

Dear Parent/Guardian

I am delighted to inform you that Mr Jones has been promoted to the post of Curriculum Leader Chemistry, when Mrs Newton retires at the end of this academic year, on which we congratulate him. This has been an incredibly busy term, as you will see below, and we are most grateful to girls, parents and staff for their wonderful support.

Reception – Mrs Wybar

An increasing number of parents is ringing Reception and asking Mrs Holloway to deliver urgent messages to their daughters, or to go and look for their daughters if girls have forgotten to leave class for an appointment. I am sure that you will understand that we cannot accommodate these requests; it results in Mrs Holloway having to leave the reception area unmanned and incoming telephone calls being unanswered. If you have to arrange an emergency appointment for your daughter, please ask her to switch on her mobile phone at breaktime and check it; you can then send her a text message with the relevant information. Any message given to Mrs Holloway during the morning will now be put into your daughter's register and, therefore, delivered to her at afternoon registration; it is the girls' responsibility to check for this. Similarly, if your daughter has forgotten something (lunch, PE kit, Food Technology ingredients, etc) you are welcome to bring this to Reception, sending your daughter a text message, and she may collect it from there. It will not be delivered to her. (Please note, her phone should be switched off during lesson time.)

We would be really grateful for your co-operation with this. However, in the case of a genuine emergency, please do continue to telephone and we will be delighted to assist!

Second Hand Uniform – Mrs Wybar

As you will know, the PTA provides an invaluable service in selling second-hand uniform; unfortunately, their stocks are currently very low, especially in the smaller sizes required by many Year 7 pupils. Please could I ask you to send in any surplus or outgrown uniform you might have at home, marked for the attention of the PTA, and they will be pleased to sell it to raise funds for the school, as well as assisting parents with uniform costs.

Old Girls' Association – Mrs Prescott, Old Girls' Committee

Calling all TWGGGS Old Girls! Every five years there is a TWGGGS Old Girls' Reunion held in the school. This is a very popular event including a gathering in the school hall (school song and hymn singing included!) followed by a sumptuous afternoon tea. There is also time to catch up with past and present friends and ex-members of staff and explore some of the some school buildings. The next event is to commemorate 110 years of TWGGGS and will be held on Saturday 27 June 2015, 2-5pm. Tickets can be obtained via the school website <http://www.twggs.kent.sch.uk/OGA/events> . Please spread the word among any Old Girls you are in touch with.

Under 19 Netball National Finals – Miss Auer

Ellesmere Port, Liverpool on Saturday 14th March saw the U19 netball squad in new TWGGGS kit, looking sharp with matching TWGGGS scarves and scrunchies (it was a prime pre-tournament photo opportunity to say the least). A surprise visitor in the form of a favourite 6th form teacher Miss Paterson turned up just before the first match, giving the girls an extra boost of support and huge smiles on their face.

TWGGGS started strong against Broxbourne by turning over one of their centres giving us an early lead in the first half, but to only be up by one goal at half time (5-4). After some strong defence by Georgie Bailey and Hatty Montgomery, having to deal with a very physical shooting partnership TWGGGS stormed ahead to win the game 12-7. Spirits were high, as TWGGGS showed composure on and off court to then take on Newcastle High School. This game saw some fantastic linking play though centre court with Emma Johnson, Ellie Durr and Yasmin Absolon who demonstrated what a fantastic agile and strong centre court looks like, feeding the ball into Hattie Gomersall and Katherine Taylor beautifully who put up the shots to ensure TWGGGS were up at half time 7-4. TWGGGS continued with this beautiful play to go on and win 11-7.

After 3 rounds off, it was time to take on Millfield where TWGGGS' defence would have their work cut out, as they had to contend with a 6 ft 6 shooter. TWGGGS at first struggled to get to grips with keeping possession with the high balls being sent in. Although this broke down, the girls were still up by 1 goal 6-5 at half time, but something wasn't quite right. With a tactical team talk at half time, changes were made in both attack and defence, where Lily Wadsworth and Antonia Murray made their debut in the tournament. Lily's new found confidence to hold a physical defence enabled her to screen out a player, to allow Katherine Taylor to continue her phenomenal shooting, and the team to win 10-8. It was a similarly intense situation in the 4th game against Beaconsfield, as the TWGGGS girls had a psychological block playing the team who beat them by one goal to take the title in their

U16 time at nationals; this time the game ended a draw 10-10. Next, TWGGS dominated Repton from the start, winning the game 14-6. Greenhead College was storming the score board coming top of the pool we were in, which meant it was going to be a tough match. Despite the team's best efforts and remaining the cleanest and on point team, TWGGS experienced the first loss of the day by one goal, with the final score being 6-5. Against Bishop Vesey TWGGS won 12-9, and TWGGS beat Loretto 19-4, doing wonders for our goal average: TWGGS were now through to the semi finals.

Unfortunately we came second in our pool with Greenhead College coming first, therefore we were going to play Hartpury who came top in the other Under 19 pool. At half time TWGGS were up by 4, which was a fantastic position to be in. TWGGS now had to play a possession game, and take on board what Karen Greig had said to them in their pre national training session, which at first worked really well. However Hartpury adapted to the possession game by switching their play from a man on stance to a zonal game and at full time the score was 12-12. Extra time of 2 minutes each way was the next challenge. Both teams were on form scoring 1 goal each in the first 2 minutes. TWGGS gave it everything they had playing the best netball they have all year. Hartpury scored 2 in the second 2 minutes against TWGGS 1, leaving the game at Hartpury 15- TWGGS 14.

