

Dear Parent/Guardian

As this term draws to a close, it is time to give Mrs Davis and Mrs Murray every good wish as they each go off on maternity leave. Mrs Davis's responsibility as Curriculum Leader Drama will be assumed by Miss Dorman, and we look forward to welcoming Mr Miller to teach her classes. Mrs Murray's role as Curriculum Leader PE will be taken by Miss Michaelides who joins us next term.

Home-School Agreement – Mrs Wybar

You may remember reading and signing this when your daughter joined TWGGGS. The agreement is reviewed every three years and some small changes have been made to the previous version. The proposed document is attached at the end of this newsletter. I would be very grateful if you could take time to read it and send back any comments for my attention by Friday 8th January. The revised agreement will then be in use for all, but only sent out to new pupils joining us in 2016.

Parental Consultation on Reports - Mr Smith, Assistant Headteacher

Thank you to all parents that took place in the reports surveys. These were conducted during the Tutor Information Evening for Year 7, the Lower Sixth Information Evening, and the Assessment Information Evenings held in October for Year 8, 9, and 10 parents. With well over four hundred responses from across five different year groups, analysis of your input has given us an important insight into what you regard to be the most important aspects of your daughter's learning that you wish to be reported to you. Final outcomes will be reported to parents in February following staff consultation, as we work towards a new reporting system that informs you on the issues you care about as your daughter progresses through the school.

Georgie Grant, U6T – Mrs Wybar

Congratulations to Georgie, who came first out of ninety girls rowing at the GB Junior Long Distance Trial in Boston, Lincolnshire. Following this she has been invited to the Junior Potential Camp in Arnoia, Spain, having rowed for Great Britain in the summer.

Molly Sacker, 11I – Mrs Wybar

Congratulations to Molly Sacker, who has been selected for the Royal Yachting Association UK Junior Squad, on the basis of her performance and commitment over a period of several years. Molly's selection recognises her potential to progress within the British Sailing Team, with the aim of winning selection for UK Youth Squads or beyond in Olympic Development programmes.

Ella Lance, 7S – Mrs Wybar

Congratulations to Ella Lance who was selected to join the British Sailing Team Intermediate Squad at the National Sailing Academy during half term. Ella did very well at the Race Week, coming 57th overall out of a fleet of 254 sailors. Racing conditions were tough with the wind building to gusts of 28-30 knots most days; 9 races were sailed in total – 3 per day in 3 flights. The organisers made a short film at the beginning of the event which can be accessed via the following link (the first film). Ella can be glimpsed briefly holding the Union Jack at the opening ceremony. <http://www.cesmeoptiweek.org/tr/medya>

Amber Lahdelma, 8S – Mrs Wybar

You may remember that Amber Lahdelma won a national creative writing competition against 2,500 other children in the Spring. The book with her story was published in November, and the Guardian has picked up the coverage with a picture of Amber and her published story on their website.

<http://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/2015/nov/16/short-story-week-young-writer-competiton-2015-the-promise>

English Schools' Ski Association, National Squad Selections – Mrs Wybar

Congratulations to two girls who have both been selected for the English Schools' National Skiing Squads: Evie Ayton has been selected for the junior squad and will spend a training week in Pila, Italy, and Elle Ayton has been selected for the senior squad and will spend a week in Geilo, Norway. Both girls will spend the week training in slalom and giant slalom.

Governors – Mrs Wybar

There are presently two vacancies for co-opted governors on the TWGGGS Governing Body, and Mrs Serpis, Chair of Governors, will be writing to parents in the New Year to invite applications; if this is something you feel you might like to get involved in, do please look out for the Parent Mail in January with further details.

Carol Service – Mrs Waddington

Last Friday (4th December) saw the return of the annual TWGGGS Carol Service held in St John's Church. All of the school choirs are involved in this event and this year they surpassed themselves, with the Carol Service being described as 'the best yet' by

many of our regular attendees. A huge thank you and well done goes to all of those girls who helped to make the evening such a success. There were some beautiful solos from Elizabeth Millar, Hannah Samuel, Bethany Reynolds, Emma Willmont, Isobel Lowe, Miar Murphy and Lucy Fyson. Mr Corse of the Maths Department directed the Staff Choir, who sang brilliantly. Other highlights were the Carol 'Baby Jesus Was Born' composed especially for the occasion by girls in 7W - Matilda Grace, Seryn Marriage, Alice Banks, Mae Harbinson and Amelia Thomas and Year 11 pupil Emily Camburn's beautiful capella carol 'Let the Child Be Born'. Congratulations to all those involved.

Additional Website Information on Assessment – Mr Smith, Assistant Headteacher

The following documents have been added to the school website containing valuable information on how your daughter is assessed at TWGGS:-

On the Curriculum and Prospectus page:

Subject Assessment Criteria - a document that shows you the criteria each subject assesses your daughter on through Year 7 to 9. These are the basis on which 9-1 grades are awarded and are well matched to the GCSE assessment categories of each subject.

9-1 Grading at TWGGS – a document that explains how the 9-1 grading system is applied at TWGGS from Year 7 to 9 and in English and Mathematics in Year 10. Information on this was provided at assessment information sessions for Year 7-10 parents in September and October, and was sent to all parents via parentmail with daughters in those year groups in October. This document reinforces that information.

On the Information for Parents page:

Interim Grading Information for 2015-16 – a repeat of the covering information for the interim reports issued to Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and Lower Sixth parents in December, in case that information becomes lost.

TWGGS Mental Health Awareness Ambassadors – Mrs Field, Head of Sixth Form

Congratulations to our twenty Lower Sixth girls who have just completed their Mental Health Awareness training with the local charity, IMAGO. Having introduced themselves to the rest of the school through key stage assemblies during Anti-bullying Week, and at a whole school assembly to mark Depression Awareness Week, these ambassadors will now be working across the school to offer support for any pupil who is having a difficult time, either in school, or at home. Please check out their display board in the main corridor for information.

