joined the girls on a long, 17 hour coach journey to the Eagle's Nest Field Centre on the slopes of Mont Lozere, the highest peak in the National Park at 1699 metres above sea level. The setting was beautiful, the food was lovely and the weather was very good to us. The pupils spent the first day learning all of the techniques they would need to sample and study the different habitats in both terrestrial and aquatic environments. The girls then put those skills in to action to pilot their coursework projects. There were groups at sites as varied as a peat bog, an open meadow, coniferous and deciduous woodlands, a freshwater stream, a sewage plant and a ski run. With the pilot studies complete, the girls were then ready to sample and collect the data needed to test their coursework hypotheses. Everyone worked extremely hard, but the work was broken up with team games and quizzes, where the competitive spirit came to the fore! All of the girls were committed to their work and achieved some excellent data which they will use to complete their A2 coursework. The trip was very successful and we arrived back on Friday absolutely exhausted, but satisfied that we had achieved a lot – and some of us even got a sun tan!

### **Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Assessment Weekend – Laura Clarke 11S**

A 6am start marked the beginning of our Silver DofE Assessment Weekend, as we all arrived at school looking decidedly nervous. Once we arrived in the idyllic New Forest, we had a quick meeting with our assessors and then we were off! Fortunately the rain held off long enough for us to make the most of the good weather with shorts and sunhats! And when it started to rain, it didn't dampen our spirits, as our group found the situation of taking cover beneath the storm shelter in knee-high bracken a hilarious one! The second and third days had much better weather, with nearly all of us getting nice and brown, and made sitting out in the open air for lunch very relaxing! Other good memories of the weekend include arriving first at the second camp site (which was pretty luxurious with actual lights in the washrooms!), feasting on melted chocolate with marshmallows after a tasty curry, or taking selfies with the cows for our project! Whilst DofE is physically challenging and requires a certain level of fitness, it is definitely an experience worth doing. You gain an enormous sense of achievement at the end from walking nearly 60km and also become much closer to your group which is inevitable after spending three days solid constantly relying on one another! Of course you also gain so much from completing the other three sections of physical, skill and volunteering. All in all, it is an experience I would definitely recommend!

### **A Trip to No10 Downing Street – Sgt Alice Radley**

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> June, four TWGGS cadets, CSgt McCaul, Sgt Radley, Cpl Tucker and Cdt Tester, spent the day at Wellington Barracks and No.10 Downing Street. The aim of our visit was to promote state school CCFs, highlighting how beneficial it can be to individuals and the community. The Ministry of Defence wishes to invest in a hundred new state school CCFs by the end of next year. A lack of funding to support the expansion of the Combined Cadet Forces for state school pupils, means that money needs to be raised. Our CCF is the most successful launch nationally; of the twelve army cadets invited to be part of this visit, four of them were from TWGGS. The assembled crowd included 90 of the most powerful business leaders in the country: a very daunting audience! With TWGGS being the first all-girl state school CCF in England, we were able to present a different aspect of CCF from other contingents. Before heading to No.10, we were briefed at Wellington Barracks and selected cadets from the different contingents did presentations on their personal experiences of this organisation. Cpl Tucker was selected to speak. There were face-to-face interviews for TV and photos were taken before we all headed off to Downing Street.

The event was held in the Prime Minister's back garden as we had very sunny weather that afternoon. There was a military band and a speech from David Cameron, reminiscing about his former CCF experience and showing his enthusiasm for this initiative. After the iconic picture in front of the famous front door we all headed back to the barracks. It was truly an amazing experience and one that I will treasure. It adds to the list of incredible opportunities available to us through our activity and membership in the CCF. As I am now leaving and heading off to university, I hope I will be able to maintain contact with TWGGS and help the contingent out in the future as an adult leader.

### **Crowborough Camp – The End of a Great Year in CCF - LCpl Eleanor Goad**

Crowborough was a perfect example of just how beneficial and enjoyable camps can be. They are all about developing skills and discovering new ones, growing as a leader but also learning how to work as a team. Over the course of the week, each day offered something new and different but equally exciting. On the first day we were split randomly into two teams: TWGGS A and TWGGS B; this helped the girls to get used to working with people they didn't necessarily know very well. The Command tasks were perfect opportunities for the natural leaders to step up, while also encouraging tactical thinking. First aid and survival required cool and collected minds and those with positivity and confidence flourished when faced with life or death situations. The range day, including archery, paint ball, laser tag, was a day set aside of enjoyment (as well as a chance to beat the teachers) and to remind the girls of another reason of why they had ever joined CCF- to have fun.

