

Dear Parent/Guardian

As this term ends, it is time to say goodbye (again) to Mr Charter, who has been covering Mrs Colbear's maternity leave. Mr Charter started teaching at TWGGGS in 1999, recently coming out of retirement to support Sixth Form girls and the school. We are most grateful for his expertise and generosity, and now wish him much happiness in a well-earned retirement.

### **Debating News - Mrs Johnstone**

Upper Sixth debaters Eve Drysdale, Mariam Ahmed and Rosie Judd have distinguished themselves over recent weeks by winning the first three rounds of the prestigious English Speaking Union Mace competition, emerging as South East Regional Champions, and it was in this role that Eve and Rosie went to the glorious surroundings of Dartmouth House in Mayfair on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, to do battle with eleven other regional champions from across the length and breadth of England. It was Eve's second consecutive year at the Mace Finals, where she was the only student in this position - a really great achievement.

TWGGGS was given an interesting but challenging topic in the finals, arguing against the proposition that the EU should bring in tradable quotas to deal with the current refugee crisis, in an interesting and extremely challenging room, along with five top independent schools: last year's champions St Paul's Girls' School; Eton - with two boys on the England team; Dulwich, Winchester and the Royal Hospital School. Eve and Rosie presented an extremely convincing and persuasive case, full of real-world examples, revealing great poise and oratorical skills, but Eton would finally prove a bridge too far, emerging as the overall winners. It is immensely to the girls' credit that they performed so well, earning praise from both judges and observers for the depth of their research and their debating prowess.

This is the girls' final appearance as debaters for TWGGGS, and I should like to take this opportunity to thank them for all the dedication they have shown over recent years, and particularly to thank Eve for being such a supportive Debating Prefect. I hope they will continue to debate at their chosen universities, as so many other girls have done. In this connection, I should mention that we were delighted to meet one of our old girls, Coco Collard, at the competition; as well as studying English at Durham, Coco is debating internationally, and had been asked by the ESU to judge the final. It is really pleasing to see ex TWGGGS girls using the skills they have learned here to forge such interesting lives in the wider world.

### **Hockey – Miss Parkinson**

Maya Strand-Ford has been selected to represent Kent at U14 level and Amber Maywood has been selected into JAC TIER 2 Hockey at U17 level. Lauryn Thomas has been selected to be captain of the Kent U16 team. They beat Middlesex and Surrey and in the latter game came back from 2:0 down with Lauryn scoring both goals.

### **Sixth Form History and Politics Trip to Russia, February 2017 - Molly Sacker and Emilia Bagge, L61**

The opportunity to visit Russia was one we felt that we could not turn down, especially given the strong links to the History and Politics classes. For a record 50 TWGGGS History and Politics pupils, arriving in Russia was like landing in a completely different world – one where they could efficiently cope with snow! After touching down in Moscow, we were transferred to our hotel which accurately portrayed Russia in the 1980s, having been built for the Moscow Olympics. Throughout our time in Moscow, we visited world-renowned sites such as the Kremlin (including its Armoury Museum, housing such treasures as Catherine the Great's coronation gown and the Romanov Faberge eggs), St Basil's Cathedral, Red Square and Lenin's Mausoleum; all of these sites were astonishing in their magnificence, if (in the case of Lenin) a bit unnerving. We also visited the Gulag Museum, where the exhibits and our guides gave us excellent insights into the horrifying regime; this appeared even more poignant given that both guides had grandparents who were sent to gulags. One of the most surprising highlights of the trip was the Moscow Metro with each station showing a different architectural design inspired by the art and by the leaders of the time.

After taking an exciting journey on a surprisingly luxurious overnight train to Saint Petersburg, we had the opportunity to mimic the Bolsheviks and storm the Winter Palace, the residence of the Russian tsars, followed by a guided tour of the amazing Hermitage museum. We were informed that the collection is so vast that were visitors to spend just thirty seconds looking at each piece, they would be in the museum for about 19 years. After another full and exciting day, we returned to our second hotel and enjoyed a lovely dinner – much to the relief of many! The penultimate day in St Petersburg involved a full schedule of visiting Peter and Paul Fortress (containing Romanov tombs and the prison cells of political opponents such as Trotsky and Gorky) and Pushkin and Catherine Palace, one of the most beautiful buildings. One of the biggest highlights of the trip had to have been the Russian folklore show at Nicholai Palace where we were pleasantly surprised with the most impressive (and funny) music and dance performances – experienced first-hand by Mr Breeze. The fantastic night ended eating three-course dinner in the palace accompanied by a professional pianist. The last day ended with a tour of Yusupov Palace where the plot against the infamous Rasputin was devised and carried out.

After a long but amazing week experiencing the wonderful sights, history, politics and culture of Russia, we returned home, seemingly unimpressed with the British buildings compared to the magnificence of Russian architecture and their presentation of churches and government buildings. It was a trip of a lifetime and truly worth every moment. We would like to thank Mrs Freeman for organising the trip and Dr Blanch, Mr Breeze, Mr Hodges and Mrs Matthews for their time and enthusiasm in accompanying and looking after us all.