Congratulations to Rachael Parker, U6G – Dr Ward

Rachael Parker, U6th, has been selected to sit on Amnesty's Youth Advisory Committee for an unprecedented second time. Rachael will join a panel of Amnesty students from other schools to advise the organisation on campaigns, resources and its national website. We congratulate her and wish her well.

Junior Concert – Mrs Waddington

One of the 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 was Miss Johnson's first Junior Concert and we were treated to a variety of performances from our junior orchestras and ensembles, including the newly formed and pupil-led ukulele group. There were also many inspirational solo 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.

Remembrance Day Review – CCF - SSgt Meg Tucker

At 0800 the cadets began arriving and so followed a flurry of putting hair up with a tight bun net, drinking squash and doughnut eating. With gelled back hair and full stomachs, the cadets began practising drill for the next hour or so and suddenly, after what felt like no time at all, it was time to walk down into Tunbridge Wells. Arriving in town, the crowds had started to grow as we marched into our holding area. Last minute uniform and hair checks meant we were ready to march in front of the war memorial, where we were situated in the second row. The service was truly poignant and thought-provoking, with all the girls remembering the sacrifice the fallen had made. There was a unanimous feeling of solemn togetherness that cloaked the parade during the two minutes' silence.

After the service was complete, we were marched back to another holding area where we waited (and where we took the chance to correct a few ties) for the march past. During this, both veterans and cadets alike were greeted with applause from the crowd as we honoured those who had been lost. After this final part of the parade was over all the girls could relax, knowing that we had given our best. We received many compliments on both our marching and our turn out, proving that, once again, the practice was worthwhile. After we were dismissed, I believe all the cadets felt the same sense of achievement and pride from the honour of being part of such a prestigious occasion and representing TWGGS, the Royal Engineers and our Cadet Force on such a meaningful and important occasion.

News from The German Department – Herr Link

We are saying good-bye and a big thank you to Jessica Meier this week, who has been with us since early September completing her work experience at TWGGS and helping us out enormously. All girls in Year 10 to Upper Sixth who she worked with really enjoyed her input and benefited greatly.

The German Department had a very busy term with two trips to Germany and those at a politically difficult time requiring lots of additional considerations for safety reasons. However, everything went smoothly, as you will read from the girls themselves.

Year 9 Cologne Christmas Markets Trip – Alice Sanderson, 9W

On Thursday 26th November 91 Year 9 girls set off at the crack of dawn, ready to hit Cologne! At around 5pm we arrived in the city centre and made our way to the first Christmas market by the Kölner Dom. We were struck by how magical the Christmas market was with its twinkling lights and festive smells. We decided to try out the traditional German sausages which were extremely tasty - definitely to be recommended! Day two in Cologne started with a visit to the Museum Ludwig (an art gallery for modern art) where we viewed all kinds of bizarre pieces including a multicoloured octopus sculpture which we particularly enjoyed. Afterwards, we visited the enormous gothic cathedral, followed by three different markets. We also had some shopping time on the main pedestrian street. It was a great opportunity to speak some German to buy our Christmas gifts and order food. We particularly enjoyed the cruise on a luxury boat along the River Rhine, where we were visited by the Weihnachtsmann (Santa Claus). We sang a German Christmas carol on the stage: "Laßt uns froh und munter sein" in front of an audience and were each given a chocolate Santa, including Mrs Waddington, for our singing! On behalf of all the girls who visited Cologne, a huge thank you to Herr Link and the other teachers for such an enjoyable trip.

Year 10 German Exchange Bonn-Bad Godesberg 3-9 December - Sophie Whitaker and Jenny Wilson, 10W

We met our exchange partners at their school, Clara-Fey Gymnasium, in Bad Godesberg, Bonn. After a slightly awkward start, we soon got to know our partners and their families and became good friends. We enjoyed participating in their traditions, including advent and St. Nikolaus day. Nicholas of Myra was a Christian bishop known for leaving secret gifts, such as coins, in people's shoes overnight, and his death on 6/12/346 is remembered. On the night of 5th December we cleaned our boots (to show how good we'd been) and left them outside the front door. By morning they were filled with scrummy sweets and chocolate! We were all amazed by the family's generosity, and how they ensured we felt at home and welcome. Days out included factory tours of Haribo and Lindt, where we all had a great time tasting the delights, and buying sweets and chocolate to fill our suitcases. We also enjoyed visiting Cologne Cathedral, and German history and chocolate museums, but the glass blowers' workshop was the most memorable experience, watching molten glass being taken out of the furnace and, using a glassblower's pipe, blowing it into shape. However, the highlight of this trip was evidently the stunning Christmas markets, with some of us having to buy extra bags to take our wonderful presents home in! We are very much looking forward to seeing our friends again when they visit England, and we would like to thank Herr Link and Frau Ceurvorst for a really memorable trip.

CCF – 2Lt Paul Tester

1974: Skinners' School Tunbridge Wells – as a shy young lad from the country, I was already struggling with who I was and where I fitted in at secondary school: authoritative teachers, threats of lines, essays and detentions, new friends, large classes, changing friends, long days, hours of homework compounding those feelings of anxiety. Having to take part in a compulsory school activity just filled me with more fear and trepidation. For me the choices were less than attractive; scouts, librarian, Christian Society, cross country running, community service and the school CCF. My father said that the Cadets would 'do me good' as National Service had done for him; the stories of camping out on Dartmoor and running around in the rain with a group of guys I didn't know seemed uninviting. It was a less than enthusiastic new recruit therefore that joined the cadet force that spring.

