

## **THE ACADEMIC CURRICULUM**

Class sizes vary according to the year, group and subject being taught, and TWGGS operates a policy of reducing class size wherever possible, particularly for GCSE and A Level groups. A wide range of teaching styles and approaches is employed to ensure that all pupils receive a rich academic diet. They are encouraged actively to learn as well as being taught. Every effort is made to ensure the TWGGS curriculum meets the needs of bright pupils in today's society.

In Years 7 to 9, pupils are taught a variety of subjects: Art, Computing, Design Technology, Drama, English Language and Literature, French (from Year 8), Geography, German, History, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Religious Studies, Science and Spanish as well as Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education (PSHCE).

At GCSE all pupils take courses in Mathematics, English Language, English Literature, Religious Studies and Science. Most pupils take three separate sciences at GCSE beginning in Year 9, with those who find this overly challenging studying Double Award after discussion. From the four GCSE option blocks pupils must choose either Geography or History and a Modern Foreign Language, plus two others from Art, Computing, Drama, Economics, French, Geography, German, History, Music, Spanish and Technology. All pupils have lessons in Physical Education and PSHCE.

In the Sixth Form, it is usual for pupils to take either three or four A Levels together with an AS, an EPQ or a Gold Arts Award; TWGGS offers A Level courses in the following subjects:-

Fine Art, Biology, Chemistry, Design & Technology, Economics, English Literature, French, Further Mathematics, Geography, German, Government & Politics, History, Mathematics, Music, Physics, Psychology, RS (Philosophy & Ethics), Sociology and Theatre Studies.

All pupils also attend lessons in PSHCE and are required to participate in some physical activity.

Further information about the curriculum at TWGGS may be found on the school website (under KS3, KS4 and Sixth Form, respectively) or by contacting the school by email on [admin@twggs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:admin@twggs.kent.sch.uk).

### **CAREERS EDUCATION**

The school has a well-equipped careers suite, with careers education integrated into PSHCE lessons and careers advice given through an Independent Careers Advisor (in school) and the school Careers Co-ordinator. All Year 11 pupils complete a one or two week work experience placement following their GCSE examinations, and Sixth Form pupils receive advice and support on applications to university, other educational institutions, apprenticeships, training and employment.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Throughout the school, Religious Education is taught in a sensitive and informed manner, covering a range of religious beliefs and moral issues, and respecting a diversity of faiths. Parents/carers do have a right to withdraw pupils from RS lessons, in which case a pupil would study independently in the school library, however the school is delighted that only one parent/carer has elected to exercise this right in the past 18 years.

### **SEX & RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION**

All pupils receive Sex & Relationships Education as part of their PSHCE lessons, with lessons tailored to suit individual age ranges. Staff trained in Sex Education deliver these lessons and for some sessions visitors such as the School Nurse are involved. Should any parents/carers be concerned about the provision for Sex Education or its delivery, they are very welcome to contact the relevant Director of Achievement, or Deputy Head to discuss the issues.

## **ADMISSIONS 2018**

Admissions at 11+ (Year 7) are via the Kent Procedure for Entrance to Secondary Education, details of which are explained in "Admission to Secondary School in Kent 2019". This booklet can be obtained from all West Kent Primary Schools or directly from the Admissions and Transport Department, Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ (Tel: 03000 412121).

Applications by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2018  
Applications received for 2018 entry – 519

Admissions Numbers for 2018 – 145  
Number of places offered – 148  
(Entry to Year 7 after appeals - 148)

In the event of over-subscription, specific criteria will apply; details may be found in the "Admission to Secondary School in Kent 2018" booklet or on the school website [www.twggs.kent.sch.uk](http://www.twggs.kent.sch.uk).

Applications for admission into other year groups should be made directly to the school via the In Year Common Application Form which is available to be downloaded from the Kent County Council's website or directly from the Admissions and Transport Department, Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XQ (Tel: 03000 412121) or via the school website [www.twggs.kent.sch.uk](http://www.twggs.kent.sch.uk).

Pupils are particularly welcome to join the Sixth Form for their Advanced Level studies at 16+.

