

Dear Parent/Guardian

TWGGS and International Women's Day – Alex Abbs U6I

On Thursday the 8th March, a group of girls and staff from TWGGS went to the Tunbridge Wells Town Hall to celebrate International Women's Day. The speeches given were focused on the past, present and future. It was fascinating to learn about local suffragettes from 1918 who campaigned for the vote and turned Tunbridge Wells into a hub for women's suffrage. There were motivation talks by local businesswomen, a soldier/Miss England and even a lively performance of "This is Me" from ex-TWGGS pupil, Charlotte Bartholomew. Three girls from TWGGS and members of *Our Progress Project* (www.ourprogressproject.com), Milly Evans U6G, Honor Boulton U6I and Anna Brian U6G, spoke about the future for women. Milly spoke about the importance of sex education in school. Her campaign #ISupportSexEducation, is an inspiring movement aimed at improving access to sex education on a local and national level in order to promote equality. Anna's talk on the impact of foreign aid on gender equality was a refreshing insight into the work of IGOs around the world to promote parity. She highlighted failures of many countries around the world at donating 0.7% of their GDP to the UN which hinders development. Honor spoke about the power of young people in creating change. Using the example of Emma Gonzales who survived the school shooting in Florida, Honor explained how important listening and engaging with young people is in the fight for equality and social change. It was an amazing opportunity to hear people from the local area talk about their opinion on feminism in today's society and the three girls from TWGGS were brilliant and engaging in their promotion of intersectional feminism in the future.

Milly was also invited to give an interview with Kent Life. The interview can be read online at suffrage.kentlife.news

Valuables in PE and generally – Miss Manklow and Miss Parkinson

Please could we remind everyone to hand their valuables in at the start of PE lessons. Sadly we have had some money and other items taken from the changing rooms. The only way to ensure that valuables are safe is to hand them in at the start of the lesson. We have also had items taken from other areas in the school. Please could we remind pupils that if they are bringing money to school, it should be handed in and kept in the school safe for the day; it can then be collected at the end of the day. Thank you.

Judo Achievements for Lily Harding 9I - Mrs Wybar

Congratulations to Lily Harding who was selected in January for the Regional England Development Squad which is the only national squad available to Pre-Cadets. They train once a month and once a year all three regions train together at the national training centre in Walsall. Lily has been selected by British Judo to take part in a competition and training camp in Germany where she will be representing England for the first time. This month Lily also competed in the Southern Area Open. She won all her fights in her pre-cadet age group, winning gold. Her coach then entered her into the Cadet (U18) category where she won 3 of 4 fights getting silver! As well as the forthcoming training in Germany Lily has a busy and competitive April ahead as she will be competing in the Kent Closed Championships, the Northern Ireland Open and the English Open! Congratulations on your fantastic achievements so far Lily, and good luck in the competitions to come.

German Exchange 2017/2018 - Maya Strand Ford and Cecily Turner 10I

After our enjoyable exchange experience in December 2017, the much anticipated arrival of our German partners finally came on Friday 9th March 2018. We were all anxious to live up to the same level of hospitality that we were greeted with at their homes. However, this proved easier than we thought, as our already close friendships were instantly revived, and it soon seemed as if we had known each other for ages, despite the language and locational differences. The German girls took part in a variety of day trips and activities, including tours around Hever Castle, Westminster Abbey, shopping in Oxford Street and a walk around the Pantiles, as well as experiencing a typical morning in TWGGS in order to explore the differences between English and German schools. On their penultimate day, all of us involved in the exchange visited London with our partners. We went to the Tate Modern and Covent Garden for a day of art and shopping, which was a lovely way to finish the week. The day of their departure arrived and we all gathered in the car park to give them an emotional send-off. After such a fantastic experience both in Germany and back home, we can safely say that it was one we will never forget and we hope to see our partners again sometime in the future. Although the aim of the trip was to further our language skills, we also had the added bonus of gaining new friends for life.