### **Year 10 Spanish Exchange – Charis Omer and Lucy Reeves, 10I**

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> of March, 24 of us went to San Lorenzo del Escorial - a town near Madrid on the Spanish exchange. We spent a week staying with Spanish families in the area and had the opportunity to practise our Spanish in a perfect environment. After our long journey and the unexpected heat, we were even more nervous to meet our exchange partners and their families. However, after a daunting first night, we reunited on Friday knowing that our fears were not necessary. After a tour round the school where we met other Spanish students our age to chat, we had a guided visit of the monastery, where we got an insight into Spain's fascinating history. We played a game of football, before relaxing in the gardens and anticipating the weekend ahead. When we met up with our exchanges after school, some of us went out to eat or go shopping, while others participated in after school clubs. Friday evening and the weekend were different experiences for all of us, but we had an unforgettable time with our Spanish families, some visiting towns nearby and others going on walks up mountains!

On Monday we caught a public bus and the metro to get to Madrid and when we arrived, we visited the Royal Palace and gardens, which were very pretty. Then we hopped on a tour bus and travelled around the centre of Madrid, stopping at the Retiro Park for lunch. Afterwards we caught the bus again and went to Plaza Mayor and Puerta del Sol for shopping! Many of us tried the traditional churros with chocolate sauce which was delicious. On Tuesday, we travelled with some of our exchanges to Segovia. We had a detailed tour of the city and the roman aqueduct as well as climbing around 150 steps up the castle for some amazing views. On Wednesday morning we exchanged sad goodbyes with our Spanish families and all the other amazing people that we'd met. It was very emotional but we will see them again soon. We got the bus to Madrid and had a fun scavenger hunt in a massive shopping centre, before departing for the flight back to England. We all had the best time ever, spent with so many lovely people and the best teachers, who made our trip so enjoyable.

### **Sixth Form Trip to Paris, February 2017 – Mme Goddard**

From 2<sup>nd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> February fourteen Sixth Formers took part in a French trip to Paris. It was a very busy but also very pleasant and educational trip. The girls, accompanied by Mme Goddard and Mrs Sanderson, visited the Musée du Louvre, enjoyed a boat trip on the Seine and a French play in a magnificent theatre, and did some shopping on the Champs-Élysées. They were also very privileged to go on a tour of the prestigious Sorbonne University and to have a private tour of the Galleries Lafayette, during which they learnt so much about France's past and culture.

### **French Exchange With La Teste de Buch, March 2017 – Mme Goddard**

On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March, twenty three excited Year 10 pupils, accompanied by Mrs Goddard and Mrs Ceurvorst flew to Bordeaux. Although apprehensive about meeting their host family and being abroad alone, any worry soon disappeared as they were welcomed by their exchange partners. The Friday was a very sunny day in the beautiful city of Bordeaux. After a visit of Le Musée D'Aquitaine in the morning, the girls enjoyed doing some shopping on the longest shopping street in Europe and were able to see the amazing architecture in Bordeaux during a tour of the city on an open bus. Over the weekend spent with their host family, the girls enjoyed bowling, shopping in Arcachon, visiting the local market, and walking up (and down!) La Dune Du Pilat, the highest dune in Europe.

On the Monday the group visited Le Chateau de la Brède and learnt about the philosopher Montesquieu. Afterwards we drove to Le Parc Ornithologique du Teich where we discovered a lot of interesting facts about the birds that live there. The storks were a clear favourite as they looked like they were putting on a show for us! We had an early start on Tuesday to go to the Basque Country, visiting the Antton chocolate factory where we learnt about the art of chocolate making - and tasted a few bits of chocolate while we were there ... After having a picnic in the pretty village of Espelette, we drove to St Jean de Luz and enjoyed a nice walk on the beach in the glorious sunshine before heading to the high street for shopping and ice cream. Wednesday was the last day in France. The girls spent the morning in lessons with their exchange partner before going to Arcachon for some last minute shopping in the afternoon. On the coach back to the airport they all agreed that their stay had gone too fast. The girls had plenty of opportunities to practise their French. It was a linguistic challenge for some but they definitely all came back more confident and with a wider knowledge of French culture.

### **Sherlock Holmes Move Over - The TWGGS Detectives Solved The Dastardly Murder Case**

You may remember that we hosted a murder mystery event, *Murder by the Book*, in the Library just before February half-term. Over two weeks our KS3 detectives had to examine the crime scene, analyse witness statements, the coroner's report and

interview suspects to identify who had killed the poor library assistant, Ms Terry, how and why. I am pleased to say that our in-house detectives could not be fooled by the many red herrings planted by the murderer, and the world is now a safer place again thanks to the winning detective team composed of Emilia Wood, Ella Wilson and Amelia Faure Walker. Sherlock Homes would blush with envy if he saw the critical thinking and logical deduction skills our detectives had displayed. Their prizes are well-deserved. Oh, and just in case you wondered who the dastardly murderer was..... it was the Librarian; probably not a complete surprise to the TWGGS girls.

