

Dear Parent/Guardian

As the year draws to a close, unusually we have to say goodbye to four members of staff leaving TWGGS. Mr Paixao has assisted the Music and English departments as Technician since Easter 2016, but sadly has decided to return to his home in Portugal where we wish him and his family much happiness. Mme Goddard has been Curriculum Leader in French for two years and is now returning to her previous school, Kent College, in a similar role; we wish her every success there. Since 2009, Mr Mills has not only been a superb Reprographics Technician but has shared with girls his considerable expertise as an astronomer, most notably during the last eclipse, and we wish him a happy, healthy, well-deserved retirement. Herr Link joined TWGGS twelve years ago, as Curriculum Leader German, during which time he has been passionate about extending girls' language learning, through exchange visits, his initiation of the Year 9 trip to Cologne, establishing links with the University of Luneberg to secure free native speakers' support, and, of course, through his enthusiastically leading TWGGS to victory in the annual Vocab Express competitions. We wish him much happiness in his new life in retirement in France.

Earlier in the term, we said goodbye to Mrs Mattheus- Ratcliffe, who has been an outstanding Librarian for over four years, leaving TWGGS Library thriving. Mrs Collard had worked here for six years, as exams invigilator and later cover supervisor, and has now moved to Benenden as their Exams Officer. For twelve years, Mrs Farrow provided exceptional pastoral and administrative support to KS3 and KS4, and hers were big shoes to fill when she left in October. We have been pleased to welcome to TWGGS Ms Sanderson as Librarian, Ms Smith and Mrs Clark as Cover Supervisors, each with an administrative responsibility linked to a key stage, and Mrs Collie who has joined the Administrative Support team. We also congratulate Mrs Barker on her promotion to Exams Officer and Mrs Barclay on her promotion to Pastoral Support/ SEND Administrator.

Congratulations to Lily Harding, 9I – Mrs Wybar

Congratulations to Lily. The British Judo Association have confirmed that she is now ranked Number 1 in her age and weight category, which is an amazing achievement as she has only been doing the sport for 8 months. She has just competed in the 2017 British Championships in Sheffield, where she came 3rd overall in the Girls' Pre Cadet U57. With the points she earned she retains her Number 1 ranking.

Congratulations to Ella Lance, 9G – Mrs Wybar

Congratulations to Ella and her friends who have been nominated for the prestigious Yachts & Yachting Magazine "Achievement of the Year" award with their world record of 11 hours and 29 minutes to round the Isle of Wight in an Optimist. The winners will be selected on 18th December and Awards announced at the London Boatshow on 11th January.

Remembrance Day – Mrs P Gardiner, CCF

Another Remembrance Day has come and gone and the TWGGS CCF girls taking part in the Poppy Appeal made the contingent very proud, and made a strong and positive impression on the public. In 2016, for the first time, the Appeal nationwide raised over £46 million in 2016, and the takings for Tunbridge Wells were 1% higher than the year before. This year so far, our local community has already achieved a whopping increase of 8.4%. Everyone's effort in general, and that of TWGGS CCF has been recognised in writing by the British Legion. Thank you for your support and for letting the people of Tunbridge Wells show theirs.

Junior Concert – Mrs Waddington

One of the major musical 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, many inspirational solo performances and some choral singing, including all Year 7 pupils. 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.

MUNGA – Mrs Johnstone and Mr Walker

On Friday 24th November, twenty 6th Formers from TWGGS took part in the annual Model United Nations General Assembly held at Tunbridge Wells Town Hall with other local schools. After months of preparation, delegates rose to the challenge of representing their respective nations in a series of Committees, discussing UN Reform, International Conflict and the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. During the afternoon session delegates debated the impact of Saudi Arabia's involvement in the crisis in the Yemen in an emergency resolution. The level of debate was impressive throughout, with representatives able to demonstrate their wealth of knowledge and expertise on these current issues. Delegates were well directed by the Joint Chairs chosen for each committee, and the smooth running of the day was ensured through the efficiency of the Secretariat. Members of the Press Team worked hard to conduct interviews and gather stories to incorporate into their newspaper record of events.

We are extremely grateful to Coco Collard, an ex-student, who took time off from University to act as our Chairperson for the day and led the sessions eloquently and also to the Mayor of Tunbridge Wells for making us so welcome and for allowing us to use the Council Chambers for the day. Congratulations go to the following members of the TWGGS team, who were awarded prizes for their contributions; Kate Daw L6I – Best Chairperson, UN Reform, Jasmine Ahmed L6S – Best Delegate, Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Anna Brian U6G – Highly Commended, International Conflict.

