

Dear Parent/Guardian

As this half-term ends, Mrs Butterworth is going on maternity leave, followed by Dr Boone and Mrs Thomas in late June. Their lessons are being taught by members of the relevant departments, whose time has been released as a result of Year 11 and U6th classes no longer running. We wish them all well and look forward to hearing their joyous news shortly. After the half-term holiday, we will be pleased to welcome Mrs Denison to the administrative support team and hope that she enjoys working at TWGGGS

Kirkland Rowell Survey – Mrs Wybar

We are very grateful to those parents who responded to the Kirkland Rowell survey recently, and have just received back the statistical findings, which we will now scrutinise carefully. Having already read the individual comments, we have begun to take action on some of the issues raised, as outlined below, and this will, of course, be on-going over the coming months. Some parents and pupils raised issues relating to specific subjects and we have begun addressing these; I am sure you will appreciate that such actions are confidential, however, if you feel that issues you raised are still on-going, then please do get in touch with me, and we will do our best to tackle these. Please may I also stress that, if you have concerns or views on aspects requiring improvement, we would be very pleased to hear these; there is no need to wait for a formal survey!

Many parents, staff and pupils valued the experience of Phone Free Friday, an initiative from the School Council, designed as a digital detox and a means of promoting pupil and staff mental health and well-being. We are, therefore, repeating this on Friday 24th May and Friday 5th July, then from September every Friday will be “Phone Free” for staff and pupils. On these days, pupils will be able to access their phones at the end of the school day. However, if you need to get an urgent message to your child during the day, please telephone Reception and the message will be passed on.

The school website was identified as out of date, difficult to navigate and limited in its usefulness. To that end, we are presently working on a brand new website, far more extensive in scope and flexible in its use, allowing us to update it more easily and quickly. In designing this, we have sought the views of some parents, present and prospective, as well as from some staff and pupils, all of which have been helpful, especially in ensuring that the new site map is logical, sufficiently extensive and user-friendly. The new TWGGGS website should be launched ready for the beginning of the September term, and we hope that parents will find this a significant improvement.

The fact that GCSE PE is not offered at TWGGGS was raised by a number of pupils and parents; this has not previously been possible as a result of our very limited sports facilities, however, the provision of the new sports hall would enable GCSE PE to be launched as soon as the sports hall is completed, we hope by September 2020. The variety of healthy eating options available in the school canteen was also raised as a concern from both parents and pupils, and the new menu which started this term has certainly has much more variety in terms of healthy eating choices, following Mrs Ralph (Bursar) discussing these specific issues with the Catering Manager. We would be interested in your feedback on this if you feel it is unresolved.

Pupils told us that they would like us to reconsider PSHE sessions, and this coincides with a national reappraisal of Relationships and Sex Education guidance. Miss Fenn, supported by Miss Parkinson, is, therefore, leading a review of PSHE and RSE over the coming months, in order to ensure that the syllabus is current, appropriate and meets the needs of TWGGGS pupils, as well as the new national requirements. More information on this will be available as the review progresses.

Geography Achievements – Mr Breeze

Huge congratulations go to Martha Grift for achieving the highest mark in the country for her Edexcel A Level Geography last year. This was remarkable, not just for her scoring higher than the 11,909 other candidates, but for her gaining full marks in every paper on a new specification. Martha has therefore completed the extraordinary double of attaining top marks in both her GCSE and A Level Geography exams. We are pleased to hear that she is enjoying studying for her Geography degree at Oxford and have no doubt there is more success to come.

We are extremely proud, too, of Olivia Moran L6W. Also following the new specification, she was awarded the highest mark in the country for Edexcel B GCSE Geography in 2018, scoring more highly than 28,052 other candidates. This is the first time any school in the country has won both Edexcel awards in the same year. Well done to Olivia and Martha for all their hard work!

