

Dear Parent/Guardian

We have been delighted to welcome to TWGGS a number of new staff this September. Mrs Salci joins as Teacher in Charge of French, Mrs Smith to teach Psychology and Sociology, Miss Kirkby joins the PE Department, Miss Olivelli to teach Chemistry and Biology, Mrs Thomas joins the Maths Department, Mrs Doyle is teaching German (part-time) and Mr Lawrence joins as Teacher in Charge of Design Technology this year. Mrs Callaway is covering Mrs Thomas' maternity leave in Food Technology, Mrs Twaites Dr Boone's in Science, and Mrs Lee-Grey doing likewise for Mrs Davis in Drama and English. Having trained at TWGGS last year, Miss Jacquin and Dr Taylor now join the MFL and Science Departments respectively, whilst Dr Wilsher and Miss Wright are now embarking on their teacher training in Biology and Chemistry. We also have new members of the support staff team: Mrs Burleigh as Cover Supervisor/ KS3 Admin Support, Mrs Haycock as Admin Support/ Admissions and Miss van Schreven as DT/ Art Technician. We wish all our new staff much happiness and success at TWGGS.

In addition, after the half-term break Mrs Gaskin joins the administrative team, Mrs Moody arrives as Assessment and Examinations Support, and Mrs Rogers joins the school as Pastoral Support. This latter new role has been created in response to feedback in our parent and pupil survey last year, which indicated a desire for increased pastoral support for pupils. Mrs Rogers will, therefore, work alongside Mrs Barclay enabling increased access to this invaluable support, drop-in sessions and a more pro-active approach working with pupils through tutor sessions and PSHE where appropriate. We are delighted to be able to extend this provision.

Exam results 2019 – Mrs Wybar

TWGGS girls and staff achieved impressive examination results this summer, with 77% of all A Level entries at grades A*, A and B (44% at A* and A grades) and a mean grade of B+, enabling U6th leavers to go on to highly competitive courses at top universities, as well as art foundation courses and employment with training attached. 8 pupils achieved 3 A* grades, 35 achieved 3 A grades or higher, and an amazing 54 achieved one A* grade. We look forward to celebrating these results with them and their parents at Speech Day in December, and to hearing of their first terms at university. At GCSE, the 9-4 pass rate was 99.2% across 1581 entries, and the mean points score was 7.19 (where a grade 7 is the equivalent of an A), with 70.9% of entries attaining grades 7-9 or A* - A. Detailed results, by subject, are as usual available on the school website. Congratulations to all!

TWGGS' Progress 8 score in 2019 is 0.97 (having been 0.93 last year), representing almost a complete grade above expected performance across 8 subjects, attained across the whole cohort. This is an exceptional achievement for girls and their teachers, one of which we are justly proud. *(For those interested, Progress 8 gives an indication of whether pupils in a school made above or below average progress from KS2 to GCSE compared to similar pupils in other schools. For all mainstream pupils nationally, the average Progress 8 score will be zero; a score of 1 reflects a complete grade's progress across all eight subjects above the national average for pupils of similar ability: the greater the Progress 8 score, the greater the progress made in comparison to the national average of pupils with similar prior attainment. The score reflects the progress made across 8 subjects, with English and Maths counting double, and there being a requirement to include at least three further "English Baccalaureate" subjects (which are languages, sciences, History and Geography) in the eight subjects counted.)*

Survey Feedback – Mrs Wybar

As well as the new pastoral support role mentioned above, we continue to make progress with aspects highlighted by pupils, parents and staff. The change to homework policy has been very well-received by pupils and parents, with very positive comments from Year 7 parents about the principle of not setting homework for Year 7 in September, allowing pupils to settle into secondary school first. Furthermore, for all pupils, there will be no "holiday homework" other than the usual homework set on the last day of term, or revision tasks for public examination year groups, of course; tests/ assessments should not be scheduled for the days immediately following holidays for other years.

School trips and opportunities outside the classroom is another area which is being developed, with some new activities planned for this year, for example, Year 9 will go to the World War One battlefields in March, and this will become an annual trip for Year 9, as will the visit planned for Year 7 in June to Harry Potter World. There are other trips arranged, which will be communicated to the relevant year groups in the coming weeks. Mr Smith has also

worked with pupils to establish a number of new pupil-led societies, supported by staff and running at lunchtimes. Pupils have presented their proposals to the school in assemblies over the past week, and the early meetings have been very well-received.