#### **Author Kim Slater visits TWGGS – Mrs Mattheus-Ratcliffe, Librarian**

On 9<sup>th</sup> February we were very proud to welcome teen crime author Kim Slater to TWGGS for a day full of information and inspiration for our Year 8 creative writers. Kim has published three books which attracted over twenty three nominations for books awards (including the prestigious Carnegie Medal) and won ten of those. Her first book "Smart" is already one the Book Trust's "Five Future Classics" and was distributed to hundreds of secondary school across the country.

After a fascinating talk about her books, how she finds inspiration, and some inside information about how best to get work published, Kim hosted two creative writing workshops teaching the TWGGS girls about the crime genre. Who would have guessed that there are so many sub-genres within crime (cosy crime, sci-fi crime, psychological crime, historical crime, fantasy crime to name just a few) and so many different ways of plotting a literary murder? Once we started to practise how to create atmosphere and tone through the description of everyday items it became apparent that there might be a few future bestseller crime writers amongst our girls. It is probably safe to say to Sir Arthur Conan Doyle – move over, too.

#### **Not Quite 101 Dalmatians, But Little Spotty Dogs Everywhere – Mrs Mattheus-Ratcliffe, Librarian**

You could be forgiven for thinking you had walked on the set of a film production instead of a busy grammar school on Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> March. Wherever you looked there were teapots, teacups, Oompa Loompas, Willie Wonkas, Mad Hatters, giant White Rabbits, fearsome Red Queens, witches, wizards, knights, fairies, Cats in Hats, Gangsta Grannies, a spider named Charlotte and 30 adorable Dalmatian puppies. But no, it was just World Book Day and our girls (and staff), as always, had pulled out all their imaginative stops to dress up as their favourite book characters. There were too many fantastic costumes to name all their creators, but let me just say thank you to Aimee Bullard 7T who won the Best Costume prize for the Granny and the whole of 7S and their Form Tutor, Miss Fischer, for their brilliant recreation of 101 (or rather, 30) Dalmatians and Cruella de Ville. The bar has, once again, been raised for next year's World Book Day celebrations.

#### **Carnegie Book Award is Back – Mrs Mattheus-Ratcliffe, Librarian**

On 16<sup>th</sup> March the Carnegie Book Award announced its shortlist for the 2017 reading cycle. It is now in its 80<sup>th</sup> year and is probably one of the most prestigious children's book prizes in the world. We have shadowed the prize for over 14 years and are very excited about this year's reading list. Carnegie always has its finger on the pulse of teen publishing and finds the best, most challenging, and sometimes controversial, authors. The books are never easy reads but that is why we love them; they stretch our reading ability, encourage heated debate, and show us why books should still be an important part of our lives. If your daughter has not joined already, please get her to come and see me as soon as possible to collect the necessary paperwork and she should still be able catch up with our reading group before the prize is announced on 19<sup>th</sup> June.

#### **Careers Department – Mrs Vallely**

It has been a busy term for the Careers department: Mrs Bridget Elinson, Independent Careers Advisor, has been coming into school every Tuesday, continuing with the one to one interviews with Year 11 girls. Any pupil who would like to see Mrs Elinson, or to have a chat with me, is very welcome to drop in and/or make an appointment at any time. Mrs Elinson has also continued with the Year 7 PSHE/Tutor Time sessions, introducing the girls to the skills and aptitudes required in almost all areas of working life, and Year 8 PSHE sessions using the Steps Workbook which encourages the girls to understand more about themselves through self-development exercises, and teaches them where to look for useful information, and start to think about planning their future. At the PSHE lesson each girl is given a workbook of her own to keep, and is encouraged to bring it home to show you. We would be pleased if your daughter would take care not to lose the book, and to look at it in her own time. The Year 9 PSHE sessions have also continued, under Mrs Elinson's tutelage, introducing the software, FastTomato, which is an excellent resource for researching careers. We have offered all Year 10 girls the chance to undergo Morrisby Online psychometric testing, and are delighted that 73 girls underwent the testing earlier this week.

The Lower Sixth PSHE lessons have included a very good and amusing talk from Graham Withers, from Rathbones, on Managing Personal Finances; and an excellent, interactive presentation from Caroline Cox from Pearson College, London, on Employability Skills; the girls were given a chance to have a short one to one chat with their tutors to catch up with progress and ask any questions; the girls also had a very lively session about sexual health run by the school nurses. The Upper Sixth have had a PSHE session from Mrs Field about the dangers of radicalization; two excellent presentations continuing the Personal Relationships programme: one led by the school nurses on Safe Sex, and the other led by volunteers from the charity IMAGO, on

Gender Issues; and a thought-provoking theatre presentation about safety on the road, specifically from the point of view of a driver or a passenger in a car. Both year groups had presentations from speakers from the Friends of Israel Education Foundation about the situation in the Middle East, and Economics students had the chance to attend the Sixth Form conference organised by Ms Reynolds.

