

Dear Parent/Guardian

Sadly, as this term ends, we need to say goodbye to Mrs Darracott, who has covered Mrs Murray's maternity leave in the PE Department since September. We will truly miss her infectious enthusiasm and commitment, and wish her well. I am afraid that we also need to say farewell to a longstanding member of staff: Ms Lloyd-Jones joined TWGGS in 2003, since which time she has consistently been an outstanding, inspirational French teacher and a very caring, supportive form tutor. Unfortunately, in recent months Ms Lloyd-Jones has had an extended period of sick leave, and she has decided to resign with effect from the end of this year, in order to focus on her health. We wish her every future happiness and very much hope that she soon returns to full health.

### **Progress 8 – Mrs Wybar**

New this year in the Department for Education school league tables is "Progress 8"; this score reflects the progress made from KS2 to GCSE across 8 subjects, in comparison with similar pupils nationally, with English and Maths counting double, and there being a requirement to include at least three further "English Baccalaureate" subjects (which are languages, sciences, History and Geography) in the eight subjects counted. Progress 8 gives an indication of whether, as a group, pupils in a school made above or below average progress compared to similar pupils in other schools. For all mainstream pupils nationally, the average Progress 8 score will be zero; a score of 1 reflects a complete grade's progress across all eight subjects above the national average for pupils of similar ability: the greater the Progress 8 score, the greater the progress made in comparison to the national average of pupils with similar prior attainment.

**TWGGS' Progress 8 score is 0.81:** this places us as the top selective school nationally, the top school in Kent and 15<sup>th</sup> out of over 6,500 schools nationally, an exceptional achievement for girls and their teachers, one of which we are justly proud.

### **School Uniform – Mrs Wybar**

Please may I ask parents to check girls' uniforms over the Christmas holidays? Several girls are wearing skirts which are too short or jumpers with holes in the sleeves. We will be carrying out further regular uniform checks in the new year, and appreciate your support. Furthermore, several girls are now wearing black trainers rather than school shoes. Whilst we fully appreciate that cost precludes parents replacing shoes easily, **trainers, plimsolls and canvas pumps are not acceptable school shoes. From September 2017, these will not be able to be worn at school as part of the uniform.** Please bear this in mind when purchasing new school shoes over the coming 8-9 months.

### **School Admission Arrangements**

In accordance with the Department for Education's School Admissions Code we are currently consulting the Local Authority and other relevant parties on potential changes to our School Admission Arrangements for entry to the school in 2018. The consultation will run for a minimum of 6 weeks closing on Tuesday 31 January 2017. The changes are minimal, but you may wish to view the document which can be found on the school website at

<http://www.twggs.kent.sch.uk/downloads/Consultation-on-admissions-arrangements-for-2018.pdf> .

If you would like to respond to this consultation please write to Mrs Louise Stewart-Smith, Head of Admissions, at [admissions@twggs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@twggs.kent.sch.uk) before the end of the consultation period.

### **Harrison Catering Services – Mrs Ralph, Bursar**

Harrisons have been providing the catering at TWGGS since September and have recently given a voucher to all pupils and staff, entitling them to have a free lunch in the canteen. Discussions arranged this week with pupils have provided useful feedback on what the girls think is working well in the canteen, along with their ideas as to how the service could be further improved – comments from the girls were largely very positive about the quality and variety of food served, and the outside Pod has proved to be very popular.

Please be aware that from next term, there will be a charge of £5 for any pupil who has lost her canteen card and requires a replacement – this is consistent with what happened with TWGGS' previous catering contractor, and the fee will be deducted from the pupil's sQuid balance. Since September, there have been a number of problems with some pupils' sQuid accounts - during this time Harrisons have been flexible with the overspent balances on girls' accounts. These issues have now been resolved and so from next term, if a pupil's sQuid card is overdrawn by more than £5, then she will still be able to have a main meal at lunch time, but will not be served at breaktime, or be able to purchase any snack items, until the balance has been cleared. Email reminders are automatically generated by sQuid when a balance falls below £5 - thank you for your support in ensuring that your daughter's account remains in credit.

### **News from the Music Department – 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. We were treated to a variety of performances from our junior orchestras and ensembles, including the student 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.