Four years later I looked back on my school life with great affection. Scholastically I was never going to be a high achiever, however my experiences in the Cadet Force took me from boy to young man ready to face the world. The Officers that led the Cadets and mentored us as young recruits through to junior NCOs, sergeants and in my case to Company Sergeant Major were exemplary. Unlike every other activity within school at that time where we were told what to do and how to behave, we were encouraged to learn and develop our own experiences and skills:

Self Reliance - camping, cooking, map reading, packing and looking after your own kit

Self Discipline and Responsibility - weapon handling, cleaning and maintenance, drill, training and mentoring younger cadets

Confidence - survival, leadership skills, tactical awareness and planning – the list goes on.

Personally I took all of these skills and more from the cadets. Annual 'Arduous' training on Dartmoor tested me and everything I had learnt, and in my final year I was empowered to set up and run map-reading exercises and tactical exercises on my own or alongside senior cadets. The friendship and the camaraderie was second to none: we all had to dig deep on a regular basis; getting the most from everything we put in. After I left school I went on to attend the 'United Kingdom Leadership Force' with the Royal Fusiliers and from there adventure training and rock climbing in Wales.

Fast forward to 2013 – and that ‘Back to the Future’ moment: my own daughter joined the TWGGS Cadet Force based on the ridiculous stories I had to tell from my own experiences. Watching her struggle as I had and then seeing her confidence and ability grow through her membership of the cadets (even tidying up her room!) reminded me of my own experiences. Life moves on at a pace, and in the autumn of 2014 I felt that the moment had come to put something back: what better way than to recognise what the CCF had done for my own and my daughter’s lives than to become a Civilian Volunteer. Over the last twelve months I have been on two training courses with the Army, attended Annual camp and a number of weekend exercises at various sites around the country. I also took a group of cadets to the Cadet National Shooting competition. I have re-visited the same principles as I experienced in the late seventies and more – the kit doesn’t itch so much, the Bashas don’t leak so much, the food tastes better and the ‘Gucci’ kit is brilliant!

Over that short time I have seen the TWGGS girls show Tonbridge school boys how to patrol, reconnoitre, ambush and section attack in temperatures that overnight hit -7 degrees. I’ve seen blacked out camouflaged faces with pink scarves personalising MTP uniforms on girls patrolling in complete silence, communicating only by hand sign, demonstrating their skills with professionalism and pride. I’ve seen camp sites as you would expect – like bedrooms! – mess cleared away in a blink with a word from an NCO. I’ve seen girls marching from place to place, a Unit ‘As One’, proud of their achievements. I’ve seen girls show the boys how to compete at the highest level, yet demonstrate the very best in team spirit and good values. I’ve seen TWGGS team spirit, the passion and pride when the eight woman ‘March and Shoot’ team cut two minutes off the time of all of the other teams competing at annual camp. I will never forget the pride, emotion and sound of the support from the other girls, Captain Reynolds and staff bringing the team home from the front; that day everyone knew who we were. In every activity I have seen girls rise to the challenge and demonstrate that they understand and embrace the life skills that they take away from the Cadets.

Why have I written this? You may well ask. A short e-mail hit my desk this morning from Aimee Reynolds: ‘Could you put together a little article on the merits of being a volunteer with the CCF?’ Now I can’t stop..... If you too feel able to get involved, having been enthused by this, please do contact Ms Reynolds at the school: economics@twggs.kent.sch.uk She will be delighted to hear from you.

The Drama Department – Mrs Davis

Girls across all key stages have been working hard this term, enjoying a range of activities, trips and special events. Charlotte Bartholomew, Millie Haswell and Laura Barrett, our current Sixth Form Drama Prefects, organised a delightful afternoon of theatrical entertainment at our annual “Year 7 Teatime Theatre” event. Working alongside a large uptake of keen girls at the weekly drama club, they put on a series of delightful extracts from Roald Dahl’s gruesome stories adapted for the stage. Parents, friends and staff enjoyed excerpts from “The Witches”, “The Twits”, “Boy Mouse Defeats the Witches”, “James and the Giant Peach” and “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory”. Very well done to all girls involved; you should feel hugely proud of the polished performances you gave. Drama club will continue to run every Friday from 1pm in the Performing Arts Centre next term – do come along if you would like to join in!

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

AS and A2 Theatre Studies pupils are also working tirelessly in preparation for their practical examinations, which will take place, respectively, on the 2nd and 26th February 2016. Any girls considering taking Theatre Studies at A Level are strongly encouraged to attend to see the high standard of work produced. In preparation for these examinations, the girls have been to see a variety of theatre, both in London and closer to home. We took the Lower Sixth to London to see “The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time” and both Lower and Upper Sixth cohorts went to see the critically acclaimed NT Live screening of “Jane Eyre” at the E.M Forster Theatre in Tonbridge. Eighteen pupils were also fortunate enough to see “Photograph 51” with Nicole Kidman, which included a post-show talk with the cast and director.

UKMT Senior Team Challenge – Mrs Matthews

On the afternoon of Wednesday 25th November a crack team of Lower Sixth mathematicians travelled to Ravens Wood School in Bromley to take part in the South East London Regional final of the UKMT Senior Team Challenge sponsored by Rolls Royce plc. We competed against 29 other teams drawn from across the region. The competition is for students in Years 12 and 13, and it tests mathematical, communication and teamwork skills with a series of mind-bending challenges, relays, cross-numbers and quick-fire thinking. This prestigious competition is always hotly contested, with many teams training all year. The TWGGS team of Mariam Ahmed, Harriet Crisp, Francesca Johnson and Hannah Johnson acquitted itself admirably and rose to the challenge with some excellent quizzing. The winning team was once again from St Olave’s, with Wilson’s coming second.