Missing out on the final by one goal, was of course devastating for the girls. Legs were tired, and spirits were deflated, however TWGGS had one more game, to decide third and fourth place. Guildford High lost to Greenhead College in the other semi final, meaning TWGGS were now facing them in the play offs. Confidence started to re build: we had beaten Guildford at regionals, therefore psychologically knew we could do this. TWGGS were up by 3 at half time with the score 8-5; they hung on to the lead winning 14-12 and taking the bronze medal. TWGGS Under 19 were officially the third best team in the country, an outstanding achievement of a team constructed on real effort and team work. Antonia Murray's positivity as team captain was contagious and the PE department would particularly like to thank those U6th girls for whom this was their last ever tournament for TWGGS: Hatty Montgomery, Georgie Bailey, Rose Hairs, Lily Wadsworth, Emma Johnson, Lydia Slaughter, Hattie Gomersall and Antonia Murray; their commitment to TWGGS Netball over 7 years has been exceptional.

Under12 Netball County Tournament – Miss Auer

The Under 12s travelled to Rainham School for Girls to compete in their County Tournament, beating all the competitors in their pool to come out on top with 25 points. This qualified us to go into the knock outs, which is the top 16 schools in the county. TWGGS were drawn against Chislehurst and Sidcup, which they won comfortably. Against Walthamstow Hall in the quarter finals. TWGGS were down by 5 at half-time, however in some impressive defensive play, and some lovely linking play through centre court to the accurate shooters, the score at full time was 8-8. The whistle blew which marked the start of 'golden goal', meaning the team who scores the next goal won. After a nail-biting few minutes and plenty of turn overs made by both sides, TWGGS gained the final passage of possession and bought the ball down to the shooters, where they scored. TWGGS were through to the semi -finals winning by one goal (9-8). The semi -finals were against a well drilled Sevenoaks team (who eventually went on to win the tournament). Sevenoaks won first centre pass, leading them to an early lead on the scoreboard. At the end of the first half TWGGS were down by 2 goals and there was still everything to play for. Unfortunately after scoring off our advantage and centre Sevenoaks steamed ahead to score another 5 goals against TWGGS 2 leaving the final score at Sevenoaks- 10 TWGGS-5.

There was still another match to play to determine who came 3rd and 4th. This saw TWGGS beating Sydenham School, therefore coming and receiving the Bronze medals. A huge congratulation to Claudia Erichsen, Juliette Redfern, Lauren Jackson, Lucy Waters, Aimee Hobley, Grace Forbes, Blythe Roberson-Leech, Laura Williamson, Indigo Gentry and Tamanni Lawal for competing in their first tournament at TWGGS. This was a well deserved recognition for a team who have worked incredibly hard and shown great commitment to school sport.

Russia Review – Mrs Freeman

Forty-four Sixth Form pupils embarked on a trip to Russia in the February half term holiday, accompanied by Mr Walker, Mrs Freeman and Mr Hodges, and expertly led by Miss Sowerby. The Russian guides were full of compliments for the girls, who thoroughly enjoyed the trip and were true ambassadors for TWGGS due to their excellent behaviour and engagement in all visits and activities. Sophia Reeve (on Moscow) and Freya Gilbert (on St. Petersburg) have written the account below:

"During our whistle stop tour of Russia, Moscow gave us a real insight into the workings of Russia and its past. Everywhere you turned there were reminders of the former communist government, from sickles and hammers to Stalin's seven sister gothic buildings. We explored the rich history of Moscow through tours of the Kremlin and the contemporary history museum and as we walked around in the sub-zero temperatures, we really felt as if we were experiencing Russian life. Some light relief was provided by an evening ten pin bowling trip, which witnessed some competitive matches. Probably the most notable moments of Moscow were Lenin's Mausoleum, St Basil's Cathedral on Red Square and the Metro tour. Utmost respect had to be shown to Lenin's

embalmed body and we had to observe complete silence: it was a very surreal experience. Our visit to Moscow ended with a breathtaking tour of the Metro. Built by Stalin in the 20th century, we were able to see the most beautiful stops on the Moscow underground, decorated with mosaics, bronze statues and chandeliers! After this we took the overnight train to St. Petersburg.

"The overnight train transported us to the breathtaking and dazzling city of St. Petersburg. The city, founded by Peter the Great in 1703, was the home of the Romanov Dynasty until they came to a brutal and tragic end at the hands of Lenin in 1918. The combination of cloudless skies and snow-filled streets added to the magnificence of the palaces and cathedrals, all of which were lavishly decorated with gold and silver. Perhaps the most striking of all was the Catherine Palace, with entire rooms decorated in amber and gold. The extravagance of endless receptions, dancing and dining rooms was seen across all of the palaces. It led us all to think about the inequality that had previously existed in Russia, and consequently what led to the storming of the Winter Palace. We replicated this event on a night tour of the city which was just as vibrant at night as in the day. The tour took us to important locations such as: the Winter Palace, home to Nicholas II the last ruler of the Romanov's; the Yusopov Palace, where Rasputin was murdered; the Church of the Spilt Blood, where an assassination attempt was made on Alexander II in 1881; as well as countless monuments to 'The Great Patriotic War'. The unique Russian architecture and ornate interior design gave all the sites a personality and emotion. The beauty of the artwork brought the buildings and the city to life. Finally, we said farewell to this beautiful city and flew back home, full of enthusiasm for our experiences during our exhilarating tour of two wonderful places."

Debating Notice – Mrs Johnstone

The debating season is once more coming to an end, and the TWGGS teams continue to excel in an increasingly competitive climate, as more and more of the top private schools are hiring debating coaches, making the already rather sloping playing field at times seem positively vertiginous!

Junior Debating

We were delighted that the junior teams of Milly Young and Molly Hockley, and Hannah Naismith and Elise Overd were recently invited to join the Finals Day of the prestigious International Competition for Young Debaters (ICYD) on the basis of their fine performances in the regional round. We wish them every success in Cambridge in May.

Senior Debating

We have been very busy in recent weeks, with a fine run of performances. In the English Speaking Union's high profile Mace competition, Polly Smythe and Ellie Drewry made it through three rounds to the Regional finals, where they were narrowly runners-up to a team from Brighton which included a Singaporean national team debater.