There were comments from parents about a lack of resources in certain subject areas. Funding has been made available to address these issues, and pupils should now all have access to what they need. However, we would very much appreciate being told where any parents feel there is still an issue, as we feel this is essential.

Sports Hall – Mrs Wybar

I am delighted to let you know that building work has commenced on the new Sports Hall. We are still fundraising, as we are short of the target, but schools are permitted to borrow funds at a very low interest rate. The Campaign has been launched to new Year 7 parents and we hope that many will feel able to contribute to the funding of this exciting new facility; of course, we would also very much welcome any additional contributions from existing parents. It is hoped that the Sports Hall will be completed and available for use from September 2020, which is very exciting! This will allow us to offer GCSE PE for the first time, which was also an issue raised in the pupil/ parent questionnaires completed recently. Mrs Haskett, Curriculum Leader in PE, and Miss Kirkby are presently making plans for this to be offered to the present Year 9 onwards as a GCSE option.

School Website

The new TWGGS website was launched in August, and we have been pleased to receive a great deal of positive feedback. We are enormously grateful to Mrs George, who has led this project with fabulous results. It is still being extended and developed, with additional information and photographs being added, but please do let us know if you feel there is anything further we could usefully include.

Hockey Season – Shin Pads and Gum Guards – Mrs Ralph

Parents are reminded annually that whilst shin pads and gum guards are listed as optional items on the school uniform list, it is strongly recommended that girls taking part in hockey lessons wear both of these items. Please note however, that girls will continue to participate fully in hockey lessons if they are not wearing one or both of these. For girls who represent TWGGS in hockey matches, it is compulsory that both items are worn.

Pupils' Photographs on Social Media – Mrs Ralph

Parents are very welcome to take photographs at school events, e.g. sporting events, drama productions etc, however, if the photographs include pupils other than your daughter, please do not publish these on social media. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Duke of York Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award – Mr Chambers

This academic year, all pupils in Years 8 & 9 will be completing the Duke of York Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award. iDEA aspires to be the digital and enterprise equivalent of the Duke of Edinburgh Award, equipping pupils with computing related skills through a series of online modules (badges). Pupils will be working towards their Bronze Award for homework. Once this is complete, they will gain an industry recognised qualification, along with a certificate from Buckingham Palace.

iDEA's different learning categories (Citizen, Worker, Maker, Entrepreneur and Gamer) cover topics as diverse as cyber security, cloud computing and e-safety, animation, customer relationship management and web development. All the digital badges are short modules that can be completed using a web browser on any internet enabled device. To achieve the Bronze Award, pupils need to earn 250 points. They will then move onto the Silver Award. Pupils currently in Year 7 will be given the same opportunity next year. If there are any pupils in Years 10 to 13 who would also like take part this year, then please let me know and I will help them set up an account. For more information, please visit <https://idea.org.uk/>

Rowing gold for Biba Rabjohns – Mrs Wybar

Congratulations to Biba Rabjohns 10W who won a gold medal at the British Rowing Junior Championships held at the National Water Sports Centre in Nottingham in July. Biba took part in an omnium event which is a mix of skills, drills and a 500m race. Her success means that she is now the British champion for the WJ14 event.

Judo Achievements for Lily Harding – Mrs Wybar

Well done to Lily Harding 11I who was selected to represent England at the recent 2019 Commonwealth Judo Championships where she made it through to the semi-finals and finished in 5th place. A great result for such a high level tournament! Lily has also just finished her first of three years as a Cadet (U18) and is currently ranked 7th in GB. We wish Lily every success with her next two ranking events, the Welsh Open in November and the British Championships in December.

Heptathlon success for Freya Ridge – Mrs Wybar

Well done to Freya Ridge 11T who came second in the Kent U17 Heptathlon Championships and was asked to represent Kent Schools at the English Schools Combined Events Championships in Exeter where her team won gold.

Racing success for Harriet Sacker – Mrs Wybar

Congratulations to Harriet Sacker 10S who, following a successful campaign during the summer, culminating with her successful race at the events in Plymouth last month, has been offered a place in the RYA Topper Junior Squad.

