

Dear Parent/Guardian

E-Safety Information – Miss Parkinson

Please find attached to the end of this newsletter a very important letter and article about child online sexual exploitation.

Senior Prefect Team 2015-2016 – Mrs Wybar

We are delighted to congratulate the following on their appointment as Senior Prefects for 2015-16:

Head Girl	Elizabeth Millar	Drama	Laura Barrett
Deputy Head Girl	Phoebe Kottler	School Council & PTA	Louisa Nelson
Deputy Head Girl	Katherine Taylor	School Council & PTA	Rachael Parker
Charities	India Hicks	Sport	Yasmin Absolon
Charities	Phoebe Moss	Sport	Amy Byers
Charities	Ruby Swain	Sport	Bethan Moriarty
Senior Officer	Megan Bruce-Smythe	Senior Officer	Josephine Dart
Senior Officer	Amber Davison	Senior Officer	Katie Exall
Senior Officer	Ellis Fish	Senior Officer	Hannah Gussinklo
Senior Officer	Emily Harris	Senior Officer	Alexandra Luckett
Senior Officer	Sophie Morris	Senior Officer	Amy Shaw
KS3 – Yr 7& Buddies	Alice Whitaker	KS4	Kirsten Roberts
KS3 – Yr 7& Buddies	Laura Clarke	6 th Form & new 6 th Form Buddies	Rebecca Jefferies
KS3 – Yrs 8 & 9	Katherine Roberts	6 th Form & new 6 th Form Buddies	Katie Leadbetter
Careers	Emily Bone	Art	Ellalute Shamwana

We are very grateful to all of the girls who applied for these posts; unfortunately, it is not possible for all to be successful, but we hope that all will have leadership opportunities during their remaining time at TWGGS.

Culverden Avenue – Mrs Wybar

I have recently received a letter from a resident of Culverden Avenue expressing her increasing frustration with the number of TWGGS parents that, despite my recent request earlier this academic year, are still using Culverden Avenue as a drop off and waiting zone for their daughters. The road is a cul-de-sac, and only wide enough for single file traffic. Cars coming down the road need to turn around in the junction of Campbell Road, and go back on themselves to get back out, causing gridlock. Please could girls be dropped off in Culverden Down or elsewhere nearby, and walk just a little further to school?

PTA News – Judy Barrett

The recent PTA spring raffle raised just over £3000 so thank you to everyone who supported the school by selling/buying tickets, to Spa Oil Services for their sponsorship and to Emma O'Sullivan for organising it. All prize winners have now been contacted.

Can we please ask all parents to donate any outgrown good quality uniform to the PTA-run second hand uniform shop? We have the new Year 7 Induction Evening in June and demand for second hand uniform is always high, so please send outgrown/unwanted dresses, skirts, jumpers, logo'd blouses and PE kit into reception for collection by the PTA.

Georgina Grant L6T – Mrs Wybar

Congratulations to Georgie whose crew came 6th when rowing for Great Britain in Germany recently in the JW18 four category; this was a superb achievement, not least because Georgie had to juggle the conflicting demands of intensive training and AS revision! We are incredibly proud of her and wish her well in possibly being selected to row in Rio de Janeiro this summer.

Young Enterprise – Lower 6th

In October of last year, the Lower Sixth were presented with the opportunity to participate in the Young Enterprise scheme, a non-profit business and enterprise charity in England and Wales, in which 15-19 year olds have the opportunity to set up their own business. An enthusiastic group of twenty one TWGGS students, inspired by programmes such as 'The Apprentice', signed up to the programme. During our first meeting we appointed our managing director Freya Hempleman, who then led us in establishing the other roles within the company. We then progressed to choosing our product, and eventually agreed on a homeware company

specialising in eco-friendly scented candles. The name chosen was 'Lilla Home' with 'Lilla' meaning little in Swedish, thus referencing our Nordic influence. Once designed and produced, our Christmas range was a great success, with festive scents such as mulled wine and cinnamon selling out quickly at school and local markets, earning us around £500 in profit by the end of the year. One of our highlights from this year has been the article written about us in the April 22nd edition of The Times of Tunbridge Wells describing our experience with Young Enterprise and ambitions for our company.

