

Dear Parent/Guardian

As the term draws to a close, we have just had the privilege of celebrating last year's achievements with our current L6 and the U6 leavers at Speech Day, where we were all inspired by our special guest and old girl Victoria Butler-Cole Q.C. She and Vanessa Collins, a fellow old girl and solicitor, were generous with their time prior to the formal event giving pupils in Years 10 – U6 the opportunity to hear about careers in law and answering the myriad of questions posed to them. It was a really stimulating session where the silence of an audience of over a hundred spoke volumes!

Sadly, we have to say goodbye to three members of staff at the end of this term. Miss van Schreven, Technology and Art Technician, is leaving to take some time for her own interests and art, whilst Mr Willis, who joined TWGGS Technology department in 2003, is retiring, having gone part-time a few years ago. We wish him every happiness in his retirement and will miss his encyclopaedic knowledge of Resistant Materials. Ms Newby also leaves TWGGS this week, in order to relocate nearer to family in North Yorkshire. She has inspired TWGGS budding artists since 2003, initially part-time and latterly as Curriculum Leader Art; the exceptional art work around school and outstanding examination results bear testimony to her commitment and talent. We wish Ms Newby well in her new school.

We will be joined in January by Mrs Woods, a TWGGS old girl, who is teaching Art, Miss Hundal to teach part-time Design Technology and Ms Taylor as Technology and Art Technician, and look forward to working with them all.

School Mock Elections – Mr Franklin

The school has held its own version of the general election this term which has proved very exciting and educational for all involved. We have had visits from three local candidates, who gave brief talks to the sixth form on different occasions and then answered some highly probing and intelligent questions from our sixth formers. The atmosphere was one of intelligent and thoughtful consideration of views, a good reason to be optimistic about the future of our country when these young people leave for their future roles in society.

In addition five girls have undertaken the roles of candidates for political parties, although they were not expected to believe in the policies of the parties they represented. The parties were represented ably by, Robyn Beattie L6W (Labour Party), Emma Bradburne L6T (Liberal Democrat), Daisy Brook L6G (Women's Equality Party), Hannah Godsmark L6G (Green Party), Abbie Pinnington L6S (Conservative Party). They gave a very good account of themselves in a whole school assembly and in canvassing for votes, all supported by an active team of volunteers. Girls also supervised the ballot boxes and the count, with results announced by our Returning Officer, Samantha Bateup L6S. All year groups voted on our election day (11th December) in a school wide secret ballot with a formal announcement on 12th December, when the Liberal Democrat candidate was "elected". Miss Sowerby and I have been impressed by the mature and responsible way the girls have risen to this exercise in democratic values.

Carol Competition Triumph for Annie Chown L6G – Mrs Wybar

Congratulations to Annie Chown who won the Habs Girls National Carol Competition this year! The final was held at the Haberdashers' Aske's School for Girls in Hertfordshire at the beginning of November and the carols were performed by a professional trio before judging took place. Annie's carol was not only judged to be the winning carol by the adjudicator but it also won the audience vote. Her carol will be performed at St. Martin-in-the-Field, Trafalgar Square on 18 December. Well done Annie!

Taekwondo Success for Millie James 9W – Miss Parkinson

Congratulations to Millie James who competed brilliantly at the Open British Taekwondo Championships in November. She won a silver medal in Sparring and a bronze medal in Special Technique. Well done Millie!

#itsinthebag Christmas Charity Appeal – Mrs Smith

This year L6S decided to support The Hygiene Bank with their #itsinthebag Christmas Charity Appeal. This is a local charity that supports those who are suffering from hygiene poverty. We have filled 12 bags with over 150 essential toiletries, along with a luxury item for each and we are very pleased to be delivering them to the charity to be given out over the Christmas period. This charity is something that we have really taken to heart; the mission statement from their founder is, '*Basic hygiene goes to the core of self-worth, self-respect, confidence and dignity. With hygiene*

poverty comes isolation, exclusion and shame and these impact our ability to participate in society and therefore what it means to be human.'

German Exchange – Lucy Miller 10S

This year's German exchange was such a brilliant experience and has helped improve everyone's linguistic skills and knowledge of the culture. We learnt lots of historical content of the places we visited, for example, the cathedral in Cologne was particularly interesting. All the exchange families were really kind and made the trip even more enjoyable; they made us feel really welcome and adjusted to the way their week goes. We went to the school for a few lessons and I think everyone really enjoyed being in their working environment and seeing how they learn. We all really enjoyed going to the different towns and wandering around and exploring everywhere. Overall, it was an amazing trip and we are really looking forward to seeing our German partners when they come here in March.

Christmas Bake Off – Mrs Calloway

It has been a busy term in Food Technology. The Year 9s have been getting very festive with the annual Christmas Bake Off. All the girls were asked to design a suitable bake for a chosen client to make and decorate. The competition was tight; they all produced some excellent products from hot chocolate cupcakes to chocolate brownie Christmas trees. There were 14 lucky winners who were invited up to the cooking and nutrition room to attend a lunchtime workshop with local baker, Hollie from Hollie's Little Cakery, who was extremely generous with her time and expertise. All thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

U16 County Netball Tournament – Mrs Haskett

On Tuesday 15th October, the U16 Netball Squad participated in the Kent County Netball Qualifiers at Rainham School for Girls. The squad played superbly, moving the ball down the court with excellent control and tactical play. It was so lovely to see the squad work so well together, reading off each other's play and adapting their performance depending on the team they faced, some really intelligent play. Whether the ball was down the offensive or defensive end, the use of space and continuous support allowed them to secure a number of wins and draws against some tough opposition. An excellent day: well done all!