Lower Sixth Art Trip – Hannah Billett, L6W

On 23rd October Lower Sixth Art students visited a range of London galleries and exhibitions to inspire our A Level work. The Royal Academy was exhibiting a collection by Ai Weiwei, a controversial and outspoken Chinese artist who frequently addresses the modernisation of China, personal liberty and traditional Chinese culture within his work. Some amongst us were quite shocked at his destruction of priceless Han Dynasty artefacts, which were used to challenge tradition and question the financial value of objects. Additionally we were moved by "Straight", a piece commemorating lives lost during the Sichuan earthquake of 2008 that was created by the straightening of bent steel bars salvaged from the collapsed school buildings during the aftermath. Also at the Royal Academy was "White", a collection curated by Edmund de Waal of objects that explored the power and prominence of white, especially as a platform for other colours to reveal themselves. We then visited White Cube gallery's exhibition "Losing the Compass", which looked at the political and social symbolism of textiles and the boundaries they represent between different cultural groups. At the Tate Britain we saw the retrospective on Barbara Hepworth, whose sculptures emulated organic forms of the sea and the landscape, using stone, wood and bronze. The iconic work "Pelagos" was compelling in its tactility, with string stretched between the curves in the smoothly carved wood. In the Frank Auerbach exhibition, the paintings seemingly melted where the paint had been applied so thickly and roughly that you identified more with the texture than the subject. The whole day was really informative and inspirational; everyone came back with new opinions on art and artists, and some diverse ideas for our projects back at school.

First Aid Competition Review – LCpl Stephanie Reed

After leaving school on a Friday evening we set off on the long drive to the National First Aid competition in York. To reach this point, we had succeeded in winning our regional competition and had now been invited to represent the region and TWGGS in the national competition. The team consisted of Cpl Tester, LCpl Rhoden, Cdt Reed and Cdt Naismith. Our first task was to complete a team test based on a simulated helicopter crash; we had to treat the casualties for their numerous injuries. Later in the day we had to take part in individual challenges that tested our first aid skills as well as our ability to work independently in a competitive environment. We completed the day with an exercise using an AED, which was very interesting as we had not experienced this before, however we coped well under pressure. We are grateful for having had the opportunity to take part in the competition. On the day we faced some very experienced competition and unfortunately we were not placed. However, we thoroughly enjoyed the experience and I would like to thank 2Lt Naismith, Mr Bubb and SSgt Tucker for making our trip possible.

Books Everywhere – Half-Price Book Fair – Mrs Mattheus-Ratcliffe, Librarian

Perfectly timed to follow Black Friday and Cyber Monday, TWGGS saw its second half-price book fair in the Library during the first week of December. We can confidently confirm what the media have been reporting, that reading actual books is seeing a revival, and electronic devices have not yet taken over the reading experience. With over 200 book titles, plus stationery, little gifts and posters - all at 50% discount, our girls enthusiastically entered into the pre-Christmas spirit and bought many presents for siblings, friends, cousins and parents, and, of course, themselves. Once again the fair was so successful that we have already booked another one for next Christmas; keep watching this space for further details next autumn.

Careers Department - Mrs Vallely

The Careers Department has had a busy start to the school year. The Lower Sixth teambuilding trip to Carrot Wood, very early in the term, was a great success. It was a good opportunity to welcome the new girls, with staff members and girls getting to know each other better. For their first PSHE lesson we welcomed a speaker from the University of Surrey to give a talk on the topic "Why Go To University?" and in October we gave them the chance to learn and practise new study skills in their forms. Subsequent PSHE sessions have included speakers from Gap 360 about planning and taking a gap year, from A Star Future about the many opportunities for studying abroad, and from a speaker from the Skills and Employability Service introducing the topic of applying for an apprenticeship.

At the same time, the Upper Sixth girls were given the opportunity to use their first two PSHE lessons to finish their UCAS applications and personal statements, and in October, Alice Reilly from Pearson College in London, gave an excellent presentation about "Best Practice In Interviews" at the end of which she gave an individual interview to brave volunteer, Katherine Taylor, in front of the whole group. The girls were very engaged with the session, which included sound advice about using LinkedIn and other social media to research and network. Other sessions have included a speaker from Student Finance England, and two sessions about personal relationships – one promoting discussion about marriage, and the second promoting discussion about gender identity.

Mrs Elinson, Independent Careers Adviser, has been in school every week, and has taken PSHE sessions introducing the STEPS booklet to Year 8 forms, and the Fast Tomato software to Year 9 forms, as well as seeing all Year 11 girls for their one to one career interviews.

Continuing the programme of lunchtime talks, at the end of the Summer term we were delighted to welcome Ketura Paice, talking about her new book, and giving advice on how to use creative writing as a career. This term, we were very pleased to see three recent old girls return to school to speak to girls at lunch time: Izzie Tol spoke about her experiences studying Medicine at Oxford, Alice Pavey about what it is like studying Geography, at Cambridge, and Emily Murayama brought in her sketch books from her art foundation course last year at City College, Brighton, and inspired girls studying Art to follow in her footsteps when they leave TWGGS.

In a joint venture, The Skinners' School, Tunbridge Wells Grammar School For Boys and TWGGS worked collaboratively to organise a series of Careers Evenings in November. The various careers subjects were divided between the three schools and speakers invited to give a talk and answer questions on their career. All three evenings were open to Years 10, 11, L6th and U6th in the three schools. TWGGS speakers included: Dr Frances Burch, programme director for the MSc Environmental Management at Birbeck, University of London; Mrs Penelope Breedon, Practice Development Midwife and Supervisor of Midwives at Tunbridge Wells Hospital; Professor Peter Clifton, recently Head of Psychology at Sussex University; Miss Alice Denyer, Veterinary Surgeon at Dacre House Veterinary Clinic; Miss Amy Dolling, Physiotherapist; Ms Annabel Field, from Frontier, the Society for Environmental Exploration; Dr Karen Finlay, GP; Mrs Pippa Hillen, Principal Lecturer in Nursing, at the University of Brighton; Professor Stephen Keevil, recently President of the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine; Mr James Lawrence, from Hadlow College; Dr Paul Reynolds, Consultant Physician, and the Clinical Tutor for Tunbridge Wells; Mr Alan Stanford, from IChemE speaking about chemical engineering; Mr Amir Tarki, Dental Surgeon; Professor Abigail Tucker, a research scientist at Guy's; Miss Louise Tull, Registered Dietitian; Mr Andrew Turton, Principal Pharmacist at Tunbridge Wells Hospital; and Mr Sean Waddingham from CGG, an international organisation which covers the full spectrum of Oil & Gas geoscience activities.