CCF Military Skills Competition 9th/10th March 2018 - Lance Corporal Martha Rigby 11W

On Friday 9th March, TWGGS CCF sent a team to take part in the military skills competition taking place at St Martins Plain training camp, Folkestone, against other CCFs and ACFs from all over the South East as far afield as Oxford, Winchester, Portsmouth and the Isle of Wight. Upon arrival, we were feeling quite confident, but we soon saw that some other teams consisted of much older boys of higher rank and it was clear that the whole competition had really stepped up since the previous year. The competition consisted of a series of tasks, called stands, designed to test our military skills. The stands didn't start until Saturday, so we made a trip to McDonalds and spent the evening doing last minute practice and preparation.

Very early the next morning, at 4:45am, we woke up and got ready for the day ahead. Just after 7:00am, we set off, however we did not get off to the best start, nearly getting lost even before our first stand. Throughout the day we visited six stands in the field, including first aid, a command task, map skills and others covering over 11 miles in atrociously wet conditions. These ranged from attempting to hoist an unconscious casualty over a 'deadly ravine' to a section attack. After these, we had lunch from our ration packs and headed back to camp in our minibus to do several more tasks there. We started off with the obstacle course, which included a rope swing, a six-foot wall and tunnels. Due to our team being significantly shorter than most of the others, we had to work together to get over the obstacles, especially the walls, but eventually everyone managed to get over them all. Several more stands followed, such as pairs fire and movement, and night observation in which we had to use night vision goggles to identify which objects were in a pitch-black room. After eating more rations for dinner, we finished the day with military knowledge and history tests.

On the Sunday, there was only one scored part of the competition left: the march and shoot. TWGGS wasn't scheduled until 11:00am so we spent the first part of the morning cleaning rifles and sheltering from the rain. When our time came, we had to walk 1.5 miles as quickly as we could without running, which we managed to do in 16 minutes due to lots of determination and team support. Finally, all the teams assembled on parade to find out the results. We were surprised yet delighted to hear that we had come first out of the CCFs and second in the overall competition including all the ACFs as well. Afterwards, we headed home very tired and proud of all we'd done. The team was led by Regimental Sergeant Major Grace Rhoden U6W and consisted of Squadron Sergeant Major Sophia Trebino U6T, Sergeant Amira Carew L6T, Sergeant Elena Trebino L6G, Corporal Sophia Terrell L6T, Lance Corporal Tabitha Preston 11T, Lance Corporal Tabby Gardiner 11G and myself. Adults were 2nd Lieutenant Trebino and Lieutenant Naismith.

Siberian Tiger Cub Camp – Saskia Hobbs 9T

From the 16th - 18th March TWGGS took over 100 cadets to the Siberian Tiger Cub Camp, held at the Army Training Camp in Crowborough. This was the first camp for 60 Year 9 recruits who only started CCF in January and they had to deal with sub-zero temperatures, biting winds, snow and ice. Some of the activities included first aid, self-defence, weapons training, command tasks, navigation, drill, an obstacle course, radio procedures and general camp routine, including learning how to live in and look after the billets. After all the weapons training was completed, we took the Weapons Handling Test as a final exam of our competency with the rifle, and lots of people passed, including every person in my group.

All the activities were lots of fun, but the ones that really stood out for me were self-defence and the obstacle course. Everyone in my group was very glad we completed the course on the Friday, the first day, while it was sunny instead of snowy. Some of the obstacles were quite tricky, so it was great to have all the encouragement from everyone else while we did them. In self-defence we learnt some basic moves to use a last resort in a situation, and even though the game we played at the end resulted in some extremely tired arms, it was very interesting and fun. During weapons training we covered various procedures including loading, unloading, making ready and safe, and stoppages. On both days we were on site, we had to clean the billet we were staying in ready for inspection. However, on the Saturday we were also given a surprise inspection which we had no time to prepare for. Even with the surprise inspection, most of the billet craft sessions were quite fun, and included sweeping and mopping the floor, placing blankets on beds at fixed intervals, and lots of folding fleeces the exact same way!

Overall, while it was quite cold at times, the Siberian Tiger Cub Camp was a lot of good fun, and I can now see why the older cadets say it's an opportunity to make friends, because I made some amazing lasting friendships with the people in my group while having lots of fun doing some amazing activities.

World Book Day – Ms Sanderson, Librarian

One of the things I have been looking forward to this year, as a new member of TWGGS staff, was the long anticipated World Book Day celebrations. I was therefore delighted by the wonderfully imaginative costume creations that took to the stage during our special Year 7 World Book Day assembly on 9th March. Well done to all the Wonderlanders, 100 Acre Wood inhabitants, Peculiar Children and all the other fantastic book characters who brought their favourite stories to life. You all looked amazing!

