

Dear Parent/Guardian

It has been a pleasure to welcome several new staff to TWGGS this term: Miss Patman has joined us as Teacher in Charge of Drama (to become Curriculum Leader Drama from September 2018), Mrs Walker to teach Biology, Miss Thornton in the PE department, and Mr Black to teach Economics. Having trained with us last year, Miss Fenn now has a permanent post teaching Geography, whilst Mrs Gull and Miss Boxall (a TWGGS old girl) are completing their Schools Direct training in English and Art respectively. We wish them all well in their time here and hope they will be very happy at TWGGS. We are delighted to welcome back Mrs Thomas from maternity leave, and Miss Smith, currently on maternity leave, gave birth to baby Nell on 30th September.

Examination Results

TWGGS girls and staff achieved impressive examination results this summer, with 78.6% of all A Level entries at grades A*, A and B (48% at A* and A grades) and a mean grade of B+, enabling U6th leavers to go on to highly competitive courses at top universities, as well as art foundation courses and employment with training attached. We look forward to celebrating these results with them and their parents at Speech Day in December, and to hearing of girls' first terms at university. At GCSE, the A*-C (and in the case of English and Maths, 9-4) pass rate was 99.1% across 1607 entries, and 100% of pupils attained 5 or more A*-C/ 9-4 grades (including English and Maths). The mean grade was, once again an A, with 70.6% of entries attaining A* and A grades. Detailed results, by subject, are as usual available on the school website. Congratulations to all!

New last year in the Department for Education school league tables was "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 in 2017 is 0.9** (having been 0.81 last year), representing almost a complete grade above expected performance across 8 subjects, attained across the whole cohort: this is an exceptional achievement for girls and their teachers, one of which we are justly proud.

Vacancies at TWGGS - Mrs Wybar

As a result of internal promotions, we currently have vacancies for Cover Supervisors (combined with an administrative role) and for an Administrative Support role. Details of these, and the relevant Support Staff application form, are on the school website. We would very much welcome applications should any parents be interested; equally please pass on the information to anyone you know who might be keen to get involved with TWGGS in these ways.

Hockey Season – Shin Pads and Gum Guards – Mrs Ralph, Bursar

Parents are reminded annually that whilst shin pads and gum guards are listed as optional items on the school uniform list, it is strongly recommended that girls taking part in hockey lessons wear both of these items. Please note however, that girls will continue to participate fully in hockey lessons if they are not wearing one or both of these. For girls who represent TWGGS in hockey matches, it is compulsory that both items are worn.

Assistance with A Level French speaking in Sixth Form – Mrs Field

We urgently require assistance with Sixth Form French students who are preparing for their A level speaking test. If you can spare a couple of hours during the week to help us out, we would love to hear from you. Full support would be provided. Please contact Mrs Field on sixthform@twggs.kent.sch.uk or call on 559168 for more information. Many thanks in advance.

TWGGS Ski Team – Miss Manklow

On 17th September the TWGGS ski teams took part in the English Schools' Ski Association race at Brentwood. Girls trained hard at Bowles during the summer holidays and the girls skied the long slalom course at Brentwood excellently. TWGGS C (Mia Devey, Isobel Aves, Amelia Aves and Harriet Duncan) skied the stubbies in the U14 category, TWGGS B (Lydia Dunkin, Amelie Jenkins Price and Izzy Coker) skied full gates in the U16 category and TWGGS A (Elle Ayton, Evie Ayton, Rebecca Forte and Beth Colley) also skied full gates in the U19 category. TWGGS C and TWGGS B came 3rd and 4th in their categories and TWGGS A came 2nd in the U19 category. Elle Ayton won the 2nd fastest overall girl and Evie Ayton won the 3rd fastest overall girl and 1st in the U16 category. TWGGS Ski Team will start training soon for the 2018 competitions and new members are welcome.

The TWGGS Ski Team is recruiting new members – Mrs Lindsay Ayton (TWGGS parent)

We hold fun training sessions for the girls where they learn to ski slalom courses - girls need to be competent skiers (3 weeks skiing minimum), though ski racing experience is not required. Each year we enter the Kent Schools' Ski Championships and the English Schools' Ski Association races. I have arranged the following training sessions :

11th November at Chatham Ski Centre, 9-11am, £25 per child; and 10th December at Bowles, 5-7pm, £8 per child

Chatham Ski Centre has recently been resurfaced and is opening at the end of October and has a fantastic long slope. The Kent Schools' Ski Championships will be held there next year. The training session will be held by Emily Evans, All England Championship winner 2017. If your daughter is interested in coming along for a taster session please contact me.