In addition to the speakers, there were various stands available for parents and pupils to browse including representatives from Student Finance, several universities, Oyster Worldwide, Gap 360, Whatuni.com, KATO Training (Apprenticeships), Runway Training, Bright Young Things, The National Citizenship Scheme, and AXA PPP. We are very grateful indeed to the speakers and stand holders who gave their time without charge, to the Senior Prefects, (particularly Emily Bone, Senior Careers Prefect), and the Lower Sixth Prefects, (particularly Grace Collins and Beth Robbins, Junior Careers Prefects), many of whom helped enormously on the evening, and to Mr Speller for helping with refreshments. Feedback from parents and pupils has been very positive. We will be running a similar event in 2017. If anyone is interested in offering to provide a talk on their career at a similar event, please do email me on careers@twggs.kent.sch.uk

Hockey - Miss Parkinson

The 1stX1 hockey team took on Skinners in their annual hockey match. It was an excellent game of hockey where the girls were put through their paces. Everyone gave their all, however, the boys won 4-0. Well played to all sixth formers who took part.

Mixed Years Hockey

Girls had the chance to meet players from different age groups in this end of term fun tournament. A team consisted of a player from each year group from Upper Sixth to Year 7. Congratulations to Team 4 who won this year:- Laura Clarke - U6th captain, Annie Godfrey - L6th, George Cremin, - Year 11, Lauren Levine GK, - Year 11, Emma Akers-Douglas - Year 10, Jas Lewtas - Year 9, Lauren Jackson - Year 8, Sophie Preston - Year 7.

Beth Freeman Memorial Hockey Match

TWGGS old girls and current girls took on Edenbridge Hockey Club on Tuesday 15th December, in memory of Beth Freeman. TWGGS took the lead after some stunning team hockey and they led 1-0 at half time. Edenbridge came back strongly in the second half and were leading 3-2 with two minutes to go. TWGGS won a series of short corners and after hitting the post and a number of goal line clearances, they managed to score in the final seconds of the game to earn a 3-3 draw. It was a lovely social event, played in the true spirit of the game, in memory of a very special pupil.

County Netball Finals – Mrs Murray

On Saturday 28th November, all three of our Senior Netball Squads competed in the Kent County Finals, which saw the top eight teams from each respective age group compete in a round robin competition to decide the top two teams to qualify through to the regional finals in January.

The U14s, who were a new squad this year due to the clash with a Year 9 school trip, were anxious but very excited to be representing TWGGS at the County Finals. With four Year 8 girls playing up too, they had been working really hard all season to improve and develop their play together. There were some mixed results on the day, as the standard amongst the teams was very similar. TWGGS managed to win when it mattered and when they lost, our scores were still good enough to gain those vital points needed to keep them in contention. TWGSS beat Benenden 7-6, Sutton Vallenge 15-7, Bromley High 12-7 and Weald 10-3. They

played impressive netball against local rivals Sevenoaks, to only lose by one goal 8-9 and Walthamstow High 11- 6 to gain those vital points needed. Against top of the group Tonbridge Grammar, TWGGS struggled to cope with their excellent attack in the circle and they lost 3-9. Due to only losing two matches, the U14s came 3rd overall in Kent, which was a fantastic achievement for the team and the Bronze medals were certainly a lovely reward for all their hard work in training this season. A special mention goes to coach Julie Mesher, who has been working with the team all term and volunteering her time at matches to help them develop. Congratulations go to Captain Flow Byers, Hannah Carey, Rosie Peacock, Molly Sinclair, Scarlett Keating, Tamanni Lawal, Blythe Roberson-Leech, Claudia Erichsen and Grace Forbes.

The U16s faced some very strong opposition in their tournament and in their first match showed excellent determination to hold on to a 6-6 draw again Benenden. Against Tonbridge Grammar, Sevenoaks and Newstead Wood TWGGS struggled to cope with the high standard of play, and despite valiant efforts from our defence to turn over the ball, their shooters were far too good and we lost to Tonbridge Grammar 5-11, Sevenoaks 9-2 and to Newstead Wood 5-10. Against Walthamstow Hall, TWGGS seemed to regain their confidence and settle their nerves to play their own game. With the shooters back on form and TWGGS taking total control of the match, they beat Walthamstow Hall 13-5. Against Chatham TWGGS fought hard to stay in contention, though luck was not on our side and we lost 5-6, then against Invicta TWGGS won 10-9, which was a fantastic result and a much needed confidence boost to the side. Overall TWGGS were placed 7th in the county. The team should be really proud of how they played against some very strong and well drilled sides. Congratulations go to Captain Lucy Ritson, Ellie Searby, Charlotte Moran, Charlotte Knudson, Emma Cameron, Lara Smith, Libby Horobin, Jane Green, Charlotte Wager and George Cremin.