We were very pleased to welcome Dr Brimsted back to school to provide interview practice to any girls applying to study medicine or to Oxbridge, or both! Girls find it very helpful indeed to practise, and to receive feedback, and sometimes have further practice, before undergoing the real thing. Girls have had the chance to attend the Oxbridge Conference in Epsom; an event organized at Tunbridge Wells Hospital entitled A Career in Medicine; and we were pleased to host the Queen's College, Cambridge, Roadshow on Friday afternoon, when 3 students from the college visited the school and told the girls what it is really like being at Cambridge, and answered questions. We have also continued with our programme of lunchtime careers talks: in February we were delighted that Nicola Hills, a former TWGGS girl, was able to fit us into her busy schedule, and talk to girls about her very interesting career in broadcasting, more recently in television production.

We were pleased to provide some extra events to mark National Careers Week (NCW), and National Apprenticeship Week: we kicked off with an excellent assembly presented by the Senior Careers Prefect, Rosie Judd, who gave us very good insights into the working world, and women's place within it. She was ably backed up by Grace Rhoden, the L6th Careers Prefect, and by two ambassadors from the Young Enterprise Team, Charley Grossman and Ella Wheatley. We laid on a series of lunchtime talks during the week: Caroline Edmunds from Pennington PR, a local Tunbridge Wells PR firm, gave the girls, and boys from TWGGSB who also attended, an insight into what Marketing and PR really are like, including the requirement to be able to write well, and maintain high energy levels; two STEM ambassadors, in the shape of two young women, came from the Defence Science and Technology Laboratory to tell the girls what it is like working in the explosives detection department. They gave us a chance to put plastic explosive, in the form of playdoh, into two devices, (a radio and a laptop), and then scanned under a blue light to show how much contamination there was. This is standard procedure in an airport. The girls were alarmingly good at carrying out the experiment, and very little contamination showed up! One of the STEM ambassadors shared that she had not done as well as expected in her A Levels, and so had done a Science Foundation Year, before going to university, and thence into the laboratory. Her testimony was well-received, as it was good to hear that it is perfectly possible to do well despite a shaky start.

We were delighted to welcome Professor Tim Luckhurst, from the Centre for Journalism at the University of Kent at Canterbury, to TWGGS on the Thursday of NCW. He attracted a large crowd, so that there was standing room only, with his presentation on A Career in Journalism. He spoke about the history of journalism, and the importance of being able to tell the difference between good, factual reporting, and fake news, in this post-truth age in which we live. He pointed out how important it is to recognize that opinions expressed on social media are just that, and not necessarily based on fact and truth. He finished his fascinating talk with some very good advice as to how to go about becoming a journalist, and answered all the questions asked by the girls. He generously went on to run a short workshop in Dr Blanch's English lesson, again answering the very good questions posed by the girls. Gratifyingly, he later tweeted how much he had enjoyed his afternoon with us. We finished NCW with a brilliant talk from Brogan Daughtery, a recent old girl, who is on the graduate scheme at EY (formerly Ernst and Young). She spoke about her career path so far, and about the school leaver scheme at EY, and was an inspiration to the girls. We were joined for the session by Adrian Conroy, our link careers governor, who generously travelled down from London especially to attend the talk.

### **CCF – Sofia Shalaby, 9W**

As a TWGGS student, I have come in on many Mondays and seen groups of my fellow students, similar to me, yet different: they wore the CCF uniform and it really interested and intrigued me. In Year 7, I would constantly wonder who they were, what the uniform meant and why they wore it. As I got older, I continued to be interested and intrigued by the presence of the Combined Cadet Force in our school. Finally, in Year 9, my year group received the chance to try out this opportunity. Of course, I jumped at the chance with great enthusiasm, which grew as I received the uniform and attended my first parade. Placed with many of my friends, I was immediately comfortable with my section and greatly enjoyed the various challenging and interesting activities.

Firstly, we did marching and learnt how to participate properly on the parade square. At the beginning this was difficult as each movement had to be instantaneous and in time (something we rarely encounter in the everyday life of a teenager). However, with the aid and encouragement of my patrol's sergeants, as well as that of my friends, we quickly became accustomed to the skill. As well as parade, I have already learnt a great number of other skills with CCF, such as orienteering, camouflage, first aid, conversation on a radio and much more. Each activity is an important life skill and we got to practise them more when we attended our first camp. In mid-February, almost all of the Year 9 CCF embarked on an overnight camp at Crowborough. Prior to the camp, an air of anxious excitement filled each section. This was soon replaced by the thrill of what we thought would be a giant sleepover. However, with the addition of rising at 6.30am, early morning air gun training, drill, self-defence and much more, it was not like any sleepover any of us had ever been on before but still really enjoyable. In the first few months of CCF, I have learnt a great number of skills and cannot wait to see what is still to come.

### **My Experience At The Siberian Tiger Camp - Robyn Beattie, 9W**

After school on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February many of the girls in CCF, including me, set off to go to the Siberian Tiger Camp for two days, where we would learn to do several exciting things such as learning to fire a weapon and practising self-defence. We spent the next two days in our five groups: Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta and Zulu. Before we got on the coaches we practised drill, which had been taught to us several weeks in advance. When we arrived at the camp everyone was extremely eager to get to their billets and unpack so that we could start with the activities planned. The first activity of the day was a tour of the camp which was fun (although we had to walk in drill formation the entire time). My favourite spot on the tour was seeing the obstacle course because it looked cool and very hard. That night we also had drill which consisted of going over what we already knew such as turning and marching, and learning new aspects, such as right and left wheels.