If your daughter would like to talk to a member of the team about skiing, Elle Ayton (Year 13) and Evie Ayton (Year 10) would be happy to speak to them.

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Continued Parking Problems – Mrs Wybar

I have received an email from a resident in Culverden Avenue pointing out that parents are still dropping off and picking up girls on this very narrow road. They are blocking the road resulting in the residents being unable to drive out, or taking up the spaces so that people who actually live in the road are unable to park their cars. Please could I ask parents to be more considerate of our neighbours, when parking or dropping off/ collecting girls in the vicinity of TWGGS? The car park in John Street is a convenient place to park and collect girls at the end of the day. Equally, I should like to reiterate that parents should not drive onto the school site, or down Southfield Road, when dropping off or collecting girls, other than, of course, those who have mobility problems or are carrying large musical instruments/ bulky art work!

If parents do drive in to school and exit via the passageway to Beltring Road, please can I ask that you drive no faster than walking speed. This passageway is in constant use by pedestrians, and cars are driving too fast down it. Several times recently girls have had to jump out of the way to avoid being hit. Thank you for your co-operation.

TWGGS Win Vocabexpress Championship Competition - Herr Link

This term is a very busy one in the German department. Luckily, we have the help of our intern student teacher Nicole Riepl from Hannover for this term until Christmas. In September and October Year 9 are preparing for their trip to the Christmas markets in Cologne at the end of November. The Year 10 German classes are getting ready for their Exchange visit to the Clara-Fey-Gymnasium in Bonn Bad Godesberg. But as we celebrated the European Day of Languages on 26th September, one thing loomed on the horizon: the annual Vocabexpress Championship. This is a competition about learning vocabulary in different languages (14 languages are on offer) between many schools in the U.K. and the rest of the world – schools from Thailand, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and further apart took part. Thousands of students competed eagerly over the time of a week. TWGGS had won this competition twice before in 2011 and 2014 and we wanted to be on top again. TWGGS took the lead right from the start and never relinquished it. In the end TWGGS won by a record margin: 1,741,465 points in total and over 550,000 points ahead of the school in second place. TWGGS also won individual languages: German (won every year so far!), Polish and Hebrew. Several TWGGS girls won Amazon vouchers for their efforts, in particular Christabel Balcomb Neville (110,155 points) and Kylie Wates (84,530points) from 9T for coming 5th and 7th respectively in the overall competition. Jasmine Cohen 9W won the Polish competition, Amelia Thomas 9W won Hebrew and Riya Ranjan 8S won Latin. The KS3 competition was won by 7T, 8T and 9T whilst Senora Rodriguez' Spanish Year 10 group won KS4, and Herr Link's U6 German group won KS5. In the end, however, it was the effort of all the 592 girls who together helped to achieve this brilliant success.

Congratulations to Molly Sacker, U6I – Mrs Wybar

Congratulations to Molly, who has been offered a place in the RYA Youth Squad, in effect the British U19 sailing team – a truly impressive achievement!

Congratulations to Ella Lance, 9G – Mrs Wybar

Ella competed at the British National Sailing Championships in Weymouth in August and finished 4th Senior British Girl (she was the junior girl national champion last year). During the same event she competed in the Champion of Champions race to celebrate the 70th year of the Optimist class and was interviewed by Yachts and Yachting. Ella and two friends also broke the world record for sailing an Optimist round the Isle of Wight. They did it in 11 hours and 29 minutes. The previous record had been set by Silver Olympic medallist Nick Rogers 30 years ago. It is also believed that Ella is the first girl ever to have done it.

Ella completed the Ioannideia 2017 Optimist Mediterranean Championship: she represented Great Britain in the official team and came 33rd overall (fleet size 116 including many top international optimist sailors) and was 1st British girl. We have just heard that

Ella has been selected again to represent GBR in a team of 4 going to the Optimist Team Cup in Berlin, 27-29 October 2017.