Debating Club – Mrs Johnstone

By popular demand, Debating Club will restart next term, on Friday lunchtimes. Meetings will be open to Years 9 – 13, and will run from 12.50 – 13.20. Venue to be announced.

UKMT Further Maths Team Challenge – Mrs Matthews

On Wednesday, November 22nd, a school minibus slipped out of Southfield Road and sped towards London with Mrs Matthews at the wheel, on board, a select group of elite mathematicians chosen from our Sixth Form. Their mission? To represent the school at the Regional Final of the UKMT Senior Team Mathematics Challenge, sponsored by Rolls-Royce plc. Their brief? To combine mathematical, problem solving, communication and teamwork skills, competing against thirty-two squads of highly-trained brainiacs from across the region. The TWGGS team, comprising Holly Challingsworth, Isabel Kidd, Bibi Thomas and Anna James-Webb, performed with great enthusiasm and precision on a range of mathematical challenges and scored well, but the final winner on this occasion was the team from Sevenoaks School. High spirits were maintained and the squad made it safely back to school under cover of darkness. Well done to all!

News from the German Department - Herr Link

This year has again been a very busy and interesting one with a German theatre group visiting Year 8 and 9, trips to the Europa Centre for Year 8 and Cologne for Year 9 and our annual German exchange trip. Sadly, we have to say goodbye to Nicole Riepl from Hanover, who helped us as an intern for the past 3 months. She worked mainly with our Sixth Formers and KS4, but participated also in many lessons in KS3 and has been an invaluable asset. We thank her very much for all her effort and always friendly attitude. However, we still have Laura Schmitt in the German department to help us until Easter, and our next visiting German teachers and interns are already lined up!

Cologne Trip Review - Christabel Balcomb-Nevill, 9T

On 30th November, a large number of Year nine pupils set off to Cologne. After a long day of travelling, having watched many films and eaten lots of sweets, we arrived. We had a quick look around our first Christmas market next to the famous cathedral, before heading to the Jugendherberge Bonn for some dinner, excited for the next day. On Friday morning, we visited the Museum Ludwig wearing our festive Christmas hats! We spent the rest of the morning looking around the Christmas markets, wrapped up warm and drinking hot chocolates. The highlight of Friday was definitely the cruise down the river - we all danced along to Christmas music (even the teachers!) and received a gift from Nikolaus. On our way back to the hostel, we stopped off at two more Christmas markets. They looked even more magical in the evening! After a fantastic few days, we headed back to Tunbridge Wells, eating our delicious biscuits. Cologne was a great experience and we all had a lot of fun.

German Exchange Review

Last week we took 36 girls to Bonn Bad Godesberg again on our long established (66 years) German Exchange trip from 7-13 December. This year the added bonus was snow – actually on Sunday there was a snowstorm lasting for several hours. Madeleine Lane-Radcliffe and Daisy Brook (both 10G) have written up their impressions in a short paragraph:

One of the highlights on going to Bonn was having the opportunity to stay with a German host family, live with them day to day and experience their culture. The five full days that we were there, were packed full of fun and interesting activities: everything from attending their school, visiting cathedrals, museums, the Haribo factory shop, the Chocolate museum and of course the festive Christmas markets that are always the best in Germany! Whilst some of us felt a bit homesick, the teachers who joined us on the trip, Herr Link, Frau Sanderson and Frau Ceurvorst, were always there to talk to if we had any questions and were thoughtful listeners. The teachers made the trip such fun and we all had a good laugh! Our exchange partners were also all so lovely and organized many activities, including baking Christmas cookies and ice-skating, both of which brought together friends from TWGGS and their exchange partners. Most importantly, we felt that our language skills improved by being immersed in another country. This trip has been such an interesting experience for all of us and we will have very fond memories of it. We look forward to hosting our exchange partners when they come to us in March and hopefully we can show them as good a time as we had with them in Germany.