Mission Discovery – Abi Colley L6I and Sarah Prescott L6S

On Tuesday 19th March, eight lucky TWGGGS girls in Lower Sixth got the opportunity to participate in ‘Mission Discovery’ at Tonbridge School. Mission Discovery is a programme run by the International Space School Educational Trust (ISSET), where students compete to design an experiment to benefit humanity alongside NASA astronauts and scientists, and the winning team gets to carry out their experiment on-board the International Space Station. The week began with introductions to our hosts: Chris

Barber, Founder of ISSET, Dr Julie Keeble, Chief Scientist of ISSET, and volunteer PHD students from King's College London. Helping run the programme were NASA astronauts Dr Michael Foale (a British born astrophysicist, who has flown on 6 space missions aboard both the Mir and ISS) and Dr Steve Swanson (an American engineer with over 4,700 hours in space and 4 spacewalks).

The first and maybe hardest task for us was to design our team patch and decide on our team name. Afterwards we got to hear talks from the astronauts about their career path and what they learnt at NASA and on their missions. Fuelled with passion for science and new-found career desire to become an astronaut, it was now time to design our experiment. The brief was to design an experiment to be carried out on the ISS under the effects of microgravity that would be durable, small, simple and have many benefits. As 'The Argonauts', we brainstormed a long list of possible ideas, covering many aspects of science, before deciding on our experiment: an investigation into whether yeast can reproduce sexually in microgravity.

We were amazed that TWGGS girls were in 3 of the 6 teams (out of 24 altogether) that got through to the final. The final started at 6 o'clock on the Friday and all of us had arrived at least an hour early to do some run-throughs and to try and get rid of any last minute nerves. We had a nervous half an hour wait while a Q and A session went on with the families, who had come to support us, and the astronauts. We watched in awe as the other teams presented their complex ideas and were grilled by the judges. As the call came for the winner and our team's name was read out, we were in utter shock as our competition seemed really impressive. We are extremely thankful to Tonbridge School and Mr Mahon for letting us experience this brilliant opportunity and are very excited to go through the two year process of working with King's College London and NASA which will culminate in our experiment being launched from Orlando, Florida on a Space X rocket.

'The Legal Apprentice' competition – Mrs Wybar

A TWGGS team of Ruby O'Sullivan, Evie Omer and Isobel Porter is one of four teams to reach the final of the inaugural 'The Legal Apprentice' competition. Launched last September by law firm Kingsley Napley LLP in partnership with The Times, the competition saw 902 teams from 308 schools across the UK compete against each other through a series of heats testing pupils' drafting, negotiation and interpersonal skills. Six TWGGS teams competed, facilitated by Mrs Field, one of which has reached the final to be held at News UK (headquarters of The Times) on 19th June. Students in the winning team will each receive £500 and will be interviewed by Kingsley Napley for the ultimate prize of winning a coveted paid-for apprenticeship at the firm following completion of their A Levels. The winning team's school will also receive £5000 to put towards any technical advancement of their choice. The second runner-up will receive a paid-for internship at Kingsley Napley and the remaining pupil from the winning team will receive one week's work experience at the firm. In preparation for the final, pupils will attend a one-day masterclass hosted by the firm to hone their legal and debating skills. We wish Ruby, Evie and Isobel lots of luck and are very proud of their achievement!

Cadet Cambrian Patrol Competition 2019 – S/Sgt M Rigby (newly promoted)

Over the weekend of 26-28th of April, a team of eight cadets competed in the national Cadet Cambrian Patrol. We had been preparing for this annual competition since the beginning of September, with early morning fitness sessions and lunchtime fieldcraft revision, as it is the most prestigious infantry competition in the country. The competition began immediately after we arrived at 7pm with a marked kit inspection. Orders were issued and SSM Trebino had to plan our route with our scout, Sgt Gardiner. After we were briefed on what to do, it was straight to sleep, ear plugs and eye masks in place, to ensure we got as much rest as possible despite the raging storm beginning to blow in, 'Storm Hannah'. It made for a restless night.

We rose at 4am to start getting ready: dressing, eating, packing, camouflaging, reviewing our brief and last minute revision of skills. By 6:15 am we were kneeling in a howling gale - ready at our start point. We had to get around a 33 km circuit of challenging terrain in under 12 hours. All the teams (who start from different locations) had to stop at checkpoints to complete marked tasks. We did not know when these tasks would be required of us and we had to patrol throughout, avoiding roads and known tracks. At 6:30am, we began by crawling through the freezing mud and rain into a position where we had to complete our first stand. With that finished, we started the long walk, already soaking wet and cold. The gusts were so strong, it blew over some of our smaller cadets! Despite this, our team moved quickly, so early on we managed to overtake a couple of teams who were really struggling with the conditions. We were making good time even though we were held up twice waiting, nearly two hours altogether, for other teams to finish a stand.