At the Bristol University competition, there were many excellent TWGGS performances. Polly and Ellie were the top pair on the team tab (the league table at the end of the competition), with Polly topping the individual tab. By an incredible stroke of bad luck, however, the university organisers mishandled the scores, meaning that the 'wrong' TWGGS team was actually put through to the final. This meant that the Year 11 team of Eve Drysdale and Rachel Weatherley - who had done tremendously well against many older teams to come fifth overall - were put into the final instead, the organisers only realising their mistake after the event. Eve and Rachel put up a fantastic performance which bodes well for their future, with Eve in particular making an impassioned and convincing speech on ethical development aid policies. Congratulations are therefore due to all four of these great debaters.

Two Sixth Form teams also made the long journey to Durham over the weekend of 21st – 22nd March, where they took part in six debates over two days. Both pairs made it through to the 'break room' stage (the rooms from which the finalists will be drawn), but unfortunately neither made the break. Coco Collard was the top performing TWGGS girl; she and her Lower Sixth partner Phoebe Segal were the top teacher-coached state school team, an impressive performance by any standards. Unfortunately the other TWGGS team, Polly Smythe and Ellie Drewry, was dogged by illness and unable to complete the final round.

Mrs Johnstone should like to record her thanks to the Upper Sixth debaters, Polly, Coco and Ellie, for their tremendous service as ambassadors for the school over the past five years. Polly has been a superb Debating Prefect, and all three girls have been superb role models and helpers to the junior debaters, as well as performing consistently at the highest level throughout their time at TWGGS. They have been an absolute pleasure to work with, and it is a tribute to them that a number of coaches from other schools say how much they have admired the girls' ability, friendliness towards other teams, and sportswomanship over the years.

German Theatre Performance – Herr Link

On 3rd March Onatti Theatre Company visited TWGGS again to perform the play *Meine Neue Schwester* (My new sister) for our Year 8 and 9 girls. As usual, the performance was highly entertaining and the two professional actors did a good job to involve the

girls. The girls had no problems following the play which (of course) was performed completely in German. They also used the opportunity at the end to ask the actors questions, in German and English. Everybody agreed that we should invite them again!

German Exchange Return Visit – Herr Link

March also saw the return of our exchange partners from Bonn – Bad Godesberg to visit their English partners in Tunbridge Wells. They arrived on Friday 20th March and spent the weekend with their partners on various activities, sampling English landscape and traditional foods. On Monday, they joined us in school and were able to experience registration, a whole school assembly, a lesson with their partners, an English lesson (taught by Dr Blanch) and a History lesson (taught by Mr Franklin). This is usually one of the highlights of their visit as they can experience school life at TWGGS first hand. After lunch, they visited the Pantiles and were treated to a guided tour of Tunbridge Wells. On Tuesday our visitors travelled to London to visit all its tourist sights - and they managed to squeeze in some shopping! On Wednesday the whole group (with English partners) made their way to London again, this time to the Tate Modern and a leisurely walk along the South Bank to Covent Garden. Thursday was spent with a visit to Hever Castle, a look at the famous windows of Tudeley Parish Church by Marc Chagall and a visit to Bateman's, the former home of Rudyard Kipling. On Friday 27th March it was time to return to Germany – but not before a visit to Canterbury and a walk around the old town. Unfortunately, the weather had turned a bit cooler but at least it was mostly dry for their visits and very often the sun came through. We are sure that they had a most entertaining time, and a few lasting friendships should have been forged.

Europa Centre Visits, Year 8 – Herr Link

Year 8 have just finished their exams before Easter and will now prepare for their visits in the Europa Centre in June and July, where they can practise their German with native speakers in the sheltered surroundings of a model village. This is always good preparation for our big trip in Year 9 to Cologne where they can then try out what they have learnt in the real German world.

Spanish Exchange 2015 – Ella Wheatley, 10S

On the 12th March, 26 TWGGS girls and teachers went to Spain for our Spanish Exchange. We had been paired up with people who had similar interests to us, and we started to communicate with them over email, us writing in Spanish and them writing in English. Staying with a family in Spain for a week was a very intimidating concept at the time, and we had no idea what to expect, despite the countless emails. As we got off the plane we felt the sunshine's rays hit us, and creating a great atmosphere.

The first stop was at Valle de Los Caídos, or Valley of the Fallen, a Catholic basilica and monumental memorial in San Lorenzo de El Escorial, to honour and bury those who fell during the Spanish Civil War. Finally we arrived at the school, which is a monastery as well as a school; to say we were impressed would be an understatement! After what felt like forever, it was finally time to meet our exchanges! When I arrived at my host family's home, I was greeted by a large plate of typically Spanish foods such as ham, cheese and breads; I knew I was going to be very full by the end of the trip, which I certainly wasn't complaining about!

We started the day by going to the school again, with a beautiful, informative tour of the monastery, and the opportunity to talk to some older students who wanted to practise their English, chatting about our cultures and how our day-to-day lives vary. The weekend gave us the chance to spend time with our host family, learning about their lives; I went ice skating and to a shopping centre, which was a great chance to have a chat with my exchange about our likes and dislikes and get to know each better. On Monday the TWGGS group met up and we travelled to Madrid! After an open top bus ride to have a better view of the city, we had a picnic lunch and then did a lot of shopping in the little shops that lined the beautiful streets. On the Tuesday we travelled to a historical town called Segovia with all the TWGGS girls and the exchange partners. It was a beautiful town and we had a very interesting tour, learning about the aqueduct and the various brickwork detailing. Finally, it was time to go home. After a brilliant week and a lot of goodbyes and thank yous, we started our journey back to England, it was an absolutely amazing trip, and we cannot wait to see our exchanges again when they come to stay with us soon.