The U19s had a great start to the tournament and won against Chislehurst and Sidcup 10-3 and Walthamstow Hall 18-4. A tense game against St Olave's and St Saviours allowed TWGGS to gain vital experience of coping under pressure, coming from behind to win 6-5. Up next were the exceptional MGGs side. TWGGS fought hard under pressure: with end to end netball and both teams not giving away anything, the score was 4-4 at half time. On the day MGGs converted a vital turnover in the second half and with our shooters under pressure with outstanding defence, TWGGS did not have time to turn it around, losing 6-8. TWGGS were clearly disappointed with this result, as against Benenden we struggled to keep possession and regain our flair, losing 10-3. With TWGGS' second loss of the day, pressure was starting to build. Mrs Murray worked hard to regain the positive spirit and with inspirational talks from captains, Yasmin Absolon and Ellie Durr, the side were raring to go against Colfes and Sevenoaks.

With four schools hunting down that second spot for regionals, it came down to the wire! Against Colfes our defence was on fire in the second half, piling on the pressure and gaining vital interceptions to help the team come back from losing 1-4 at half time to win 6-5. Against Sevenoaks, it was neck and neck, with exceptional play from both teams; it all came down to who could hold their nerve and convert their own centre passes! Fortunately, we had the lead on the centres and when the whistle went we won 9-8. After a tense moment calculating the results and goal average, it was announced that TWGGS U19s had come second, gaining Silver medals and that precious second spot at Regionals in January. Congratulations to Ellie Durr and Yasmin Absolon (joint captains), Kath Taylor, Beth Moriarty, Margot Roberson-Leech, Katie Nunn, Emma Wadsworth, Elisha Goldring and Elissa Moon, with a special mention to Sophie Morris who couldn't play due to injury, however still came to support and score for the team.

Year 7 & 8 Sportshall Athletics – Mrs Murray

Both the Year 7 and 8 Athletics teams won the first round of the Kent School Games Sportshall Athletics competition on Thursday 3rd December. The girls have been very committed to training since September and were well deserved winners on the day, qualifying for the County Finals in March. Congratulations go to:- Year 7 - Martha Jones , Amalie Abdali, Sophie Preston, Millie Ashley, Jess Marden, Eliz O'Donnell and Sophie Lee. Year 8 - Rosie Froome, Phoebe Cavanagh, Tamanni Lawal, Zoe Ugarow, Darcy Chappell Salmon, Amalie Duggal, Aimee Hoble and Juliette Redfern.

South East Regional Trampolining Championships – Miss Manklow

On Sunday 29th November TWGGS Trampolining Squad competed in the South East Regional Finals, which saw the top three individuals and top two teams from each category go through to the next round. The girls have worked really hard on their routines, and I would like to add a special mention and huge thank you to their coach Sian Little for all her hard work with the girls this term. Being a regional final the girls were up against strong competition and all did extremely well. The three U14 teams, who had a few new members join the squad this year, were nervous but excited to compete. Each of the girls performed their set routine, which was followed by a voluntary routine. Unfortunately with such high stakes and many entries, the girls were unable to place within the top three. Maia Pearmine did exceptionally well and was placed 6th out of 78 - a few places away from qualifying for the zonal round. The U16 team, who were also new to the competition this year, did extremely well in all their routines scoring high 6s and some 7s for their set routines. However, with strong competition the girls were placed 19th, 20th and 22nd which they should all be very proud of. Millie Young competed in the U19 Intermediate category against some strong competition and was placed 16th. Bethan Harvey-Little competed in the Elite U19 category and was against very tough competition. With GB ranked trampolinists performing, Bethan did extremely well and was placed 17th. A huge well done to all the girls who competed.

U19 Individual Floor and Vault – Miss Manklow

On Sunday 6th December the Gymnastics Squad competed in the U19 Individual Floor and Vault Competition at Spires Academy, Canterbury. Girls who entered in the Novice and Intermediate category completed a set floor routine and girls entering the advanced category choreographed their own routine from set criteria given. The girls also had to compete on the vault with two vaults, each scored and the highest taken and combined with their set routine to give their final score. The girls have worked really hard, turning up to extra training sessions to practice and memorise their routines, and their hard work paid off, earning them a few medals from the day. Allissa Javier received a silver medal in the Year 7 Novice Group. Lily Harding received a gold medal in the Year 7 Intermediate category. Tia Young also received a gold medal in the Year 9 Intermediate category. Abi McDougall placed 3rd in the Year 9 Advanced category. Sophie Semmens received a silver medal in the Year 10 Advanced category. A huge well done to all the girls who took part on the day!

Gymnastics Acrobatics and Tumbling Competition – Miss Manklow

On Sunday 13th December the Gymnastics Squad competed in the Acrobatics and Tumbling competition at Tonbridge Grammar School. The competition consisted of pair and group performances as well as optional tumbling sequences, with first place from each National category going through to compete Nationally for the South East. TWGGS entered pairs into the U14 and U19 Regional pairs, as well as a team into the U14 and U19 Regional group categories. Each category's routine had different criteria to meet and the girls were able to select some of the skills and balances to utilise within their routines. The girls worked exceptionally hard on their routines and all managed to place on the day, receiving a medal for their efforts. Highlights of the results included Tia Young and Hannah Carey placed second for their U14 pair; Sophie Semmens and Freya Ridge placed second for their U19 pair performance; the U14 girls group piece placed second; and finally the U19 group piece placed first. Congratulations to all.

Junior Knole Run, Friday November 20th – Mrs Field, Cross Country Coach

Congratulations to our junior cross country runners for showing such courage and determination at this annual regional event. As usual the race was well attended, with over 200 Year 7 and 8 runners from schools across the South East. We were particularly proud of our girls, especially the "novice" competitors, who coped admirably with the new route, which included a long steep hill climb right at the very beginning of the race. A huge "well done" to the whole team: Isabelle Baker, Phoebe Cavanagh, Martha Jones, Sophie Preston, Zoe Ugarow, Grace Hobbs, Izzy Fletcher, Christabel Balcomb Nevill, Harriet Mahon, Rosie Froome and Lucy Berkerey. Many thanks also to the parents who came along to provide such enthusiastic support, which was much appreciated. We hope that our runners do as well in the forthcoming Kent Schools' Championship on Saturday 16th January in Hythe.

