

Dear Parent/Guardian

We have been pleased to welcome a number of new staff this term: Mrs Sacks and Mr Blackwell both join the German Department, whilst Mrs Butterworth has returned to TWGGS to teach French. Mr Blackmore is our new Music and English Technician, Mrs Pengelley joins our support staff as Admin Support, and the caretaking team is being extended with the arrival of Mr Roser this week. We wish them all much happiness here at TWGGS.

Sadly, we also need to say goodbye to Mrs Willy this week, one of whose last tasks will be the production of this newsletter. For over eight years, she has been superb in the administrative team, working with admissions, pupil data, DBS checks and so much more; Mrs Willy is taking early retirement and we very much hope she relishes the opportunity to relax and have time for herself, having supported TWGGS so well!

Parent Governor Election – Mrs Ralph

Following the recent Parent Governor Election, Debbie George has now been appointed to the TWGGS' Governing Body. Thank you to those of you who voted, and to all of the other candidates for their interest in this position.

Invigilators Required – Mrs Barker, Exams Officer

Would you be interested in joining TWGGS' team of exams invigilators? I am looking to recruit invigilators for the very busy summer season of GCSE and A Level examinations commencing on 14th May and continuing until 25th June. The requirements of the role are that you are flexible, have effective communication skills and would be a confident and reassuring presence to candidates in the exam room. The minimum hours of work would be at least two morning/afternoon sessions per week during the above dates, but more hours are always available. Full training would be given prior to the start of the exams season.

If you are interested please e-mail Mrs Barker, Exams Officer, at exams@twggs.kent.sch.uk for a job description and application form by 4.00pm on Thursday 22nd February. All applications are subject to satisfactory references and DBS checks.

Reminder About Parking – Mrs Wybar

Please can I ask parents not to drop off or pick up their daughters on Culverden Avenue. As you are aware, this has been a problem for some time now. It is a very narrow, congested road. We have been informed that some significant building work is about to begin in Culverden Avenue, so things are only going to get worse. Please avoid this road.

Please can I also ask parents not to drive cars down Southfield Road to drop off or collect their daughter from school. Please do not park in the turning area by the flats outside school as this causes congestion and could be dangerous for our pupils.

Healthy Body- Healthy Mind – Dr Ray and Dr Barnaby

We are two local GPs working with the school to provide the students with a platform from which they can ask about anything to do with their health and well-being. We are calling the sessions 'Healthy Body ,Healthy Mind.' Sixth formers join the sessions as mentors to the younger girls and are a valuable asset. Our aim is to answer questions and facilitate discussion where appropriate. We can also give direction as to where students can seek further information or help. We are mindful of the students' safety and will involve the school if we feel it could be compromised.

There is a system set up for the students to ask anonymous questions, if they wish to. We can answer some questions in the sessions and plan to put the answers to some of the frequently asked questions on the school intranet. Our sessions are being held once a month after school on a Friday for an hour. They are currently available to all years.

Congratulations to Daisy Mort, L6I – Mrs Wybar

Many congratulations to Daisy Mort, who has just been appointed a School Ambassador for Medic Mentor. This is a national leadership role for students interested in a career in medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine or psychology. The successful students have been invited to sit on the Medic Mentor National Schools Council. The first meeting will comprise of teaching sessions and small group discussions around the challenges students face when applying to these specialties. These discussions will inform the support Medic Mentors are able to offer in the future. Students will also have access to monthly School Societies Bulletins and online webinars featuring mock interview questions, problem based learning cases and ethical debate topics to prepare students for interview. They will also be encouraged to use their new skills to support younger students considering these careers. We are incredibly proud of Daisy's achievement.