Biology Talk by Professor Sir Tim Hunt, Nobel Prize Winner – Amy Shaw, L6I

On Thursday 26th February, a number of Lower Sixth Biology students, accompanied by Mrs Lewis and Miss Grove, travelled to Bethany School to join their 'Pengelly Society' to listen to a talk given by Professor Sir Tim Hunt who won the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his discovery of a protein molecule that controls the division of cells. He was an animated and inspiring speaker who managed to make the very complicated science behind the Cell Cycle seem simple. His witty remarks and humorous, personable nature made for a very entertaining evening. Sir Hunt discovered Cyclins in the summer of 1982 whilst working on sea urchin eggs at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. These are proteins that rise and fall in concentration during Mitosis, the nuclear division of a cell before it splits into two, completing cell division. Whilst investigating the proteins present in newly fertilised sea urchin eggs Professor Hunt noticed that the level of these proteins, later to be called Cyclins, fell just before the chromosomes split to opposite poles of the cell. He had discovered the 'controller' of the cell

cycle, the substance that regulates when mitosis occurs, and this was a fundamental breakthrough in the field of biochemistry. He named the protein Cyclin due to the importance of its fluctuations in level throughout the cell cycle and also, apparently, because of his slight obsession with cycling! The evening provided an incredible opportunity to hear a Nobel Prize winner talk and the underlying message from the laureate was his belief that you should do Science because you love it, because it intrigues you, and because you just can't let go of those niggling questions in your head.

Visit by Celebrity Chef Rosemary Shrager – Eleanor Creasey, L6G

During Careers Week we were delighted to have Rosemary Shrager in school to speak to us about her personal journey in becoming a chef, and advise us on how best to develop a career in the cooking industry. Rosemary is a famous chef, owning multiple restaurants and running many of her own television series, such as "Rosemary Shrager's School for Cooks", first airing on ITV in 2007. She also appeared on "I'm a Celebrity, Get Me Out of Here!" in which she came sixth.

We were overwhelmed by the amount of interest: over 100 people, girls from different year groups and staff, heard Rosemary speak about the variety of careers within the food industry, ranging from food photography to working in a kitchen. Her talk was both exciting and inspiring, describing the doors which an ability to cook can open such as travelling, journalism, teaching and even starring on television. Furthermore, a demonstration was led by one of the top tutors from Rosemary's Cookery School in Tunbridge Wells. He created two dishes: a pasta dish, which used multiple different forms of beetroot, a seasonal vegetable, involving three students who were offered the chance to assist in making the fresh pasta. The second dish was a deconstructed raspberry chocolate cheesecake which looked delicious; everyone wanted to try it and I was lucky enough to help with the assembly. As a result of her visit to TWGGS, Rosemary has offered Sixth Formers the opportunity to sign up for afternoon workshops, focussing on budget cooking for university students or an introduction to catering as a chalet girl.

Year 9 Visit to the Globe – Mr Russell

Early in March, all the girls in Year 9 had the opportunity to visit Shakespeare's Globe theatre in London. Hannah Lawton, Lily Montague and Freya Zaborski from 9T reflected on the experience:

What do you know about the Globe? It was apparent that as soon as we entered, there was so much more to explore. Our trip started with us walking through the welcoming doors, greeted by our exuberant tour guide. We all felt very involved and the atmosphere was enchanting, everyone eager to get going. Our guide – obviously in love with the place – showered us with more information than we thought our brains could ever take in. The Globe we visited was the third masterpiece after the other two had been burnt down; the Globe itself represented the world and our place in it, involving the audience allowing them to capture the essence of the plays. One of the things that made us realise just how special the Globe is, was the idea of the theatre being a world in itself: encompassing us in its surrounds and sharing the light between the audience and actors.

Later on, we were all enthralled by the creative, enlightening and individual workshop. Even the shiest of girls, got involved, and it was wondrous to see our form united in our passion. Our guide led us through some exercises which eventually expanded our knowledge of the Tempest, giving us a helpful overview of the speech used in the play. We were also given the opportunity, to explore an exhibition which gave us a strong insight into what life was like and the clothes at the time. Though we feared it might not be worth the time, after the engaging introduction, we were pleasantly surprised to find the resplendent attire and historical treasures very interesting. We can all agree, it was a good time to relax and cool down. Now, after the trip we can really see the impact of the few hours we had and it was definitely worth the time. Without a doubt we would highly recommend the trip to anyone, even if you don't already have an interest in Shakespeare.

Shakespeare Festival , 6th February 2015 – Mr Russell

This year's Year 8 Shakespeare Festival proved to be a fantastic evening's entertainment with the standard of performance being extremely high. Each Year 8 group drew lots for one of Shakespeare's plays and from the moment they drew their play they had just four weeks to bring the performance to the stage. Everything was the responsibility of the girls: directing, stage managing, acting, designing the set, make-up and costume, programme, sound, lighting. All roles had to be filled and an enormous amount of effort and, more importantly, teamwork was needed to ensure a spectacular performance was ready for the show.

Thea Pengelly, 8T, reports:

The Shakespeare Festival in 2015 was a phenomenal success! The whole process of putting the plays together and performing them in front of everyone was hectic, but every single class managed extremely well. On the actual night, everyone was extremely nervous. 8G magnificently performed 'A Midsummer Night's Dream', with many vibrant and magical colours; Bottom was especially good, engaging the audience superbly, winning the judges' best actress of the night title. Their costumes were fabulous,

and their props wowed everyone; however, their lighting and live music was what really stuck out and mesmerized the audience. 8T performed a dramatic and comedic version of 'The Tempest', performing two completely different scenes; the tempest at the beginning, a scene of chaos, and the scene outside of Caliban's cave, with Trinculo and Stephano, a comedic scene. 8W followed this with a gripping and sensational performance of Macbeth, performing two very well known scenes; the witch scene on the hill and the banquet scene; they performed both with a great sense of eeriness. They had fabulous props and very effective costumes. 8I elegantly performed an engaging two scenes from 'Romeo and Juliet'. They did this with so much confidence and the slow motion effect at the beginning of the ball scene really dazzled the audience. Their costumes were stylish and the whole stage was dotted with people in stunning silks. Finally, 8S performed 'Twelfth Night'. They did two scenes; one of them being a very commonly well known scene, where Malvolio is tricked into thinking that Olivia is his secret admirer; this scene was great and was very humorous. What was also great was their carefully thought out way of displaying a well known piece from 'Twelfth Night' on a manikin's shirt; which was designed to be Malvolio's costume.