Volunteering for TWGGS Sport – Mrs Murray

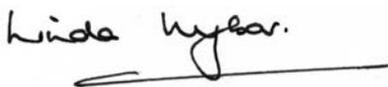
Due to the success of our girls in local competitions and the hard work that staff put into giving girls lots of opportunities to practise and compete, our sports clubs are thriving with participants. To support the growing demand for fixtures, we are looking to see if there are any parents or family members that have experience in coaching/officiating sports teams and would like to help out. Please email Miss Parkinson as soon as possible if you are interested assthead@twggs.kent.sch.uk.

PTA News

Please see the newsletter attached at the end of this document.

Finally, it only remains for me to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful, successful 2016.

With best wishes,



Mrs L Wybar
Headteacher

TUNBRIDGE WELLS GIRLS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL - HOME/SCHOOL AGREEMENT

Relating to:.....

Form:.....

The School undertakes to:

- provide a balanced curriculum designed to develop to the full each pupil's individual academic and personal potential
- celebrate pupils' achievements and successes
- let parents know promptly about any concerns or problems that are affecting their daughter's work or behaviour
- send home regular reports (one full and one interim annually) and arrange annual parents' evenings during which progress will be discussed
- set, mark and monitor homework (and mark class work where relevant) in a timely fashion
- provide pastoral support and Personal, Social, Health and Careers Education to meet girls' needs
- follow relevant Safeguarding guidance as appropriate
- keep parents informed about school activities through regular letters home, the school website and notices about special events
- deal constructively and promptly with complaints

Signed:.....

Mrs L Wybar, Headteacher

.....

Mrs R Serpis, Chair of Governors

Parent / Guardian(s)

I/We undertake to:

- see that my/our daughter attends school regularly, in time, properly equipped and appropriately dressed
- support the school's policies and guidelines, including those for behaviour, dress and attitudes to learning
- let the school know about any concerns or problems which might affect my/our daughter's work or behaviour and share my/our daughter's achievements and successes
- support my/our daughter in homework and other opportunities for home learning
- attend parents' evenings and discussions about my/our daughter's progress
- support, as far as possible, extra curricular activities
- allow the school to include relevant pupil data as part of the overall school records

Signed:.....

Name:.....

.....

.....

Pupil

I undertake to:

- attend school regularly and punctually
- bring all the equipment I need every day
- wear the school uniform (KS3 and 4 only) and be appropriate in appearance
- remember that, when in uniform, I represent TWGGS and will act appropriately
- do all my classwork and homework as well as I can
- tell school about any concerns or problems that are affecting my work or behaviour
- be helpful, polite and have respect for others
- observe the school rules
- adhere to the ICT Acceptable Use policy
- ensure that letters home reach my parents and returns are brought back promptly
- involve myself in school activities
- allow the school to include relevant pupil data as part of the overall school records

Signed.....

Date:.....

(Please return one copy to TWGGS and retain one copy)



PTA CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2015

We are delighted to announce that we have completed our fundraising for the purchase of a bank of iPads for use by the pupils.

EVENT REVIEW

This term one of our main fundraisers was the **Butterfly Ball**, the PTA's biannual ball held in October in an exquisitely decorated hall in the school. It was a huge success thanks to the time and effort contributed by key parent organisers and helpers, in particular Irene Dawson and our "Ghana Girls" who served and collected on the night. It was attended by over 100 revellers and raised a fabulous £4,400 to go towards forthcoming school projects plus money for the Ghana fund. The PTA would like to thank Mrs Wybar for her support of the event despite the additional upheaval associated with holding the ball on-site.

Also this month the Christmas Bring & Buy sale for the girls, with its ever-popular chocolate tombola, was held, and we are delighted that it raised just over £900. Thanks go to Claudia Williamson who organised the event, to all the volunteers who helped package the donations beforehand and helped on the day and to all the families who supported us with donations for the sale. The event also witnessed the draw for this autumn's PTA raffle organised by Emma O' Sullivan with some fabulous prizes including an iPad Air. Provisional figures indicate that this has made in the region of £2,500 for the school, which is amazing, so thanks to Emma and all those who continue to support the school by buying raffle tickets.

The September and November discos together have together raised over £1,500. Thanks go to Zoe Taylor and all the TWGGS parents who have sacrificed their Friday nights to help out - we really do appreciate your time and cheerful support.

As well as fundraising for the school, PTA members have been active in supporting school events such as the careers evening by serving refreshments.

FUND RAISING MADE EASY WITH EASYFUNDRAISING

If you are shopping online consider using **Easy Fundraising**. From books and clothes to furniture and electrical items, most retailers are on here. Some PTAs raise thousands of pounds this way and it costs you nothing. Instead of the retailers paying search engines, they pay us for your custom! We benefit from their thankyou payment.



<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/twggspta>



STAY INFORMED AND GET INVOLVED

Which do you like best - Parentmail, Email, Facebook or Twitter? The PTA will be active on all platforms from January so make contact with us so that you don't miss out. Our Twitter handle is @TWGGSPTA



**** NEW FOR JANUARY 2016 ***



A closed Facebook group will be set up for the first time. Access will be for parents by application only and the group will be moderated by a PTA member to ensure that all participants abide by House Rules. It will be a

safe and secure way to share relevant school news and to assist with fund raising. To encourage you to join the PTA Facebook group and Twitter, at the end of January we will hold a prize draw picking winning names at random. Prizes have been donated kindly by No.6 Shop and Clinic (<http://www.no6clinic.co.uk>) of St. John's Road and Pure Beauty and Hair Workshop (www.hairworkshopsouthborough.co.uk) in Southborough. To enter the prize draw simply find the group "TWGGS PTA" on Facebook (for Twitter just follow) and ask to join. You will then be messaged a few simple questions.