Carnegie Medal Book Group Launch – Ms Sanderson, Librarian

On 15th March the shortlist was announced for the prestigious children's book prize – the Carnegie Medal. Here at TWGGS we have shadowed the prize for many years and we are very excited to be doing so again this year, especially with such varied and challenging titles on the shortlist. As usual some of the chosen books are not easy reads but that is why we love to read them and talk about them! If your child would like to join us Tuesday lunchtimes (until 18th June when the winner is announced) please encourage them to come and see me in the library to collect a joining form. The first book we shall be discussing on the 17th April is the compelling *Where the World Ends* by Geraldine McCaughrean.

Drama Report – Mrs Davis

This term was very busy for the Drama Department! Final examination performances took place for both the A Level Theatre Studies and GCSE Drama cohorts. GCSE pupils completed their major examination performances back in December, leaving them with the very different and ambitious task of devising their own, unique pieces of theatre this term. In groups of 4-6, pupils demonstrating outstanding skills of collaboration and teamwork to create meaningful and educational theatre on the topic of immigration. Focusing on the experiences of asylum seekers in the UK, the class worked with minimal staging and a range of stimuli to produce excellent work; all of the pieces utilised physical theatre technique, narration and current statistics for effect. This was the first year that Performance Poetry featured in one of the group's pieces, producing rhythmic and inventive results.

The A Level group's task was slightly different. With a larger weighting towards their final A Level marks, the class set out to complete Component 3, performing their scripted pieces to an audience of friends, family and staff. After rescheduling the examination owing to the late appearance of snow, our examiner enjoyed a showcase of the class's talent and enthusiasm for live performance. The format of the new A Level requires pupils to perform three different extracts throughout the course; the final extract is performed to an external examiner who scrutinises the work in line with the applied techniques of the selected practitioner. For the first year, we abandoned working in the style of expressionism, selecting to utilise the methodologies of two iconic naturalistic practitioners, Katie Mitchell and Stanislavski, to produce believable, realistic theatre producing a memorable night of engaging work. The first group (Becky Briggs U6T, Connie Everett U6I, Eden Jarrett U6S and Nimmie Sidhu U6W), performed Kieron Barry's new play, "Numbers", in-the-round. Their ability to make the audience feel like a "fly on the wall" created an uncomfortable atmosphere where the central character, Hettie, played by Connie Everett, was bullied and ostracized by her peers at a privileged boarding school. The results were impressive; the group did an outstanding job, bringing this seemingly simple text to life with ease and maturity.

The second piece saw Betty Reynolds U6W and Emma Wilkinson U6G utilise projection and sound, in conjunction with hyper-real characterisation, to generate a memorable performance of "Fefu and Her Friends". Originally a promenade performance, the duo created a beautiful and moving exploration, using silence confidently and maturely to great effect. The third piece, a duologue from "Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?" by Edward Albee, demanded enormous skill and literary understanding on the part of Sophie Cherry U6G and Dara Hughes (Skinners' School) in order to honour the playwright's dramatic intentions. The results of their collaboration were highly effective – both Sophie and Dara captured the warring couple's complexity in what was a very well-paced and engaging interpretation. The final piece of the evening demanded a limited audience as Amy Hitchens U6S and Rosie Waddington U6W utilised a smaller space at the back of the Performing Arts Centre. Transporting the audience to Galway, Southern Ireland was no easy task, but Rosie and Amy achieved this through their highly believable presentation of Martin McDonagh's "The Beauty Queen of Leenane". The "in-yr-face" nature of this piece saw the duo craft a truly harrowing and uncomfortable experience for the audience, both impressing and appalling the audience in equal measures.

Well done to all those involved in performing this year. We wish you every success in your written examinations this summer.

Congratulations to Annie Chown 10G – Mrs Wybar

Many congratulations to Annie Chown whose entry in the Royal Opera House Fanfare Competition made the top 25 shortlist and has been awarded a Highly Commended Certificate to mark this achievement. This is a fantastic result and we hope it has given her a lot of encouragement for her future endeavours.