At the West Kent Finals held in March at TWGSB we left with The Marketing and Social Media Prize, Best Business Plan and beat 10 companies to win Company of The Year. This meant that we were invited to compete in the Kent Final of Young Enterprise on the 30th April. We arrived at Maidstone for an evening of judging and presentations. We were very impressed by the other five companies in attendance and were shocked to find out we won Best Company Report and Runner up Company of The Year. Although we didn't win, we will still be competing in the South East Finals in June. We are currently sitting our AS examinations but we are still developing new and innovative ways to grow our business and improve our chances of getting to Nationals. We would like to thank Mr Sainsbury for supporting us and giving us such a great opportunity.

Music Department –Mrs Waddington

It has been an incredibly busy and successful term for the Music Department. In March, our Senior String Quartet (Elizabeth Millar, Olivia Ziani, Ellie Waddington and Josh Rapley), took part in the Finals Concert of the Pro Corda Chamber Music Festival at the Holywell Music Rooms, Oxford University. This is a national festival, with the vast majority of participants belonging to independent schools and Junior Music College departments. TWGGS was the only state school to be represented, beating over 300 groups in qualifying rounds to reach the finals. The quartet was superb in their rendition of the 1st Movement of Schubert's Death and the Maiden, a notoriously tricky piece of repertoire. The judges were so impressed, that they named the Quartet 'Chamber Music Champions', awarding them substantial scholarships for the Pro Corda Senior Music Course. They will also have further opportunities to perform in public in due course. The same quartet has also reached the semi- final stages of the National Festival of Music in Birmingham on the 8th July. We wish them luck!

On 28th April, we held our Senior Concert in the school hall, the last opportunity of the year for our Senior Choirs and ensembles to perform. This was a wonderful evening containing a huge variety of musical styles and genres, and displaying the vast array of talent that we are so privileged to have at TWGGS. All groups were exceptional. Senior Orchestra, joined by a few of our Music staff and friends from Bennett Memorial School, excelled themselves, playing the very demanding 'Romeo and Juliet Fantasy Overture' by Tchaikovsky. Senior Choir sang the beautiful 'Cantique de Jean Racine' by Fauré and Senior Chamber Choir transported us back to the 1940's with their fabulous rendition of Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy. Cantemos, our other Senior Choir, sang 'White Winter Hymnal' by Fleet Foxes, singing a capella whilst creating complex rhythmic patterns using body percussion to provide their own accompaniment. This required lots of concentration! Year 10 and 11 Singers sang 'What a Wonderful World' by Armstrong. Senior Strings were outstanding in their performance of Vaughan Williams' 'Fantasia on a Theme by Thomas Tallis' and Grieg's 'Holberg Suite'. We were also thrilled to be joined by TWGGS Senior Dance who, under the incredible direction of Miss Guy, had choreographed a stunning piece to accompany Senior Strings' 'mash up' of Vivaldi's 'Winter' and 'Let it Go' from Frozen. Hannah Rayner, with Elizabeth Millar, Ellie Waddington and ex-TWGGS girl Alice Purton performed Mozart's Flute Quartet and the Senior Quartet left us in no doubt as to why they are National Chamber Music Champions. In all, the evening was a triumph, with every pupil rising to her individual challenges admirably, and I would like to thank and congratulate all of the staff and pupils who helped to make the evening such a success.

