

Dear Parent/Guardian

End of Term Timings – Miss Parkinson

Last day of term 2 Wednesday 19th December - school finishes at 13.45 for all pupils (already notified)

Last day of term 4 Friday 5th April - school finishes at 13.30 for all pupils.

Last day of term 6 Friday 19th July - school finishes at 13.30 for all pupils.

PE Kit Reminder – PE Department

The PE Department would like to remind all pupils to ensure all PE kit is labelled for lessons. Full names should be used on the inside of the garments so lost kit can be quickly returned. Lost property can be viewed in the PE office before school or at break.

Base Layers for PE Lessons – PE Department

With the cold weather upon us this time of year pupils are allowed to wear sports base layers in PE lessons. The base layers must be plain navy or white and can be worn underneath the rest of their PE kit. Base layers must be sports material for hygiene reasons.

Skort Length – PE Department

Please can all pupils ensure their skort length is appropriate for PE lessons and fixtures. Skorts should be worn so the shorts cannot be seen when standing.

Into the Woods Production – Miss Johnson and Miss Patman



This term has been a whirlwind adventure for the cast, band and crew of our school production of **Sondheim's *Into the Woods***. Based on the novel by James Lapine, the abundance of complex characters, scenarios and plot twists combined with Sondheim's fiendish score provided us all with a fantastic challenge, and one we will never forget!

The cast worked diligently throughout the rehearsal process to develop their own individual character personalities and their commitment to the show made the journey so enjoyable. The production's staging, choreography and visuals were led partially by the Gold Arts Award team, alongside the drama and music departments. Our fantastic band, a combination of professional instrumentalists, old girls and current pupils, rose to the challenge and tackled the score with sheer determination. We are incredibly proud of everyone involved, and cannot wait for another musical adventure soon!

Vocabulary Learning in Modern Foreign Languages – Ms Rodriguez

This term all KS3 pupils have been given the opportunity to explore different ways to learn vocabulary and are being encouraged to find out which one is most effective for them. We will carry on exploring the different techniques with pupils next term. Vocabulary learning is an essential element of mastering a foreign language and we hope pupils will find the exercise beneficial for future learning. We would like to remind parents that we subscribe to Vocab Express, which is an excellent online vocabulary learning resource as well as Linguascope, which is ideal for KS3 learners as vocabulary can be learned through games.

India Exchange 2018 - Maya Strand Ford 111

After months of meticulous planning and excitement, on the 18th October, the India PEACE team (Programme for Educational and Cultural Exchange) was ready to depart for our two week adventure in Kerala, India. We all gathered outside the Judd School to say our final farewells to our families, and start the long journey to India. Despite arriving at Trivandrum at three o'clock in the morning, the exhilaration and delight of being in a completely new and unknown place seemed to overwhelm any tiredness, as everyone was so absorbed in exploring and delving straight into the Indian culture.

We spent our first three days in Kovalam, a small coastal town, in order to acclimatise to the new environment. This included adjusting to the heat, eating plenty of curry- for breakfast, lunch and dinner, and adjusting to using our hands rather than cutlery to eat! Daily excursions to temples, palaces and local markets gave us the perfect introduction to Indian history and was also the perfect opportunity to buy some souvenirs to take back home. Next came the much anticipated meeting with our exchange families, and, after an anxious six hour coach journey, we finally arrived in Kochi, the hometown of our host families. We would then spend nine nights in their homes, with day trips to local attractions, with the rest of the English team. I think I speak for everyone in saying that there was an element of apprehension surrounding meeting our exchange partners for the first time, but all worries were soon cast aside, as the realisation of how welcoming the local people really are, soon settled in. Indian hospitality is renowned for being unsurpassable, and this was proved on countless occasions. From the delicious home-cooked food served at every meal to the excitement of the children at the Bhavan's Vidya Mandir School when we arrived each morning, we were always treated like gods. As the Hindu saying goes: 'The man guest is equivalent to God'.

It is difficult to summarise our time in India, as we experienced so much, but to name a few highlights, there was: the elephant riding through the jungle in the mountains of Thekkady; the Diwali party with our host families (where we all wore traditional Indian sarees and kurtas); Kerala Day and our final assembly at the school; the martial arts display; the basketball game against the host school; and just simply being with our exchanges and enjoying their company. Saying goodbye was most certainly the hardest part of the trip, as we had made friends for life, and after living with our exchanges for the last week, it felt wrong to leave. However, the fortunate part of an exchange is there is always a return visit, and I am counting down the days until their trip to England in June/July next year.