Sailing success for Ella Lance – Mrs Wybar

Well done to Ella Lance 11G who, over the past few months, has competed in the 420 World Championships in Vilamoura in Portugal, the 420 Junior European Championships in Galicia in Spain, the British 420 Nationals, the 470 Nationals at Weymouth, the British Autumn Championship at Rutland and, most recently, the British Winter Championship. Ella has also just been selected for the prestigious under 19 RYA/British Sailing Team Youth Squad. Congratulations Ella!

TWGGGS Ski Team - English Schools' Ski Association ESSKIA Race – Mrs Ayton

On Sunday 15th October the TWGGGS Ski Team travelled to Chatham ski centre to take part in the ESSKIA race which consisted of two long slalom timed runs on a challenging 200m course. All have been training hard for the race and skied fantastically in very hot weather. TWGGGS U19's (Evie Ayton L6I, Alice Banks 11I, Rebecca Forte L6S and Millie James 9W) second run saw them take 2nd position, with Evie Ayton taking overall 1st in the U19 and fastest girl skier of the day, and Rebecca's second run placing her 9th overall on the day. TWGGGS U16 (Isobel Aves 9I, Lydia Dunkin 11I, Alice Lewey 11W, Kathryn Lewey 9S) put in solid second runs with improved times. TWGGGS U14A (Lila Ayton 8G, Katy Bentham 8G and Ella Stevenson 7W) placed 5th, with Lila Ayton taking overall 1st in the U14 and fastest girl skier on stubby gates, Katy improved on her second run and Ella being our newest member of the team performed fantastically on the day. TWGGGS U14B (Maisie Lagden 8S, Amelie Lagden 8S and Emma Soga 8S) obtained personal bests on the day.

TWGGGS Ski Team Dry Slope Season 2019 – Mrs Ayton

The 2019 dry slope ski racing season has been completed with Evie Ayton L6I winning 1st U18 in both the London and SE league and the Southern league and gaining the overall fastest female 2019 award in both leagues. Rebecca Forte L6S gained 2nd U18 in both the London and SE league and the Southern League and Lila Ayton 8G gained 2nd U14 in both leagues and 4th fastest female overall. Evie, Rebecca, Lila and Alice Banks 11I all represent Bromley Ski Race Squad and train at Chatham Ski Centre - Bromley Ski Race Squad won best performing club 2019 in the London and SE League and were 2nd in the Southern League.

TWGGGS Ski Team is looking to recruit new members and will be holding training sessions at Bowles in the next few months. No race experience is required; girls just need to be able to safely ski a blue run. Please contact Lindsay Ayton for more information lindsay.j.ayton@icloud.com

Hockey Results 2019 – Miss Parkinson

It has been a busy term with hockey matches and county tournaments. Thank you to all the players who have shown great commitment to clubs and teams.

U18X1 Kent tournament

TWGGGS U18s had a fantastic tournament this year. In their group it was a very tough competition and they should be proud of their 1-1 draw against Sevenoaks, with a great touch from Ana Miller-Amado for the goal. Excellent work rate and team work resulted in a 4-0 win against Colfes with great goals from Tati Sneddon (2); Rosie Peacock and Anna Harris. Two very tough games against Bromley High and St Edmunds resulted in 0-0 draws but this was enough to take TWGGGS through to the semi-final. This was a very competitive game against Cranbrook which could have gone either way, but Cranbrook sneaked a goal from a well worked move. The team should be very proud of their performances and coming third in Kent.