Year 8 Reading Journey - Mrs Mattheus-Ratcliffe, Librarian

After 6 weeks of frantic reading, it was finally time to announce the winners of the Year 8 Reading Journey. To refresh your mind – we asked the girls in Year 8 to read as many books, stories, newspaper articles, e-books, poems, short stories etc as possible over 6 weeks. For each item read they needed to submit a little book postcard from their journey, giving us a few basic facts as evidence of their effort. To make it more competitive we pitched girls against each other in their forms and forms against forms. On April 22nd it was judgement day and we did the final count. I think we let the statistics speak for themselves:

A respectable 287 books had been read! Our proud form winners were:	8T	- 12 books	- Thea Pengelly		
8W	- 15 books	- Megan Goose	8I	- 7 books	- Abbie McDougall
8G	- 12 books	- Shekina Chocoury	8S	- 7 books each	- Hannah Taylor and Julia Talbot

The overall individual winner, with a staggering 20 books was Hollie Niccolls in 8I. The winning form, 8G, managed to read some 79 books between them. Well done to all of them! Our Year 7s had better be prepared; it will be their turn next year to beat all the current winners.

Launch of Carnegie Shadowing Scheme – Mrs Mattheus-Ratcliffe, Librarian

We had barely finished celebrating the end of our busy reading cycle for the WKSTBA book group when it was time to get going again with the books for our annual Carnegie Shadowing Scheme. The CILIP Carnegie Medal is the UK's oldest and most prestigious children's book award. Often described by authors as "the one they want to win" – it is the gold standard in children's literature. The Medal is awarded by children's librarians for an outstanding book for children and young people. Together with Skinners' School, the Boys' Grammar and SKA we shadow the prize and come together in a final debate on awards day (June 23rd) to choose our own winner in a fiercely contested mixed-team debate and vote.

The prize's shortlist is always exciting and challenging, and like every year, we couldn't wait to get started. Over 40 girls signed up to the scheme and some of the "oldtimers" took the newcomers under their experienced wings which allowed us to hit the ground running. One of the books at our first meeting, Patrick Ness's 'More Than This', aroused so much excitement and passion that we could hardly contain the girls; sometimes we couldn't even hear each other but we feel that this exactly the kind of reaction we want our girls to have; passion for books. With only a few weeks left to the debate day we are now busy working our way through the remaining 7 books and will keep you posted in our next newsletter about the 2015 winners both at the debate and Carnegie.

GCSE Drama – Mrs Davis

Our GCSE pupils worked extremely hard to prepare for their examinations this term: the cohort of forty three put on nine impressive performances across two afternoon sessions on the 23rd and 24th April; all of pieces were well received by family, staff and friends on account of the highly polished performances produced. The first piece, setting a very high standard, was the Spanish tragedy "The House of Bernada Alba". The group of seven successfully communicated the play's dark themes of mourning and entrapment through their detailed portrayal of plot, theme and character. In contrast, the second piece, conceptualised and written by the girls, explored the secret life of five internet hackers; using physical theatre and devising techniques the girls successfully created a unique and entertaining piece of drama. The third performance "Blood Ties" was also devised; following the lives of four noble women desperate to protect themselves against the devilish agenda of their captor, Augusta, the girls mesmerised the audience with their sophisticated script, employment of ritualistic techniques and physical theatre. The final performance of the first session took a more comedic turn with an entertaining adaptation of "Daisy Pulls It off"; working in a group of 7, the girls produced a fast-paced, polished and entertaining parody.

The second examination session started with another devised piece; working from the stimulus of fairytales, "Twisted Tales" intertwined familiar stories to explore several contemporary issues that teenagers face today. In complete contrast the second piece, also a three-hander, utilised Mike Leigh's "Abigail's Party" to generate a unique sequel; Angela, Sue and Beverley provided a highly entertaining experience for the audience on account of their commitment to characterisation and inventive additions to the iconic script. The third chilling piece "Girls Like That" offered an entirely different experience for the audience; exploring at the impact of social media, the group of seven worked collaboratively to paint a dark picture of life for Scarlett, a teenage girl ostracised and bullied owing to one leaked image that ruined her reputation. The girls' impressive control over pace, mood and character both chilled and mesmerised the audience. The penultimate performance presented another scripted piece, "The Memory of Water", which created both comedy and pathos through the believable presentation of three sisters reunited after their mother's death. The girls' sensitive exploration of plot, theme and character was highly engaging. Finally, this year's examination season concluded with a comic three hander: "Teechers". This fast-pace script was brought to life through a combination of the controlled multi-role and stylised drama; a highly comedic piece which genuinely entertained the audience.