“...yet I cannot resist the temptation of buying new books!” (Jorge Luis Borges) - Ms Sanderson, Librarian

The last week of November saw the ever popular pop-up Book Fair return to the library with over 200 new books, posters and gifts for sale, all at an enticing half retail price! For four days the library was a hive of book buying excitement with Charles

Dickens, Michael Morpurgo and David Walliams being the favourite choices this year, along with the colourful plastic finger pointers of course (apologies to all family, friends and pets who have been prodded by these ever since!) As well as giving the girls and staff the opportunity to do a little Christmas shopping, the Book Fair sales also earned TWGGS a stack of new books for the library so I am absolutely delighted with its success and look forward to doing it all again next year!

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 the Lower Sixth were led by the Senior Prefects in a session on Study Skills. Subsequent sessions have included a presentation from a representative from Pathway CTM highlighting what Pathway can provide for the girls (Sixth Form parents will have received more information in a Parentmail), a speaker from the University of Birmingham on 'Making the Most of Year 12', from A Star Future about the many opportunities for studying abroad, and from a speaker from the Kent Association of Training Organisations introducing the topic of applying for an apprenticeship. In late November, they had a presentation from Kent Fire and Rescue encouraging them to be safer on the roads.

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 they, too, had the session from Pathway CTM. Mrs Field ran a session on Radicalisation, and an engaging speaker from the University of East Anglia gave a presentation about Student Finance. In November, Paloma Shakouri from Pearson College in London, gave an excellent presentation on Interviewing and Networking Skills. The girls were very engaged with the session, which included sound advice about using LinkedIn and other social media to research and network. In a presentation about Mental Health Issues, Steve Howcroft, from Crossways Community, gave the girls some ideas about how to manage stress effectively.

Mrs Elinson, Independent Careers Adviser, has been in school every week, and has begun taking PSHE sessions introducing Year 7 forms to the concept of job families, and how to research career topics, 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.

In a joint venture, The Skinners' School, Tunbridge Wells Grammar School For Boys and Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School 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: Professor Peter Clifton, recently Head of Psychology at Sussex University; Dr Sarah Tyler, veterinary surgeon at Dacre House Veterinary Clinic; Ms Claire Campbell clinical specialist in Respiratory Physiotherapy at Maidstone Hospital; Mr Joshua Fairclough, from Frontier, the Society for Environmental Exploration; Dr Karen Finlay, GP; Mrs Pippa Hillen, Deputy Head of School of Health Sciences (Practice Learning) at the School of Health Sciences at the University of Brighton; Professor Stephen Keevil, Head of Medical Physics at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals in London; Mr Alan Mills, Commercial and Events Manager - Animal Management, Hadlow College; Ms Stephanie Cooke & Ms Leigh Spencer, Lecturers in Equestrian Studies, 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 Charlotte Sutton, registered Dietician; Dr Glori Lazaro, from the Institute of Cancer Research; Dr Vladimir Gubala, Medway School of Pharmacy, Dr Steven Le Comber, senior lecturer in the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences at Queen Mary University of London; Ms Rakhee Daggarr, Business Manager at Lake (Cosmetic Science); two speakers from the Defence Science & Technology Laboratory (DSTL) – Ms Alexandra Charleson & Ms Hannifah Chouglay; Mr Douglas Johnstone, Patent Attorney at Baron Warren Redfern.

In addition to the speakers, there were various stands available for parents and pupils to browse including representatives from several universities, Oyster Worldwide, Gap 360, KATO Training (Apprenticeships), Runway Training, Specsavers, 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, and the Lower Sixth Prefects, many of whom helped enormously on the evening, and to the TWGGS Ghana Team for selling refreshments. Feedback from parents and pupils has been very positive. We will be running a similar event in 2019. 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

CCF Exercise Black Cat – Cadet Amber Lahdelma, 10G

In September, TWGGS CCF attended Black Cat Camp, a weekend away at Mereworth Woods in Kent, which focused around harbour drills. Upon arrival, we were put into sections and did any admin, including the highlight of everyone's weekend, sorting through and swapping the food in our ration packs. After being assigned an area for our harbour, we learnt to identify what makes a good harbour and how to make ours run as smoothly as possible. Everyone worked to build our harbour before dark, including setting up bashas in which we would sleep, constructing sentry posts at each corner, and tying a rope around the perimeter of

the area so no one could get lost at night. Meanwhile, cadets carried out sentry duty at hour-long intervals in pairs, which involved watching out for the "enemy" and asking any intruders to identify themselves and provide a pre-determined password to prove whether or not they were friendly. The next morning began bright and early, and we immediately got to work cooking and eating breakfast, and tidying away our harbour. This meant leaving no trace that we had been there, so any rubbish was collected and our tracks in the ground covered up. Then came a surprise bugout in which the "enemy" ambushed us, and we quickly retreated. We spent the rest of the day learning about section attacks and patrols, and finally a friendly but competitive orienteering challenge between our sections. Overall, all cadets gained knowledge about harbour drills and the camp was a challenging but very enjoyable experience.