The team went on to represent Kent at the East of England regional finals in Ipswich. This involved an overnight stay which was great for team cohesion. TWGGS were up early and faced Bancroft's first. This was a really tough game against some exceptional players and the team rose to the challenge and secured a fine 0-0 draw. Against Culford, Jas Lewtas scored the all-important goal after an excellent team passing move. TWGGS hearts were broken when Culford scored from a short corner to make the score 1-1. Sadly it was a goal that should not have been allowed, but the team took it well and sportingly rallied on. In their final group game against Royal Masonic, again the team battled incredibly well and played some of the best hockey they have ever played as a team. The score was 0-0 after close chances at both ends. Fine defensive work and good saves from goalkeeper Rosie Crotty kept TWGGS in it. TWGGS were so close to the top 4 play offs, missing out very narrowly. They lost their final game to Coopers Coburn. TWGGS should be so proud of their performances against some of the top private schools in the East. Every player gave their absolute all for the team: GK Rosie Crotty U6I, Flo Byers U6T, Tati Sneddon U6I, Lauryn Thomas U6I, Rosie Peacock U6G, Eleanor Godfrey U6T, Ana Miller-Amado U6G, Molly Sinclair U6T, Jas Lewtas U6T, Sarah Barnaby U6T, Ant Stewart U6T, Lottie Van der Zanden U6T, Maria Walker U6T, Anna Harris L6S, Emma Robson L6S.

U16X1 Kent Tournament

The U16 team played extremely well together as a team, showing great focus, determination and commitment. They had a very difficult group and managed to beat Cranbrook 1-0 and draw against St Edmunds and Kings. Just needing to draw their final game against Langley Park would have seen them in the quarter finals but sadly they lost in a very close encounter. The squad have been so committed to training and they have improved so much because of this; they should be really pleased with their progress. Well played to everyone: GK Emily Pickles 11W, Grace Wright 11T, Hari Sacker 11S, Gemma Preston 10S, Anabella Curcher 10S, Tilly Boorman 11W, Issy Shaw 11W, Katie Lloyd 11W, Sophie Crouzet 11W, Mattie Robinson 11I, Issy Collison 11W, Issy Fletcher 11S, Freya Cameron 11I, Isy Giles 10G, Rose Lietke 11W, Charlotte Hurst 11I.

U14X1 Kent tournament

The U14 squad had a tough 0-0 draw against Colfes; two fine goals from Isabella James and Daisy Bayer secured victory against Bromley High, and then the team suffered a 3-0 loss to an outstanding Sevenoaks team. TWGGS progressed to the quarter finals as second in the group and lost narrowly to Weald who went on to the final. The team learned a great deal and all played with great spirit and commitment. Goalkeeper Bea Rowbottom was player of the tournament. Well played to all: Daisy Bayer 9W, Maddie Kilgarriff 9W, Isabella James 9T, Millie Bateman 9G, Maddie Malone 9G, Isy Rayner 9I, Isabelle James 9G, Abi Naismith 9G, Jess Rayner 9G, Sienna Greenwood 9I, Orla Leech 9G, Saarah Kamali 9S, Amelia James 9W, Emily Marriage 9S, Bea Rowbottom 9S.

U13 Kent Tournament

This was the first competitive tournament for the U13 team in the county 7s competition. They gave their all and had a good win against Bromley High with a well taken goal from Erin Lawley. A 0-0 draw against Sir Roger Manwood and a defeat against an excellent Sevenoaks team meant that TWGGS had to beat Ashford to progress to the quarter finals. This they did with another goal from Erin Lawley after a fine passing move. TWGGS played local rivals Kent College in a very closely contested match, but just lost 1-0. Goalkeeper Freja Holder made some outstanding saves, and the team all worked extremely hard and should be proud of their performances. Freja Holder 8I GK, Shaniyah Sood 8I, Maddie George 8W, Freya Jones 8I, Caitlin Bowler 8I, Harriet George 8I, Megan Houghton 8I, Annabel Moore 8S, Emilia Belfield 8S, Erin Lawley 8W, Yasmin Sussams 8S.

Relay gold for Eliz O'Donnell – Miss Parkinson

Congratulations to Eliz O'Donnell 11G who recently won gold in the 200m and 300m relay with her KCAA team at Medway Park, breaking a 5 year club record.

Millie Lewis – Kent Track & Field Championships – Mrs Haskett

A huge congratulations to Millie Lewis 8I who came first in shot putt at the Kent U13 Track and Field Championships.

Year 8 visits to Hampton Court - Miss Sowerby

In September the History Department took Year 8 to Hampton Court Palace. The pupils have been studying the Tudors in lessons and were impressed by the size of the palace and the splendour of the Tudor royal apartments including the Great Hall, the Great Watching Chamber and the Chapel Royal. In each area they were encouraged to

look at specific details such as the royal and Tudor symbols, the chimneys, the King's beasts and the magnificent hammer beam roof in the Great Hall. They were asked to draw inferences and think about how the Tudors used bricks and mortar, architecture and art as instruments of power and control. As usual the pupils filled their questionnaires carefully and conscientiously, although I am not sure Henry VIII would have been impressed with some of their drawings of his chimneys and brickwork!