Last Friday (9<sup>th</sup> December) saw the annual TWGGS 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. There were some beautiful solos from Lucy Fyson, Alice Atkins, Hannah Samuel, Rosie Waddington, Sasha Chown, Poppy Walters, Emma Wadsworth, Miar Murphy, Lauren Whitfield, Portia Halsall and Jessica Walters (trumpet), as well as some impressive piano and organ playing from Hannah Roberts, Tabitha Preston and Annie Chown. Other highlights were the carol 'Hope and Joy', composed especially for the occasion by girls in 7T - Amber Jackson, Neve Cotterill, Emmy Lane-Radcliffe, Jenna Callahan, Lucy Singleton and Annabella Curcher, Year 9 pupil Annie Chown's beautiful carol 'He Came To Us', and the premier of Mr Corse's 'Lully Lullay' for Staff Choir. Congregational carols were enhanced by the addition of the TWGGS brass ensemble who delighted everyone with impressive fanfares and descants. A huge thank you and well done goes to everyone who helped to make the evening such a success.

### **Congratulations to Beatrice Giles, 7T – Mrs Wybar**

Many congratulations to Beatrice, who has had a poem nominated for the 2016 Betjeman Poetry Prize. This is a fantastic achievement.

### **An early Christmas present for the Library - Mrs Mattheus-Ratcliffe, Librarian**

The Library had an early Christmas this year with the generous donation of £50 from the winners of the TWGGS 100 Club. The donors chose to remain anonymous, but their gift is very welcome, and I now have the very enviable task of getting to choose new books for the girls. Thank you and Merry Christmas!

### **Year 8 Battle of the Books - Mrs Mattheus-Ratcliffe, Librarian**

Four weeks – 145 girls - 953 books. Those are the impressive vital statistics of our annual Year 8 reading challenge, The Battle of the Books. On 5<sup>th</sup> October we asked the girls to read as many books, poetry collections, short story collections and newspapers as possible over four weeks to see who could read the most. They took to the challenge with gusto. With a total of 953 books read between them they have succeeded in almost doubling the already high numbers achieved by last year's competitors. Whole collections of books from the library went on loan and there were girls reading everywhere during break and lunchtime. It was heart-warming to see that there is still a place for books in this world full of social media.

As there were a number of prizes to be won the incentive was high and our lucky winners walked away with well-deserved book vouchers and chocolates. The 2016 Battle of the Books Star Readers were:-

8T	Kylie Wates	8W	Christabel Balcomb Nevill		
8I	Ella Smith	8G	Kate de Putter	8S	Hawa Kamali

Our overall winner, with an astounding 79 books read, was Delia Ghita from 8G and the winning form, also 8G, totalled some 284 books between them. I think the bar is set very high for next year's Battle of the Books contestants. Let's hope they live up to the challenge.

### **Books Everywhere – Half-price Book Fair – Mrs Mattheus-Ratcliffe, Librarian**

Perfectly timed during Black Friday week, we hosted our third half-price book fair in the Library from 28<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> 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. We managed to raise £592 which equates to some £1200 worth of books bought. And the added bonus was a selection of new books earned for the Library. We love Book Fair Week! We have already booked another one for next Christmas; keep watching this space for further details next autumn.

### **Bar Mock Trial, Regional Heat, November 2016 - Emily Cullen, L6I**

On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November, the TWGGS Bar Mock Trial team met at Maidstone Crown Court to take part in the first round of the annual Bar Mock Trial Competition. We had prepared two cases which we would perform against other schools from Kent. The first case concerned whether a student had committed the crime of witness intimidation. Prosecution barristers Izzie Denison and Hannah Samuel delivered excellent speeches which challenged the flaws in the arguments put forward by the impressive

defence team of Sackville School. The prosecution witnesses Eloise Wainwright and Martha Gritt stayed very calm under intense questioning from Sackville School and responded to questions with excellent relevance to their witness statements. The jury felt that the defendant was guilty and so TWGGS won the first case! The second case was centred on the crime of actual bodily harm. The incident took place between two neighbours. TWGGS was prosecuting this case and so it was again the barrister team of Izzie Denison and Hannah Samuel who took part. Katie Crocker acted as the usher for this case and performed excellently. Millie Young and Eleanor Schone played witnesses for the prosecution and coped extremely well with the rigorous cross examination from Sackville School. The spectators and judges were very impressed by all of the performances by TWGGS in this case but unfortunately, we did not win the verdict, as the jury felt that the case put forward by the defence team from Herne Bay High School was stronger.