## **ATTENDANCE (2017-2018)**

(from September 2017 to May 2018 as recorded in the School Census)  
Authorised absence – 4.6% Unauthorised absence - 0.16%

## **CHARGING FOR SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

Under the terms of the Education Reform Act 1996, and the Department for Education Guidance 2010, schools do not have the right to charge for certain school activities, although voluntary contributions may be sought from the parents/carers of participating pupils. This applies to activities such as day and residential trips here and abroad, zoo, museum and theatre visits, sporting activities and university lectures. It also applies to activities taking place within the school day.

TWGGS Governing Body has adopted Kent's policy on charging, informed by the Guidance issued by the Department for Education to make charges as allowed by the Education Act 1996 and 2009 Guidance; and to seek voluntary contributions from parents/carers so that activities during school hours, for which charges may no longer be made, can continue. The full Charging Policy is available on the school website.

The school is convinced of the educational value of the additional activities it offers but in practice, these can only go ahead if families are prepared to make a voluntary contribution to cover the cost of their child's participation. Arrangements are always made in school for those pupils who do not wish to participate in an optional activity and the Southfield Fund is, of course, available to assist where there is temporary or permanent financial hardship.

## **CONTACTING THE SCHOOL**

If parents/carers are unhappy about what is happening in school, they should first discuss the matter with their child's Form Tutor and/or Director of Achievement and, if necessary, the Headteacher. In the unlikely event that they are dissatisfied with the outcome, then the next step would be to contact the Chair of Governors. Most, if not all, problems however can be quickly sorted out by a telephone call, letter or visit to the school. Full details of TWGGS' Complaints Procedure are available on the school website.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

It is the policy of TWGGS to meet the needs of each pupil, however, it is recognised that some pupils have special educational needs. Therefore, the commitment is made to identify and assess such pupils as early and efficiently as possible in order to address their needs, which may take a wide variety of forms.

The policy ensures that the pupil has the greatest possible access to the whole curriculum, and the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator/Deputy Headteacher and other staff work in partnership with parents/carers, taking into account the views and needs of the pupil. Able pupils are well catered for within the diversity of the curriculum. The SEND Policy is available on the school website. Please contact the school if you have an individual query or concern.

## **TWGGS – THE WHOLE EXPERIENCE!**

TWGGS has an enviable reputation for excellence in music, sport, debating and drama, providing pupils with an impressive range of opportunities outside the classroom. This is designed to give prospective pupils and their parents/carers a flavour of the rich and diverse activities available; it is by no means an exhaustive list!

Thanks to the wonderful facilities in the Performing Arts Centre, pupils of all ages create and perform in numerous drama events throughout the year, including Key Stage 3 Drama clubs, Year 8 Shakespeare Festival, Year 9 Drama Festival and the annual Sixth Form production. The Drama Department also works alongside the Music Department to produce occasional whole school productions. Pupils regularly achieve outstanding results for their performances at both GCSE and A level owing to the polished standard of work produced. We are also delighted to offer numerous workshops with professional actors, practitioners and theatre companies throughout the year.

The senior debating teams have successfully represented the school in the Oxford, Cambridge and English Speaking Union Competitions with the junior pupils practising their skills in debating club. The Design Technology and Art Departments are frequently commended for the diverse, creative and forward looking work produced and the high standards achieved. Pupils' individuality is nurtured through the broad scope for interpretation offered and all are encouraged to enhance their learning and understanding through department and independent visits to Art, Architecture and Design museums, galleries and exhibitions. The DT Department makes full use of a laser cutter and a 3D printer to create a range of professional outcomes including architectural models. Pupils have won prizes for innovation in national competitions.

TWGGS is immensely proud of its programme of extra-curricular activities which encourages pupils of all abilities to enjoy making music, both in the school and community. Each year pupils enter national competitions such as the National Festival of Music for Youth and the Pro Corda Chamber Music Festival. TWGGS has been fortunate enough to achieve great success, with pupils invited to perform at the Albert Hall, Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester, City of Birmingham Conservatoire and at the Savoy Hotel in London. On more than one occasion we have been proud to be named National Chamber Music Champions which has been a huge achievement. Cantemos, our chamber choir for pupils in years 9 to 13, performs regularly at venues throughout the South East. This choir has also collaborated with several external organisations such as Royal Tunbridge Wells Choral Society and City of London Sinfonia. Several pupils have auditioned successfully for national orchestras and choirs, and TWGGS is also well represented in Kent County Youth Groups. Currently over 400 pupils attend additional music tuition in school and participate in extra-curricular musical events within the 20 choirs, orchestras and ensembles that TWGGS offers.