Fortunately, I got a good night sleep as we had to be up early so that we could be packed and ready for breakfast at seven o'clock. After breakfast we had activities such as self-defence, which was useful as it could be used outside CCF as well as in; weapons handling so that we could learn about how to use the guns for our test later; learning about radio signals so that we would be able to use the phonetic alphabet and be able to communicate correctly to other people in our team; command tasks (a series of group tasks and puzzles); our weapons exam which unfortunately some people in our team didn't pass; and finally orienteering where we learnt to use a compass. We then ate lunch and returned to our billets one last time before we got on the coach and headed home, worn out but having enjoyed the entire experience.

### **Cricket – Miss Parkinson**

Congratulations to the U15 Cricket team who won all of their games in the Lady Taverners Indoor Cricket Championships in Dover. As a result they took part in the Kent County final in Canterbury. The competition was really tough, with each team playing some excellent cricket. TWGGS came third overall and Indigo Gentry was rewarded for her excellent bowling with a trophy. Well played to all members of the squad:- Sarah Barnaby ©, Tatianna Sneddon, Alice Atkins, Isy Macnutt, Lottie Van Der Zanden, Emily Bowyer, Fran Morris, Scout Duthie, Sophie Isbell and Indigo Gentry.

### **Kent School Games Finals - Sportshall Athletics – Mrs Murray**

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February the Year 7 and 8 Sportshall Athletics teams travelled to Medway Park to compete in the county finals against 14 other schools from across Kent. TWGGS qualified to represent the schools from all of the Tunbridge Wells area and dominated in the track events, gaining a lot of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places in their heats, with outstanding wins from Izzy Fletcher, Eve Houghton and Jess Daly. The Year 8 girls performed brilliantly in the Relay and won by a considerable margin. In the field events the girls performed very well amongst some tough opposition. It was great to see the girls cheering each other on throughout the event and giving one another positive encouragement. The girls did our school and the Tunbridge Wells area extremely proud by finishing up 2<sup>nd</sup> place overall in Year 7, picking up Silver medals and 4<sup>th</sup> overall in Year 8, just missing out on Bronze by 12 points. A big congratulations to all the girls that competed on the day:

Year 8 Team:- Captain Eliz O'Donnell, Izzy Fletcher, Martha Jones, Jess Marden and Christabel Balcomb-Nevill.

Year 7 Team:- Captain Jess Daly, Amelia Colletta, Cordy Jones, Eve Houghton, Harriet Sacker, Hattie Cruse and Annabella Curcher.

### **Kent School Games Trampolining – Miss Manklow**

On Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February the Trampolining Squad competed at the West Kent School Games Trampolining Championships. The competition required the girls to perform a set routine choreographed by the organisers, as well as a voluntary routine which some of the girls had choreographed themselves. Although entered into different categories, the competition was of a high standard with only the top three individuals and top two teams from each category qualifying for the next round later in the year.

On the day all girls performed exceptionally well, holding their nerve and performing their routines to the best of their ability. We are extremely pleased to have a number of girls who have qualified for the next round. Congratulations to Abbie Gadd in the Year 9/10 Novice category and Cece Sykes in the Year 9/10 Advanced Category. Both girls placed third overall. Well done to Jess Williamson in the Year 11 Advanced Category and Freya Ridge in the Year 7/8 Advanced Category. Both girls placed second overall. Finally, well done to the Year 9/10 Team (Martha Russell, Imogen Chapman and Tiegan Green) and the Year 7/8 Novice Team (Amalie Abdali, Carla Beeney and Millie Sabine). Both teams have qualified for the next round placing third overall. A special well done to Amalie Abdali who placed 7<sup>th</sup> individually out of 86 performers.

### **School Team Gymnastics Competition – Miss Manklow**

On Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> February TWGGS Gymnastics Squad competed at the School Team Gymnastics Competition at St John's Catholic School. The competition required gymnasts to compete in teams of 5 or 6 in the disciplines of floor and vault. With two teams of 5 both scores for each gymnast would be added together to the team's overall score. The U14 Girls' Regional Team competed first, an early start for the competitors, closely followed by the U19 Girls' Regional Team. All gymnasts performed strong confident vaults - a great improvement from the last competition. Next came the floor routines and again strong

performances from both teams. The final results were in and TWGGS had come first in both categories: gold medals for both teams! Congratulations to all girls who competed on the day: Sophie Semmens (Captain), Freya Ridge, Millie Sabine, Allissa Javier, Alice Kempster, Millie Scott, Ellie Hobley, Phoebe Hood, Evie Trueman and Rosie Goodwin.