News from the PE Department

The Mason Mile – Parent Support Required- Miss Manklow

Last year the school took part in the Mason Mile Challenge, an event set up by Stephen Mason with the aim of encouraging mass participation in physical activity for children. Pupils would participate in the mile run and receive prizes, medals and even money for fast times. This year The Mason Mile is hoping to run even more events with the help of local schools. With assistance in promotion from local schools as well as help at events, Stephen Mason is hoping to take the idea to national level next year.

The PE Department is already fully stretched with clubs and fixtures and cannot make any of the meetings or event dates. So in order for TWGGS to be a part of the process, we would require assistance from parents within the school. If you would be interested in representing TWGGS at two meetings next year, and assisting with the running of the events please contact the PE Department on pedept@twggs.kent.sch.uk. We think this is a worthwhile event and would appreciate any help from parents.

South East Regional Trampoline Finals – Miss Manklow

On Sunday 26th November TWGGS Trampoline Squad competed at the South East Regional Finals Trampoline Competition. The Squad competed individually and as teams 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 January. All competitors successfully finished their set and voluntary routines with the average scores from the judges added together to give the final result. Although we did not qualify this year, the girls worked hard and progressed on to more difficult routines. Well done!

Evening of Dance – Miss Manklow

This year's Evening of Dance was a huge success with performances from the Gymnastics Club and Cheerleading Squad. All performers worked incredibly hard and took time both inside and outside of school to rehearse for their performances. Many of the routines this year were choreographed by the girls themselves. Jess Dalton and Isabella-Gibson Smith choreographed a number of solos and duets for the evening. Well done to all performers who took part!

U16 County Netball Finals – Miss Manklow

On Saturday 25th November the U16 team arrived at Rainham School for Girls, enthusiastic and excited to play in the County Netball Finals. With the top two teams from each pool qualifying for the day's tournament, the girls knew the standard of netball would be high. The first three matches saw TWGGS face their toughest opponents. First was Benenden, and TWGGS were not going to let them win. An excellent start with focus from everyone on the team and TWGGS were turning over as many balls as possible. A 9-7 win meant a great start to the day. Game 2 was against local opposition Tonbridge Grammar, whom the girls had beaten in a friendly match the week before. Sadly the scores did not reflect the previous week's game with a 5-8 loss to TWGGS. Defeated, the girls left the game feeling gutted and a little annoyed with their play. A quick team talk by Julie Mesher refocused the girls to the game ahead, Sevenoaks. TWGGS were back and working harder than ever. No player was left unmarked and the defence were making Sevenoaks' attacking play extremely difficult. The final score a well-deserved 9-7 win for TWGGS. Game 5 against Highworth was an 11-0 win for TWGGS. The defenders showed some outstanding play, not conceding any goals during the game. The final two games saw TWGGS face Hayes and Sydenham, again two successful wins for the girls. The final scores were in and TWGGS were desperate to see if they had done enough on the day to reach the top. Narrowly missing out on 1st place TWGGS came 2nd qualifying for the Regional Finals in January next year. Well done to all the girls who took part:- Olivia Moran (Captain), Rachel Moran, Scarlett Keating, Florence Byers, Issy McNutt, Jasmine Lewtas, Rosie Crotty, Hannah Carey.

U19 County Netball Finals – Miss Thornton

On Sunday 25th November, the U19 netball team attended the County Netball Finals at Rainham School for Girls. They arrived eager to showcase their use of skill and teamwork on the court! TWGGS came up against some extremely tough opponents from the off start of the tournament; as was to be expected. Nevertheless, the U19s continued to perform as a unit, moving the ball well into the shooting circle and providing opportunities to shoot. The girls' defence played beautifully, preventing the opposition from gaining scoring opportunities and sending the ball back down to the attacking third. Game 4 against Kent College was an 8-1 win. The girls demonstrated brilliant timing on and off the ball and performed various centre pass, backline and side-line strategies to get the ball back into play with ease. The unpredictability of the U19s' play made it difficult for Kent College to defend and regain

possession of the ball. Although the U19s were not as fortunate in all of their matches, their standard of performance was clearly evident throughout the duration of the tournament. Well done to all the girls who took part:- Lara Smith (Captain), Micky Holding, Alice Waters, Sophie Whitaker, Maisie Douch, Emma Cameron, Jess Smith, Mimi Franklin and Connie Howard.