With three hours remaining we had one more checkpoint to reach before we would return to our start point - meaning completion of the circuit. However, these two final legs happened to be the longest and steepest of the route, with precarious river crossings along the way. By this point, we were all tired, very cold and in pain with an impressive collection of blisters and bruises between us but we kept our morale sky high. At some points along the final stretch, we seemed to be making no progress at all because we had to stop every few metres to try and scramble up almost vertical sections of gravel and mud. Eventually, as we got to the top of our last hill, we spotted the TWGGS minibus in the distance, where our officers were waiting nervously for us to finish on time and without injuries. It was the final boost we needed. The whole team completed the circuit together – in good spirits - with 45

minutes to spare. We then went back to the concrete floor of an abandoned old cattle barn, where we had slept the night before, for a well-earned ration pack meal and sleep. This was a deviation from the original plan where we were supposed to sleep in a woodblock but the wind had blown over trees and the portaloos and with no respite certain, it was considered too unsafe for us to sleep out.

Early the next morning we woke up and walked another final three kilometres to the firing ranges. Despite being sore from the day before, we completed the final scored element: a shoot of 15 rounds of ammunition fired from sitting, kneeling and the prone position. After cleaning our faces, boots, and weapons, teams of cadets from all over the UK, lined up for the parade. Each team was given an award: Certificate, Bronze, Silver or Gold. When it was announced that our team had won Gold, we were unbelievably proud of all we had done that weekend, as well as the countless hours of preparation we had spent leading up to that moment. Next, the Brigadier announced the Best Commander and the overall Best National Team. Already very pleased with our gold medal, we were overjoyed when they announced we had won Best National Team for the second year in a row. It was amazing and I was so delighted to represent our CCF in this most demanding competition.

160 Brigade (Wales) Regiment organisers were so impressed by the team, they have invited us to send two teams next year! Lots of people have congratulated us (@twggsCCF, currently more than 15,000 views, likes or re-tweets) and we were awarded our medals and trophy at a whole school assembly. We are also going to feature in an upcoming magazine which is very exciting. The 2019 winning team were: SSM Elena Trebino (Platoon Commander) U6G, RSM Amira Carew (2IC) U6T, Sgt Tabitha Gardiner L6G, Sgt Tabitha Preston L6I, Sgt Martha Rigby L6W, Cpl Rachel McGee 11W, Cdt Freya Ridge 10T, Cdt Ella Lance 10G.

Cambrian Patrol Competition - Gordon Bubb, Civilian Instructor with the TWGGS CCF

This is an annual competition for cadet forces from all over Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Teams are made up of eight cadets and must complete an arduous course within twelve hours: rising at 4am to prep for the day and finishing by 6.30pm. This is a military patrol competition so the teams are carrying full equipment and weapons, webbing, water and daysacks, about 20 kilos of weight. They are expected to operate as if on an active patrol. The event takes place in the Brecon Beacons area so the 25 kilometres is far closer to 30+ kilometres actually walked over very difficult ground. They wear trackers and must avoid roads and known pathways. During the course of the day a number of stands have to be found and various military skills are tested. This year teams had to complete a Defensive Shoot with lasers, a First Aid stand, Observation on top of a hill to find various objects and a Fire and Manoeuvre exercise. Within the cadet world this is seen as the most prestigious national fieldcraft skills event in the country. It is keenly contested by regional based finalists of the highest calibre. The most praiseworthy comment came from this year's visiting Brigadier who is in charge of the Welsh Infantry Battalion. He was watching one team move across the ground and asked his staff what other regular Army units were on site over the weekend - only to be told they were cadets. In fact, the unit the Brigadier was so impressed with, was of course the TWGGS CCF patrol team.