The Drama Department would like to thank parents for their continued support over the past two years. You have generously chauffeured the girls to their rehearsals, collected them from theatre trips and transported props and costumes galore! We are especially grateful to you for attending the GCSE examinations; the girls really benefited from having a live audience.

Goodbye to the Senior Drama Prefects – Mrs Davis

Finally, we say goodbye to our two dedicated and inspirational Senior Drama Prefects. Zoe Erleben and Hannah Rayner have generously given up their time to support the department. Their mature leadership of the Year 7 and 8 Drama Clubs, creative direction of the Year 7 Teatime Theatre, fair judging of the Year 8 Shakespeare Festival and impressive contribution to the whole school production of "The Wizard of Oz" are just a few of the responsibilities they have taken on with maturity and dedication. They have been excellent role models for younger pupils, demonstrating a strong work ethic at all times. We wish you every success, girls – you will undoubtedly achieve highly in the future on account of your kindness, motivated approach and dedication.

Caitlin Fearon, 10S – Mrs Wybar

Congratulations to Caitlin, who has been selected to swim, representing South East Schools in the English Schools National Final in Sunderland on 27th and 28th June.

Careers Department – Mrs Vallely

It has been a busy term in the Careers Department. Continuing our series of lunchtime talks, we were pleased to welcome Rosemary Shrager to the Food Technology Department during National Careers Week in March, when she gave her inspirational talk about the path of her own career, and the next day, Ms Husnara Begum from the University of Law to give a talk on a Career in Law. We were also excited to welcome Ms Menna Rawlings, who is about to become the British High Commissioner to Australia, when she came to tell us about her career in the Foreign Office. In addition, Mr Shamwana delighted us with a wonderfully relaxed presentation about his work as a book cover designer and how he runs his own successful company (see Mrs Bence's report below). Pleasingly, all these talks were very well supported by the girls.

The Lower Sixth PSHE lessons have included talks from the Sexual Health Team on Personal Relationships (Safe Sex); from a speaker from the Pearson Business College on General Employability Skills; and both year groups took part in a sharing of experience in applying to university or for an apprenticeship. The Upper Sixth have also had PSHE talks from outside speakers; the Citizen's Advice Bureau representative who told the girls about employment, benefits, tenancy agreements and so on, was very well received, as was the advice on managing personal finances from Mr Withers of Rathbones, Wealth and Investment Management Services. We managed to procure the services of Kent County Council Road Safety Theatre Group who put on a stunning production, "Wasted", in the Performing Arts Centre during a PSHE lesson, which drew attention to safety on the road and the dangers of drinking and driving.

Mrs Elinson has continued with the Year 8 Steps Workbook during PSHE and tutor times with the final forms. I would encourage you to ask your daughter about the workbook, and to help her to complete it, and I would welcome any feedback to help me plan for next year. Mrs Elinson has also completed the one to one careers interviews with Year 11 girls, giving advice and guidance.

We have been pleased to be able to offer free First Aid sessions to all the Lower Sixth girls. These sessions, delivered by St John Ambulance staff, are part of a pilot scheme which, if successful, may attract government funding next year, which would mean that we would be able to offer something similar again next year.

Mrs Field and I have had a first meeting with our external adviser in working towards the Investors in Careers Award and are already implementing the action plan we have devised. Finally, I have been extremely grateful to my colleagues who have been very supportive to me during the weeks that I was away from school following foot surgery, and kept the ball rolling in my absence!

