

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Sadly, we have to say goodbye to Mr Graham Piddington, Physics Technician, at the end of May; we wish him and his wife a very happy and relaxing retirement. We should also like to thank Mrs Pam Tysh, who has assisted the Psychology and Sociology department part-time over recent months, for which we are most grateful. We are delighted to welcome to TWGGS Mr Paul Buttery, part-time Caretaker, and Mr Tom Bartlett, Music and English Technician.

Senior Prefect team 2013 – 2014.

We are delighted to congratulate the following on their appointment as Senior Prefects for 2013-14:

Head Girl	Alice Pavey	W	Debating	Eleanor May	W
Deputy Head Girl	Isabel Tol	W	Music	Catherine Millar	T
Deputy Head Girl	Megan Delahunty-Light	S	KS3 + Buddies	Emma Court	G
Senior Officer	Eleanor Morris	G	KS4 + Careers	Harriet Lewis	I
Senior Officer	Amy Tyler	S	Sixth Form	Charlotte Torode	G
Senior Officer	Kirsty Ashton	G	Drama	Eleanor Fitz-Gerald	T
Senior Officer	Millie Davan Wetton	G	Art/Display	Karis Gill	T
Senior Officer	Alice Wood	W	School Council + PTA	Nancy Kelehar	I
Charities	Isabel Denman	G	Sport	Amy Moriarty	I
	Natasha Smith	T		Sarah Gold	G

Traffic on the School Site

Please may I remind all parents to drive very slowly and carefully when on the school site. We have, as you know, shared access for vehicles and pedestrians, and are keen to ensure the safety of girls and members of staff. Last week, a member of the school support staff had a very close shave, narrowly avoiding being run over by a parent coming to collect an ill pupil; had it been girls chatting to one another and less quick to react, the outcome could have been much worse. The speed limit on the site is 5 mph, and it is essential that everyone observes this please.

TWGGS French Exchange 2013 – Jessica Horsley 10S

From the morning of Thursday 21st March I considered the French Exchange the luckiest trip of the three languages - not only because we would be visiting such a beautiful part of the South of France, but because we didn't have to get up at the crack of dawn. Despite having a rather leisurely journey, we were just as nervous, but excited all the same to be seeing our exchange partners again, whom we'd met and had to stay with us in November.

When we arrived in La Teste de Buch, the first thing everyone noticed was the weather: I practically did a double-take when I saw the sun shining and felt the 21 degree temperature - in March! When we reached the school - Le Collège d'Heurle - we were all very pleased to see our exchange partners, who then introduced us to their families. I was welcomed into the family with open arms and found that speaking French came much more easily than I'd thought it would. The trips during the week gave us a feel, and a taste in some cases, of the local culture. Favourites included Bordeaux, a beautiful city, where we visited the museum, le Musée d'Aquitaine, took le Petit Train, and of course, la Rue de St Catherine- the longest shopping street in Europe; and l'Atelier du Chocolat, with so many different varieties of chocolate I doubt I'd be able to list them all, yet we all somehow managed to taste them all! My personal favourite was le Dune du Pyla, the biggest sand dune in Europe. It was so steep it made me think I was climbing Mt Everest, but the views once we'd (finally) reached the top were phenomenal.

When the Wednesday morning on which we left arrived, my French exchange's mother had tears in her eyes and told me that I was welcome back at any time. I think this speaks volumes for how much I was welcomed into that family and I certainly want to keep in touch with them. Some of us even wanted to move there permanently! If anyone is unsure of going because she doesn't know if she'll cope with speaking mostly in a foreign language for a whole week, I promise you that this trip is not to test your ability, but really to help your confidence and it will improve your learning massively. You will not regret it. I know I speak for all of us when I say we can't thank Madame Lodge and Mrs Farrow enough for organising and accompanying us on a trip which I doubt we'll ever forget.