The 100 Club

Congratulations to the following people for their recent wins of £75 and £50 respectively:

August - 1st Prize to EL ticket 263, 2nd prize to MW ticket 185

September - 1st Prize to BL ticket 260, 2nd prize to RH ticket 437

October - 1st Prize to Anon ticket 328, 2nd prize to RH ticket 440

November - 1st Prize to Anon ticket 7, 2nd prize to JB ticket 52

December - 1st Prize to PC ticket 290 (winnings donated back to the PTA), 2nd prize to CF ticket 47

Christmas Bonus - 1st Prize to CW ticket 243, 2nd prize to MB ticket 152

For details of how to join please email pta@twggs.kent.sch.uk

SECOND HAND UNIFORM

The uniform stock is now held at school, and PTA volunteers can meet with parents/girls before or after school. Contact Claudia Williamson or Thomasine Dowding on uniform@twggs.kent.sch.uk to make an appointment. Donations of saleable outgrown skirts, jumpers, dresses, logoed blouses and PE kit are always welcome - please send/drop items into reception. Currently there is a shortage of skirts so if you have any you don't need, we'd love them.

NEXT TERM'S DIARY DATES

- **Monday 11th January** - PTA Meeting: 6pm held in the Performing Arts Centre (PAC). All Welcome
- **Friday 6th March** - Quiz night. Application forms will be available next term for this event which is invariably a sell-out so please apply as soon as the forms are issued to avoid disappointment!
- **Friday 27th March** - Y7 & Y8 disco - TWGGS, TWGSB and Skinners'

Wishing you a happy Christmas and a peaceful holiday from all the PTA.



TWGGS 100+ CLUB



Dear Parent

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you that January 2016 is the start of the TWGGS 100+ Club year. For just £12 per year, you will be entered into 12 monthly draws plus a bonus post-Christmas draw.

Each draw has a £75 first prize and a £50 second prize.

It provides an excellent way to support the school (via the PTA) with the added bonus of the chance of a windfall every month!

If you have not already joined the 100+ club and would like to join the club for this year, please complete the form below and return to school reception by the end of February.

Thank you

The TWGGS PTA.

✂ -----

To: 100+ Club Co-ordinator, PTA (return to school reception)

Please enrol me in the School's 100+ Club. I would like ticket/s at £12 for the next available subscription period and enclose a cheque payable to 'TWGGS PTA' for £.....

Name:(Block Capitals please)

Address:

.....Postcode:.....

Telephone Number: **E mail address:**

Daughter's Name: **Form:**.....

I have read and agree to the 100+club rules overleaf

Signature: **Date:**

TWGGS PTA is a registered charity, no 307812. All information you supply will be used by the TWGGS PTA purely for administrative purposes within the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998.

This document was last reviewed: 16th Dec 2013

TWGGS 100+ Club Rules

1. The object of the Club is to raise funds for the school, and will be used to support various school events/activities/projects.
2. The Club will be run under the supervision of the PTA who will also administer the Club.
3. The club is open to all parents and staff of Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School.
4. Subscription is on an annual basis by standing order or cheque (made payable to TWGGS PTA), to be paid by January 15th of every calendar year, entitling the member to one number. This will be entered into thirteen draws throughout the calendar year.
5. Subscriptions are currently £12 per calendar.
6. There is no limit to the number of members to the 100+ club and the number of subscriptions each member may purchase.
7. There will be 13 draws per year – one for each month plus a bonus 'post-Christmas' draw.
8. Draws will be performed on school premises or at school/PTA functions with a minimum of two PTA members present at each draw. No draws will take place until all annual subscriptions have been received, cleared and processed.
9. Draws are nominally allocated to every month but may be delayed until a suitable meeting/event occurs. Any outstanding draws for a calendar year will be performed by January 15th of the following year.
10. The prize money will be reviewed on an annual basis with a maximum of 50% of the annual subscriptions used as prize money. Prizes currently stand at :
 - 1st prize = £75
 - 2nd prize=£50
11. The winners are published via all or any of the following means: inclusion in the School/PTA newsletter; on the school website; in PTA notices. By becoming a member of the 100+ Club, it is understood that you are agreeing to have any of your wins publicised in this way. For example: 1st Prize £25 - May 2012, number 72, winner's initials AS.
12. A list of winners is available from the 100+ club secretary by emailing 100club@twggs.kent.sch.uk
13. Registers will be kept recording the name and address of each member, the number(s) allocated to them and the subscriptions received from them.
14. Subscriptions are not refundable.
15. The TWGGS 100+ Club is formally registered with Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, in accordance with the Gambling Act 2005.
16. After the draw has taken place, the 100+ Club Administrator will send out the prizes in the form of a cheque. Cheques are made payable to the name/s on the 100+ Club application form and are sent/delivered to the address provided.
17. Cheques not cashed within 6 months of posting/delivery will be cancelled and unclaimed funds donated to the PTA.
18. Any changes to these terms and conditions will be emailed to all members with email addresses and publicised via all or any of the following means: inclusion in the School/PTA newsletter; on the school website; in PTA notices.
19. In the event of the 100+ club administrator being unable to contact the member by email, the member gives permission for the 100+ club administrator to check registered details with the school office and for the school office to pass on up to date contact details to the 100+ club administrator.

TWGGS PTA is a registered charity, no 307812. All information you supply will be used by the TWGGS PTA purely for administrative purposes within the terms of the Data Protection Act 1998.

This document was last reviewed: 16th Dec 2013