At the end of the night, the judges announced the results. Everyone was nervous! The full list of winners and prizes is:

8G's "A Midsummer Night's Dream"	Best actress: Molly Sinclair (Bottom) Best supporting actress: Florence Byers (Puck)
8T's "The Tempest"	Best actress: Megan Biggerstaff (Caliban) Best supporting actress: Francesca Morris (Stephano)
8S's "Twelfth Night"	Best actress: Bonnie Dowler (Maria) Best supporting actress: Lucy Neve (Viola)
8I's "Romeo and Juliet"	Best actress: Eleanor Moran (Juliet) Best supporting actress: Charlotte van der Zanden (Lady Capulet)
8W's "Macbeth"	Best actress: Tatiana Sneddon (Macbeth) Best supporting actress: Madeleine Dry (Lady Macbeth)

- Best Set, including model box set: "A Midsummer Night's Dream" 8G
- Best Costume and Make-up: "Macbeth" 8W
- Best Programme and Foyer Display: "Twelfth Night" 8S
- Best Sound and Lighting: "The Tempest" 8T
- Best Ensemble Performance: "Romeo and Juliet" 8I
- BEST OVERALL PERFORMER: Molly Sinclair 8G
- BEST OVERALL PERFORMANCE OF A SCRIPTED EXTRACT: "The Tempest" 8T

For making the evening such an entertaining experience, thanks go to: guest adjudicator, Mrs Vivienne Reid-Brown, former Head of Drama at TWGGS; Zoe Erxleben and Hannah Rayner, Senior Drama Prefects for judging with our guest; Mrs G. Norman-Reade, Mr T. Bartlett and Mr J. Speller for their technical assistance; all the Year 8 English and Drama teachers and finally, of course, the girls who did so well in so many ways.

Drama – Mrs Davis

The Drama Department has been busy with the A2 Theatre Studies examinations this term. Two groups performed in front of a live audience of friends and family on the 27th February, achieving highly. For the first piece, girls worked in the style of Physical Theatre to address the issue of addiction. The cast of five (Vanessa Burns, Beth Dawson, Eloise Martin, Megan Moore and Yasmin Rose) worked courageously to produce a hard-hitting piece that both challenged and entertained the audience. Inspired by "John", the critically acclaimed National production we saw earlier in the year, the girls worked in a brave manner, emulating the style of physical theatre company DV8, with great success. The second piece "Winging It", a comedy set aboard an aeroplane in the 1980s, entertained the hugely supportive audience through the use of parody, multi-role and contrasting characters. The cast of five (Kathryn Djemai, Zoe Erxleben, Millie Everett, Holly Hamilton and Olivia Howitt) were inspired by "Noises Off" and "Abigail's Party", leading them to develop a fast-paced script and a chaotic plot to generate a highly professional piece. Finally, Breeze Cockburn and Sophie Thornhill worked collaboratively in a two-hander to explore the issue of Bipolar Disorder. Their highly sophisticated employment of physical skills made the audience reflect on what it might be like to live with the common condition. Also inspired by "John", they developed complicated choreography to illuminate the struggle bipolar suffers face. We wish the girls all the best in the summer when they will be taking the written examination, worth 60% of the course overall.

We would also like to wish the GCSE Drama cohort the very best of luck with their practical examination on the 23rd and 24th April. No doubt they will do both themselves and the department proud.

West Kent Schools' Teen Book Awards, The Gala Evening – Mrs Matheus-Ratcliffe, Librarian

"Against the Odds" was a challenging and wide-ranging theme for our 2014/15 reading list. And after five months and ten different books, which took us around the world and introduced us to new heroes who had to face many different challenges, we were finally allowed to relax: on 26th of March it was time for our annual Gala Evening at Kent College, Pembury. We met up with 12 other schools in this reading group to celebrate our 2015 book winners and, after all the reading, treat ourselves to an enjoyable evening with authors Nicky Singer and Andy Briggs. There was widespread agreement in the audience that our winners of evening, Sherman Alexie's *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian*, and Ruta Sepetys' *Out of Easy*, were worthy winners as we had thoroughly enjoyed these books. Now we are looking forward to choosing a new theme for our 2015/16 WKSTBA reading cycle, when we will celebrate the 10th anniversary.

World Book Day – Mrs Matheus-Ratcliffe, Librarian

After last year's homage to Roald Dahl's *Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory*, this year's World Book Day celebrations were, not surprisingly, dominated by *Alice in Wonderland*. Our pupils made the most intricate and amazing costumes inspired by our Summer Musical and the form prize went to 7W. The most astonishing group costume was put together by girls from 7G, who must have spent hours twirling their hair into amazing creations in an homage to the Hoos from Hooville.

Book Boxes – Mrs Matheus-Ratcliffe, Librarian

A big thank you to all those parents who so generously donated teen books for our new classroom book box scheme. More than 350 books have been added to our stock since my appeal, and most of them are already in classrooms across the school helping to support our reading initiatives in Key Stage 3. Please feel free to continue to bring books to the school if you are still clearing out your shelves – we will always have a home for them.