Overall, I can definitely say it was a life-changing experience, not just in the activities we took part in and the trips we went on, but, most noticeably, delving into a new culture completely different to our westernised lifestyle in England, provided a great source of celebration and reflection on the differences that countries have in terms of attitudes, traditions and customs. I hope to implement some of the values held by the people of India, including the importance of hospitality, hard work and friendship, which they seem to pride themselves on throughout their everyday lives. A final thank you must be said on behalf of all the girls on the exchange, to the teachers who came and looked after us throughout the trip: Mrs Ceurvorst, Mrs Freeman, Mrs Joshi and Mr Davies. It really was the most memorable and rewarding experience; long may the India Exchange continue!

Trip to Ghana October 2018 – Jess Ash L6I and Tabitha Preston L6I

In October the 16 strong Ghana Team departed for our three-week trip. Our first two weeks were spent in the town of Nkwanta where we stayed in the Ghana Education Project Guest House. Gill Norris, who used to teach at TWGGS and now lives in Ghana running the charity, arranged for us to meet the chief, visit the district hospital, attend church, walk in the Kyabobo National Park, and of course teach in the village schools. The teaching was definitely the most memorable part of the trip for us. Before leaving England, the team allocated different lessons to plan to each member of the team. This proved to be very helpful when we arrived in Ghana and began teaching, as it meant we had a range of resources and lesson plans, covering a multitude of topics and subjects. Many of us were surprised to find out that we had to teach outside, under the shade of trees instead of in a classroom, but we quickly grew used to it, and to the goats and chickens who also often decided to join in our lessons. It was extremely rewarding to see how interested our students were in our lessons, and we were constantly amazed to see their enthusiasm for learning in every class. Our fundraising supports the running of GEP's Kyabobo Girls' School so it was rewarding to visit KGS to see where the money is being spent.

At the start of the third week, we left Nkwanta to start the travelling phase of the trip. Over 4 days, we travelled down to Cape Coast, visiting many interesting places on the way. We first stopped off at the Wli Falls, the tallest waterfalls in Western Africa, which were truly impressive. We enjoyed the jungle walk there and the thousands of bats surrounding the waterfall. We also spent a day at Tortibo Village, where we all made tie-dye fabric, learnt how to African drum, got taught how to make beads from old glass bottles, and spent an exhausting 90 minutes dancing and singing. However, we all loved learning more about Ghanaian cultures and traditions, and had a delicious lunch that was kindly prepared by the villagers. The next day we visited the Kakum National Park, where we saw the lush green rainforest from a completely different angle; the canopy walkway was an incredible experience. Another favourite day of ours was at Cape Coast, where we made batiks by the beach and had a tour of the Cape Coast Slave Fort. It was a thought-provoking day in which we learnt a huge amount about the slave trade and the development of the Ghanaian economy and political system. Our final day was spent at the Accra Craft Market where we explored the tiny alleyways, bargained for our gifts, and met many interesting shopkeepers!

The Ghana trip was a brilliant learning experience. Over the 18 months of fundraising for GEP and preparing for the trip, we were able to form a really strong team. This came through during challenging parts of the trip, for example when climbing Breast Mountain, as well as the teaching which was full-on and tiring at times. Secondly, we learnt about just how many opportunities we have here in England compared to the Ghanaians. I think that we all feel more motivated to try and make the most of what we have, and to be more appreciative of the advantages we have in our society. Finally, I think that the value of compassion, positivity and generosity has been reinforced to us, as well as the importance of relationships over material goods and wealth.

MUNGA Report – Mrs Johnstone and Mr Walker

On 30th November a team of 16 students from TWGGS took part in the annual Model United General Assembly held at Tunbridge Wells Town Hall with 12 other local schools. After months of preparation, delegates rose to the challenge of representing their respective nations in a series of Committee sessions, discussing; The Environment, International Security and Refugees and Migrants. During the afternoon delegates held an emergency debate on the rights of Minority Groups around the world. The standard of debate was impressive throughout, with representatives able to demonstrate their depth of knowledge and expertise on these important 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, ably led by Thea Pengelly L6I. Members of the Press Team worked hard to conduct interviews and gather stories to incorporate into their newspaper record of the day's events.

Congratulations go to the following members of the TWGGS team, who were awarded prizes for their outstanding contributions; Kate Daw U6I for Best Chairperson, Grace Underhill U6T, Abi Colley L6I and Lily Young U6G for the Best Opening Speech representing Dominica, and to Lily Tait U6I, Megan Biggerstaff L6S and Sophie Pendleton L6T who won the overall MUNGA prize for their joint delegation representing Russia. Well done to all those who participated.