After lunch, TWGGS was against Norton Knatchbull School and were performing the first case again, but this time as defence. The barrister team of Natasha Saunders and Emily Cullen was defending the case. Although a member of the jury eloquently congratulated our team on their impressive opening and closing speeches, the jury reached a surprise guilty verdict and so TWGGS lost the case. Nathalie Diepstraten and Abigail Colletta were defence witnesses and stood up admirably under even more intense cross-examination from Norton Knatchbull School. Whilst TWGGS did not get through to the regional heat of the Bar Mock Trial Competition, everyone involved had a wonderful time taking part and learned huge amounts about the legal system. The team would like to thank Mrs Freeman for helping to prepare us and for organising the event, and Mr Franklin for helping us to understand what the day would be like, allowing us to feel less nervous! Izzie Denison led the Bar Mock Trial team and put in a huge amount of time and effort into organising and preparing us. On the day, Mr and Mrs Samuel also provided the team with excellent insights into the legal and court system. The Bar Mock Trial was a highly valuable experience and gave us an excellent understanding of the world of law.

### **Tunbridge Wells Model United Nations General Assembly (MUNGA) – Mrs Johnstone**

TWGGS pupils distinguished themselves at the recent MUNGA held in Tunbridge Wells Town Hall on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November. Our three teams represented Eritrea, Syria and the United Kingdom, all very interesting and demanding countries in various ways, in complex committee discussions on international conflict, refugees, and women and girls' rights. Other TWGGS pupils worked on the press teams, producing very competent newspaper accounts of the day. TWGGS old girl Ellie Drewry, currently studying Law at Bristol University, came back to act as President, and ran the entire event expertly. Awards were made to outstanding delegates in each committee, including the following TWGGS girls:- Year 11 Kate Daw, representing Eritrea on the international conflict committee; and all three members of the overall winning delegation, the Year 13 Syria team of Georgia Edgley, Sarah Grant, and Eloise Wainwright.

### **Debating – Mrs Johnstone**

The TWGGS senior debaters had the difficult task of convincing the judges at the English Speaking Union's Mace competition in November that it would be a bad idea to extend the franchise to sixteen year olds. The team of Lauren Whitfield and Rosie Judd made a really good job of what is definitely the tougher side of the motion, winning the debate against Tonbridge School, and going through to the Regional Round in the New Year.

### **UKMT Further Maths Team Challenge – Mrs Matthews**

On Wednesday November 23<sup>rd</sup>, an astute observer might have noticed as an unobtrusive school minibus drove quietly out of Southfield Road and joined the traffic headed for London. On board - a small, select group of crack mathematicians selected from our Sixth Form to represent the school at the Regional Heat of this year's UK Mathematics Trust Senior Team Mathematics Challenge, sponsored by Rolls-Royce plc. Nobody noticed as the team progressed in plain clothes towards this national competition, at which they knew they would be expected to combine mathematical, communication and teamwork skills, competing against other elite squads of highly-trained brainiacs. The TWGGS team comprising Kerensa Froome, Sophia Trebino, Anna Brian and Molly Hockley performed with great success, particularly in the fiendish "cross-number" activity. High spirits were maintained and the squad made it safely back to school under cover of darkness. Well done to all!

### **Ghana Trip – Imogen Ellis, 11S**

Myself, and fifteen very lucky girls from Year 11 and Lower Sixth had the opportunity to go to Ghana, living for 2 weeks in the rural town of Nkwanta, where we immersed ourselves in a completely unique lifestyle and then spent a further week travelling around the country to experience more of its rich culture. For the past two years we have been tirelessly fundraising for the *Ghana Education Project*; a charity that supports The Kyabobo Girls School in Nkwanta, in total raising £45,000. This big effort made the anticipation to arrive even greater; to experience what we had been working towards as a team, for so long. We immediately found ourselves thrust into Ghanaian life, rapidly adjusting to the different climate and customs.

One of the major parts of the trip was having the opportunity to give back to the local community and experience teaching in village schools. Teaching posed significant challenges and we all felt a great deal of pressure to make an impact on the

children's lives. However we found it was such a warm atmosphere in which both the children and the teachers were eager to learn from such a contrast in culture. The word rewarding is an understatement when reflecting on the teaching experience and by the end we had all come very attached to our classes. I think, personally, walking away from my class knowing the uncertainty of their futures, despite their academic potential, was very difficult.