Siberian Tiger Cub – CCF Initial Camp, 27-28 February – Cdt Farida Carew, 11S

For me, taking part in the Year 9 Siberian Tiger Cub Camp weekend was an amazing experience. I remember when I was in Year 9 myself and I signed up to do this camp. I was nervous and apprehensive at first, however, by the end I was feeling much better because I had the support and encouragement from the older girls. Now I'm in Year 11, it was great to experience the camp from a leader's perspective, to be able to give encouragement to help the younger cadets in all of their exciting activities. The feedback I have received about the camp has all been fantastic: not only has it improved military skills such as drill and weapon handling, but the camp has also taught them life skills such as first aid and map and compass reading. The camp only lasted for one night and was just enough for the new cadets to have the perfect introduction to the TWGGS CCF lifestyle.

Congratulations to Georgie Grant, L6T- Mrs Wybar

Congratulations to Georgie who is being assessed by GB rowing and participated in a 5km (JW18) assessment on the River Witham in Boston. She came 9th out of 50 and has been invited to take part in the next assessment which will be held at Caversham in April. She may then be selected to take part in the European Rowing Championships to be held in Racice in the Czech Republic in May, and the World Rowing Championships to be held in Rio de Janeiro in August.

Dance – Lucia Battain, L6I – Miss Guy

Lucia attends the Centre of Advanced Training (CAT Scheme), at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance in Greenwich. Already this year she has been lucky enough to audition successfully and dance for Kerry Nicholls and perform twice in Lewisham Live. This year the CAT scheme was chosen to attend the Dance and Child International, Conference in Copenhagen. Lucia has been selected to be one of the 20 students to go to Copenhagen for a week in July and to perform in Lee Smikle's piece. What an honour and remarkable achievement for Lucia! Congratulations; it is great to see dance being represented here at TWGGS at such an elite level.

Cricket – Miss Parkinson

The Under 15 cricket team took part in the East Kent tournament and came second, so went on to the County Final tournament at Beckenham. The girls played extremely well as a team. They won their opening game against Cranbrook by 3 runs; they beat Highworth convincingly and then had to win their last game against Bromley in order to win the tournament and qualify for the Regional Finals. It was a tense match, which could have gone either way, but TWGGS held their nerve and won by 1 run. Congratulations to the squad who now go to represent Kent at the Regionals in April.:-Georgie Maddison Brown, Evie Dodd, Jane Green, Emily Rundle, Millie Holford, Charlotte Knudson, Georgie Newman, Emma Cameron, Imogen Berger-North, Lara Smith.

The Under 13 cricket team also took part in the East Kent tournament which they won. They went on to the County Final tournament, and despite coming joint first with Kent College Canterbury, they just missed out on attending the Regional Finals by run rate. This was very disappointing for the squad as they had beaten Kent College at the first round, and on the day of the County Final. The team played some excellent cricket and they should be very proud of their performances. Congratulations to the squad:- Lottie Van De Zanden. Alice Atkins, Tatianna Sneddon, Sarah Barnaby, Issy Macnutt, Indigo Gentry, Emily Bowyer, Fran Morris, Holly Nicolls.

Football – End of Season Report – Mr Russell

Under 16 Football

There were limited opportunities for the Under 16 to turn out this season, but their performances in the Kent 5-a-side Futsal Tournament were impressive. The team played some dazzling football in the regional stage of the competition: some lovely passing moves and terrific shooting led to a steady flow of goals, with captain Martha Kent impressively scoring in every one of the only-seven-minutes-long games. The whole team played extremely well and deservedly won almost all their games. A key match turned out to be the very first one. It was a very close match but TGS defended well against TWGGS pressure and we just couldn't get the goal we needed, TGS winning 2-1. Unfazed however, TWGGS won all their remaining matches and ended up joint top of the final table. They had done enough to take them to the Kent Finals. Team: Martha Kent (capt.), Laura Holmes, Chloe Lambert, Emily Dobson, Lily Braham, Alice Carey, Lauren Galloway

Results:

Match 1 vs TGS L 1-2 (Kent)

Match 2 vs Bennett W 3-1 (Lambert, Carey, Kent)

Match 3 vs Hillview W 4-0 (Kent 3, Galloway)

Match 4 vs St Gregorys W 3-0 (Kent 2, Galloway)

Match 5 vs Knole Academy W 2-1 (Kent, Carey)

The Finals:

Maddie Wood had joined the squad for this stage of the competition and made an immediate impact by scoring two excellent goals in quick succession to give the team victory 2-1 (Wood 2) in their first match against Mayfield. Narrow defeats in the next two closely-fought matches (0-2 against Oasis Academy and 1-2 to Walderslade (Wood)) however meant that TWGGS would not be going on to the National Finals. However, we were in the plate competition and determined to win it. TWGGS were at their best in the plate semi-final, with Martha Kent scoring two fine goals against Barton Court to take us to the final. There it was not so easy; Walderslade was a very good side and had beaten us in the earlier game. Despite the best efforts of both teams, brilliant defending on both sides meant the result at the end of time was still 0-0. Penalties! We had not practised penalties! Oh dear. Laura Holmes, having shared goalkeeping duties throughout the tournament with Chloe Lambert, was the keeper for this final game and therefore the shoot out. Best of five. TWGGS shooting first:

Martha Kent...scores! 1-0 TWGGS

Walderslade...score. 1-1

Alice Carey...scores! 2-1 TWGGS

Walderslade...score. 2-2

Lauren Galloway...scores! 3-2 TWGGS

Walderslade...score. 3-3

Maddie Wood...scores! But wait! Disallowed! Too many steps. Must be re-taken....

Maddie Wood...scores! 4-3 TWGGS

Walderslade...saved! Holmes brilliantly gets a leg to the shot and keeps it out. 4-3 TWGGS

Laura Holmes...this for the match....scores! 5-3 TWGGS.

A great end to an excellent run of matches. The girls should all be very proud of their performances.