Competition day dawned bright and early-especially for those involved in the March and Shoot. Those who shook themselves from sleep and clambered from their beds at 6 o'clock in the morning did an amazing job at kick starting a day of heartfelt support, well-earned victories and gracefully accepted defeats. After coming first in both Drill and the March and Shoot- the latter of which produced a shriek of joy from our proud Captain Reynolds- and second and third in many other events including First Aid and Observation, we realised it wasn't what we had achieved separately that made our days. Together TWGGS was placed second overall bringing pride to our school, to the staff, to their gender and to themselves. As a platoon we showed them that the double X chromosome is not a mark of weakness but one of strength. Everyone did amazingly in the 24hr exercise, cruelly placed at the end of the week: it was exhausting. There was a shortage of seniors; this enabled many girls to be placed in challenging command roles for the very first time. Even without factoring in their sleep deprivation and lack of experience, all did brilliantly.

For everyone involved the camp was a spectacular success, none of which could have been achieved without the selfless effort provided by the staff involved, and on behalf of every cadet in the CCF we would like to say that we are amazingly grateful. Also a big well done to everyone for whom this was their first camp! It was an amazing way to end the CCF year and I am certain that every girl walked away after that week feeling both proud and satisfied.

### **CCF Camp - Cadet Zoe Ward**

I joined CCF in Year 9; I had a lot of fun and learnt a lot throughout that year but it was nothing compared to this year. My CCF knowledge had broadened immensely and I have experienced all six of the CCF values. I feel, and I think others will agree, that I have learnt more skills in CCF this year than I have in other activities. CCF in TWGGS is not obligatory and this means that everyone has chosen to give up their own time for something that is worthwhile and a lot of fun. This year there have been lots of different things that cadets can take part in such as days of firing on a range, the Military Tattoo and joint camps with the Longhill CCF. The Tattoo was an excellent way to show off our CCF to the other schools that came to watch and also to let the parents of cadets experience a tiny fraction of what we get to do.

The best thing about CCF this year, for me, by far was definitely the Crowborough camp. TWGGS CCF went to camp for a week and put a lot of hard work into it; our effort shone through on competition day when TWGGS came second overall and were only three points off winning. TWGGS CCF certainly did Captain Reynolds proud as we obtained medals in eight competitions out of the overall ten. We came first in both the March and Shoot and the Drill competitions and we showed that we were as good as, and even better than, the other schools taking part. It was such an amazing experience as it is something completely different from what we do at school and the general feeling of accomplishment at the end of the week was well worth all of our determination. At TWGGS last year we all took our First Aid test but it was nothing compared to the test that we took part in at camp. They really made the situation come to life with smoking helicopters, a crashed Jeep and a real ambulance. The casualties were all difficult to handle but we took it all in our stride and it showed us that we could handle even the most unusual and difficult situations. During the camp we all tried out many activities that we had never done before; for example, I have now played laser tag, paint balling and completed the 24 hour exercise. We also carried out a lot of section attacks and snap ambushes and the Royal Engineers came down to help (as we are joining regiments with them now); they played the enemy so that we could get a really good idea of how the actual attacks happen. It has definitely been an amazing experience and I am so glad I am part of it!

### **Business Enterprise Day – Eleanor Goad, 10I**

Business Enterprise Day was a great experience, providing us with valuable skills which we could use in later life, while also giving us an insight into how real businesses are run. We were put into teams so that we would have to learn to work with new people and our task was to pitch the tender of our catering company for the school to use in celebration of the twinning of Tunbridge Wells

and Wiesbaden. After choosing our individual roles with the team, we got off to a slow start, but soon picked up progress as we got into the swing of things. It was a hectic day with a lot to do in little time, but our team's skill, hard work and dedication brought our presentation together perfectly. It was a very insightful, enjoyable day and we personally feel that we took a lot away from it. (The winning team were Eleanor Goad 10I, Rosie Judd 10G, Amber Leversedge 10T, Gaby Muiry 10G and Ellie Miles 10T.)

### **Careers Department – Mrs Vallely**

In May, we held the annual PSHE session where the U6th girls share with the L6th girls their experiences with applying to university or organizing a gap year. It is always a popular session which the girls in both year groups find very helpful.

In June we organized a Personal Statement Writing workshop for the L6th girls. Cathy Drew, a graduate intern from the University of Sussex schools' liaison team, gave a presentation with ideas and guidance on getting started. She was an engaging speaker and went down well with the majority of the girls, who have now started on their UCAS applications. The workshop was also useful more generally for any girls who may not be applying for university, as the advice given could be used on any job or apprenticeship application.