GCSE Drama – Mrs Davis

At the very end of last term the GCSE Drama cohort performed their examination pieces to an audience of family, friends and staff. The external examiner was impressed by the standard of work produced, enjoying an evening of varied and professional theatre. Owing to the new examination specification, individual pupils had to perform two separate extracts from well-known, published play texts. The evening began with the quasi-naturalistic drama, "The Memory of Water". Sophie Pendleton, Tess Baxter and Grace Coleman did an excellent job of bringing the tension between three grieving sisters from page to stage; their sophisticated appreciation of comedy and pathos created a moving portrayal of sibling rivalry. "Stags and Hens", a comedy by Willy Russell, followed; the group of five (Sophia Ledger, Bonnie Dowler, Izzy Porter, Maddie Low and Hannah Veness) thrilled the audience with their comic timing and execution of the witty dialogue. In complete contrast, "Playhouse Creatures" was next – a Historication by April De Angelis, which explored the first time women were permitted to perform on the stage during the Restoration. Maddie Ironside, Katie Evans and Maliha Paracha did an impressive job of illuminating the difficulties women faced at the time, skilfully balancing the comedic dialogue alongside serious subject matter. The only ensemble piece of the evening, "Girls Like That", a six-hander, saw Freya Carson, Lilly Hook, Ana Miller Amado, Hollie Niccolls, Ava Smiles and Cece Sykes take on the enormous task of carrying a piece with no designated roles for 40 minutes. Their energetic performance treated the audience to stylised physicality, impressive multi-role and a creative use of the stage space. The penultimate performance, "Daisy Pulls It Off" took on a far more light-hearted tone. Aoife Bishop, Anne de Putter, Isabel MacNutt, Abi McDougall, Ellie Moran and Charis Omer executed the stylised nature of the piece with genuine aplomb; their comic timing and synchronised movement sequences were both inventive and visually pleasing. Finally, the serious drama "My Mother Said I Never Should" rounded off the evening with a sophisticated understanding of plot, theme and character. Fran McDaid, Megan Biggerstaff and Annie Paler were mesmerising in their portrayal of three generations - playing young children and complex adults, they demonstrated multi-role skills of the highest order.

We wish the girls every success in the summer. Hopefully their results will reflect their impressive work ethic, skill and passion for drama.

Some months ago, we sent out a plea in the newsletter for female adult helpers to support the TWGGS CCF contingent, and were delighted to receive several offers of help. We thought you might like to hear about two parents' experiences:

CCF – Mrs Y Trebino

I'm Yvonne Trebino, and I answered a rallying call for more adult helpers for TWGGS CCF last year. I have two daughters who are senior NCOs in the CCF and I have seen the way they have matured and grown in confidence over the years. The opportunities they have been given, some really tough ones, both physical and mental have been marvellous. Seeing how much they get out of being within the CCF prompted me to volunteer as an adult helper. I joined to show them that, I too am willing to move out of my comfort zone, learn new things and be constantly amazed at what I can achieve. (Not bad for an "oldie"). My training has been gentle, informative, at a pace I can manage and most importantly, fun. I am now a commissioned officer, 2nd Lieutenant, and about to go on a week's basic training at Frimley Park to consolidate what I have learnt so far and truly begin my journey with TWGGS CCF. I can highly recommend getting involved, supporting young women to excel in an environment that provides such skills that they will need in all aspects of their lives.

CCF – Mrs L Grant

On a cold and blustery January weekend, I found myself in a muddy field, sleep deprived and frozen, following a number of TWGGS senior cadets on a leadership weekend. Against the odds, I loved it. I had answered a call to help out with the contingent to ensure there were enough female helpers, but I had no idea it would prove so rewarding. I didn't feel I could commit to the full military commission, so I offered to join in a non uniform capacity and have been first aid and minibus trained to provide the most flexible cover.

The cadet leadership weekend was an incredible experience. Cadets were taught, among other things, the principles of instructing others, learning styles, effective communication and a vast array of practical tips. Over a very short time we saw the twenty girls put the learning into practice and blossom as individual leaders. I was given the opportunity to run a command task which gave the cadets hands on leadership experience, but was also great fun. I feel certain that the girls have gained invaluable leadership expertise which will last beyond their cadet careers and as an adult helper I also gained huge insight into group reactions and management styles. I am also very proud of my role as captured enemy in one challenge where my acting skills (real or imagined) were brought to the fore!