Abbeyfield Dance Evening – Miss Manklow

On Tuesday 5th December the Dance Squad attended Abbeyfield Hale Court to perform their routines to members at the home. The evening was a great success with girls performing routines they had choreographed for the Evening of Dance and as part of their Arts Award. Members of the home loved the performances and the evening was finished off nicely with refreshments and cake. Well done to all performers!

Acrobatics and Tumbling Competition – Miss Manklow

On Sunday 3rd December the Gymnastics Squad took part in their first competition of the year. The squad competed three tumbling sequences as well as a pair's acrobatic routine. Both tumblers and routines were choreographed by the girls from a list of prescribed movements. The girls had rehearsed their routines repeatedly and although nervous, arrived excited to compete. On the day there were two competitions running at Regional and National Level. We had pairs entered into both groups and all performers entered into the Regional tumbling at different age groups. In the U14 Tumbling the results were very close. Keeva Pflitsch placed third, securing a bronze medal and Milly Scott placed second, taking the silver medal. The U19 Tumbling saw more success with Sophie Semmens picking up another silver medal and Alice McLelland taking TWGGS' first gold medal of the year. The U14 Regional Acrobatics Pairs saw Amelia Ireson and Meghann Stevenson take the bronze medal, Allissa Javier and Amelia Bell secure the silver medal and Poppy Dascombe and Emily Harrison take the gold medal. A full house for TWGGS! For the new members of the squad this would be their first gymnastics competition and they should all be extremely pleased with their performances. Well done girls!

Azzahra Lawal 7I and Jasmine Fletcher 7T, U12 Academy Netball Trials – Miss Thornton

On Sunday 5th November, Azzahra and Jasmine attended the U12 Academy trials at Rainham School for Girls. The U12 Academy is the first stage of 'Kent Netball's Academy Programme' which aims to build the skills and fitness of individual players who show potential to play netball at a higher level. I am delighted to say that both girls were successful in gaining a place in the U12 Academy. A huge well done to both girls!

Jess Daly 8S – Kent County Sportshall Athletics, U13 – Miss Thornton

On Sunday 8th October, Jess represented Tonbridge AC in a Kent County Sportshall Athletics competition. Jess competed in a number of events, including: vertical jump, shot put, standing long jump, speed bounce and the two lap individual race. Some brilliant performances meant that Jess was ranked first in the vertical jump and standing long jump, and second in shot put and the two lap individual race. Ultimately, this secured Jess first place in the U13 girls' category! Well done Jess!

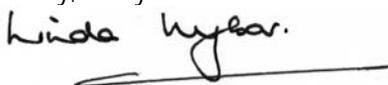
Year 7 and 8 Sportshall Athletics Festival – Miss Thornton

On Thursday 30th November, the Year 7 and 8 Sportshall Athletics teams competed at The Hayesbrook School in the Kent School Games Sportshall Athletics Festival. The girls competed in a number of track and field events against other schools in the local area. A huge well done to the Year 7s where for many, this was their first sportshall athletics event! Nonetheless, they should be very pleased with their performances. The Year 8s took the Year 7s under their wings, modelling some brilliant athletic performances and supporting their teammates throughout the duration of the competition. Well done girls! Year 7: Daisy Bayer (Captain), Emily Marriage, Jasmine Fletcher, Saarah Kamali, Libby Hester and Kirsty Jones. Year 8: Jess Daly (Captain), Estella Dixon, Eve Houghton, Annabella Curcher, Tiia Lahdelma and Harriet Sacker.

Rowing Success- Miss Manklow

Abi Carney, Jess Marden and Biba Rabjohns all scooped gold medals winning their events at the Maidstone Autumn head race head in October. The three all row for Bewl Bridge rowing club. The three girls are part of a WJ14 quad. Biba also won gold for her J14 double race. Biba and Jess also competed at the British indoor rowing championships at the Velodrome last weekend. Biba came 4th and 6th in her year 8 events. Well done girls!

Finally, it only remains for me to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful, successful 2018. With best wishes,



Mrs L Wybar, Headteacher