Performing Arts Trophy for Shreya Lallu L6W – Mrs Wybar

Congratulations to Shreya who performed in the Italia Conti Tunbridge Wells Associates' Show at the Assembly Hall during the summer holidays and was chosen as their Student of the Year. Shreya was awarded The Italia Conti Trophy in recognition of her "fantastic work ethic" for her participation in their performers' course, which runs for nine hours every Saturday and consists of LAMDA, drama, modern, tap, jazz, ballet, musical theatre and singing.

Goethe-Institute Sponsorship for Alice Sanderson – Mrs Wybar

Congratulations to Alice Sanderson U6W who has been selected as one of only 20 pupils in the UK to be fully sponsored by the Goethe-Institute in London for a work experience placement in Schwäbisch Hall, Germany during October half term. We wish Alice all the best for this very exciting opportunity.

Design Museum Trip – Freya Wootton 10W, Lucy Miller 10S and Sophie Makinson 10G

On 18th September, we went to the Design Museum to look at the exhibition and do a workshop to help us with our upcoming Design Ventura project which is a competition where our design could be sold in the museum shop. The workshop was really helpful as we were inspired by the various designs around us. We learnt how to develop our ideas in a practical manner. This involved considering a target audience and their needs as well as using sustainable materials that would help the environment. We asked members of the public looking around the museum about their thoughts on the exhibit and what they thought would improve their visitor experience. This was interesting as most of the visitors there were tourists from foreign countries who didn't speak much English. In our opinion the exhibit was very interesting, in how they displayed items from old to new and how the use of colour was tactical. The architecture of the building was very eye catching as well as modern and made the use of space interesting.

CCF Trip to Norway - Corporal Lauren Grant L6T

This summer, I had the privilege of being one of nine cadets from around the UK to go to Norway for ten days of sea kayaking. Two plane journeys and a two and a half hour drive later, we arrived at the stunning Lofoten. Our chalet looked out on a beautiful fjord and idyllic red Norwegian houses. The first day, I came to the realisation that I am not an expert at kayaking; I am, however, great for morale. Before five minutes on the water had ended, I had capsized, lost my sunglasses and been rescued by a boy and his £380 paddle. The following morning, we got up eagerly to begin a 16km paddle through beautiful, blue, Caribbean-like water paired with the immense mountains- I could not think of anything I'd rather be doing. Wednesday saw the worst weather of the whole trip: I could not see past the path it was so foggy; a group decision was made to focus on paddling skills around the harbour. However, the wind changed dramatically; we were faced with painfully strong winds, hail, sleet and freezing rain. The dramatic change in weather meant we were paddling wind against tide which makes for extremely choppy conditions. Feeling like my arms were going to give way, I was determined to power through despite the pain. Over the crashing of the waves I could hear the instructor shouting at me to "keep paddling left," repeatedly - words I will hear in my nightmares. After what seemed like a century of gritting my teeth, we finally made it into the harbour. Those conditions were the most physically demanding of the whole trip, yet, I was so pleased that I did not give up and managed to keep up with the six-foot boys.

A two-day expedition of wild camping faced us on Thursday. The waves were so strong our instructor decided it was too risky to carry on with the set journey. A sudden change of route meant there was the added risk of not finding drinkable water for the whole three days - worrying! Our fears banished upon finding the perfect campsite: a fresh stream, flat ground but sadly, no heating which we were craving as it was raining so hard our dry change of clothes were soaked instantly. I took it upon myself to be head of morale: singing Disney songs, starring in a cookery show for our campsite pasta and organising games - a role I was later commended on. Our second day of expedition was jam packed with memories that I will never experience again. In the first fifteen minutes off our 26km journey, I watched a golden eagle land and fly - the first of many eagles we saw. A highlight of the whole trip was belting out musicals whilst paddling around picturesque beach spots as six Norwegian fighter jets flew over us. After a brief water fight with the other group for the best campsite (we won!), I successfully put up my first tent with poles and

fully immersed myself in the wild camping experience. Over the three days we paddled 48km- egg and chips for dinner at 'home' was definitely deserved!