German Exchange – Lorna Pearce 10T and Lucy Mercer 10T

It was the most fantastic experience. Nineteen girls from Year 10 united to travel and stay with families in Bad Godesberg near Bonn (the former capital of West Germany). All of us found that we got on with our exchanges extremely well. Some of the things we most enjoyed were visiting the Haribo factory shop near Bonn, attending the German Grammar School with real blackboards, and viewing the glass blowing workshop in Monschau. We enjoyed living with our host families and getting to know their customs. We are really looking forward to being reunited with our exchanges in the New Year.

Ski-ing – Miss Parkinson

The TWGGS ski team took part in the English Schools' Ski Association ESSKIA race at Chatham Ski Centre in September which had over 200 racers competing. The day didn't start well due to a power cut in the area which meant the ski lift couldn't work and competitors had to hike up the 200 metre slope for some practice prior to skiing the slalom course. The TWGGS teams comprised of Evie Ayton 11I, Rebecca Forte 11S, Lydia Dunkin 10I, Harriet Dunkin 8T, Sophie Green 8I, Isobel Aves 8W, Amelia Aves 9I, Mia Devey 9S, Kathryn Lewey 8I and Lila Ayton 7G - all the girls skied very well against stiff competition. Evie Ayton secured the 2nd fastest run of the day and came 2nd in the U19, and Rebecca Forte came 16th. Lydia Dunkin and Harriet Dunkin had just 0.1 of a second between them after the first run. Lila Ayton came 2nd in the U14. Evie Ayton and Lila Ayton have been selected for the ESSKIA 2019 squad.

The 2018 summer slalom series are now completed and Evie Ayton secured 1st place in the London and South East Region races and in the Southern England Region races, 2nd in the Welsh Championships and 4th in the first run of the All England Championships. Lila Ayton secured 4th in the London and South East Region races and 3rd in the Southern England Region races, 4th in the Welsh Championships and 1st in the London and South East team tri regional plate championships.

Training is continuing for the team, please contact Lindsay Ayton if your daughter would like to come along.
lindsay.j.ayton@icloud.com

Cienna Kwayie 7T – Gymnastic Achievement – Mr Walker

Congratulations to Cienna Kwayie who has recently been selected for the GB Pathway Squad for Gymnastics, a position only awarded to the top 12 young gymnasts in the country. Well done Cienna!

Lauryn Thomas L6I - Hockey Achievement – Miss Parkinson

Many congratulations to Lauryn Thomas who has been selected by England Hockey to register on the Level 3 BTEC Diploma in Sporting Excellence. This is a wonderful achievement as only those athletes that England Hockey deem as having the potential to progress to a higher level of elite performance are selected.

Lily Harding 10I – Judo Success - Miss Manklow

Lily attended the Alkmaar International tournament in Holland at the end of October. She won all her fights bringing back the gold medal, an outstanding achievement and Lily's first international medal. Well done!

Jess Daly 9I – Athletics Success - Miss Manklow

Jess performed extremely well in the Kent School Games athletics championships last year. She qualified for the next round this year and reached the final in Hurdles and 300m. Well done Jess!

Biba Rabjons 9W and Jess Marden 10I British Indoor Rowing Championships 2018- Miss Manklow

Biba Rabjons and Jess Marden were extremely successful competing at the British Indoor Rowing Championships 2018 held at the Velodrome in London. Biba came first, winning a gold medal in the four minute event for year 9 girls. This was out of a field of 70 competitors from all over the UK. She also came 4th in the 500 metre event, missing out on a medal by just 0.2 of a second. Jess Marden came 8th in the 500 metre event for year 10 girls out of a field of 57 competitors. Well done to both girls!

Ella Lance 10G and India Lance 7I , Sailing – Mrs Wybar

Ella was first 14 year old girl and third girl overall at the British Optimist Nationals in Pwelli in the summer; second girl overall at the Optimist End of Seasons at the Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy in October; and was subsequently selected for another year in the GB Optimist National Squad. She has also started sailing the 420 in the Youth Class (under 19) with an experienced crew from RGS High Wycombe. India was in the RYA South East Zone Squad last year and sailed at all of the major

National Optimist events. She was selected in May to represent the South East at the Eric Twiname Championships at Rutland in May this year. By the end of the last ranking event, The End of Seasons in Weymouth in November she was ranked 15th Girl in the country in the Optimist Class and gained a place in IOCA Girls Squad (the squad immediately below the National Squad).