Sports Hall Athletics Kent Finals – Miss Thornton

On 5th February, the Year 7 and Year 8 Sports Hall Athletics teams attended the Kent Finals at Medway Park, Gillingham. This proved to be an excellent experience for both teams who have trained and performed brilliantly since September! The Year 8s have been extremely patient and supportive of the Year 7s during training and competitions, many of who are new to this sport. On the day, both teams competed in a number of track and field events against different schools from around Kent. The girls represented the school fantastically, displaying consistent performances and good spirit. After a very tiring day for the girls, the Year 7s came away in 7th place out of 14 schools and the Year 8s 1st! Both teams should be extremely proud of their achievements and the effort they have put in since the start of the year. Well done!

Rowing Success – Miss Manklow

Three TWGGS pupils were in a WJ14 Quad, racing against teams from far and wide in one of the biggest junior head races in the country. Abi Carney 9G, Jess Marden 9I and Biba Rabjohns 8I came 12th out of 47 crews in the same category. Congratulations!

School Team Gymnastics – Gymnastics Squad – Miss Manklow

On Sunday 25th February the Gymnastics Squad competed at this year's School Team Gymnastics 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 five or six gymnasts with only five competing floor and five competing vault. On the day two competitions

were taking place the Regional and National Competition. The standard of the competition this year was exceptionally high and pupils all competed to the best of their ability on the day. With new team leotards they all looked smart and felt confident and proud to be competing for the school. The gymnasts 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. Those competing on the vault had worked hard with Jude Everett, the team's coach, to stabilise their landings and increase power onto and off of the vault. Well done to all gymnasts who competed. Although no medals were brought home on this occasion the scores were very close at the end of the day! The intermediate team came fourth by 0.4 marks. The U13 Girls Regional 1 team came 10th and the U13 Girls Regional 2 team came 7th.

U13 Intermediate: Ellie Hobley 8I, Emily Harrison 8I, Evie Trueman 8W, Phoebe Hood 8I, Milly Scott 8W and Jasmine Miles 8W
U13 Regional 1: Amelia Ireson 8I, Meghann Stevenson 8I, Maddie Geoghegan 8S, Mia Devey 8S and Keeva Pflitsch 8S
U13 Regional 2: Eloise Greig 7T, Amelia Bell 7I, Sylvie Hayward 7T, Poppy Dascombe 7T, Emma Pickles 7S and Izzy Rayner 7S

Rosie Dobson 11I - Rugby Success – Miss Manklow

Having recently attended rugby trials at Richmond RFU for a place on The England Centre of Excellence rugby programme, I'm delighted to congratulate Rosie on her place in the programme. Well done!

Trinity Laban Contemporary Dance Workshop – Miss Manklow

On 20th February TWGGS hosted a Contemporary Dance Workshop by Trinity Laban Dance; Dance Arts Award pupils alongside others committed to dance were invited to develop technique and explore new repertoire. During the session they developed technique through various warm ups as well as learning a short piece of choreography focusing on one of the company's current pieces 'Watership Down'. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and their confidence and creativity has greatly improved.

Rambert Dance Workshop – Miss Manklow

This term girls have been given the opportunity to participate in a number of dance workshops. The first workshop put on by Loop Dance Company for Trinity Laban School of Dance provided the girls with a workshop to extend their contemporary dance repertoire. The second workshop invited Rambert Dance Company in to work with the girls on technical and choreographic skills. The piece focused on a current performance from Rambert called 'Ghost Dance'. The girls experienced a Rambert dance warm up before learning some of the repertoire. The finale piece allowed the girls some creative ownership using the repertoire learnt to choreograph short phrases in small groups.