Careers Talk by Chris Shamwana – Mrs Bence

On Tuesday 28th April Chris Shamwana, who creates book cover designs for leading publishing houses, visited TWGGS to talk to the girls about the world of Graphic Design. He was able to explain how he became involved in this field of work and how his career stemmed from his degree show in London. With extensive experience in the Graphics industry, he was able to encourage and share his knowledge of this work with the students. Many of the girls at TWGGS follow a course in Graphic Design at GCSE and then continue to pursue an A Level in Product Design. Girls from a variety of year groups attended and Chris enthusiastically answered their questions, speaking about art foundation courses, university courses, the importance of digital technology and the use of the Adobe suite. He explained how he works with the publishing companies to best promote a book and how the designs of book covers have changed since companies such as Amazon have affected the way we buy books. It was a great opportunity for the girls to meet such a talented designer. His work was on display throughout the talk and we all left feeling very inspired.

South Kent Science and Technology Day – Mr Willis & Mrs Frame

On Monday 30th March twelve Year 9 girls, accompanied by Mr Willis and Mrs Frame, went to participate in the South Kent Science and Technology Day at Canterbury Christ Church University. On arrival we were split up into six groups of two, then paired up with two other students of a different school to make a group of four. Throughout the day we were guided around the university by several students to take part in different challenges. The e-fit challenge involved us having to stare at a randomly selected teacher before they left the room. We then had to remember their face in order to create an e-fit picture of them, similar to how police would require eyewitnesses to do in the event of a crime. For the robot challenge we were taught how to program a small Lego robot by using sound and proximity sensors that enabled us to make the robot move in different directions, as well as light up and make sounds. A third challenge, the motor car challenge, encouraged us to work together with the other two pupils from another school so that we could create a car powered by a motor using only cogs, stars, plastic binders and elastic bands. We were then able to race these to see which ones were the fastest! Our last challenge involved being able to construct the strongest bridge possible from the materials provided that would be able to hold up the most weight. In the end each group were able to complete three of the four challenges. At the end of the day we were all gathered into a lecture hall for the final award ceremony at which the Canterbury Sheriff, Tony Austin, was present. Overall Nejma Nassman and Phoebe Cutts came first in the

bridge challenge and Lauren Kearney and Sophie Lewis came first in the e-fit challenge, as well as second in the vehicle challenge. Amazingly for TWGGS, Lauren and Sophie have also made it to the finals in London in nine months' time. Well done also to the rest of the girls who participated in what was a really fun and enjoyable day.

French exchange 2015 - Imogen Berger-North, 10S

Everyone was excited about visiting France and seeing their exchange partners again, but also apprehensive about meeting the family and being abroad alone. At the airport we were trusted to look after our passports, which was nerve racking. That evening we were welcomed at the school by our exchange partners and taken to their houses for our first night; fortunately we had no need to be worried because everybody got on well with their exchange family. On the Friday our partners took us to school where we met with the group to go to Le Chateau de la Brède. When we got to the castle it was so pretty; we learnt about the philosopher who lived there from a tour guide who spoke in English. Afterwards the coach took us to "Le Parc Ornithologique du Teich" where we had a picnic lunch and a tour of the park to learn about the birds that lived there. My favourites were the stalks. We returned to the school late in the afternoon and then we started our weekend alone with our French families. At this point it seemed quite daunting, especially as I had no idea what we were doing. Over the weekend we all went to similar places- shopping in Archachon, visiting the local market and bowling. We all also climbed the highest dune in Europe. It wasn't like any dune I have seen before, more of a mountain, however when we finally got to the top the view was amazing!

On Monday we had an early start to go to the Basque Country. We visited two chocolate factories which was very exciting but at the end of the tasting, we felt a bit sick and swore we would never eat chocolate again. (Of course that's not true). Unfortunately it started raining, so we had to change our plans, and so instead of visiting traditional villages, we did some souvenir shopping. Tuesday was our last day in France and we realised it had gone so fast! We visited Bordeaux, a beautiful city with amazing architecture and the longest shopping street in Europe. We spent the day visiting a museum about the history of the city and then we got to do some shopping. After we got a tour of the city on the 'petit train' and we saw what a beautiful town it was; no one wanted to begin their last evening, because no one wanted to go home. I was apprehensive about saying good bye because I wanted to make sure they knew how grateful I was to my host family for looking after me so well.