U19 Individual Floor and Vault – Miss Manklow

On Thursday 22nd November the Gymnastics Squad competed in the U19 Individual Floor and Vault Competition. The competition consisted of three levels in each school year where gymnasts performed a set or choreographed strip routine as well as two vaults. The scores from each are added together and medals awarded to the top three gymnasts in each category. With a number of gymnasts performing in each round, the competition was challenging and girls needed to perform to their best ability on the day to try and score the highest marks. It was an excellent first experience for the Yr7 squad members who had been practising their routines for weeks. Although no medals were awarded on this occasion, the girls now have a target score for their next competition. Higher up the school TWGGS managed to earn a number of medals for outstanding performances. Congratulations to Hetty Sinclair 9W and Sophie Semmens U6W who both took home silver medals for their performances in the advance categories of their age groups. Well done!

U14, U16 and U19 Netball Kent Finals – Miss Thornton

On Saturday 24th November the U14a, U16a and U19a netball squads competed in the Kent County Netball finals at Aylesford Rugby Club. All teams have worked extremely hard to get here, qualifying at Rainham earlier in the year to secure their opportunity to represent the school. The U14s demonstrated excellent ball control up the court towards the shooting circle. Their defence were on point, intercepting many balls and bringing them back up the court to their attacking players. The U16s, as always, possessed intelligent play. The team communicate so well together and are always discussing and trying different methods to evade the opposition and create scoring opportunities. The U19s made sure to play their own game in their own time, outwitting their oppositions and making some outstanding turnovers. I know the squad are particularly pleased with their draw against Sevenoaks School!

After an exhausting day for the teams, the following results were obtained:

- U14s: came 5th in Kent. U14 Squad: Susie Porter 9T, Sophie Wilson 9T, Maddie Steger 9G, Edie Watson 9G, Maria Miller Amado 9G, Milly Scott 9I, Ellie Hobley 9G, Hattie Cruse 9W, Ella McAdams 9I and Annabella Curcher 9S.
- U16s: came 7th in Kent. U16 Squad: Lucy Waters 11G, Grace Forbes 11I, Blythe Roberson-Leech 11G, Aimee Hobley 11I, Martha Russell 11S, Claudia Erichsen 11S, Juliette Redfern 11I, Alice Claridge 11G and Kate Challis 11G.
- U19s: came 4th in Kent. U19 Squad: Jess Smith U6G, Jas Lewtas L6T, Flow Byers L6T, Olivia Moran L6W, Rachel Moran L6S, Hannah Carey L6G, Izzie MacNutt L6S, Scarlett Keating L6W, Mimi Franklin U6W, Sophie Isbell L6W and Rosie Crotty L6I.

I would like to give special thanks to Jo Watson who coached the U14 squad throughout the day. Without her help, the day would not have run as smoothly as it did!

South East Regional Finals Trampoline – Miss Manklow

On Sunday 2nd December 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 team's 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. Carla Beeney 10S came 1st in the U15 Novice Category and Eva Waymouth 10W came 2nd meaning both will attend the next stage of the competition. The two teams also qualified consisting of Lara Mills 9S, Phoebe Hood 9T, Jenna Callahan 9T, Eva Waymouth 10W, Eliza Stoward 10W and Amy Collison 10W. Well done to all who took part!

Acro and Tumbling Competition – Miss Thornton

On Sunday 2nd December the Gymnastics Squad took part in their first paired competition of the year. The squad competed in 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. There were two competitions running at Regional and National Level. We had pairs and tumblers entered into both groups. Sophie Semmens U6W came 3rd taking home a bronze medal in the U19 category. Well done to all who took part!

Junior Knole Run on Friday November 16th – Mrs Field

Congratulations to junior cross country runners for showing resilience and determination at this annual, regional event. The race was well attended, with over 200 Year 7 and 8 runners from schools across the South East. We were particularly proud of our girls, especially the "novice" competitors, who coped admirably with the challenging route, which included a long steep hill climb at the beginning of the race. Well done to: Penny Horne 7I, Georgie Conroy 7T, Isla Marshall 8W, Meghan Houghton 7I, Jess Rayner 8G, Sylvie Alderson 8T, Daisy Kelly 7W and Siofra Darrer 7I. Many thanks to parents who came along to provide much

appreciated enthusiastic support. We hope that our runners do well in the forthcoming Kent Schools' Championship in January.

Sports Hall Athletics Kent Qualifiers – Miss Thornton

On Monday 10th December, the Year 7 and Year 8 Sports Hall Athletics teams competed in the Kent Qualifiers at Hayesbrook School. The teams competed in a number of track and field events against neighbouring schools in order to secure their place within the Kent Finals next year. All pupils represented the school fantastically, showcasing brilliant performance of athletic ability and sportsmanship. Well done!