Lily Harding – Judo Success- Miss Manklow

Lily has competed in another Judo competition, The Midland Area Open Championship. She came first taking the gold medal. Well done Lily!

Year 8 Shakespeare Festival – Mrs Davis

150 girls, five plays and many, many props! The annual Year 8 Shakespeare Festival took place on the 31st January showcasing the talent and expertise of our dedicated Year 8 pupils. Girls were responsible for all aspects of performance, including costume, make-up, publicity, direction, technical support and acting. Each form took their allocated play from page to stage, performing two contrasting scenes over a 15 minute period. The evening was highly competitive with awards available for acting, design and direction in numerous categories. Best Promotion was given to 8T for their inventive foyer display and programme for "Romeo and Juliet". The Most Visually Exciting Award was given to 8W for their costume, make-up and special effects in their performance of "A Midsummer Night's Dream". The Most Effective Use of Space Award was given to 8I for "Hamlet", recognising their impressive chorus work and use of space, including inventive entrances and exits. 8G won the Technical Award for Best Sound and Lighting for "Macbeth", owing to their excellent creation of an eerie mood and atmosphere. Finally, the Best Set Award, including the model box set, was given to 8S for "The Tempest" owing to the sophisticated nature of their designs. Each form achieved two acting awards for Best Supporting Actor and Best Actor in each play. The award for Most Outstanding Performer of the evening went to Heloise South in 8S for her portrayal of Antonio in "The Tempest". The judges agreed that the complexity of the role, delivery of Shakespearean verse and her stage presence made Heloise the stand-out performer of the night. The coveted award of Best Production also went to "The Tempest". 8S should feel very proud of their achievement; the complexity of their chosen scenes made their task particularly challenging, and their "big win" all the more rewarding!

Year 7s Raise Money To Help Victims Of Leprosy – Mr Walker

Before Christmas, Year 7 pupils took part in a 'Zumba' dance session during PSHE to raise money for LEPROA, a charity aiming to eradicate leprosy in countries such as India and Brazil. They had previously heard about the stigma still associated with the disease and found out how it can be treated effectively by a course of medication. Many girls dressed up for the event and danced energetically to the Latin and African rhythms. They were thrilled to hear that they had raised £2,668 for the charity during the 'thank you' assembly held in January.

The South East Schools Themed Book Awards – Ms Sanderson, Librarian

Whether discussing the merits of John Green vs. Graham Greene, the book vs. the film or Hobnobs vs. chocolate digestives, the fortnightly SESTBA book group meeting is always a place for lively discussion. Since September the girls have read and discussed seven very different books based on the theme Secrets and Lies and have been voting for their favourites. With only three titles left to read, the girls are eagerly anticipating the grand Gala Evening on 27th March at Kent College, where all their reading will be rewarded with an evening of competitions, fancy dress and, most exciting of all, award winning authors Juno Dawson and Patrice Lawrence will be there to talk to the girls about their writing and to sign copies of their books! Which book will be the overall winner on the night? Watch this space!

Chess Tournament – Mrs Matchett

On Sunday 14th January seven girls from TWGGS attended the ECF National Schools Girls' Chess Championships Semi-final at St Catherine's School, Bramley, near Guildford for the first time. Over eighty girls competed in the Under 19 section and our girls each played five games during the day. They played very well and had some wins, despite coming up against a number of older girls who had competed many times before! Our team consisted of Iris Davies 7I, Daisy Glasheen 7I, Mysha Shazzad 7W, Gemma Preston 8W, Clemmie Maude 8G, Lucy Miller 8G and Lisa West 8G. We all learnt a lot from the experience and hope to compete again next year. In the meantime, anyone keen to improve their chess skills can come to Chess Club on Monday lunchtimes at 1pm in H5.