Our PE Department is justifiably proud of its strong reputation for excellence across an incredible range of sporting disciplines. Thanks to the dedication and hard work of all PE staff and other members of staff and volunteers who give freely of their time, pupils are encouraged to develop their skills, at all levels, in the following clubs: Netball, Hockey, Dance, Volleyball, Trampolining, Gymnastics, Cheerleading, Table Tennis, Fitness, Football, Tag-Rugby, Cross-Country Running, Tennis, Cricket, Rounders and Athletics. Amongst recent successes are: U15 Tennis Squad Regional Qualifiers, U13 Sports Hall Athletics Squad County Champions, U16 Netball Squad Regional Qualifiers and U16 Hockey Squad County Semi-Finalists.

The Combined Cadet Force allows pupils to experience unique, character building challenges and to gain a variety of skills in navigation, drill and turnout, Signals and First Aid along with many military and adventurous training opportunities. All activities emphasise the Standards and Values of Selfless Commitment, Respect for Others, Loyalty, Integrity, Discipline and Courage. Senior pupils take on additional responsibility for teaching and leading a platoon; some may even have the opportunity to attend overseas training: we have had cadets in South Africa, Canada, The Himalayas and The Amazon. There is a healthy blend of outdoor activity and in-class learning with many camps available for those who are keen to experience the most from being in the organisation. Pupils enrolled in the CCF are also able to undertake the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. The CCF has expanded with a Royal Navy Section starting up in April 2017. RN cadets have opportunities to learn marine based navigation, communication systems, first aid, sailing and many other nautical skills associated with the senior service. Year 9 pupils attend a common, 6 week taster session for both sections in January and then decide what curriculum they prefer, if they want to continue. TWGGS CCF is the only all-female, state school CCF in England and currently we have more than 150 enrolled cadets.

The Bronze and Silver Arts Award programmes, offered to Year 8 and 9 pupils, give the chance to independently develop skills and knowledge in their chosen art form: Dance, Photography, Music, Textiles, Creative Writing, Art and more. We also offer the Gold Award to Lower Sixth pupils, allowing them to gain some unique insight into potential career paths in the arts, and also enabling them to develop leadership skills in a large scale performance project.

Pupils who are not members of the CCF have the opportunity to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme with the Silver award available for pupils in Year 10 and above, and the Gold award being offered for pupils over 16 years of age. From volunteering to physical activities, life skills to expeditions, the achievement of a Duke of Edinburgh Award is valued by both employers and universities and gives pupils the opportunity to enrich and develop their skills outside of a classroom environment.

TWGGS pupils 'give their best' and think of others, giving generously to those less fortunate than themselves. Fund raising events are held throughout the year combining teamwork, fun and enterprise whilst raising significant funds for local and international charities, culminating in achieving funds in the region of £3,700.

### **TWGGS – A FLAVOUR OF OUR SCHOOL TRIPS**

School trips represent an integral part of the learning experience at TWGGS. Linguists in all Key Stages travel to Germany, France and Spain to develop their understanding of their language from first-hand experience, whilst TWGGS enjoys long-standing relationships as part of its exchange programme with schools in Ghana and India.

The History Department organises trips to Hampton Court and medieval events to further develop pupils' understanding of topics; regular English trips to West End theatres enrich the English curriculum; pupils studying Geography experience field trips in Devon, Sussex and Iceland, and the Mathematics Department enhances the subject with a Year 7 fun day and the Maths Challenge. In addition to specific departmental visits (of which these are just some), pupils also participate in team building days at Carrot Wood and a Year 9 residential week in Devon. An expedition to South America for senior pupils is planned for summer 2020; this follows a successful expedition to Bolivia during the summer of 2018. A trip to Russia for Sixth Form pupils is also run by the History Department with the next trip scheduled for February 2019.