German Department – Herr Link

We said goodbye to our intern Julia Schwippert in the German Department on 8 May. We are very grateful for the help she has given to girls in Year 10, 11 and the Sixth Form in their preparation for the upcoming examinations. The girls loved working with her and we are sure that Julia also enjoyed her time at TWGGS. The three months of her work experience went by too quickly.

The next term will see some exciting visits to the Europa Centre with our Year 8 groups and some Year 8 girls will also take part in the World Languages Day programme in Canterbury at the beginning of July. The visit to the Europa Centre is part of our carefully planned curriculum preparing girls for wider exposure to German language and culture. At the Europa Centre they will practise their German language skills with sympathetic native speakers in a controlled environment, a model village, which still offers enough challenge to measure their progress and operate in the target language. This is ideal preparation for the visit to Cologne in Year 9 and the Exchange visit to Bonn-Bad Godesberg in Year 10.

The 11 Brigade Military Skills Weekend – LCpl Eleanor Goad, 11I

On 25th April eight cadets set off for a Military Skills competition at Longmoor Camp. TWGGS had never experienced a Longmoor Camp before, but the girls soon adapted and enjoyed the chance to explore a new camp and all it had to offer. The first day was comprised of seventeen stands, each twenty minutes long. The day was demanding, as the heavy schedule left little time to navigate around an unfamiliar camp, but the girls arrived promptly to every stand and threw themselves into it whole heartedly. The stands included: Military Knowledge, Archery, a live range, Paintballing, a digital range and First Aid. Sunday was the day of the march and shoot, with which the girls should be especially proud as they achieved the second fastest time with only a difference of two seconds between theirs and the best score. Although the girls did not come away with trophies, they did not go home empty handed as they all learned valuable skills over the weekend and gained experience that they would be sure to bring with them if given the chance to compete again. As this was a competition at a camp the girls had never been to, the cadets did not know quite what to expect but, despite this, they all performed above and beyond what was required of them and did themselves and their CCF proud.

Cricket – Miss Parkinson

The Under 13 cricket team played in the East Kent 8-a-side soft ball tournament last week. The team played extremely well winning every game and therefore are through to the County final on 3rd June. The team beat Highworth, Maidstone Girls' Grammar, Sir Roger Manwood and Homewood. Congratulations to the squad: Alice Atkins, Tatianna Sneddon, Sarah Barnaby ©, Isy Macnutt, Indigo Gentry, Emily Bowyer, Fran Morris, Scout Duthie, Sophie Isbell, Rebecca Connell.

Congratulations to the Under 15 Cricket Squad:- Georgie Maddison-Brown, Evie Dodd, Jane Green, Emily Rundle, Millie Holford, Charlotte Knudson, Lara Smith, Isabelle Chung and Jessica Smith. They won every game at the East Kent tournament. They won the event and will now take part in the Kent final on 3rd July.

L6 Ski Trip to Vermont, USA – Beth Samuel, L6I

On Monday 6th April a group of 43 lower sixth pupils, accompanied by Mrs Field, Miss Guy, Miss Fischer and Miss Dorman set off to Heathrow at 6am to board their 8 hour flight to JFK, New York, followed by a 5 hour bus transfer to our hotel in Killington, Vermont, prior to 5 days of skiing. Skiing in Killington was an incredible experience. Not only did it snow half way through the week providing us with ideal skiing conditions, but the instructors never failed to ensure that we had a great time skiing, whilst pushing ourselves and even attempting a few black or double black runs by the end of the week. After four hours on the slopes a day, we then had a range of evening activities planned for us throughout the week, which enhanced the trip even more. The evening activities included a shopping trip to Rutland, bowling, cinema, ice creams at the original Ben and Jerry's, and finally a quiz and awards night. Although we were usually tired after skiing, these activities gave us a chance to share stories and experiences with members of other ski groups about the best wipe outs on the slopes. Whoever attained the award for the best fall, received a huge pair of pink pants which they then had to wear skiing the following day; it is safe to say some people were more willing to do this than others! Our final few days were spent in New York City, shopping and sightseeing. We took a bus tour around the city seeing the major tourist attractions and had dinner at Planet Hollywood on our last night; a perfect end to a great trip.