Lily Harding, 9I, Judo – Miss Manklow

Lily Harding has won gold in her age and weight category (U57kg Pre-cadet) this term at Northern Home Counties Open Championship. This was a national ranking event held at the University of Hertfordshire. Well done Lily!

Congratulations to Rosie Dobson, 11I – Miss Parkinson

Congratulations to Rosie on her excellent achievement winning The Courier's Young Sports Achiever of the Year Award.

Congratulations to Lauryn Thomas, 11I – Miss Parkinson

Lauryn has been selected to play hockey in the U15 Girls' Futures Cup, which is the final stage for England Selection (NAGS).

Year 7 Trip to Carrot Wood – Sienna Greenwood, Ella McCrae and Iris Davies, 7I

On Friday 22nd September Year 7 went on a trip Carrot Wood. We got off the coach and walked excitedly over to the meeting point. First there was climbing and high ropes. The top half of the register took part in high ropes and the bottom half climbing. One of the activities for the high ropes was the leap of faith. This was where you climbed on to a high platform and jumped to reach the trapeze. When we got belayed down we had the option of going upside down! It was such fun. In climbing, almost everyone made it to the top and some people even raced. The wall started off on a slight slope, but when you were almost at the top it went vertical! When you came down, you abseiled.

Next for the first half of the register there was team building, where we did a game where we had to get through a series of ropes without touching them and all holding hands. The second time we did it two people were blind folded and we had to get through with only 20 lives. We didn't make it!. After lunch we did shelter making, whilst the bottom half of the register did geocaching. (This is where you get given GPS co-ordinates so you know roughly where a container is and you then have to search the area for it.) Our final activity for the top half of the register was abseiling and for the bottom half was teambuilding. After a fun packed day we got on the coach and headed back to school.

Year 8 Visits to Hampton Court - Miss Sowerby

In September the History Department took Year 8 to Hampton Court Palace. The girls have been studying the Tudors in their lessons and were impressed by the size and splendour of the Tudor royal apartments including the Great Hall, the Great Watching Chamber, the Chapel Royal and the courtyards. In each area the girls were encouraged to look at specific details such as the royal and Tudor symbols, the chimneys, the King's beasts and the magnificent hammer beam roof in the Great Hall. They were asked to draw inferences and think about how the Tudors used bricks and mortar, architecture and art as instruments of power and control. We also visited the amazing Tudor kitchens and learned how Henry VIII even used the time consuming and expensive cooking method of roasting meat as a way to show off to his guests. Year 8 have since completed an assessment on Hampton Court as an historical source although, disappointingly, the ghost of Catherine Howard remains elusive!

Arts Award 2017 – Miss Johnson

Over 100 Year 8 and 9 girls were delighted to receive their Arts Award certificates this week, having either gained a Silver or Bronze award in an art form of their choice. Whether it be textiles, music, drama, art, photography, dance or cake decorating, girls have engaged with a huge variety of art forms in order to complete their project. At both Bronze and Silver levels, girls developed their skills in the form of their choice, became a member of an audience and reviewed arts events, researched professional artists and shared their skills with others. Congratulations girls on your achievements!

We are delighted to be offering Lower Sixth girls the opportunity to take the Gold Award this year, and are already seeing some exciting large scale projects coming together! The Gold award provides the opportunity for girls to experience the wider arts sector, encouraging active work experience, voluntary work, training courses and authentic experience working with arts professionals both locally and further afield. Alongside this, girls work together to plan and lead large scale projects - we cannot wait to see the results of the girls' hard work later on this year!

Navy Camp 2017 - Petty Officer Waddington, U6W

On 7th September a group of excited Navy Cadets travelled down to Portsmouth to complete the second part of their inaugural annual camp. (The first part was in July, when the cadets literally 'learnt the ropes' whilst sailing around the Solent for three days.) Needless to say, the weather wasn't quite as spectacular as it was in July but, undeterred, we set sail in two motor-vessels and one yacht. On the first day of sail we headed towards Cowes, passing the impressive new aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth. It was a privilege to see her, especially from the sea. On the second and third days we sailed to Yarmouth before eventually heading back Portsmouth. Throughout the three days each cadet got the chance to take the helm, learn how to navigate and how to fill in the log. Completing exercises such as recovering a man₃overboard, we also learned how to be an active crew member.