Under 15 Football

The Under 15 team, largely composed of Year 9s, had a great season, playing some really excellent football. The team spirit was always high and the quality of football often highly impressive. Aply led by Holly Challingsworth, the team came very close to winning the Under 15 League. Narrow defeats against St Gregory's and Knole Academy meant that we had to settle for third place but the team were often playing against teams full of Year 10s and if they show the same team spirit and commitment next year, they have an excellent chance of winning the league.

Results:

Vs TGS W 3-0

Vs Mascalls W 6-4 (Challingsworth 2, Carew 2, Neville, Newman)

Vs St Gregorys L 0-1

Vs Knole Academy L 3-1 (Carew)

Vs Hillview W 6-0 (Challingsworth 2, Perkins 2, Newman 2)

Vs Bennett W 4-0 (Challingsworth, Perkins, Newman, o.g.)

(Friendly) vs TGS L 1-2 (Challingsworth)

The Under 15s played some of their best football in the Futsal tournament held at Hayesbrook in November. Just one goal (in the match against Knole) prevented them reaching the regional finals.

Results:

Vs Hillview W 5-0 (Newman, Challingsworth 2, Perkins 2)

Vs Knole Academy L 0-1

Vs St Gregorys W 3-1 (Newman 3)

Vs Bennett W 4-0 (Challingsworth, Newman, Perkins 2)

Under 15 Squad: Nejma Nassman, Holly Challingsworth, Nancy Perkins, Lily Braham, Georgina Newman, Amira Carew, Immie Ellis, Sophia Terrell, Rosie Neville, Kate Venters, Freya Zaborski, Abby Pambour, Jem Morris, Emma Holmes, Lily Montague.

Under 13 Football

We never knew quite what to expect with the Under 13s this year, with big defeats and huge wins forming part of an interesting season. Captained by Alice Atkins and Ruby Wheatley the team always gave their best and the spirit and energy of the squad bodes well for next season.

Results

Vs TGS L 0-6

Vs Mascalls W 9-0 (Stein Perry 3, Atkins, Sykes, Martin, Shrubsole 2, Wheatley)

Vs St Gregorys L 0-10

Vs Bennett W 7-0 (Wheatley 2, Sykes, Shrubsole 2, van der Zanden 2)

Vs Hillview D 1-1 (Shrubsole)

Under 13 Squad: Sophia Ledger, Thea Pengelly, Alice Atkins, Ava Smiles, Ruby Wheatley, Lottie van der Zanden, Eve Palmer and Lara Stein Perry, Holly Shrubsole, Cese Sykes, Livvy Perkins, Evie Pengelly, Lauren Hall, Emily Martin, Savanna Butler, Maya Strand Ford, Martha Russell.

Under 13 Kent Schools Netball Tournament- Miss Auer

Having come 4th last year and narrowly missing out on a medal position, the girls were ready to give their all this year at Rainham School for Girls. The qualifying rounds came and went with TWGGS dominating the leader board, beating: Wilmington Grammar (13-0), Highsted (20-0), Rainham School for Girls (9-1), Blackheath (16-2), Simon Langton (11-1), MGGS (15-0) and Dane Court (16-1). They scored a total of 100 goals only conceding 5 in 70 minutes of play. This success came from fantastic shooting by Hannah Carey, Rachel Moran and Daisy Alexander, whose versatile partnership and circle rotation were advanced and proved increasingly difficult for any defence to handle. In order for the shooters to get the ball into the circle there was excellent linking play through centre court and feeds into the circle by Olivia Moran (Captain), Izzy Macnutt and Sarah Barnaby. TWGGS centre court defence, Jasmine Lewtas and Flo Byers, showed impeccable plyometric skill and perfect timing in being able to turn the ball over back into possession of TWGGS on numerous times, giving us back the advantage.

In the second round, the top eight schools from Rainham stayed and the top eight from the second pool played at Aylesford Rugby Club, travelled to the venue for the afternoon. This is a knockout round which saw TWGGS beat Sir Roger Manwood 20-0 to reach the quarter finals which we won 14-3 against Sutton Vallance with impressive defensive work from Rosie Crotty and Jasmin Lewtas. A nail biting semi-final against Tonbridge Grammar School was won 10-6, to reach the final against Walthamstow Hall. TWGGS dominated the first half with crucial turn overs by the defence to give our attack the opportunities to score, which converted to 5-2 at half time. We were ahead but the girls did not stop there; they maintained possession with a victory of 11-4 in the final of the Kent Schools County Netball Tournament. Huge congratulations to Hannah Carey, Rachel Moran, Daisy Alexander, Sarah Barnaby, Izzy Macnutt, Olivia Moran, Flo Byers, Jasmine Lewtas and Rosie Crotty, a thoroughly deserved win. Tournament statistics:- Goals scored- 155 Goals conceded-11 Games played- 11

Schools Regional Acrobatics and Tumbling Competition – Miss Guy

On Sunday 22nd March, some of our gymnastics squad entered the Schools Regional Acrobatics and Tumbling competition which took place at TGS. Once again the girls gave their best and performed to the highest standard. They created routines which really showed their ability in gymnastics and chose the music. We had some fantastic results: Hannah Carey (8T) and Tia Young (8T) – Bronze in Under 14 Regional pairs. Ruby Swain (L6G) and Astrid Roberson-Leech (9G) took Silver in Under19 Regional pairs, while Sophie Semmens (9W) and Imogen Hunt (10T) took the gold! Our group made up of Ruby Swain, Sophia Rolf (11W), Margot Roberson-Leech (11), Imogen Hunt, Hannah Carey and Abigail McDougall (8I) entered the Under 19 Group National category going up against very strong opponents including TGS and Walthamstow Hall. Their routine was perfect with every balance being held and excellent timing throughout. This helped us to take silver with only .5 between us and TGS. A special mention must go to Ruby Swain for her hard work and motivation as Captain this year. What a fantastic result to end our year in gymnastics with medals at every competition!