We also adjusted to life in Nkwanta by experiencing a presidential rally for the upcoming December elections, visiting the local hospital and navigating our way through the bustling local market, in particular to buy unique Ghana fabric, which we could get made into clothing by a seamstress that visited our guest house. We also had the surreal opportunity to meet the village chief, where we were shown the importance of respecting the ancestors, whilst at the same time seeing the basic living conditions of Ghanaians in rural communities. However, it was during a cultural day that we got to meet and dance with the girls from The Kyabobo School and also see a new classroom block that was under construction due to the money that we had raised. The girls greeted us with unimaginable excitement and we found that they were just like us; full of energy and enthusiasm however with a deep-set maturity as they had overcome great obstacles to just be in school. When we were there it was impossible to ignore how the quality of the education at Kyabobo had empowered the girls, with each girl having an ambition for the future.

Throughout the trip we had many incredible experiences that changed our attitudes towards what it means to live in a country such as Ghana. We visited an impressive waterfall and a slave fort and walked a 30m high Canopy Walk in Kakum National Park, we learnt how to do African drumming and had the opportunity to make Ghanaian beads, do tie-dye and produce our own batik cloth. From the trip we will all take irreplaceable memories of the inspirational people that we met and the image of a grinning girl from Kyabobo is one that will forever be imprinted on our hearts.

### **India Exchange 2016 - Bibi Thomas, 11G**

After the long wait, the day we had anticipated since we wrote our application letters a year and a half ago had come: 16 TWGGS girls and 12 Judd boys departed very early one October morning for a cultural exchange in Kerala, India. Three weeks away from family was going to be hard; being surrounded by 27 new people; being thrown into a new culture; as one could expect, there were many mixed feelings. Once we arrived in Thiruvananthapuram at 3am, a bus decorated in flowers and disco balls came to collect us and lifted our weary spirits. The new culture definitely taught us to be patient, as it was after waiting two hours in the lobby in our beautiful hotel that we could finally go to our rooms, and at this point it was 6am and there was not much point in trying to sleep. Our first few days acclimatizing were an eye-opener to the new culture, with days out visiting temples and markets; long afternoons spent at the pool, with a highlight being at Kanyakumari where it was impossible to move as local children and sellers surrounded us.

Meeting our hosts and their family showed us top Indian hospitality, where we were given the most spectacular welcome with an assembly at the school. As we walked through the school, we noticed many differences between their education and ours: the syllabus was a lot harder and lots of pride was taken in learning yoga and traditional Indian dances. As we were in India for Diwali, all our hosts threw a big party with lots of dancing, some traditional, some western. We grew used to life by the sea, then we headed up into the mountains of Thekkady to a five star resort, with freely roaming monkeys and other animals. While we were there, we rode elephants and visited a spice garden, just to name a few of our adventures. It was really interesting to know where the spices we use every day came from, and we also visited cramped factories which really showed us what is meant by the term 'sweatshop'. Back down at sea level, we spent an afternoon on a houseboat, visited temples, and had head massages among other exciting outings. In our final week, which came around very quickly, we took part in Kerala Day, which is a day where beautiful saris are worn and a curry feast is served on a banana leaf. We all got dressed in saris for the occasion and were photographed for the local newspaper. I think that everyone can say that their favourite day was probably the penultimate one spent at a lake resort. It was our last chance to have a swim in a pool and many of us took boats out on the lake, others relaxing in the hammocks and playing card games. As we headed for the airport, many shed tears as our host families had really accepted us as one of their own and showed us the best hospitality. Everyone is very much looking forward to the return of our hosts in the summer and we will try and show them the hospitality and kindness they showed us. On behalf of the team, I can say that everyone learnt how to be more independent and to embrace every weird moment the trip threw at us. We left wiser about the world and I would definitely recommend applying for this once in a lifetime trip.

### **Cologne Christmas Markets Trip for Year 9 – Herr Link**

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November we started the weekend of the first of Advent early and in style by taking ninety six Year 9 girls to the Christmas markets in Cologne. The girls had the opportunity to try German specialities like the different kind of sausages at the snack stalls, Christmas biscuits and cookies, potato fritters with apple sauce and many other traditional foods. They were able to put the German they learnt at TWGGS into practical use. One of the cross curricular parts was the visit to an art gallery which offered many interesting works from Picasso and other famous artists. This year we stayed in new accommodation: the modern youth hostel in Bonn which was also nearer to Cologne than our hotel in previous year. The girls returned high on Christmas spirit.