From the Sociology Department - Mrs Har-Ewen and Mrs Burgess

We were honoured to have Professor Lord Anthony Giddens come to school to deliver a lecture in the PAC to the students of TWGGS, Judd, Boys' Grammar School, staff and governors on 23rd April. This was a great opportunity to meet and question an influential and prolific academic writer, and TWGGS certainly made the most of it. Introduced and thanked by Upper Sixth Sociologists, Lord Giddens lived up to his reputation as an excellent and thought provoking speaker. During his talk, which crossed

several subject areas, he drew attention to the vital importance of taking climate change seriously before it is too late and he urged everyone to do their share on the small scale by cutting down on energy wastage and leaving the car in the garage! He also suggested more energetic action in the form of pressure groups in which students and staff alike could become involved. This rousing speech was typically sociological in nature- challenging all young (and older!) people to do their share to change important issues in society, even if they are controversial. Lord Giddens was extremely impressed by all the pupils he met during his visit and sent us his thanks for the hospitality shown to him.

Y10 Spanish Exchange - Señora Rodríguez

On 9th May it was our Spanish exchange partners' turn to come to England for a week. They visited London for two days and participated in some bilingual English-Spanish lessons. We all went on a joint trip to Hever Castle where we discovered the connection between Henry VIII and the Spanish Royal Family and went bowling afterwards, which proved a great success!

The TWGGS families and girls were wonderful hosts and the Spanish teachers and pupils were very appreciative of their generosity and how welcomed they had felt.

I would like to thank the girls and the families involved who made this such a successful exchange.

Author Sophia Bennett visits TWGGS - Mrs Mattheus-Ratcliffe, Librarian

"So interesting", "I didn't know that", "Brilliant", "Wow, that was good", "I am definitely writing a story after this"- these are just some of the enthusiastic comments and feedback I received from our girls after the talk by author Sophia Bennett on 15th May. As part of her book tour through the South East Sophia visited TWGGS and delivered two talks to selected year 7s and 8s. She focused on her life, her work, on how to become a published author and was happy to take lots of questions from the floor. At lunchtime the whole school had the opportunity to meet her in the School Library and have their books signed with personal messages. This session proved to be so popular that Sophia's newly published book, "You don't know me", sold out within the first 10 minutes.

Sophia writes books which deal with current issues relevant to young people today and combines them with her passion for fashion and art. As an experienced speaker to teen audiences, and a mother of 4 herself, Sophia perfectly struck the balance between chatty, individual, informative and educational. The girls and I walked away with lots of new ideas for how to tackle creative writing projects, an understanding of how difficult it is to become a published author, but also how important it is to persevere. Finally, we received lots insightful information on the restrictions an author faces when it comes to artwork and design of her books and looked at how differently publishers market books in foreign countries. All together a hugely successful visit!

GCSE Drama Update – Mrs Davis

Year 11 presented their GCSE Drama performances to a public audience and external examiners on the 8th and 9th May this term. Ten groups performed across both classes, showcasing a plethora of different styles, genres and themes. The first performance of "Stags and Hens" bravely employed the notoriously tricky Scouse accent to deliver witty one-liners and entertain the audience. A stage adaptation of the popular novel, "Little Women" followed, opening with an ensemble version of "In the Bleak Midwinter" to establish a more serious tone. The third performance was "Teechers", a three-hander, which used multi-role and exaggerated characters to create comedy. The penultimate performance of the first evening was "Shakers", another multi-role piece, which used heightened characters to portray an ugly reality. The first evening ended with the highly inventive and original, "Villains with a Vendetta", a devised piece written and conceptualised by the girls.

The second evening continued to display TWGGS' talent at its best. The first piece, "Playhouse Creatures", a Historicisation play, explored the first female performers on the English stage; the girls wowed the audience with their accomplished performances, generating both comedy and pathos. The second, entirely different performance of "Find Me" used multi-role and ensemble work to explore mental illness. The third group to perform also combined naturalism and stylised acting in "My Mother Said I Never Should", a unique performance looking at four generations of women. "Memory of Water", a naturalistic play, was beautifully realised, entertaining and moving the audience in equal measures. Finally, "Blue Remembered Hills" ended the evening with a highly energetic interpretation of the popular classic. The girls delivered a truly spectacular performance, generating enormous laughter and poignancy; the perfect end to an entertaining evening.