Year 7 Team: Harriet George 7I, Shaniyah Sood 7I, Eleanor Frost 7T, Eloise Pauling 7T, Megan Houghton 7I, Siofra Darrer 7I and Freya Jones 7I. **Year 8 Team:** Saarah Kamali 8G, Emily Marriage 8T, Maddie Kilgarriff 8W, Harriet Dunkin 8T, Eloise Greig 8T, Georgie Ringer 8S and Daisy Bayer 8T.

Careers Department - Mrs Vallely

The careers department has had a busy start to the school year. The Lower Sixth teambuilding trip to Bewl Water, very early in the term, was a great success. It was a good opportunity to welcome the new pupils, with staff members and pupils getting to know each other better. For their first PSHE lesson the Lower Sixth were given the opportunity to register with, and sign up to, Pathway CTM (Sixth Form parents received more information in a Parentmail). Subsequent sessions have included a session on Study Skills led by the Senior Prefects, a presentation about the opportunities for study abroad by Mark Huntington from A Star Future, an excellent presentation on Interviewing and Networking Skills by Paloma Shakouri from Pearson College in London which included sound advice about using LinkedIn and other social media to research and network, and a workshop run by one of our link employers, AVTrinity looking at employability skills and financial awareness.

At the same time, the Upper Sixth pupils were given the opportunity to use their first PSHE lessons to finish their UCAS applications and personal statements, and we were delighted to welcome back Vernon Barker, now retired from the police force, who gave an excellent talk on personal safety. We welcomed an engaging speaker from the University of East Anglia who gave a presentation about Student Finance, and were pleased to introduce the U6th pupils to AVTrinity staff as well. In a presentation about Mental Health Issues, Steve Howcroft, from Crossways Community, gave the Upper Sixth pupils some ideas about how to manage stress effectively.

The Independent Careers Adviser, Mrs Elinson, has been in school every week, and in some cases, twice a week, seeing each Year 11 pupil for a careers interview, and has been continuing with the Year 9 and Year 8 PSHE sessions introducing the skills needed in many jobs, and helping the pupils to start thinking about their future choices. She will be back in the New Year to continue with that work. The Careers Prefects recently took the KS4 assembly stimulating discussion about women at work, the gender pay gap, the wisdom of studying a facilitating subject such as a language, and the importance of doing plenty of research into which degree to study, if going to university, or which apprenticeship might interest you, and what supporting subjects would be useful. They also encouraged the KS4 pupils to take every opportunity offered, both at school and outside.

We started the new round of lunchtime careers talks with an interactive session from Superintendent Amanda Tillotson and Police Constable Charlotte Brown, spelling out the opportunities available in Kent Police. We have welcomed Dr Perry, a local GP, talking about a career in medicine, and members of the accountancy firm, Creaseys with a lively session on the different ways to get into accountancy, and what it can lead on to. The Creaseys team included a recent TWGGS leaver who is on the school leaver programme, and someone who is currently on their graduate scheme, as well as the Head of HR. They gave a very good, wide-ranging talk, and it was very disappointing that attendance was very low indeed – especially considering the number of pupils who are interested in Finance, and in running their own business. Many more pupils came along to hear Dan Hamza-Goodacre speaking about jobs in the Green Economy, which encompasses almost every career, and has a huge impact on the whole world. In another lunchtime talk, Mel Sullivan showed us the many different disciplines needed in making visual effects in films and on television. She played clips from the films, *Paddington*, and *Christopher Robin*, as well as from *The Avengers* and some advertisements. It was fascinating to see and hear how the visual effects are made. The last lunchtime talk this term was in late November, when two women from the company Curado came and showed us what it is like working in social care, and the qualities needed to be successful. We are looking forward to next term's lunchtime talks which kick off with 'A Career in Law' on January 22nd. Please do encourage your children to come along to the talks, as even if they think they will not be interested, they invariably find that there is something to be learnt, and even enjoyed!

Half Price Book Fair - 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 books by Penny Joelson, Angie Thomas and Scott Westerfeld being the favourite choices this year. As well as giving the pupils and staff the opportunity to do a little Christmas shopping, the Book Fair sales also earned TWGGS nearly £50 worth of new books for the library so I am absolutely delighted with its success and look forward to doing it all again next year!

Plea for Design Magazine Donations – Ms Sanderson

The library is looking for some up to date design and architecture magazines, such as *Grand Designs Magazine*, to help pupils studying Design and Technology. If you subscribe to a design magazine and would be willing to donate any back issues to us, they would be very gratefully received.

Finally, it only remains for me to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful, successful 2019. With best wishes,

Linda Wybar.



Mrs L Wybar, Headteacher