### **Year 10 German Exchange 2016 – Hannah Turvey, 10T**

I think that everyone who went on the trip to Bonn could tell you two things: 1) that their German skills improved considerably after living and speaking the language, and 2) that it was an incredibly fun experience they aren't likely to forget anytime soon. After having spoken with our exchanges for about a month before hand, we were all extremely excited to finally meet them, though also quite nervous, especially when the coach drove up to the 'Clara-Fey Gymnasium'. Admittedly, it was quite strange going to our exchange's house that evening; being with a family who spoke a different language whom you had never met before proved to be quite challenging, but I think the communication with our exchanges prior to the trip helped us to feel more comfortable.

We did spend quite a lot of time with our families who were all very helpful: making us feel at home and helping us with our German if we got stuck. The entirety of the weekend was spent with our exchanges and their families, doing things such as shopping, visiting sights in Bonn and ice-skating (which proved to be rather popular). Being away from the other girls in our class for the weekend, meant that we were surrounded by more German speakers and could try and pick out recognisable vocabulary, and had to speak German more consistently as we wouldn't convert back to speaking English as often. I actually think that the weekend was one of the best parts of the trip because of the fun activities our exchanges had kindly planned out for us to do. On the Friday, Monday and Tuesday of the trip, we spent time with both the English and German girls. On two out of the three mornings we travelled to school with our exchange in order to have one or two lessons in a German education environment to see how they were taught, compared to what we were used to at TWGGS. For me, this included a Geography lesson with a Year 6 class, which was quite funny, but also quite interesting. We also had the experience of visiting the beautiful city of Aachen, and, for those who went on the Year 9 German trip last year, returning to the city of Cologne with its huge cathedral and festive Christmas markets. Quite a lot of shopping was done on this trip, having the Bonn, Aachen and Cologne Christmas markets available to us! Of course, we got to go to the Haribo and Lindt factory; people tended to leave there with a substantial amount of shopping!

When, towards the end of the week, realisation hit that we would be leaving Germany, although people were excited to see their friends and families again, we were all upset to leave the beautiful country and the people we had been living with during our time there. It was quite surprising how quickly everyone had settled into the German culture and the lifestyles of our exchanges, as well as how close we now were with our exchanges and their very kind families. And yes, our German had improved, in more ways than one, due to being there for a week. It was a totally different atmosphere to when we first got off the coach only less than a week beforehand. However, I think we can all look forward to March, when the German girls will have their chance to come to England! Thank you Herr Link and Frau Sanderson for such an amazing trip!

### **German Intern Lena Milnikel – Herr Link**

We would like to say a big Thank You to Lena Milnikel who accompanied the German department since September and is now leaving us. She also participated in activities in the PE department and was an enormous help to everyone and loved by staff and girls alike. We hope that she will stay in touch and wish her all the best for her future.

### **French Sixth Form Study Day at the London BFI – Mrs Goddard**

Year 12 and Year 13 French Students spent a day at the British Film Institute on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016. The study day was an exciting opportunity for our pupils to discover key themes and periods of French cinema through exploring key scenes from various films, including *Au Revoir Les Enfants*, which are part of the A/AS Level French specification.

### **Christmas Bake Off 2016 – Mrs Callaway**

In the run up to Christmas, Year 7 and Year 8 groups have had the opportunity to bake some Christmas treats in their food lessons. They have researched and prepared their own recipes and produced some impressive bakes. Year 9 girls have also been meticulously planning and preparing for the TWGGS Christmas Bake Off. The girls who have baked so far have produced some amazing treats including beautifully iced gingerbread shapes, delightful cupcakes and giant cake baubles! Several teachers have volunteered to judge and, of course, sample the products, commenting on what imaginative and professional results the girls have achieved. The winners will be announced in January, the prize being a sugar craft lesson to improve their skills even further.

### **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 gave them the chance to learn and practise new study skills in their forms and in October we welcomed a speaker from the University of Birmingham to give a talk on 'How to make the most of Year 12'. Subsequent PSHE sessions have included speakers from the Home Office about Apprenticeships, from A Star Future about the many opportunities for studying abroad, and from Kent Fire and Rescue about safety on the road.

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, Rhys Thomas from Pearson College in London, gave a very good

presentation on "Interviewing and Networking Skills". Some of the girls were very engaged with the session which included sound advice about using social media to research and network. Other sessions have included a speaker from Student Finance England, a session on Mental Health Awareness from Steve Howcroft from Crossways Community, and from group discussions about marriage led by members of the Explore charity. We also organised a Student Finance representative to attend Upper Sixth Parents' Evening to run a presentation and answer any questions.