Kayak surfing was the best way to spend your time- ever! Ignoring my skill or lack thereof, I went for the biggest waves each time. My reckless strategy caused my boat to cartwheel, stand vertically and capsize me eight times. Brilliant! Once the instructors negotiated with me to start using the actual technique instead of going for the most exciting waves, I was able to control my kayak and move around the waves swiftly. On the final, sad, day, a paddle around a nature reserve showed very little nature, however, a beach clean-up was run where we picked up a horrifying amount of plastic and a drifting volleyball. An extremely enjoyable game of kayak volleyball ensued - something I did not realise I would be so competitive at. Overall, kayaking in Lofoten was one of the best experiences of my life. I gained so much: perseverance, endurance, kayak rescue skills, almost an Eskimo roll and an incredible new group of friends. I urge those in CCF to sign up to as many CCAT courses as possible; from the two I have done, I have enough stories, as my school friends know, to fill a lifetime.

CCF Exercise Boudica Report - Lance Corporal Evie Pengelly L6I

On Friday 13th September, the TWGGS CCF set off on Exercise Boudica at Pippingford Park and were split into sections – Alpha, Bravo and Charlie; two cadets were given leadership roles within each section and I was lucky enough to be appointed the I.C. within my section. The aim of the camp was to teach junior cadets a variety of fieldcraft skills and provide them with valuable experience of cooking and sleeping in the field. During the course of the camp, we attended a variety of lessons, all of which were informative and interactive, including sessions on judging distances using the rule of thumb, navigation, signals, building A-frames and lean-to bashes, packing bergens and harbour drills. The highlight of the weekend for the majority of cadets including myself was the cam and concealment lesson, where we applied cam cream to our faces and used woodland items such as ferns and twigs to camouflage ourselves before playing a game of hide-and-seek – we blended in so well with the surroundings that the searchers had to give up! Following a busy day full of new experiences, we set up basha tents and each cooked a well-deserved ration pack meal before going to sleep, all ready for a challenging night sleeping surrounded by bugs.

In the morning, we got up at 6am, and despite not being thrilled by the early start, we all cooperated as a team, looked out for one another and kept the group morale high. On the final day of the exercise, the whole contingent took part in a section attack in which we practised occupying an area as if we were in a real-life military situation. A snap ambush occurred, and then the platoon commander led occupation of a suitable harbour; sentries were set up to monitor those entering and leaving the area and clearance patrols were sent out to identify any activity close to the harbour area. After a few practices, we perfected the occupation and by the end we all felt confident in our harbour drills, achieving our aim. Overall, Exercise Boudica was a great success and all the cadets thoroughly enjoyed it. The Year 10 cadets benefited greatly from learning an abundance of new fieldcraft skills, which will prove very useful on future camps, and everyone made great memories together.

National CCF First Aid Competition, Swynnerton Training Camp - Corporal Emily Naismith L6T

Blood. Screams. Panic. This was the sight of the 2019 National First Aid competition (having won the Brigade competition in September), attended by four eager cadets: Sgt McGee, Sgt. Prescott, Cpl Naismith and L.Cpl. Dunkin. Arguably, it was a bit more “fake blood, dodgy acting and mild distress”, but nonetheless it was a day of hands-on learning and teamwork. It was an early 7am start (a lie in by CCF standards), with the team waiting at school overly enthusiastic and smiling for the four-hour drive ahead of us. As soon as we arrived and stepped out into the fresh air, we cracked on with practising. Although initially intimidated by some of the teams of wannabe paramedics, we ran through some scenarios to get us in the swing of things. Eventually the “real” scenarios begin. We began with the group scenario, in which 4 first aid trained girls who have full medical kits complete with gloves stumble upon 3 casualties. Coincidentally there's often an assessor there too. Our particular group scenario began with a boy running to us having a full-blown fake asthma attack and with a rifle. Sgt McGee, the leader of the group, quickly allocated L.Cpl. Dunkin to this particular casualty, who took his rifle off him and asked him if he had an inhaler; she was truly an asset to the team, took every bit of feedback on board and performed incredibly under pressure.