Leadership Camp on 19/20 January at Crowborough Camp – LCpl Colley, 11I

On Friday 19th January, two minibuses filled with CCF cadets and equipment set out for leadership camp in Crowborough. We immediately settled into lessons to teach us the theory behind the Method of Instruction course, leaving us buzzing with ideas of what makes a good leader: we concluded that qualities such as assertiveness, confidence and enthusiasm were key to successful instruction. Some senior girls gave us lessons in order to demonstrate the practicalities of leadership, giving us valuable information into leadership styles and thorough preparation of presentation material. This gave us inspiration to make our future lessons just as interactive, engaging and full of information.

It was after a hearty dinner that we sat in to watch a couple girls take their MOI assessments for teaching drill. After listening to their feedback and absorbing all improvements, we set about preparing our own lesson plans for the following morning. We were assigned different static drill movements, for example the left turn, and devised plans for the most effective methods of teaching this. After some quick boot polishing in the billets later that evening, we went to bed with our brains buzzing with our lesson plans.

Bright and early in the morning, my section went first in doing our MOIs. With a couple of laps of the field to keep us from shivering, we all successfully passed in our drill assessments, taking on board the helpful feedback. Next it was our turn for the command tasks. My section and I took great enjoyment in solving ways to transport ping pong balls in pipes and figuring

out the order of collecting 'dangerous chemicals', whilst taking it in turns to reflect on our leadership of each task. A particular highlight was the exercise we did, where we split into three sections and underwent a rescue mission of the 'hostage'. The camp was an incredible success, teaching us the art of instruction, and equipping us with all the key skills to teach the next generation of Year 9 cadets.

Milano Team Sequence – Gymnastics Squad – Miss Manklow

On Sunday 28th January the Gymnastics Squad competed at this year's Milano Team Sequence held at St. John's Catholic School in Gravesend. The team sequence consisted of an individual floor routine, vaulting and a final team floor routine. Teams were made up of three or four gymnasts with only three competing floor and three competing vault. The whole team then took part in the group routine. On the day two competitions were taking place - the Regional and National Competition. The standard of the competition this year was exceptionally high and girls all competed to the best of their ability on the day.

All squad members choreographed their own individual routine and spent a lot of time practising their chosen movements to ensure routines filled the floor space and finished in time with their music. Congratulations to the U13 TWGGS Team 1 who came second at Regional Level and the U19 Team who came first at Regional Level. Well done to all gymnasts who competed and good luck for the next competition at the end of the month!

U19 Girls Team: Sophie Semmens (Captain), Eliza Costley, Izzy Rayner, Milly Scott

U13 Girls Team 1: Ellie Hobley, Emily Harrison, Evie Trueman and Phoebe Hood

U13 Girls Team 2: Amelia Ireson, Meghann Stevenson, Maddie Geoghegan and Mia Devey

U13 Girls Team 3: Eloise Greig, Amelia Bell, Sylvie Hayward and Poppy Dascombe

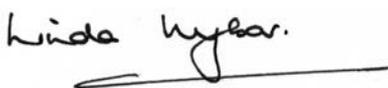
U16 Regional Netball Qualifiers – Miss Thornton

On Sunday 28th January 2018, the U16 Regional Netball Squad took to the courts to compete in the Regional Qualifiers at Rainham School. In order to be attending these qualifiers, the team had previously worked immensely hard, coming second in the County Finals in November.

Their first match against Forest School set them off with good stead, securing a firm win of 14-6. With good spacing and strong pressure, plenty of turnovers were gained which led to many scoring opportunities. They continued this winning streak in their second game with a nail biting performance that saw them win 12-11 against Godolphin and Latymer School. In the third round, the team played against our neighbours, Tonbridge Grammar. With lots of previous encounters, this was a close and exciting match which unfortunately saw a loss. Regardless, the team worked the ball down the court with excellent precision and great teamwork. The girls did experience a few losses against some tough opponents. Nonetheless, the team did not let them win easily, always securing half of their score and reducing the goal scoring opportunities of their opponents dramatically!

Overall, the U16 Netball Squad came fifth in the competition, of which the PE department and Julie, their coach, are extremely proud. This is a huge achievement which means the girls are the fifth best netball team in the London and South East region! Well done girls!

With best wishes,



Mrs L Wybar
Headteacher