### **U12 County Netball Tournament - Mrs Murray**

The U12 netball squad competed in the Kent county tournament on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March. The girls had some closely contested games during the day against some very tough opposition. Up first were Sydenham High and despite a nervous start by TWGGS, defence Susy Porter and Tilly Hughes-Wilson kept the pressure to secure their first win of 6-3. Against local rivals Weald, shooters Hattie Cruse and Maria Miller-Amado worked hard to apply some lovely holds and shots to secure a second 5-3 win. Towley Grammar gave TWGGS a frustrating game, with both opposition making unforced errors. A change of positions at half time and bringing on Ella McAdams and Flo Costain gave TWGGS that focus they needed and more opportunities in the circle to secure a much needed 3-1 win. Against St Lawrence and Invicta, centre court players Annabella Curcher, Millie Scott and Ellie Holley demonstrated a lot of calm and consistency in their play when bringing the ball through the court. Their improved decision making allowed TWGGS to really play their own game, and they won both games 6-3 and 3-1. The final game in the first round stage was against tough and very tall opposition Newstood Wood. The height of some of their players definitely intimidated TWGGS and their decision making. We made a lot of unforced errors and nervous passes to give away possession. Newstood Wood capitalised on this, converting a crucial turnover to give them the lead they needed, resulting in TWGGS losing 5-2. With 5 wins and 1 loss, TWGGS still went through as group winners to make the quarter finals.

In the quarter finals against Bromley High, TWGGS were determined to do well and demonstrated improved strength and tactical awareness on court. They gave Bromley High a great game applying all the feedback given throughout the day. Bromley High proved too strong in the end, capitalising on their turnovers in the last minute of the game to win 6-3. TWGGS should be really proud of themselves finishing in the top 8 schools within the county and the top state school overall. The progress the girls have made over the last two months shows real potential for next year. Congratulations to Captain Eleanor Hobley, Maria Miller-Amado, Hattie Cruse, Mille Scott, Annabella Curcher, Tilly Hughes-Wilson, Susy Porter, Ella McAdams and Flo Costain.

### **U13 Kent County Netball Tournament – Miss Manklow**

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March the U13 Netball Squad took part in the Kent County Netball Tournament held at Rainham School for Girls. Coming 3<sup>rd</sup> in their pool last year and narrowly missing out on the opportunity to qualify, the girls were enthusiastic and determined to fight for the top position this year.

The first match against Sutton Valance provided the girls with their first win (5-4). With excellent shooting from both teams TWGGS fought hard to turn over as many balls as possible. Without the first centre pass the team put pressure on the opposition to secure possession of the ball and utilise it to our advantage. Next came Chislehurst and Sydcup. Excited from their first game, the girls tried to implement similar tactics pressurising the ball down the court. Unfortunately the opposition were a strong team and managed to take the lead with an 8-4 loss. Sir Roger Manwood was the third match, and the girls dominated the court giving us an 11-1 win. TWGGS played to a high standard throughout the game, despite taking a strong lead early on. With lifted spirits, the girls entered the fourth game against Rainham Mark Grammar. Excellent shooting under some difficult defensive conditions won the game for us 5-4. Kent College Canterbury was one of the toughest games of the round, but brought out the best play from everyone. Strong defence all the way down the court forced TWGGS to work hard for every ball. The girls really thought about their passes and worked well under pressure to maintain possession and turn it into a winning goal. The final score a 6-2 win for TWGGS. The final game of the round and the deciding game for second and third place. TWGGS were determined to win and began to take the lead in the first few minutes of the game. Unfortunately Langley turned the game around and took the lead in the end to win 7-6 in the final minute leaving TWGGS in third place from their pool. Very well done to all girls who took part in the tournament: Mattie Robinson (Captain), Melody White, Lili Wyke, Becky Colbran. Issy Shaw, Izzy Fletcher, Maya Kerr-Davis, Katie Beaumont, Rose Lietke and Sophie Preston.

### **U12 District Netball Tournament – Mrs Murray**

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> March the Year 7 A and B teams competed in the local district netball tournament. In glorious sunshine the girls played some great netball, demonstrating how much progress they have made in the last few months. For the B team, it was a nervous and frantic start against Bennett, with both teams a little overwhelmed by the occasion. A 0-0 draw was the result and their first match nerves were out the way, which was a relief for the girls! Their commitment to training started to pay off with the B team winning 4-0 against Walthamstow Hall and 6-0 against Mascalls. Unfortunately a lack of concentration and a late goal resulted in 1-2 loss against Hillview. The girls placed 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in their pool and should be really proud of their achievements this term.

The A team knew they were going to be up against some very tough opposition. Walthamstow Hall was a force to be reckoned with in their first game, having some very tall shooters and defenders. We still gave them a good game despite losing 3-1.

TWGGS had great games again TGS and Kent College, only losing by 1 goal. This is huge progress compared to the beginning of the year and the girls were really starting to believe in themselves, demonstrating more confidence and strength on the ball. The girls played some fabulous netball against Weald and Bennett, and the improvement of the girls' tactical awareness and passing skills resulted in a 7-0 win against Bennett and 4-3 win against Weald. The girls placed 4th overall in their pool and they should be really pleased with how they have progressed as a team over the last few months.

A Team – Ellie Hobley (Captain), Maria Miller Amado, Hattie Cruse, Millie Scott, Annabella Curcher, Tilly Hughes-Wilson, Susy Porter, Flo Costain.

B Team - Gemma Preston (Captain), Ella Mc Adams, Susi Norwood, Phoebe Hood, Lilly Stokes, Edie Watson, Biba Rabjon, Harriet Sacker.