Next was an unconscious casualty, which I took. As soon as I discovered she wasn't breathing, I knew I was in for an absolute treat of 8 minutes of CPR. Luckily, there was an AED on scene and I set to work using that. The whole scenario was complete with an explaining-the-obvious monologue, not quite like real life! The third casualty was taken by Sgt Prescott who was dealt an open leg fracture and a head wound. These were bandaged appropriately

and efficiently despite the chaos and the slightly creepy AED voiceover from just metres away. It was no surprise to us that she got 38/40 in her individual stand. Sgt McGee throughout this did not have a casualty but instead spent her time racing around, re-allocating first aiders, finding phones, blankets and AEDs, calling the ambulance and gathering info to tell the paramedics. She performed superbly, despite the eerie silent audience of ten adults watching us all. Next, we had individual scenarios with 10 minutes to treat a casualty by ourselves, which for me consisted of an unconscious casualty with a head injury. I did spend a good fraction of my time trying not to skid on the excess amount of fake blood that had accumulated over the day; it was like a low budget Disney on Ice.

Awards came later in the day, and our team was delighted to find out we'd come third nationally. It was a great day, and I couldn't have been prouder of the team. Thank you so much to the staff that made it possible, including Under Officer Grant who took both teams to the Brigade competition and helped train us up for nationals, Captain Naismith who took us to Nationals and also put us through our paces in training, and Sub Lieutenant Shrubsole who gave up her Saturday to drive us four hours both ways and to give us invaluable support on the day.

CCF STEM trip to Sandhurst – Cdt Georgiana Davidson 11S

On 27th September a small number of cadets set off to the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst to take part in the RMAS STEM careers fair day. This event helped open our eyes to opportunities available to us in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math careers after education. With over 50 STEM industry and Army stands exhibiting at the fair, we took part in activities, for example quizzes, VR shows, car building and boat making competitions. We talked to many of these stalls informing us of degrees, paid apprenticeships and further education offered by their company and enjoyed collecting many freebies including tote bags, pens and notebooks and a lot of leaflets. We built a bridge that we were all able to walk across and won a contest of whose handmade toy car, powered by a deflating balloon, could go the furthest. The workshop we participated in was also very enjoyable. We succeeded in solving time pressured command tasks, something the army also use for training. Overall this enlightening experience was really interesting and helped inform us of careers in STEM, and we had lots of fun while doing it.

Tull 101 Football Match - Cdt. Lei Matibag 11S

On Saturday 28th September, TWGGS held a commemorative football match in honour of the first black infantry officer Walter Tull. From 1908, Tull had begun making his mark as a footballer, and soon he had a very successful career as a football player and was making his way up to the professional league. However, in December 1914, war broke out and Tull had to enlist into the army. Tull had outstanding leadership qualities and great skills which allowed him to become the first infantry officer of black heritage in the British Army, even though army regulations back then would have prohibited his promotion. Unfortunately, only a year later, on the battlefields of Northern France in March 1918, he died a hero. So, in honour of Walter Tull's achievements and bravery it seems only right to hold a football match. The TWGGS team was made up of people with different levels of football skills, but all eager to play. We played against Skinners', which was made up of their CCF plus a few other pupils. The match started off well with TWGGS scoring the first goal, and we were in the lead, 1-0. However, it didn't last long as we were down 1-3 at half time. Throughout the match there was great support from the side lines, amazing coaching from both Captain Naismith and Major Reynolds, and everyone putting great effort into the match, however, at the end, we were defeated 3-7. Overall, both teams exhibited fantastic sportsmanship, a fitting way to remember Tull.



Careers Department - Mrs Vallely

The careers department has had a busy start to the school year. Working towards achieving the Quality in Careers Standard (QiCS), there are several new initiatives in the careers programme to help fulfil our careers plan to address the career development needs of all pupils. The Careers Education, Information, Education and Guidance policy has been updated and can be found on the school website, along with the letter of commitment to the QiCS. Each department has set up a careers noticeboard to promote careers in their subject, and we continue to organise lunchtime careers talks which relate to specific departments. Of course, careers hardly ever depend on just one subject, and we try to impress upon the pupils is the importance of learning, and putting into practice, a whole range of skills. Most employers who have come into school have said they are interested in attitude and general interest, ability to converse and present information, and willingness to learn, as well as academic results.