The Drama Department would like to thank the girls' parents with their continued to support over the past two years and in the run up to this difficult examination. You have generously chauffeured the girls to their rehearsals, collected them from theatre trips and transported props and costumes galore! We are especially grateful to you for attending the GCSE examinations. We are especially grateful to friends and family who were able to watch the later performances on both evenings; the girls definitely benefited from having a live audience. Thanks also goes to Mrs Norman-Reade and Mr Bartlett who supported the girls with their sound and lighting requirements. Finally, thank you to Mrs Reid-Brown for taking time to come in and support us on the examinations days; as always, her expertise and experience proved invaluable.

L6 SKI TRIP 2013 – Alice Pavey L6W

On the 1st April 2013, 42 girls and 5 staff travelled to Killington, Vermont for a week of skiing. The conditions couldn't have been better, with plenty of snow as well as clear skies and sunshine. Those who had skied before couldn't wait to get back on the slopes while for many of us it was a completely new and exciting experience. By the end of the week everyone was skiing confidently and in the 5 days everyone not only improved but had also had a brilliant week that surpassed any of our expectations. On the last evening in Killington we had an awards ceremony, where more traditional titles such as 'most improved skier' were accompanied by some more inventive awards including 'starfish skier', 'most fearless skier' and - illustrating the importance of skin protection – Mr Jones with 'most sunburnt.'

On the Sunday morning we left for New York and after stopping off at an outlet store on the way, we arrived in the city. We walked to Times Square which gave us the opportunity to explore and sightsee, including the Rockefeller Centre and the Empire State Building, shopping in Times Square and dinner at the Hard Rock Café, which was a truly brilliant way to spend the last evening of a fantastic trip. On the day of our flight we had a tour of New York, allowing us to experience some iconic New York landmarks such as the Statue of Liberty, Brooklyn Bridge, Central Park and Ground Zero. It was however the last day, and that evening we departed from JFK airport for our journey back to what seemed like the comparatively cold, rainy and boring UK!

CCF Celebrations - Captain A Reynolds

Congratulations to Beth West and Nia Lewis who have each been selected to represent the UK in Kenya on a 23 day exchange in 2014. They will be attending some training camps to ensure their fitness is sound but these opportunities are all for the taking if cadets put themselves forward for them. Well done, girls!

More congratulations go to Ellie Van der Zanden who has recently been awarded an Army Scholarship. She is one of the top 100 cadets in the UK and has had to compete with the best delegates in the country to gain this honour. She will receive part funding through university and has automatic entry to Sandhurst. This is a great tribute to the determination, ambition and sheer willpower of Ellie, her family and supporters because the process of selection is extremely rigorous and thorough. A brilliant achievement!

We have also recently recruited Mr Nigel Bourne (a TWGGS governor) and Mr Philip Collard (a very supportive parent) into the CCF. We are most grateful to have them on-board. They have already made a very favourable impression and we all look forward to having their expertise in our contingent.

At Easter, I took away six cadets to a camp at Folkestone. It was very cold and snowed every day with a very bitter wind - not much of a welcome to British summer time! However, the camp was a wonderful success and I am sure all of the girls enjoyed the challenge of coping with extreme conditions. The girls were cheerful and threw themselves into every activity with gusto. They all proved to be excellent sharp shooters and acquitted themselves admirably. Well done to Katie Pegrum, Katie Taylor, Meg Tucker, Hannah Davis, Amber Davison and our new machine gunner, Olivia Capon-Russell. A fun, frozen time for all but a great boost to the learning of these cadets.