### **Volunteering at Sports Clubs – Mrs Murray**

Due to the success of our girls in local competitions and the hard work that staff put into giving girls lots of opportunities to practise and compete, our Sports Clubs are thriving with participants. To support the growing demand for fixtures, we are looking to see if there are any parents or family members that have experience in coaching/officiating sports teams and would like to help out at lunchtime clubs or after-school training and fixtures. Please email Mrs Murray in PE asap if you are interested [pedept@twggs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:pedept@twggs.kent.sch.uk)

### **Bring In Your Sainsbury's Vouchers To The PE Department - Mrs Murray**

Sainsbury's Active Kids Campaign is back! For every £10 you spend at Sainsburys you will earn one voucher. For every £5 you spend on fresh fruit and vegetables you will earn an extra Active Kids voucher. With these vouchers we will be able to purchase new equipment for use within the curriculum and at extra curricular clubs.

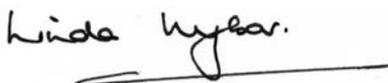
If you do shop at Sainsburys we would like you to help us to improve the equipment we have within the PE Department. If you would like any other information about this campaign, please visit [www.sainsburys.co.uk/activekids](http://www.sainsburys.co.uk/activekids).

### **Changes to Bus Services - Mrs Holloway (Reception)**

Please see the attached new timetable from Arriva listing the changes to bus services.

It only remains for me to wish you all a very happy Easter.

With best wishes,



Mrs L Wybar  
Headteacher

# We're making changes to buses to Tunbridge Wells Grammar for Boys, St Gregorys, Tunbridge Wells Grammar and The Skinners schools



From **Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017** Arriva are making changes to buses serving Tunbridge Wells Grammar for Boys, St Gregorys, Tunbridge Wells Grammar and The Skinners schools to improve reliability and boarding times.

The new services and times are summarised below:

## ***New Services to Tunbridge Wells Schools***

<b>Service No:</b>	<b>Leaves</b>	<b>Arrives at</b>
7	Maidstone 0650 Barming (0702) Wateringbury (0711) Mereworth (0722) Hadlow (0731) Tonbridge Station (0805) Southborough (0814) Tunbridge Wells Station (0750, 0817)	Schools 0820 Schools 0804, 0831
77	West Malling (0650) Kings Hill (0656) Mereworth (0716) Hadlow (0725) Tonbridge Station (0758) Southborough (0807)	Schools 0812
147	Kings Hill (0649) West Malling (0702) Mereworth (0709) Hadlow (0718) Tonbridge Estridge Way (0727) Higham Lane (0730, 0732) Pinnacles (0739, 0741) Tonbridge Station (0753, 0755) Southborough (0802, 0804)	Schools 0808, 0812
257	Hawkenbury (0803) Tunbridge Station (0820)	Schools 0831
286	Colemans Hatch (0739) Hartfield Langton (0747)	Schools 0820
402	Dunton Green (0715) Riverhead (0717) Sevenoaks Station (0721) Hildenborough (0738) Tonbridge Station (0757) Southborough (0805)	Schools 0814
502	Riverhead (0648) Sevenoaks School (0701) Sevenoaks Weald (0711) Hildenborough (0718) Tonbridge Station (0742) Southborough (0753)	Schools 0800