This year we had to contend with Storm Hannah on the Saturday. It was unbelievably cold (with wind chill it felt like -4C), with driving sleet, rain and hail at times. The wind was so ferocious, we had difficulty opening the side door of the minibus as it was buffeted in the gale. The cadets knew they had to maintain pace and momentum despite the savage conditions. The TWGGS team also impressed the directing staff who at one point were just over the brow of a hill. Various teams came over to that particular stand looking gloomy in the horrendous conditions. This happened for everyone except for TWGGS team who, "All had big, cheesy grins on their faces." That is a tribute to the morale of the whole team. They worked for each other to keep ahead of schedule. The second day of the event is a few kilometres across the ground followed by live firing on the ranges, then back to camp for weapon cleaning, a cooked brunch and prize giving. This year we were delighted to echo our success of last year and be awarded one of the few gold awards. We were then even more delighted to again be awarded the Best National Patrol statue, an exceptional performance by our team and an indication of how much effort the girls put into preparing themselves for the event over the past year. It also reflects on the Standards and Values the girls learn from both the school and the CCF unit.

Kent Schools' Ski Championships – Lindsay Ayton

On Sunday 12th May the TWGGS Ski Team took part in the Kent Schools' Ski Championships 2019 at Chatham Ski Centre. The team have been training since December and skied fantastically on the day, with two timed slalom runs in the morning and a dual slalom team race in the afternoon.

Evie Ayton 11I was 2nd overall in the Secondary Senior Females and Lila Ayton 7G was 2nd in the Secondary Junior Females.

TWGGS 1 placed 1st in the Female Secondary Senior Team and 1st Female Secondary Overall - Evie Ayton, Rebecca Forte 11S, Sophie Green 8I and Kathryn Lewey 8I.

TWGGS 2 placed 1st in the Female Secondary Junior Team - Lila Ayton, Katy Bentham 7G, Harriet Dunkin 8T and Millie James 8W.

TWGGS 3 placed 3rd in the Female Secondary Junior Team - Isobel Aves 8W, Tallulah Coakley 7S, Amelie Lagden 7S and Maisie Lagden 7S.

Amelie Lagden was a member of the 1st placed secondary fun team, Maisie Lagden was a member of the 2nd placed

secondary fun team and Katy Bentham was a member of the 3rd placed secondary fun team. Maisie Lagden was also lucky in the prize draw winning a new ski helmet. Training will start again shortly for the next race and new members are welcome: no race experience is necessary; girls need to be able to safely ski a blue run with controlled turns; please contact lindsay.i.ayton@icloud.com

Thank you Mr Curcher- Sports Day Medal Sponsorship - PE Department

The PE Department would like to thank Mr Curcher for all his help and support in the PE Department and with athletics this year. We are extremely grateful for his sponsorship of Sports Day 2019 through athletics medals for Gold, Silver and Bronze positions this year.

Sailing Success for Ella Lance 10G – Mrs Wybar

After a week of tough sailing at the Youth Nationals held at the National Sailing Academy in Weymouth over the Easter holidays, Ella Lance and her crew Oliver Meadowcroft (RGS High Wycombe) were the fourth junior (under 17) 420 boat and first mixed gender boat and have been selected to represent GB at the 420 World Championships in Portugal in July. Well done Ella!

Sailing Success for Jess Marden 10I – Mrs Wybar

Congratulations to Jess Marden who competed recently in The Ball Cup Regatta at Eton Dorney lake. She won a bronze medal in the singles final, a silver in the double and also got to the quad final (with Abi Carney 10G) for an incredibly close race. These 6 races all took place the day after her 3 day silver Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition. Well done to both Jess and Abi!