Last week we were very pleased to welcome Professor Louise Harra to give a talk at lunchtime on a career in astrophysics. Professor Harra is currently a professor of solar physics at UCL Mullard Space Science Laboratory, and we were delighted to welcome her to the Performing Arts Centre. The event was attended by a number of girls from all year groups, along with some boys from the Skinners' School and from TWGSB, a couple of U6th Leavers, and a number of members of staff.

### **Equestrian Team Qualify for National Finals – Mrs Murray**

Another great result for Team TWGGS (Megan Bruce-Smythe, Emily Dodd-Paccitti, Sophia McDonald and Michaela Holding) who won the 80/85 (nearly 3 foot high) Show Jumping Qualifier at Felbridge to gain a place at the National Schools' Championship at Addington Manor in October. Emily was also awarded an individual 4<sup>th</sup> place. They beat 20 teams and 104 individuals in a field of top schools from all over the South East, many with equestrian training as part of their curriculum. A really impressive victory!

The team are now "looking the part" with their matching outfits including new saddle cloths complete with the school logo beautifully embroidered in gold by Sophia's Grandma. Many thanks to all the parents, especially Mrs Holding, for co-ordinating the team on the day.

### **Kent Schools Games Super 8 Finals , 25<sup>th</sup> June – Miss Guy**

Nine Year 7 pupils travelled to Canterbury to represent Tunbridge Wells in the Kent School Games Final day; teaming up with Tunbridge Wells Boys' Grammar School. There were 11 boroughs competing including Ashford, Canterbury and Tonbridge our local rivals! The day began with a Zumba style warm up, giving the teams the opportunity to interact. Before the event began, the teams were given a talk on the spirit of the games and how important it is to support and encouraging everyone. This message was carried throughout the day as everyone was in high spirits and there was a great sense of sportsmanship.

We had some fantastic results throughout the day! Jasmine Lewtas (800m), Molly Sinclair (long jump) and Florence Byers (javelin) achieved a new personal best in their events, as well as Jasmine and Florence winning their event overall. We also had some great results in the sprints; Rachel and Olivia Moran battled against some extremely fast opponents in the 200m, taking 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in their heats. In the relays we joined up with TWGSB for the medley where we had to split the distances between the girls and boys. The race was very close between us and Canterbury, however in the last 400m Canterbury took the lead to take the gold. Overall, the day was a great success and Tunbridge Wells was awarded 4<sup>th</sup> place. Out of 11 teams, this is a fantastic achievement and it just highlights the level of talent around Kent. Well done to Jasmine Lewtas (joint captain), Florence Byers (joint captain), Molly Sinclair, Olivia and Rachel Moran, Abigail Johnston, Alice Atkins, Anna Miller-Amado and Alice Sanderson.

### **U15 Regional Cricket Tournament – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July - Miss Parkinson**

The U15 cricket team, having won the Kent tournament, went on to represent Kent at the Regional finals in Chelmsford. The team played very well, demonstrating tight fielding skills and excellent bowling, enabling them to win their 3 group games. TWGGS met Oathill School in the final and despite their best efforts they lost to an excellent team. TWGGS should be proud of their performance just narrowly missing out on a place at the national finals. Well played to Emily Rundle, Georgie Madison Brown, Lara Smith, Emma Cameron, Charlotte Knudson, Millie Holford, Evie Broad, Lucy Edwards, Imogen Berger North, Jane Green.

### **Kent Schools Athletics Championships , 14<sup>th</sup> June – Mrs Murray**

The following girls qualified to enter into the Track and Field School Trials for Kent. The day was a real success with the following results;

Year 7 Shot Jasmine Lewtas 7G – 3<sup>rd</sup> Place with 7.61  
Year 7 1500m Abigail Johnston 7W – 7<sup>th</sup> in final with 5.32.33

Junior	800m	Romane Balcomb-Neville – 5 <sup>th</sup> in heat with 2.37.54
Junior	1500m	Eleanor Cohen – 6 <sup>th</sup> in Heat <b>5.06.93 (School Record)</b>
Junior	Shot	Bethan Harvey-Little 9 <sup>th</sup> Place with 7.38
Inter	HJ	Imogen Cowdell – 5 <sup>th</sup> place with 1.40
Inter	800m	Alice Ralph – 2 <sup>nd</sup> in Heat 2.26.09 then 3 <sup>rd</sup> in Final <b>2.19.71 (School Record)</b>

### **Eleanor Cohen and Alice Ralph Break School Records! – Mrs Murray**

A special mention goes to our champion distance runner Alice Ralph from 10W, who qualified for the regional finals in 800M and came 5<sup>th</sup> at the South Inter-Counties Championship. Alice also gained her 3<sup>rd</sup> School Record in the 800m; the previous record had been held for 7 years. Another special mention goes to Eleanor Cohen who broke her first school record in Year 9 1500m record; the previous record had been held since 2006!