U12 County Netball Tournament – Miss Manklow

On Thursday 22nd March the U12 Netball Squad attended the County Finals at Rainham School for Girls, the first county tournament as a team: the squad was excited for the day of netball ahead of them. Game one saw TWGGS face Kent College Canterbury, a strong team: TWGGS worked hard to turn over the ball but unfortunately the shots were not going in. The end result was a win for Kent College. Not defeated by their first game, TWGGS came back fighting in their second game with a win against Sydenham. Shooters had their confidence back and the middle court play made easy feeds into the shooting circle. The third game was another tough match for TWGGS against Dartford Grammar. With goals being scored at both ends all the way through, it was a matter of time before the final whistle blew. It wasn't in our favour with a 4-3 loss. The next two games against Rochester Grammar and Hillview again saw excellent play from TWGGS. The defending pair Daisy Bayer and Saarah Kamali had amazing games. They were intercepting and blocking every ball giving the opposition no chance to score. The final score from the Hillview game was 11-0. A great result! The final game against Newstead Wood, who were top of the group saw TWGGS' best netball. The girls were hungry for the win and made every opportunity count. Defending was tight and turnovers were crucial for both teams. Unfortunately, at the final whistle the score was 4-3 to Newstead meaning TWGGS did not qualify for the quarterfinals. Finishing 4th in their group did not reflect the close scores for each game. The girls all played to an exceptionally high standard and should be really proud of their performance on the day.

Well done to Libby Hester 7W (Captain), Azzahra Lawal 7I, Lilia Oubridge 7S, Maddy Kilgariff 7W, Eva Williams 7I, Tabitha Leese 7S, Emily Marriage 7T, Daisy Bayer 7T and Saarah Kamali 7G.

Kent Schools Trampolining – Miss Manklow

On 16th March TWGGS Trampolining Squad competed at the South East Regional Finals Trampolining 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 on Sunday. All competitors successfully finished their set and voluntary routines with the average scores from the judges added together to give the final result. A number of girls qualified for Sunday's event but with such short notice were unfortunately unable to attend. Well done to everyone who took part! Particular congratulations to Mia Devey 8S who came 6th in the Yr7/8 Girls Novice out of 67 girls! Well done to Amelia Thomas 9W who also came 4th in the Yr9/10 Girls Novice Category. Well done to Freya Ridge 9T who came 1st in the Yr9/10 Girls Advanced Category.

U13 County Netball Tournament – Miss Thornton

On Monday the 19th March, the U13 netball squad competed at the Kent Netball County Tournament at Rainham School for Girls. The team possessed brilliant enthusiasm and determination throughout the day, even though the low temperature proved challenging! The netball squad played matches against the six different schools placed in their pool. They began the day with a win, leading 4 to 1 against Hillview. The team demonstrated excellent spacing, controlling the movement of the ball down the court confidently and securely. The U13's were quick to respond to feedback in the following matches, improving their reaction times and demonstrating fantastic contest against some really tough opponents. With another couple of wins throughout the day, the team came third in their pool. Well done!

Congratulations to Maya Strand-Ford 10I & Tilly Strand-Ford 8G – Miss Parkinson

Congratulations to Maya Strand-Ford who has been selected to play county hockey for Kent at U16 level, and to Tilly Strand-Ford who has been selected to play county hockey for Kent at U13 level. We wish them both the very best for the matches ahead.

Hockey - Miss Parkinson

On Thursday 22nd March the hockey teams played in a 7-a-side mixed years competition in memory of Beth Freeman. Each team consisted of players from each year group, so that the older pupils can help the younger pupils. Molly Sacker's team came first, followed by George Cremin's team second, Lydia Woodcock's team third and Rosie Fenton's team were fourth. Players of the match are selected by the captains and they included: Isy Rayner 7S, Isy Shaw 9W, Hari Sacker 8S, Isabella James 7S, Gemma Preston 8W, Isy Hunter 8I, Millie Bateman 7G, Sienna Greenwood 7I, Isy Giles 8I and Annaliese Harris 10S. Thank you to everyone who took part in this fun event. Thanks also to Mr Walker for umpiring.

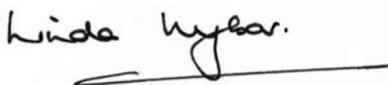
Ella Lance 9G Yachting Success – Mrs Wybar

Congratulations to Ella Lance for having recently competed at the UK Spring Championships at Lymington, coming 8th overall and 2nd girl (out of a fleet size of 220). Ella is also competing at the Easter Regatta at the Braassemermeer Yacht Club in the Netherlands this Easter so we wish her the very best of luck!

Lost Property – Miss Manklow

There is a lot of lost property in the PE Department this term. Pupils can check lost property before school, at break times and lunch times. If they think they have lost their PE kit, please ask them to come and see a member of the PE Staff.

It only remains to wish you all a Happy Easter. With best wishes,



Mrs L Wybar, Headteacher