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, and offering advice and guidance to any girls who request an appointment. Next term she will start a programme of PSHE sessions for Year 7 pupils using quizzes and other material to help the girls identify their strengths and weaknesses in a fun way, and to start researching job families so that, looking ahead, they may be able to start thinking about which subjects would be important in their future choices.

Continuing the programme of lunchtime talks, this term, we were very pleased to see some recent old girls return to school to speak to girls at lunch time: Eleanor Hennebry came in very early in the Autumn Term to tell interested girls about studying medicine, Laura Barrett spoke about engineering at Cambridge, Alice Pavey talked about what it is like studying Geography, at Cambridge, and Antonia Murray answered questions on studying Geography at Oxford! In November we were delighted to welcome Michael Sussams, Head of Training at the British Medical Journal, who kindly provided a lunchtime session in school showing girls who are interested in studying medicine how to register on the Student BMJ Online website, and how to use this excellent resource. He is not in the habit of providing face to face training, but made a special exception for TWGGS as he lives fairly close by. I am extremely grateful to him for offering us such a service. This month, Dr Brimsted very generously came in several times and provided excellent interview practice for the girls who have applied to study medicine and veterinary medicine.

This month, we were delighted to welcome Captain Nash to the Careers Department where he carried out one to one interviews with seven girls keen to explore careers which the Army has to offer. We were sadly cast down when the lunchtime talk by HECK Sausages had to be postponed at the last moment, because of staff sickness, and we are looking forward to their presentation on 'A Career in the Food Industry' in the New Year.

#### **News From The Charity Prefects – Lucy Westover U6I, Abi Norris U6I, Alex Davison U6W**

This term at TWGGS we have been supporting a local charity 3H: Helping Hands for Holidays. This charity gives opportunities for people with disabilities to have a much needed holiday, allowing them and their families to escape the strains and stresses of dealing with disability. Some highlights of the charity's work this year include group holidays, such as adventure sports in Exmoor and a sailing trip at Seastar. Their Grant Programme has funded holidays for several families, helping them to cope with mental and physical disabilities; this year they have also initiated a "Care for Carers" programme, purely focussed on providing respite for full time carers. At TWGGS we have been holding cake and hot chocolate sales, and a pop-up tuck shop to raise money, as well as a Christmas jumper day. We have enjoyed raising money for this worthwhile cause, and look forward to next term!

#### **Tiger Cub Camp – Cadet Isobel Poland, 10T**

Tiger Cub camp was great! The majority of the weekend consisted of learning how to use the GP cadet rifle which, although it was tricky, was very interesting. It was all worth it when we all passed our tests and we could all go on the electronic range which was great! Nothing could beat the tension and excitement of the staff shooting competition though and no-one saw the great success of Lieutenant Naismith (sorry Lieutenant)! We all really enjoyed the great patrols, section attacks and no-one could forget the amazing game of handballbugby. All the Year 10s found the team building exercises brilliant, but we still don't know how we managed to get that satellite out of the tree. Thanks to everyone who made the weekend so great – I would gladly do it again!

#### **TWGGS Ski Team – Miss Parkinson**

Congratulations to Evie and Elle Ayton for the 2016 summer ski season. Evie finished first in the U14 category in both the London race series and the Southern race series and Elle finished 3rd in the U18 London series and 6th in the Southern series. Elle was also part of the London team which came first in the Tri-Regional Plate against Southern and Eastern England teams. Both Elle and Evie have been reselected for the English Schools' Ski Association 2017 squad training camps.

#### **Congratulations to Rosie Dobson 10I, Lotte Van Der Zanden 10T, Bella Callaway 10T and Ellie Miles U6T**

Rosie, Lotte, Bella and Ellie all play for Tunbridge Wells Rugby Club and they went, with hundreds of other girls from across Kent, to Gillingham to trial for a county place over two Kent rugby selection days. The girls were selected to train with the Kent girls' rugby teams and have been travelling to Canterbury and Ashford on Wednesday evenings for training. Rosie and Lotte were then delighted to be selected to play in the first Kent U15 girls' rugby match at Westcombe Park Rugby club on 30th October. Both Rosie and Lotte played superbly, both personally contributing to Kent's 22-12 win against Hertfordshire. Ellie played in the U18 team but they were up against a much more experienced U18 Hertfordshire team and lost 34-12.