Duke of Edinburgh Silver Practice Expedition by Group H - Christabel Balcomb Nevill 10T, Chloe Barton 10T, Beth Semmens 10T, Maya Kerr-Davis 10I, Freya Cameron 10I, Izzy Beal 10I and Charlotte Hurst 10I (*written in situ*)

This weekend we are completing our Silver Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition in and around Tunbridge Wells. Although it has been tough, we have all made it through, singing many terrible renditions of 'Bohemian Rhapsody' along the way. Our group of seven includes girls from various forms and the experience has taught us how to work with people we weren't close to previously. On day one, we set off optimistic and excited but the rain soon showed us how difficult this was going to be! We all laughed as we piled on our waterproofs and ate an emergency chocolate bar! Cooking in the rain was an interesting experience; pesto has never been quite so runny before! After a tough night's sleep where we were constantly sliding down in our tents (which we set up on a hill!), we set off on another 14 km walk. Thankfully, the sky was blue and our wet clothes dried quickly in the sun! We avoided getting lost and began to improve our time-keeping skills, arriving at each checkpoint on time! After brief encounters with alpacas, bulls, and sheep we arrived back at the campsite and enjoyed the sunny evening, chilling and playing games. At the moment we are trying and failing to cook 'Uncle Ben's' rice and are looking forward to the final hurdle that tomorrow brings. We plan to get up early and get going while the sun still shines, motivated by the sense of accomplishment we know we will feel!

Psychology Conference 2019 – Caroline Gibson L6T and Antonia Stewart L6T

On 27th March 2019, girls from U6 and L6 attended the annual psychology conference, with 5 fascinating talks in total, covering different topics from the case study of Jack the Ripper, to rethinking the explanations about undoubtedly psychology's most famous experiments by Milgram and Zimbardo. Starting off the day was Phil Banyard, who spoke about 'the blooming, buzzing confusion'. He began with the 'blooming' confusion, going back to when we were born and explaining the first sight of confusion a baby sees with different colours and how we make sense of this. He then moved on to the 'buzzing' aspect of his talk, with the incomprehensibility of sound waves and untangling them to make the words we hear on a regular basis. Banyard's talk was fascinating, as it explained aspects of our life that occur every day yet are almost unnoticeable to us. It put these processes into a context that made us realise the sheer complexity of the human mind and how we make sense of this confusing world around us.

The psychology of revision, by Cara Flanagan, showed us that 'doing' something when revising results in better memory, instead of just reading and trying to memorise. This led to her theory of recognition and recall, and the importance of ensuring you can *recall* information rather than recognise it, as a test rarely provides sufficient cues in order for recognition revision to be adequate. This talk came at the perfect time for U6 having their A Levels soon and L6 sitting mocks in June, so allowing us to learn tips for revision from the best.

A talk from Alex Haslam and Steve Reicher on 'Why good people do bad things' told us to question everything and consider whether the evidence supports the conclusions. We were encouraged to look at leadership which promotes cause and understanding and determine what is the basis for the participant's behaviour. For example, Himmer tried to persuade people that it was glory to go to Auschwitz; people act inhumanly because they believe what they're doing is good, and 'for the greater good.' This was both chilling and fascinating. Finishing the day off was the renowned psychologist Elizabeth Loftus, who gave us an insight into her work regarding memory in eyewitness testimony. To hear these different psychologists talk about their viewpoints on varied themes allowed us to fully understand what they thought to be the reasons why humans do what they do, as they had the opportunity to explain their theories in more depth than we were previously aware of.

Careers Talk – Architecture – Mrs Bence

We were delighted that Zara Bloomfield, a qualified architect, was keen to return to TWGGS after 15 years to share her knowledge and experience of working as an architect. She brought in a range of architectural models and prepared a slide show outlining her route into architecture. She graduated from Sheffield and Westminster Universities with honours and distinction, and is now a chartered architect. Having set up her own company, she is currently working on a range of projects from house extensions to commercial projects, including a climbing wall centre. You can find more information at www.studiobloom.co.uk.

It was great to hear that Zara is still passionate about her choice of career; some of her peers moved on to different careers after completing the first three years and used their architecture degree in a variety of different roles. She discussed the use of computer aided design and highlighted how she generates designs with Google SketchUp to create three dimensional images. Zara has fond memories of TWGGS and was keen to pass on career guidance to the current students. We are also very grateful to Mrs Vallely for setting up the careers talk and helping the DT department celebrate the success of a TWGGS student.

Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Sovereign's Parade - Cadet Daisy Outram 10S

On Thursday 11th April, seventeen cadets of our contingent went to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst for the Sovereign's Parade. Upon arrival we were shown around with a very knowledgeable tour guide who told us about Churchill's experience there, the grounds, their history and the officer courses available. I particularly enjoyed seeing the beauty of the old college and hearing about a painting of Waterloo that we saw inside. We visited the chapel and once we had eaten, we headed back to where we were staying – the 'Best Concrete Building of 1970' from the Concrete Society awards! As a group, we had a great evening playing games recapping what we had learnt and preparing our kit for the next day. In the morning we marched our way to breakfast, then got into our full uniform for the parade. To support the event we handed out the programmes to guests, helping out when asked questions. Four of us were chosen to give them out to some of the most senior uniformed officers attending which really gave us pride in our group, as they pointed out our Royal Engineers cap badge. General Mark A. Milley, Chief of Staff of the US Army, was there so we saluted him. We then watched the passing out parade of the officer cadets and heard the general's speech about why we serve. Their drill was highly impressive and to finish, we were commended by the staff there on our work and attitudes. It was a great opportunity for all of us to see the military experience.

Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, Sovereign's Parade – Mrs L Grant

We had the incredible honour of accompanying 17 Year 10 and Year 11 cadets to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) to hand out programmes at the April passing out parade of the Officer graduates. It is the first time the cadets have come entirely from one school and also the first to parade in Barrack Dress. The TWGGS contingent, marching smartly everywhere, were the subject of much interest from all those on campus. The contingent looked and behaved impeccably under the guidance of Cpl McGee and Cpl King. On the day of the ceremony the parade square was bedecked with flags from the 15 nations of graduating officer cadets, a stunning sight. The building itself was constructed during the reign of George III and was also suitably impressive for such a special occasion. The TWGGS cadets stood at intervals by the stands handing out programmes and just being polite, engaging and enthusiastic helpers on the day.

The ceremony itself was the British Army at its absolute best: wonderful music, an incredible spectacle with precision marching and wheeling, and a horse walking up steps into a college! However, the most human element was watching those young officers meet up with their parents afterwards. Who could not be moved by those emotional greetings, knowing the sacrifices and hard times they had been through to make it to that moment? For the TWGGS contingent the highlight came before the ceremony began. The cadets had been spilt into two groups across the Parade Square and were given a ten minute warning before the start of the ceremony. The Square was empty apart from our two sections of cadets and the stands were full of a vast array of dignitaries, Brigadiers, Generals and a number of very high ranking overseas military personnel, along with all of the parents and families of the graduates. Cpl McGee marched the first section of cadets up to the second section, halted them perfectly, turned the second section to face the same way and then marched the whole group to our position in the stands. My heart was in my mouth as I worried about them making a tiny mistake in front of such a huge crowd who were totally focused on them but there was no need as it was executed flawlessly. It was the first image of army drill the visitors watched and it was suitably impressive. Overall, it was a wonderful experience; I suspect we will be invited back to repeat this duty, which is a great privilege for the contingent. While we were standing round at the end, waiting for the debrief, a Brigadier came up to us and addressed the cadets to say how incredibly impressed he was with them. I think we all felt exactly the same!

Those in attendance were: Cpl Rachel McGee (IC) 11W, Cpl Tamara King (2IC) 11W, LCpl Emily Naismith 11T, LCpl Lauren Grant 11T, LCpl Amy Johnson 11I, LCpl Mia Scarborough 11T, Cdt Charlotte Hurst 10I, Cdt Daisy Outram 10S, Cdt Freya Ridge 10T, Cdt Amalie Abdali 10T, Cdt Jessica Yuen 10T, Cdt Kate de Putter 10G, Cdt Isabella Gibson-Smith 10S, Cdt Daisy Reader 10S, Cdt Martha Jones 10T, Cdt Isabel Barber 10T, Cdt Lydia Dunkin 10T. Captain Ian Patterson, 2Lt Yvonne Trebino and Civilian Instructor Mrs Lisa Grant