As a result, we are now being considered for our 'Competent Crew' qualification, which allows us to sail under the supervision of a qualified skipper. Hopefully we will all achieve 'Daytime Skipper' in the near future. When we returned to Portsmouth, we stayed overnight on HMS Bristol, in order to be well rested for fire-fighting training the next day. Every cadet thoroughly enjoyed the fire-fighting and it was exciting to re-enact different scenarios as this made the training feel incredibly realistic. This entire trip was an amazing experience for all the cadets; we learnt many new skills and the bond between our section is now even stronger.

Tonbridge Science Conference – Freya Bowden, L6I

On Wednesday 11th October, ten students from Lower Sixth attended the annual Tonbridge Science Conference, accompanied by Mrs Lewis and Miss Grove. Taking place at Tonbridge School, the three TWGGS teams got the opportunity to attend lectures on new, exciting and life-changing advances in scientific research including lectures on epigenetics, by Professor Nessa Carey, and climate change. One team of TWGGS girls - Freya Bowden, Sophie Semmens, Evie Conroy and Sophie Whitaker - gave a presentation on 'The Role of HLA Typing in Increasing Accuracy in Histocompatibility' as part of the student presentations where young scientists presented their own scientific research or advances in science which interested them. The other two groups displayed posters in the poster sessions detailing topics such as 'Neurodegenerative Disease' and 'Modern Prosthetic Limbs', both of which stood out as creative and informative.

A set of engaging, thought-provoking talks was accompanied by Tonbridge Science Conference's first year of holding a 'Higher Education Fair' where 17 university delegates attended to answer any student queries about continuing sciences at university level, including St. Hugh's College, Oxford and Queen's College, Cambridge. Overall, the day was a great success with everyone enjoying the Higher Education Fair, student presentations and lectures.

DT Trip to the Design Museum – Mrs Bence

On 2nd October the Year 10 Design and Technology pupils set off to High Street Kensington to visit the Design Museum. Our coach journey through London allowed us a chance to see the varied architecture that has recently been added to the London skyline. Entering the Design Museum we were all immediately impressed with the beautiful interior design and amazing roof structure. The purpose of our visit was to learn more about the Design Ventura competition that we are currently undertaking in our DT lessons. We took part in a design workshop run by a lecturer from the London College of Fashion and a graphic designer. They explained the importance of user-centred design and how we can develop our ideas for the competition. The Design Ventura competition asks for students from schools across the country to design a product to be sold in the Design Museum shop. With guidance from creative and business professionals, we learnt how to turn our ideas into products. If selected, we will be asked to pitch our ideas to design professionals. We are working in teams and need to consider sustainability, costs as well as manufacturing techniques and branding.

Following the workshop we had lunch and visited the exhibition, gaining an understanding of various approaches to design. We saw a large 3D printer and were able to view numerous designs created by this process. It was also important for us to visit the shop in the Design Museum to understand the type of products on sale and consider packaging designs. Finally, we walked back along High Street Kensington to meet our coach and had a drive home through London. This trip has given us a real understanding of the challenge which has been set by the Design Museum. We will soon be submitting our design entries for the Design Ventura competition and hope that we meet the requirements of the brief.

U19 County Netball Tournament – Miss Thornton

On Wednesday 27th September the U19 girls' netball team competed in a competition against 28 schools from around Kent held at Rainham School for girls. Regardless of the quick turnaround from the beginning of the year to the date of the tournament, the girls demonstrated great teamwork and skill around the court. The schools who attended were divided into three pools. There were some tough opponents, but the girls started play how they wished to go on, winning their first match 15-6. The U19s went on to secure five wins and two losses in total. The girls played beautifully together and successfully scored enough goals to achieve a top eight position! After a nervous wait, the girls were thrilled to learn that they had made the top eight and were through to the County Final held in late November. The girls were a delight to coach and should be exceedingly proud of the way they performed and represented the school.