### **U19 County Netball Tournament – Mrs Darracott**

On 26<sup>th</sup> November the U19 team went back to Rainham School for Girls to compete in the County School Netball Competition. The team was made up of 10 girls from the Upper and Lower 6<sup>th</sup> forms; the more experienced players took on great leadership within the team by training, motivating and bringing the team together. On the day the team were all very well prepared and ready for a day of competition against some of the top schools in the Kent, but unfortunately we went down in their first game against Colfe's. The girls didn't let this affect them and moved swiftly on to win our second game. As the day went on there were some great games played coming away with several wins and some losses. The team did however, finish on a massive high after beating our rival school Sevenoaks by one goal in the last few seconds of the game. The girls should all be very proud of themselves and the way they represented our school. Congratulations to:- Katie Nunn, Margot Roberson-Leech, Flo Colangelo, Emma Wadsworth, Elisha Goldring, Daisy Macnutt, Maisie Douch, Emma Cameron, Libby Horobin and Lara Smith.

### **U16 County Netball Tournament – Miss Manklow**

On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November the U16 team arrived at Rainham Girls' Grammar School enthusiastic and excited to play in the County Netball Finals. Luck seemed to be on our side as the Captain, Jess Smith, won all the tosses for the matches that day, giving TWGGS an advantage at the start of each game with possession of the first centre pass. The first game against Cranbrook was a tough game to introduce the tournament. The girls worked well as a team but with strong opposition the pressure was on and although we were able to maintain possession the shots were not going in. The final score was 7-6 to Cranbrook.

TWGGS remained determined and started the second match against Walthamstow Hall with great enthusiasm. The team dominated the game and with defensive turnovers being successfully utilised to score goals TWGGS soon took the lead. The final score was a 6-5 win for TWGGS. Tonbridge was the third game and we knew already this would be a tough match. The girls stayed with their players well but with slightly more speed Tonbridge took control of the game and turned successful turnovers to goals, a 9-3 loss for an evenly matched game. The next two games saw TWGGS face Kent College Canterbury and Rainham Mark Grammar School. Again the defence fought well to turn over the ball, but their defence was also strong. Quick work from all players saw goals being scored equally for both teams. With such short games there was little time to break away from the opposition leaving the final score for both games a 7-7 draw. The final two games were against the toughest opposition - Benenden and Sevenoaks schools. After a long day of netball the team, with only seven players, were starting to tire. The girls fought on until the end and were determined to try and reach half of the oppositions' goals. Unfortunately both games resulted in a loss for TWGGS, meaning the team did not advance to regionals this year. Congratulations to all involved in the tournament. Even getting through to the County Finals is an incredible success! Jess Smith (Captain), Micky Holding, Elena Holland, Connie Howard, Mimi Franklin, Alice Waters and Thuraya Lawal.

### **Sports Hall Athletics - Mrs Darracott**

On 1<sup>st</sup> December the Year 7 and 8 Sports Hall Athletics Team went down to compete at Hayesbrook School in a qualifying event to compete later next year against schools in the wider Kent area. Five Year 8 and Six Year 7 girls competed in the many different events in both field and track. We had been training for these events for the last two terms and were ready to put our training to test. We started the evening off with a bang winning the obstacle relay in both Year 7 and Year 8. The night continued to see first and second places coming in from all different events in both years. It was great to see the girls cheering each other on throughout the night and giving one another positive encouragement and support in each event. The girls did our school extremely proud by finishing 1<sup>st</sup> place overall in Year 7 and 8, qualifying for the next stage of competition which will be held in early February. A big congratulations to all the girls that competed on the day:- Izzy Fletcher, Martha Jones, Amalie Abdali, Eliz O'Donnell, Jess Marden, Amelia Colletta, Cordy Jones, Soraya Cope, Edie Watson, Harriet Sacker, Annabella Curcher and Jess Daly.

### **U19 Individual Floor and Vault Competition – Miss Manklow**

On 4<sup>th</sup> December TWGGS Gym Squad competed in the U19 Individual Floor and Vault Competition at Spires Academy, Canterbury. The competition required participants to compete a selected vault as well as a set or choreographed strip floor routine. The squad had trained extremely hard and although a little nervous with their first competition of the year, they all performed well under pressure. Both scores for floor and vault were added together and we were successful in winning medals for a number of categories. In the Year 7 Advanced Category Keeva Pflitsch came 6<sup>th</sup>, Millie Scott came 5<sup>th</sup>, Tilly Strand Ford placed 4<sup>th</sup> and Rosie Goodwin placed 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the Year 8 Advanced Category Freya Ridge placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and Millie Sabine placed 2<sup>nd</sup>. Finally in the Year 9 Intermediate Category Abbie Gadd placed 3<sup>rd</sup> and Alice McLelland placed 1<sup>st</sup>. Congratulations to all who competed.