Without a doubt, the ski trip ended up being even better than we anticipated and the majority of us never wanted to leave our ski instructors, who we had grown so close to over the week. The ski trip gave me so many happy memories and I'd like to thank the teachers that came with us who gave up their time and made the trip possible.

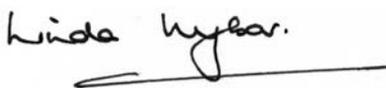
Kent School Games (in partnership with Sainsbury's school games) - Super 8'S Athletics – Miss Auer

The Super 8 competition involves 8 pupils in a team with all of them having to compete in a track, field and relay event. The Year 7s triumphed once again at the district Athletics competition held on Monday 11th May at Tonbridge Track. After a nervous start the girls started to become accustomed to the overwhelming facilities and relaxed into the competition. The girls were placed 3rd overall with an impressive score of 679 points, which is a fantastic performance. As they scored the highest points for the girls' schools from Tunbridge Wells they have now qualified to represent the town at the Kent School Games Final on the 25th June alongside their new team mates from TWGSB. This is an outstanding effort for a team that so far this year haven't been able to train due to poor weather. Huge congratulations to Juliette Redfern, Indigo Gentry, Grace Forbes, Aimee Hoble, Leila Clark, Zoe Ugarow, Darcy Chappell Salmon and Lilly Zelezetski.

After half-term, we are pleased to welcome back from maternity leave Mrs Murray, with Miss Smith returning in July; we also wish Ms Mitchell all the very best as she goes on maternity leave in June. Finally, we are sad to be saying goodbye to Mr Tom Bartlett, our Music and English technician, who leaves us in mid-June to pursue a professional career in sound recording. We are most grateful to him for high quality support, especially in his field of expertise, but are delighted that he has managed to secure a footing in such an exciting and competitive field. We wish him well.

I should like to wish all our Year 11, Lower Sixth and Upper Sixth girls every success in their examinations; they have worked hard and will, I am sure, do their very best. Teachers are still available for help and advice during the exam period!

With best wishes,



Mrs L Wybar, Headteacher

Online Child Sexual Exploitation

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to you because of a recent increase in reports to Kent police of children talking to and exchanging pictures with strangers online. Videochat websites and apps like Skype, Instagram, Omegle, Oovoo, Kik, and others, allow children to talk and exchange pictures on tablets and Smartphones or via a webcam. Whilst talking on webcam with known and trusted friends and family can be fun and exciting, children can be at risk of bullying and also abuse. Children and young people sharing pictures and videos online are vulnerable to exploitation. This can happen in the following way:

- An offender makes contact with a young person online through an app, chatroom or game.
- The offender begins a conversation and tricks the young person into sending them an indecent picture, appearing naked or performing sexual acts on webcam. They can trick them by pretending to be of the same age, someone the child knows, flirting with them or sending them sexual pictures or videos.
- The offender records or captures the picture. They then threaten to show it to others including family members if they do not perform more sexual acts. Some young people have been threatened for money or have been told to hurt themselves.

This has happened to young people and is being reported in Kent and beyond with children of both Primary and Secondary school age. This is **sexual abuse**.

What to do if this happens

When a child tells a parent they have experienced on or offline sexual abuse parents should react calmly and always:

- Believe their child and tell them that they believe them.
- Not blame them, it is not their fault, the person responsible is the offender.
- Keep calm and talk to their child about how they feel and let them know that they're here to listen.
- Report the concern to Kent Police via 101 or use 999 if there is immediate risk to someone's safety.
www.kent.police.uk/internetsafety
- You can also report to CEOP, a national agency that tackle exploitation of children and young people. For information, advice and to report concerns directly to CEOP, visit www.ceop.police.uk
- Be aware that offenders may sometimes be targeting and abusing multiple children online. Your child may possibly be one of many victims and reporting online suspicious activity may help protect many children.