We are using PSHE lessons, assemblies, and tutor times more fully, to widen the pupils' outlook and to realise the importance of learning good employability, and soft skills. In a recent PSHE lesson the whole of the Lower Sixth were given the opportunity to register with, and sign up to, Pathway CTM (Sixth Form parents received more information in a Parentmail). We would ask you to encourage full use of what Pathway have to offer in the way of help with

application to attend Insight days, work experience, looking at apprenticeships etc. Please follow this link to find out more, and to sign up for their newsletter <https://pathwayctm.com/> Recently we were very pleased to take the whole of Y11 to Skillsfest at the Assembly Hall Theatre. This was a wonderful opportunity for the pupils to meet and chat to local employers, to ask questions and find out about some of the options available to them, and to explore some ideas for work experience. The trip went off well, and was a great success with pupils and staff members alike.

Working with Simon Harris from the Careers and Enterprise Company, we are looking to match with a new Enterprise Adviser who will be able to work alongside our link careers governor to help with planning and putting into practice the careers programme, helping with arranging encounters with employers. The Independent Careers Adviser, Mrs Elinson, has been in school every week, and has started the year by offering careers appointments to each L6 pupil who has joined us from another school. She will then continue to see each Year 11 pupil for a careers interview. She took a KS4 assembly introducing the careers team to pupils and encouraging them to make the most of all the opportunities on offer, and has been continuing with the Year 7, 8 and 9 PSHE sessions introducing the skills needed in many jobs, and helping pupils to start thinking about their future choices.

We started the new round of lunchtime careers talks with a fascinating presentation from Dr Perry, a local GP, entitled 'Making Sense of Medicine', which included a piece about colour blindness. She brought in a pair of spectacles, newly developed, which seek to correct certain forms of colour blindness, and we were excited to find that one pupil attending found them helpful. In the same week, we welcomed actor and recent Old Girl, Polly Waldron to the Drama department where she gave the pupils interesting insights into a career in acting. We are now busy booking speakers and standholders for the careers evening: every other year the Skinners' School, Tunbridge Wells Grammar School For Boys (TWGSB), and TWGGS work collaboratively to organise a series of careers evenings in November. The various careers subjects are divided between the three schools and speakers invited to give a talk and answer questions on their career. All three evenings are open to Years 10, 11, L6th and U6th, and they are invited, with parents, to book talks they wish to attend in advance. This year the Skinners' evening is on November 12th, TWGSB on November 20th, and TWGGS on November 28th. More information will be sent out soon.

SESTBA Book Group Launch – Ms Sanderson

Does your child love reading and talking about books? If so then we have just the club for them! For over 12 years now TWGGS, together with 15 other secondary schools from the South East, has participated in the annual South East Schools' Themed Book Awards (SESTBA). Every year the librarians from participating schools decide on a reading theme with ten titles for our pupils to discuss. The theme for this year is "From Page to Screen" and we have some fabulously entertaining titles on the list, such as the irreverent *Good Omens* by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman and the riveting *How I Live Now* by Meg Rosoff. At the end of March 2020, once we have read and discussed all ten books, we shall be celebrating in style at the annual SESTBA Gala Evening at Kent College Pembury. As in previous years, to make the event extra special, we shall be joined by two famous authors who will be talking about their writing and signing copies of their books. The first book we shall be discussing after half term is Lois Lowry's haunting modern classic *The Giver*. Book lists and joining forms can be collected from me in the library. For more details about SESTBA please visit the website sestba.co.uk or follow us on Twitter @SESTBA1.

PE Kit Reminder – Mrs Haskett

The PE Department would like to remind all pupils to ensure all PE kit is labelled for lessons. Full names should be used on the inside of the garments so lost kit can be quickly returned. Lost property can be viewed in the PE office before school or at break times.

Leaving school for appointments in KS3 – Mr Walker

Please may I remind parents that we do not allow pupils in Years 7 and 8 to leave the site unaccompanied during the school day in order to attend medical or dental appointments. If these are arranged during school hours, your child will need to be collected and returned to school by a parent or guardian. Older children are allowed to attend appointments on their own providing that prior notice is given.

With best wishes,