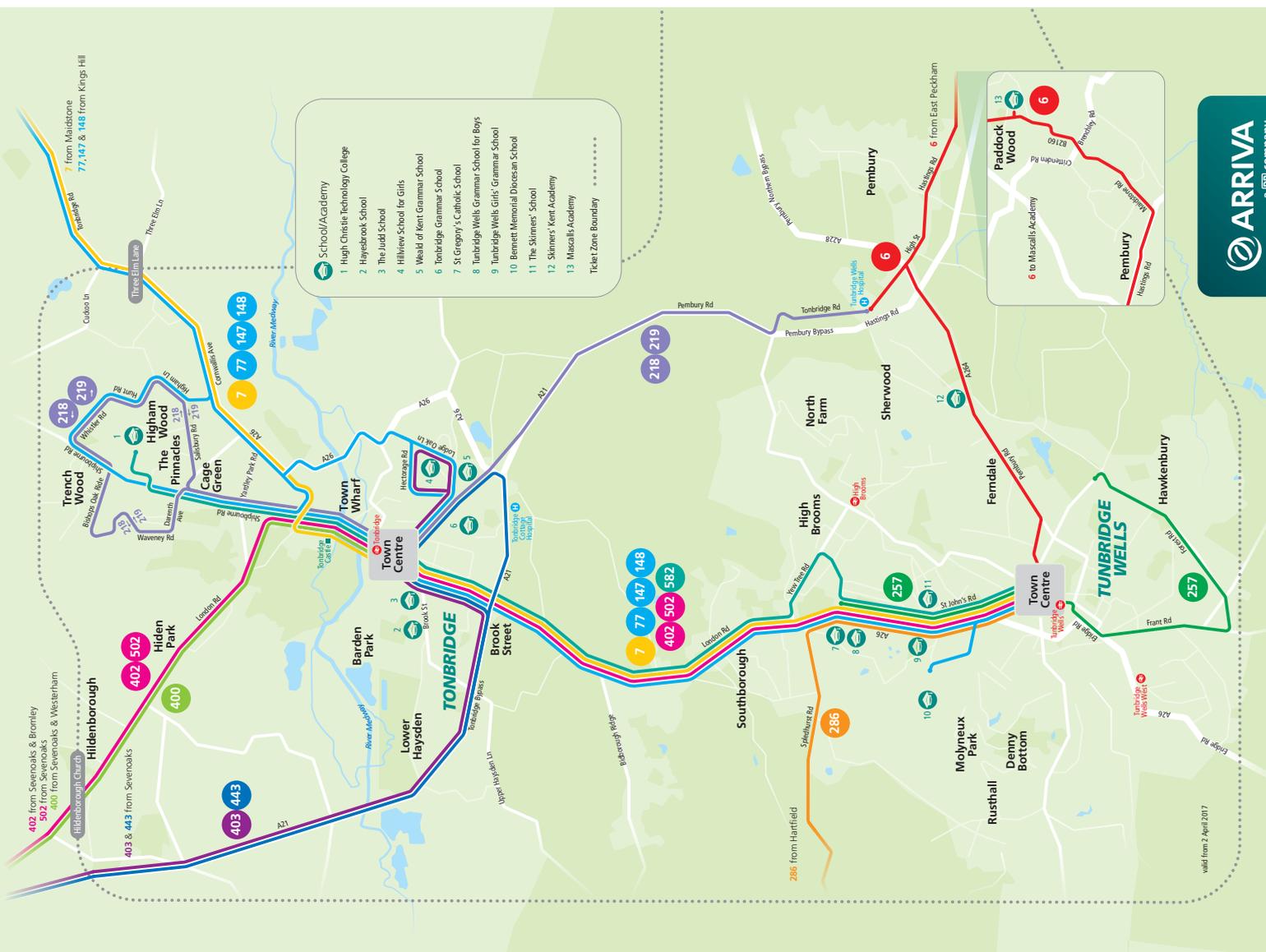
## ***New Services from Tunbridge Wells Schools***

<b>Service No:</b>	<b>Leaves</b>	<b>Arrives at</b>
7	Schools 1550, 1615 Schools 1550, 1606	Tunbridge Wells (1602, 1628) Southborough (1558, 1612) Tonbridge Station (1603, 1623) Hadlow (1630, 1650) Mereworth (1636, 1656) Wateringbury (1645, 1703) Barming (1651, 1711) Maidstone (1709, 1729)
77	Schools 1555	Southborough (1602) Tonbridge Station (1610) Hadlow (1637) Mereworth (1643) Kings Hill (1659) West Malling (1705)
147	Schools 1543, 1555	Southborough (1550, 1602) Tonbridge Station (1558, 1610) Pinnacles (1612) Higham Lane (1617, 1629) Hadlow (1627, 1639) Kings Hill (1703)
257	Schools 1558	Tunbridge Wells Station (1616) Hawkernbury (1628)
286	Schools 1604	Langton (1618) Hartfield (1632)
400	Schools 1545	Southborough (1550) Tonbridge Station (1604) Hildenborough (1619) Sevenoaks Bus Station (1629) Riverhead (1637) Chipstead (1640)
402	Schools 1545	Tunbridge Wells Station (1606)
502	Schools 1600, 1610 Schools 1600	Southborough (1551, 1616) Tonbridge Station (1557, 1622) Hildenborough (1611, 1636) Sevenoaks Station (1628, 1653) Dunton Green (1635, 1700) Southborough (1605) Tonbridge Station (1619) Hildenborough (1634) Sevenoaks Weald (1644) Sevenoaks School (1651) Riverhead (1702)

# Summary of Changes to buses

## Service No: Changes

7	The 0715 from Watringbury will be extended to start from Maidstone at running from Watringbury <b>4 minutes earlier</b> , two buses will run from Tunbridge Wells at 0750 and 0817. The 1558 from Cross Keys will run <b>8 minutes later</b>
77	The morning bus will start at West Malling and run <b>2 minutes earlier</b> . The afternoon bus to Tunbridge Wells will be replaced by Service 7. The bus to West Malling will run as now
147	The 0743 bus from Higham Lane will run <b>13 minutes earlier</b> , the 0709 bus from Mereworth will start from Kings Hill at 0649. The afternoon bus to Hadlow will <b>run 7 minutes earlier</b> , the 1555 bus to Mereworth will instead run to Hadlow and Kings Hill
257	No change
286	Extended to Colemans Hatch
400	No change
402	The 0721 bus from Dunton Green will start <b>6 minutes earlier</b> . The afternoon bus to Tunbridge Wells will run <b>6 minutes later</b> , two buses will run to Dunton Green at 1545 and 1610.
442	<b>Replaced by Service 502</b>
502	Buses will run via Sevenoaks Weald



Our school services in TONBRIDGE & TUNBRIDGE WELLS



[arrivabus.co.uk/kent](http://arrivabus.co.uk/kent)