### **South East Regional Finals Trampoline – Miss Manklow**

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December TWGGS Trampoline Squad competed at the South East Regional Finals Trampoline Competition. This competition is of a high standard where girls compete individually and as a team with a set and voluntary ten bounce routine. The top three individual scores and top two teams' scores would qualify for the Southern Finals in February. All competitors successfully finished their set and voluntary routines, with the average scores from the judges added together to give the final

result. In the Intermediate category Freya Ridge finished 2<sup>nd</sup> individually and the Intermediate team (Tiegan Green, Imogen Chapman and Martha Russell) finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place too! All four girls have qualified for the Southern Finals in February next year. Well done to all girls who competed on Sunday!

### **Hockey – Miss Parkinson**

Every year we have a mixed years competition which allows older girls the opportunity to coach and support the younger girls. Each team consists of a member of each year group from Year 7 through to the U6th. It was a lovely event and thanks go to the 1st X1 captains Miar Murphy and Lucy Fyson for their help, and to all of the captains who helped their teams. Congratulations go to the following girls who were selected as the players of the tournament by their captains:- Cordelia Jones (Year 7); Issy Shaw (Year 8); Emella Wood (Year 7); Mattie Robinson (Year 8); Issy Giles (Year 7); Gemma Preston (Year 7); Hettie Sinclair (Year 7) and Rosie Peacock (Year 10) The two winning teams were captained by Lottie Bishop and Lucy Fyson. Well played to all.

### **Junior Knole Run, Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November – Mrs Field, Cross Country Coach**

Congratulations to our junior cross country runners for showing such resilience 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 challenging route, which included a long steep hill climb right at the very beginning of the race. Well done to the whole team:- Sophie Preston, Martha Jones, Eliz O’Donnell, Christabel Balcomb-Nevill, Esme Morris, Gemma Preston, Harriet Mahon, Ruby McNamara-Yorke, Katherine Phillips, Saskia Hobbs, Jessica Daly and Georgiana Davidson. Many thanks also to the parents who came along to provide such enthusiastic support, it was much appreciated. We hope that our runners do as well in the forthcoming Kent Schools’ Championship on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January in Dover.

### **Climbing Club – Miss Manklow**

Climbing Club has started this term over at Skinners’ School and its popularity has risen each week. Kent and Sussex Climbing have been leading the sessions for girls and we have had really positive feedback from all who have participated. The club has become so popular for Year 7 and 8 we have had to split the girls into two smaller groups to participate on alternate weeks. If you are interested in joining climbing club, please contact Kent and Sussex directly to book a space for next term!

### **Rambert and Loop Dance Workshops – Miss Manklow**

This term girls have been given the opportunity to participate in a number of dance workshops. The first workshop put on by Loop Dance Company for Trinity Laban School of Dance provided the girls with a workshop to extend their contemporary dance repertoire. During the session the girls developed technique through various warm ups as well as learning a short piece of choreography focusing on directions and pathways. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and their confidence and creativity has greatly improved.

The second workshop invited Rambert Dance Company in to assist with choreographing a finale piece for this year’s Evening of Dance. The piece focused on a current performance from Rambert called ‘Rooster’. The girls experienced a Rambert dance warm up before learning some of the repertoire. The finale piece allowed the girls some creative ownership using the repertoire learnt to choreograph short phrases in small groups.

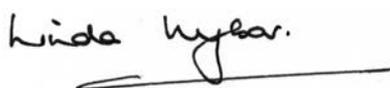
### **Evening of Dance – Miss Manklow**

On 8<sup>th</sup> December TWGGS held an Evening of Dance to celebrate the talent of dancers within the school. Performances from all years were displayed where the majority of dances had been choreographed by the girls. Each dance focused on a different theme and a variety of styles were used creating a diverse evening of performances. The finale for the evening was choreographed by Rambert and focused on ‘Rooster’ a performance currently being displayed in London. Congratulations to all girls who took part and well done for all your hard work this term!

The **PTA Update** will be sent out under separate cover in the New Year.

Finally, it only remains for me to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful, successful 2017.

With best wishes,



Mrs L Wybar  
Headteacher