At the end of June, the CCF will be running a mini military tattoo for all parents, friends and the current Year 8s. It will show girls what they can do in the CCF and let parents see the sort of activities their girls take part in on a Monday night. This will be followed by a BBQ. More details will come home soon but please look forward to seeing the opening of our new orienteering course (jointly funded by CCF and the PTA) amongst many other displays.

It is nearly time for our first annual camp. This is aimed primarily at Year 10 recruits. It will run from 7-13 July at Crowborough. The cost is £60 for the week and a £20 non-refundable deposit is now being collected. Detailed letters will go home to all girls regarding the various activities once numbers are finalised. During camp week, Lt Parkinson will be taking a trip to the Lake District in order to climb three peaks in three days. A letter will come out once all details have been confirmed. This would be a great opportunity for girls interested in outdoor qualifications.

Thank you to all parents for their patience over the delay with the CCF t shirts. They have finally been distributed and look very smart. Our sincere thanks to Cadet Sgt Harriet Lewis for her inspiration and expertise. The design is a triumph and will now become part of Sgt Lewis' legacy at the school.

The Method of Instruction Course has begun for the year. We hope all senior cadets will get their classroom lessons taught before the end of the academic year in order to pass this requirement. Time management is necessary as the course continues through the exam period but if cadets are well organised, it should not pose any problems for them. An hour's break with CCF should be a way of breaking up their study. Failure to complete this section of the MOI will preclude your cadet from completing the course and being eligible for promotion in 2014.

It has been a very busy year and it is still not over, but many thanks to all parents who support their daughters in the CCF. I am very grateful for the value you have put on the organisation for your cadet.

U12 Kent Netball Tournament, Wednesday 20th March – Mrs Murray

With over 60 teams involved, TWGGS were in really high spirits and dominated the first round, winning 8-0 against Maidstone, 12-4 against Weald, 14-0 against Homewood, 11-4 against Rochester, 10-0 against Bullerswood and 10-1 against John Wallis. The girls were full of confidence and were looking forward to the next round. In the second round we were drawn against Sydenham. TWGGS defence put on great pressure to turnover the ball and with patient play from the attacking players, TWGGS gained a strong lead at half time. Micky Holding and Elena Holland secured some fantastic shots to help TWGGS win 9-2. In the quarter finals TWGGS faced Dartford Grammar. Both teams performed very well and the score was 2-2 at half time. With numerous turnovers, Dartford Grammar managed to secure a vital goal to take them into the lead with 1 minute to go. TWGGS really felt the pressure and unfortunately lost 2-4.

The girls should be really proud of the achievement: coming in the top 8 in the county with over 60 that entered into the tournament is a good result. Congratulations to: Joint Captains Michaela Holding and Connie Howard, Elena Holland, Jess Smith, Sophie Whitaker, Anna Lumley, Thuraya Lawal, Kate Daw and Emma Holmes.

Natasha Saunders, 9I

Congratulations to Natasha Saunders, who took part in the Junior National Championships (sprint kayak) at the National Watersports Centre in Nottingham. She won gold in the girls U14 K2 1000 metres, gold in the girls U14 K2 500 metres, gold in the girls U14 K4 1000 metres and silver in the girls U14 K1 1000 metres.

Equestrian Championships, Sunday 21st April – Mrs Murray

Micky Holding 7G, Sophia Macdonald 8G and Maisy Wallington 8G competed at the Surrey County Championships. The team came 2nd in the 70cm class out of 10 teams with fast clear rounds. Micky Holding came 3rd and 6th in the individual placings out of 40 entries. Maisy and Sophia did excellent clear rounds in the 80cm class and Micky came 1st overall out of 70 entries. The girls have continued to flourish after what has been a fantastic start to the year to revive TWGGS Equestrian team. As always, Mrs Murray would like to thank parents for their support and thank Mrs Holding for co-ordinating the team on the day.