How to stop it happening

- Set appropriate parental controls and use filters for home computers and devices (such as games consoles, tablets and Smart Phones)
- Talk to your child about what they are doing online and ask them to show you the apps and sites they use.
- Ensure your child understands how anyone can copy and share images or messages posted online and the importance of keeping their personal information and images safe
- Ensure that privacy settings and age restrictions are discussed and in place for the websites and apps that your child uses.
- Ensure that you and your child know how to block and report unwanted images and messages
- Ensure you know how to report sexual abuse online.

If you are worried that your child is at risk of harm or a criminal offence has been committed then you can report your concerns to Kent Police or Children's Social Care www.kent.gov.uk For further advice visit www.nspcc.org.uk/onlinesafety, www.childnet.com, www.internetmatters.org.uk or www.thinkuknow.co.uk, our school website or talk to our e-Safety Coordinator/Officer (NAME)

Yours faithfully,

Miss J Parkinson (Assistant Headteacher)

What can parents/carers do to help children keep safe online?

Follow the Golden Rules

Ground Rules

- Discuss together as a family how the internet will be used in your house. Consider what information should be kept private (such as personal information, photos in school uniform etc) and decide rules for making and meeting online friends. Ensure your children know the risks of accepting friends' requests from strangers online and make sure you know what your child is doing online much like you would offline. Make sure your child uses strong passwords to protect their online accounts. It is important they know they need to keep their passwords safe and not share them with anyone or use the same password for several accounts.
- Consider locating your child's computers and laptops in a family area but be aware that children access the internet on mobile phones, games consoles and tablets so use can't always be supervised.
- Be especially aware of settings rules relating to your child's use of webcams and any applications or devices which allow voice or video chat. Childnet have useful information for young people about using webcams safely www.childnet.com/young-people/secondary/hot-topics/video-chat-and-webcams

Online Safety

- Install antivirus software, secure your internet connection and use Parental Control functions for computers, mobile phones and games consoles to block unsuitable content or contact from unknown people. Research different parental control software and tools available for your home and select the tools which are most suitable to you, your child and the technology in your home. Visit www.internetmatters.org and www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-and-resources/a-parents-guide for safety information and advice about parental controls on consoles and devices and how to report concerns.
- Make sure you read any parental guidance and safety recommendations (including age requirements – most popular social networking sites and apps are only for users aged 13+) for any apps or websites before allowing your child to use them - visit www.net-aware.org.uk
- Always remember that parental control tools are not always 100% effective and sometimes unsuitable content can get past them, so don't rely on them alone to protect your child.

Listen

- Take an active interest in your child's life online and talk openly with them about the things they do. Talk to your child and ask them to show or even teach you how they use the internet, learn which websites or tools they like to use and why. Learning together with your child can often open opportunities to discuss safe behaviour online.
- To start a conversation with your child you could tell them that you understand that some young people share images and videos online and that you're interested to know what they think about it and how they think they can keep themselves safe.

Dialogue – keep talking

- Ensure that your child knows that once a picture, video or comment is sent or posted online, then it can be very difficult to remove as other people can forward it and share it with others, without them even knowing.
- www.childnet.com and www.thinkuknow.co.uk has some really useful tips and ideas for parents/carers about starting conversations about online safety
- Always ensure your child knows how to report and block people online who may send nasty or inappropriate messages or content. Encourage your child not to retaliate or reply to cyberbullying and to keep any evidence.
- Make sure your child knows it's important that they tell an adult they trust if anything happens online that makes them feel scared, worried or uncomfortable.

Remember, the internet is an essential part of young people's lives and provides them with tremendous opportunities. The vast majority use it without coming to any harm so it's essential to be realistic: banning the internet or web sites often will not work and it can make a child feel less able to report a problem or concern, so education around safe use is essential.