Hockey Results 2017 – Miss Parkinson

U18X1 Kent Tournament

TWGGS U18s were fielding a virtually new team this year and they made great improvements as the day went on at the county tournament. Losing their opening game to Kent College, Canterbury - the eventual winners of the tournament was no disgrace. They went on to beat Benenden 2-0 with well taken goals from Connie Howard and Amber Maywood. Captain George Cremin sealed a 2-1 victory over Eltham College with two fine strikes, putting TWGGS into the quarter finals against Kent College, Pembury. TWGGS started well but the pace and finishing of Kent College was too much and TWGGS lost the quarter final. The team played well and many players will be able to take part again next year. George Cremin ©, Molly Sacker vc, Rosie

Fenton, Rosie Neville, Beth Slatter, Emma Akers-Douglas, Michaela Holding, Connie Howard, Olivia Sherry, Amber Maywood, Imogen Ellis, Alice Milner, Amira Carew, Lydia Woodcock.

U16X1 Kent Tournament

The U16 team played extremely well together as a team, showing great passion and commitment. They won all of the games in their section beating St Lawrence 2-0 with two very well taken goals from striker Tati Sneddon. Against Benenden they won 4-0 with excellent rebound follow ups from Olivia Moran and Maria Walker, and good finishes from Jas Lewtas and Tati Sneddon. A closely contested game against Simon Langton, whose goalkeeper made some excellent saves, was eventually won 2-0 with goals from Tati Sneddon and Rosie Peacock. TWGGS met local rivals TGS in the quarter final. This was a very tense match which could have gone either way. Rosie Crotty made some crucial saves in goal and the defence of Sarah Barnaby, Flo Byers, Elsie Godfrey and Lauryn Thomas was outstanding. Towards the end of the game Jas Lewtas broke free and scored a fine deflected goal to secure victory. TWGGS met Kings in the semi-final and despite giving their all, were beaten by a team consisting of all county and regional players. Kings went on to win the tournament. TWGGS should be very proud of their performances. Thank you to all the girls who worked so hard:- Rosie Crotty, Eleanor Godfrey, Florence Byers, Sarah Barnaby, Lauryn Thomas ©, Olivia Moran, Rosie Peacock ©, Jasmine Lewtas, Rachel Moran, Tatiana Sneddon, Ana Miller-Amado, Molly Sinclair, Maria Walker, Antonia Stewart.

U14X1 Kent Tournament

The U14 team had a very hard group and started with a loss against a well drilled Kings Canterbury side. TWGGS did well to keep the score down to 2-0; the defence tackled well and Emily Pickles made some strong saves. TWGGS had a really good game against Highworth which resulted in 0-0, despite chances to win the game. TWGGS then lost 1-0 to Cranbrook in an evenly contested match. The team has improved significantly since last year and shows promise for the future. Well played to all – Sophie Crouzet was the player of the tournament. Anna Bowring gk, Emily Pickles gk, Mattie Robinson, Isobel Collison, Sophie Preston, Issy Shaw, Tilly Boorman, Sophie Crouzet, Freya Cameron, Rose Lietke, Katie Beaumont, Katie Lloyd, Grace Wright, Kayla Stocker.

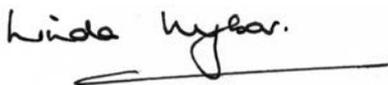
U13 Kent Tournament

This was the first competitive tournament for the U13 team. They played against Kings Canterbury in their first match and lost 2-0, however, Kings beat most other teams by at least 5 goals, so this was a good start. Against Blackheath, TWGGS got into gear and two fine finishes from Isy Giles resulted in a 2-0 win. Next up were Duke of York, and TWGGS netted four times with good goals from Willow Cawardine, Harriet Sacker (2) and Georgie Lees. TWGGS had to win the final game against Kent College Pembury in order to progress to the quarter finals. The pressure was on and it was a very tight game, but Isy Giles and Annabella Curcher scored the all important goals to take TWGGS through. The quarter final was against a very strong Sevenoaks team and despite wonderful defending from Tilly Strand-Ford, Gemma Preston and Goalkeeper Laura McGee, TWGGS lost the game. They should be very pleased with their performances and reaching the top 8 schools in Kent on their first outing. Well played to all: Laura McGee, Gemma Preston; Tilly Strand-Ford ©, Annabella Curcher, Georgina Lees, Harriet Sacker ©, Isy Giles, Willow Carwardine, Eleanor Hobley.

Uniform Reminder – Mr Walker

Please can we remind parents that girls in Years 7 to 11 must return to school after the October half term break wearing winter uniform, with no summer dresses. Thank you.

With best wishes,



Mrs L Wybar
Headteacher