### **Kent School Games Tennis Finals 2014- Mrs Collard**

After a very successful summer tennis season of school matches, our Year 10 girls were ranked highest in their league. This meant that they were through to the finals of the Kent School Games in Canterbury. The team consisted of Grace Collins and Genevieve Hull, pair one and Imogen Collard and Sophie Radley, pair two. Grace and Genevieve won all their matches, with good attacking play, strong serving and deep ground strokes. Imogen and Sophie didn't win all their matches in the face of some tough opposition from Highworth School's very strong teams but they played well with a good range of cross court volleys, groundstrokes and devious drop shots. At the end of the day, the TWGGS team were placed third, narrowly losing to Highworth School who won first and second places. The girls were presented with medals and certificates. Well done girls!

### **Congratulations to Megan Goose, 7W**

Congratulations to Megan Goose who ran the Race for Life in aid of Cancer Research, in memory of her best friend's mother. Megan completed the race and raised £535.

### **Elena Holland wins silver medal at "Road to Wimbledon" Tournament - Sunday 5th July - Miss Guy**

On Sunday 5th July, Elena Holland in Year 8 went to Bromley Tennis Club to represent herself and TWGGS in the "Road to Wimbledon" singles tournament. This was a qualifying round tournament which leads into a further round being held at Wimbledon itself. The level of tennis was very high and there was a mixture of age groups competing. Elena won her first round match which was against TWGGS rival Katie Fryza 4-0, 4-0, taking her into the semi-finals. Her next opponent was Theodora Enslin of Sevenoaks Tennis Club; this was a very close match but Elena won 5-3, 5-4 following a match tiebreak. In the final she came up against Ines Pelvang from Tonbridge Tennis Club. Although many of the games went to 40=30 or deuce Elena lost 4-1, 4-0 to a much stronger competitor. Congratulations Elena; what a fantastic achievement!

### **Kent Schools' Doubles' Tennis Finals. Year 8 13/6/2014 – Mrs Collard**

The date was an inauspicious one, being Friday 13<sup>th</sup>! Two Year 8 teams, Michaela Holding and Elena Holland, and Katie Fryza and Connie Howard, had reached the finals of the Kent Schools Doubles Championships, an achievement in itself, as part of only 8 girl teams in the county finals. TWGGS pairs had been put into opposite sides of the draw: in round one Mickey and Elena played High Hurstwood and won in two sets; Katie and Connie played Dartford, losing the first set 4-6, then winning the next 2 sets. In the semi-finals the two TWGGS' teams met Sevenoaks' first and second pairs. Mickey and Elena beat Sevenoaks' first pair 2 sets to love, and Connie and Katie beat their second pair 2 sets to one with a tiebreak third set. This now meant that TWGGS' pairs were both in the finals, opposite each other! We were all so excited, girls, parents and staff alike!

It had been a long day, and therefore girls played sets to 4 (rather than to 6). The final was very close and exciting, though it seemed that the pressure was off a little, now that TWGGS would be taking home all the winnings! The overall victors of the day were Elena and Mickey who won the final 2 sets to 1, the last set being a very close championship tiebreak of 10-8. The girls were presented with gold and silver medals respectively, and generous Marks and Spencer vouchers. Miss Guy had told Mrs Collard (who accompanied the girls) to come home with a trophy. How satisfying it was to come home with two! Well done to the girls for their hard work and focused determination.

### **First World War Drumhead Commemoration Service**

All are welcome to attend this Service of Commemoration at Calverley Grounds, Tunbridge Wells on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2014 at 3.00pm. Service sheets will be distributed on the day of the Parade. For more information please contact Mayor's Parlour on 01892 554282 or email: [mayor@tunbridgewells.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@tunbridgewells.gov.uk).

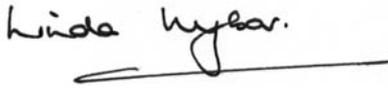
### **PTA**

Keep up with the latest PTA news by following @twggspta on Twitter. The separate PTA newsletter gives details of their many and varied events this year; we are most grateful for their superb support.

As a school, we regularly update our Equality, Disability and Access policies and plans and have done so recently; these may be found on the school website, as with the Complaints Procedure and other policies. We are always pleased to receive feedback or suggestions from parents with regard to such school documents, especially in this case if we can improve our disability access arrangements in a way which might not have occurred to the school. Please do just let me know!

Finally, it only remains to wish you all a very pleasant, relaxing summer holiday.

With best wishes,

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

Mrs L Wybar  
Head Teacher