PE Results, Indoor Athletics – Miss Parkinson

Congratulations to the following girls who won the district and county indoor athletics events. They represented Kent at the Regional finals in April. Many girls won events and should be very proud of their performances. Well done! Year 7 team: Alice Walters, Freya Zabroski, Roman Balcomb-Neville, Imogen Ellis, Ayesha White, Georgie Newman, Amira Carew, Elena Holland. Year 8 team: Imogen Berger-North, Charlotte Scholes, Emma Cameron, Charlotte Wager, Ellie Cohen, Rosie Fenton, Charlotte Knudson.

Volleyball Tournament – Monday 29th April – Mr Jones and Miss Parkinson

The U15 and U13 Volleyball teams did TWGGS proud at the Sackville Volleyball Invitational tournament 2013. Playing a host of teams from the South East and one from London, they were faced with the challenge of maintaining their dominance of the tournament last year. Despite a few uneasy glances at the well-kitted London team, the U13 TWGGS A and B teams went undefeated throughout the tournament, only losing to themselves in the final. They took home the cup and shield for first and second place for their age group.

The U15 A and B teams had similar success, taking home the cup with a first and third place finish. This was an absolutely outstanding performance by all involved. This was corroborated by a number of coaches and referees that commented on the quality of the volleyball our girls were displaying. Thank you to the parents that assisted in driving girls to and from the tournament. Of course, special thanks go to Peter Booth who gave up so much of his time to coach the teams. We are sure he would have been very proud to see how well the girls had done and how much they are enjoying the sport.

U15 A Team: Kath Taylor, Sophie Morris, Beth Moriarty, Amy Byers, Katie Exall. U15 B Team: Emma Wadsworth, Amber Leversedge, Caitlin Owen, Grace Collins, Hannah Johnson, Daisy Macnutt. U13 Teams: Molly Sacker, Maisy Wallington, Ione Symonds, George Cremin, Charlie Duthie, Sophia McDonald, Sophia Trebino, Emily London, Nellie Kottler, Catherine Bird.

Emily Camburn – 8T

Congratulations to Emily Camburn, 8T, who has successfully auditioned for the National Schools Symphony Orchestra.

Hannah Roberts – 7T

Congratulations to Hannah Roberts, who took part in the GEMS concert at Trinity Theatre. In addition to being awarded the Prose Cup and Poetry Cup, she was also awarded the main Speech & Drama prize (Joyce Ashton Memorial plate) a silver plate and a cheque for £100!

Kent Science and Technology Challenge Day – Mr Walker

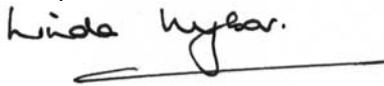
Mr Willis accompanied a team of 12 Year 9 pupils to this competition held at Canterbury College on March 22nd. Our girls were put in mixed groups with other schools and set a series of exciting challenges over the course of the day. Lucy Overy and Alice Neve were in the winning group for the Robot Challenge and Sophia Radley and Olivia Youlton won the Bridge Construction Challenge with their team. However, Megan Brown and Issy Furminger were members of the overall winning team and will have the opportunity to participate in a National Science and Technology Competition. The other participants were Annabel Godfrey, Jess Williams, Zoe Ward, Emily Dobson, Ciara Finn, Georgia Lloyd-Roberts, Olivia Youlton and Sophie Radley.

Cheer For Life Charity Event, Sunday 28th April – Miss Guy

On Sunday 28th April just over 40 girls from TWGGS took part in the Cancer Research Fundraiser. The event was a festival of cheerleading, where schools from all over Kent, Sussex and Surrey showcased their routines. Cheerleading is a vast growing sport and so this was the perfect occasion for schools to unite under one roof. It was a great opportunity for the girls to present their learnt skills to an audience and gain confidence in performing. The event was a huge success, raising just over £900 towards Cancer Research, with over 300 spectators watching the teams cheer, tumble, dance and stunt their way through the day. The TWGGS routines were exciting, and the girls performed with general smiles and confidence. The girls had choreographed their routines this year which was fantastic. Every team supported each other and showed enthusiasm towards the cause. A very successful event!

With very best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Wybar." The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Linda Wybar (Mrs)
Headteacher