The Senior Cadet Instructor's Course (SCIC) – Sgt Hannah Turvey L6T

For the first time, the SCIC week long course, run by 11 Infantry Brigade (SE), invited CCF, as well as ACF, cadets to complete their training camp at St Martin's Plain in Folkestone. The aim was to teach senior cadets about the values of leadership, through testing in both a classroom and field environment, and to evaluate our effectiveness as leaders for younger cadets. Along with Sgt Tabitha Preston L6I and Sgt Sarah Prescott L6S, we went on this course during the first week of the Easter holidays, hoping to learn enough about leadership not only to improve our own skills but also our teaching style. The contrast between the assessments of our teaching in classrooms and of our leadership during a 48 hour fieldcraft exercise fully pushed us to perform to our highest possible standard. Both sets of assessments proved challenging in their own way. For each of the four classroom lessons taught, we had to plan and rehearse our lesson for a certain subject (skill at arms, fieldcraft, navigation and drill) the night before we were assessed. Understandably, this became fairly draining after a while but with the help and encouragement from the instructors and fellow cadets on camps, we were able to manage it. The fieldcraft exercise was also challenging, not only due to the length of time we were out in the field but because we had commanding roles in the field. One of these responsibilities was to plan routes, continuously report back to instructors about the current situation and to ensure your section (or the entire platoon) was following orders and was well equipped at all times. It was quite easy to become overwhelmed by all of the pressure of these roles. However, thanks again to the support we got from each other and our peers and the instructors, I believe we were all able to succeed in this part of the course as well. By the end of the week, we had all passed our course with great results, a new understanding about the importance of leadership, and we had made some great friends. A special mention goes to Sgt Preston who was awarded 'Best Cadet' of the course. We would all highly recommend this course: the leadership skills we learnt from the instructors and the chance to practise these skills will be extremely useful for the future, in any career.

Junior Leadership Report – RN Cdt. Saskia Hobbs 10T

From the 10th -12th May, I completed my first course with the Royal Navy section - the Junior Leadership Course. On the Friday, Sub-Lt Shrubsole and I set off for HMS Collingwood, a navy land base in Fareham, near Portsmouth. We had a briefing on what to expect from the course, then formed up as a squad and one of the other cadets volunteered to march us over to dinner. The food wasn't all that bad, quite surprisingly. My bubble was subsequently burst when the cadet who'd led us earlier came over and announced to me that I would be the one to march everyone back. I was very nervous as I had never called drill before, but it went fine and we got back in relatively good shape. Pipe down was at 22.00 hours, after ironing uniform and rerolling sleeves.

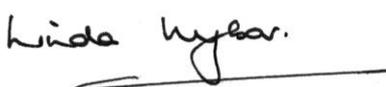
In the morning, call the hands was at 0600. After breakfast we donned overalls and headed off in three teams to complete practical leadership tasks, or PLTs. For each of the tasks a leader volunteered, as well as a 2IC and a timekeeper. The PLTs were completed with a view to creating our own PLT for the following day. These were both fun to complete and great for developing the skills necessary to lead your team through them. Once we had completed the PLTs, we headed for the obstacle course. After a walk through each obstacle as we made our way to the start, we took off running. Each obstacle was completed at speed, including a rope net climb, swings over water pits and balance beams. It was the same course completed by real RN recruits when they join. The hardest obstacle for me was crawling through a small pipe, because I hate confined spaces, but with the help of the other cadets I made it through. After the obstacle course, we went off site to go orienteering, and once we were back we all did snap talks. These encompassed a table full of cards with varying subjects, and one minute in which to talk about this subject. It was really fun and I think everyone became more comfortable with public speaking. Because people were talking over each other, half an hour of precious sleep time was withdrawn from us. Luckily for everyone, a cadet suggested we do more talks and if we made the officers laugh, we got more time in bed. It was extremely funny, but most importantly we won back our sleep time.

On the Sunday morning, we delivered our PLTs to the other teams. This time, we really focused on the plan and the debrief, and communicating more clearly. All the PLTs were really creative and fun. Afterwards, we packed our stuff and went to find out who passed the course. Everyone did, so that was great. Overall it was an amazing weekend and I really feel more confident in my ability to lead a team and in myself.

Half Term Study in the Library – Ms Sanderson

If any pupils studying for exams wish to come in to school to study during the half term, they must go to the library, which shall be open from 8:30am-4pm daily, excluding Bank Holiday Monday. They must sign in and out at Reception, so that we are aware of who is on site.

With best wishes,



Mrs L Wybar, Headteacher