Kent School Games Final – Miss Auer

Thirteen girls from Key Stage 3, along with Skinners', travelled to Gillingham to represent Tunbridge Wells in the Kent Schools Sports Hall Athletics finals. The girls competed individually and in teams in a variety of track and field events. All girls involved showed fantastic support for one another, and did themselves and the school proud against some tough opposition. Overall Year 7 came 8th and the Year 8 came 7th. A huge well done to the following: Amalie Duggal, Rosie Froome, Eve Palmer, Aimee Hobley, Susi Jahnich, Darcy Chappell-Salmon, Olivia Moran, Rachel Moran, Jennifer Kearney, Lottie van der Zanden, Thea Pengelly, Hollie Niccolls and Izzy Porter.

Kent School Games Trampoline Championships – Miss Guy

Our trampolining team went to Hillview School to represent TWGGS in the Kent School Games Championships. The team included girls from a range of year groups and ability categories; some had never competed before. Bethan Harvey-Little faced difficult competition in the Elite Year 9 & 10 girls group, but managed to hide the nerves and delivered two very clean and eye catching routines. Next up were our intermediate girls, Imogen Hunt, Millie Young, Megan Adams and Tara O'Sullivan. They were up against over twenty competitors including Bennett, Kent College, Weald and TGS. The girls completed both their routines very well with minor errors, scoring over 7, a very good score! Our three novice girls in Year 7 & 8, Maia Pearmine, Molly Swain and Cece Sykes, were up against forty two other contestants in their category, so the chance of winning a medal looked increasingly hard. Again, all three performed clean routines and credit goes to Cece who performed without a warm up due to running order confusion. The results – Bethan Harvey-Little came 2nd, Tara O'Sullivan 3rd, which means they both qualify for the finals in March. The most amazing result of the day was the three novice girls. All three move to the finals as individuals and as a team. Maia 1st place, Molly 2nd and Cece in 3rd out of forty two competitors! This is a truly outstanding result.

Kent School Games Trampoline Finals 2015 – Miss Guy

With five of our trampolinists, we travelled to the Kent School Trampoline Finals at Gillingham Jumpers Rebound Centre at Meday Park. Our Novice Year 7&8 team made up of Molly Swain, Cece Sykes and Maia Pearmine, Tara O'Sullivan in Intermediate Year11+ and Bethan Harvey-Little (captain) in Elite Years 9&10. Having got to the finals was an amazing result for our girls, some of whom do not jump outside of school. We knew the competition was suddenly a lot higher and with thirty girls in the novice group we would have to up our game. To make matters worse, the trampolines were much bigger and bouncier than ours at school which the girls struggled to get to grips with in the warm up. After a long day there were some very strong routines by all, particularly by Bethan who was competing in a very difficult tariff and up against an athlete from Tormead who has competed at the "world" championships! We had some fantastic results including Maia taking 2nd place by a third of a point, meaning that the novice team came 3rd overall and won a bronze medal. Bethan came 2nd, taking the silver, which again is a fantastic achievement considering how tough the level is which she competes at. Well done to all 5 girls.

Equestrian – Kent Regional Show Jumping Qualifier – Miss Guy

This month our equestrian team, Sophia McDonald (10T) on Twister and Michaela Holding (9W) on Carnival King, went to Duckhurst Farm in Staplehurst to represent TWGGS in the Kent Show Jumping Qualifier Competition; Sophia did really well in a large class and came 6th overall in the 90cm class, so collected a few more points for the Regional Points League.

Tunbridge Wells Badminton Tournament – Miss Guy

On Sunday 8th March TWGGS entered three pairs into the TWBL Junior Badminton Tournament. Lucy Waters and Tiegan Green played for the Under 12s and Kitty Prust, Alice Sanderson, Ruby Wheatley and Ava Smiles played for the Under 14s. All girls played extremely well, however they unfortunately didn't win any medals.

Badminton Success- Miss Guy

On Saturday 31st January, two pupils from TWGGS went to compete in the Under 18 Ladies Mid-Sussex Doubles Badminton Tournament in Haywards Heath. Ciara Barry in L6W and Laura Johnson in 11T stepped onto the court against some very talented badminton players; they played extremely well and managed to get into the final where they met their rivals from Hastings. "Giving their best" in the TWGGS spirit, the girls won the entire competition. What a fantastic achievement! As well as winning the doubles, both girls came runner up in their singles age group category, proving to be very strong individual players as well.

Also, congratulations must go to Eloise Thallon in L6S who won the Singles Plate, and she and Amelia Fowler in L6W also made the semi finals of the Mid Sussex doubles. Congratulations to all of you and good luck in the next round.

These girls all play for St. John's Badminton Club, which takes place at St. John's Leisure Centre.

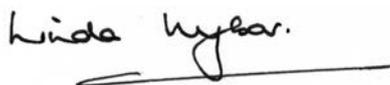
Post 16 Transport Policy - KCC

KCC has a legal duty to consult on its Post 16 Transport Policy each year and publish this by 31st May. For the 2015/16 academic year there are no proposed changes to the existing policy. Kent continues to favour the subsidy of its 16+ Travel Card as its main mechanism for supporting Kent's young adults in accessing a full breadth of education, training or work based learning opportunities.

Below is a link to the KCC website where we aim to capture feedback to the consultation. From this page both providers and learners can access the details of the proposed policy, further questions and answers and the feedback form for the proposals www.kent.gov.uk/post16transport . This consultation will run until 5pm Thursday 21st May.

It only remains for me to wish you all a very happy Easter and to remind girls that summer uniform may be worn on return from the holiday. As girls have a habit of shooting up in height, please may I ask parents to check that summer dresses are long enough?

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 horizontal line.

Mrs L Wybar
Headteacher