U16 Squad: Lili Wyke 11I, Issy Fletcher 11S, Rose Lietke 11W, Sophie Crouzet 11W, Mattie Robinson 11I, Mel Whyte 11G, Ruby McNamara-Yorke 11I, Bryony Fishpool 11W, , Emily Pickles 11W, Becky Colbran 11S and Issy Shaw 11W.

U14 County Netball Tournament – Mrs Haskett

On Tuesday 5th November, the U14 Netball Squad attended the Kent County tournament at Rainham School for Girls. The squad had many matches this year with such a big turnout at the tournament; they consistently performed to an extremely high standard throughout the day, accumulating many wins. The team demonstrated intelligent play, adapting their performance depending on the opposition and responding to feedback excellently by the match. Congratulations!

U14 County Squad: Saarah Kamali 9S, Daisy Bayer 9W, Maddie Kilgarriff 9W, Emily Marriage 9S, Lilia Oubridge 9G, Eva Williams 9G, Abi Taylor 9G, Azzahra Lawal 9T and Alex Realino 9S.

Gymnastics – Miss Kirkby

On Tuesday 19th November the Gymnastics Squad competed in the U19 Individual Floor and Vault Competition at Walthamstow Hall. The competition consisted of three levels in each school year where gymnasts performed a set or choreographed routine as well as two vaults. The scores from the two disciplines were added together and medals awarded to the top three gymnasts in each category. TWGGS had 13 pupils from Year 7 to 10 competing and with a number of gymnasts performing in each round, the competition was challenging and final scores were very high. For many squad members it was a great first experience at a school gymnastics competition. Congratulations to Lily Quaif-Davis 7G and Bella Grossman 7S, who took home silver and bronze medals, respectively for the advanced category in their age group and to Penny Horne 8I, who took silver in the intermediate category.

Trampolining – Miss Kirkby

On Sunday 24th November the Trampolining Squad competed at the South East Regional Finals Trampolining Competition. The squad competed individually and had to perform a set and voluntary routine, with the average scores from the judges being added together to give their total. The competition was attended by many schools across the South East Region and the standard was incredibly high. Congratulations to all those who took part, especially Eva Waymouth 11W who came 3rd in her category.

Secondary Sports Hall Athletics Kent School Games Qualifiers – Mrs Haskett

On Tuesday 10th December, the Year 7 and 8 Sports Hall Athletic Squads attended The Judd School to compete in the Kent School Games Qualifiers. The squads have put in a tremendous amount of effort this year to prepare themselves for the competition. This was clearly very evident on the day and resulted in both teams qualifying for the finals in February next year. Well done!

Year 7 – Megan Low 7W, Tilly Cunliffe 7W, Bea Hamza-Goodacre 7W, Evie Dixon 7W, Ellie Driscoll 7W, Erin Herbert 7T, Alana Domzalski 7W and Olivia Campbell 7T.

Year 8 – Siofra Darrer 8I, Daisy Kelly 8W, Eloise Pauling 8T, Eleanor Frost 8T, Georgia Conroy 8T, Millie Lewis 8I and Freya Jones 8I.

Psychology Conference – Crystal Dolley-Brown L6I

On Tuesday 3rd December, all L6 Psychology students embarked on a trip to London to attend a conference which promised to bring to life an important range of psychological concepts, and it did not disappoint. The conference commenced with a talk from Cara Flanagan, a widely published author of A Level psychology books. She spoke about pseudoscience and this was followed by two further talks from Mike Cardwell, senior lecturer at Bath Spa University, and Phil Banyard, associate professor of psychology, who spoke about the concept of good and bad science. Next was Dr Peter Lovatt, who got us all up on our feet to examine the relationship between dance and thinking. Before his academic career in psychology, he was a professional dancer and was intrigued at how movement influences the way we solve problems.

After lunch, Oliver Meech from The Magic Circle, gave us all a talk about the psychology behind magic and demonstrated a range of magic tricks and illusions. Interestingly, we learnt that magic is not about fooling the eye, but about deceiving the brain and in fact, every magic trick is a real- life psychology experiment. This talk was followed by two live psychology experiments using volunteers from the audience. One was conducted by Phil Banyard who focused on face symmetry and whether having a symmetrical face made you look friendlier; the other was conducted by Mike Cardwell who tested whether consuming chocolate sped up your nerve reactions. Lastly, and arguably most people's favourite talk was by Andrew Newton, one of the world's leading authorities on hypnosis. To everyone's humour, he managed to hypnotise a group of boys to stretch their arms out and believe there was an iron weight preventing them from moving. Andrew then proceeded to tempt them with a £20 note if they could grab hold of it. As they were under hypnosis, they couldn't, which was amusing to watch yet astonishing. Overall, the conference we attended was compelling and enhanced our knowledge of psychological topics both within and outside our A Level course.

Design Ventura Project - Year 10 Graphics - Ella McAdams 10I, Milena Murgai 10I, Claudia Kirk 10I, Nellie Ash 10T, Ella Barton 10I

Our task was to produce an original product that could have a positive impact on our environment, global or individual issues. We were lucky enough to travel to the Design Museum in Kensington where we were given an engaging session which provoked ideas on what our product might be. We also had the opportunity to explore the museum shop to research what products they currently sold. After returning to TWGGS, we developed our final design, 'StackABowl', which was a set of reusable stackable bowls used to measure healthy portions of specific food groups. Following a difficult peer presentation, a critical question and answer from a panel of judges, we were selected to represent TWGGS in the contest and our design was submitted. Unfortunately, our creative and ingenious idea was not shortlisted but we remain proud to be part of the 16,000 entries. Individually and as a group we developed teamwork skills, leadership and communication skills as well as getting an insight as to what it's like in a real working environment. A big thank you to Ms Hogben and Mr Lawrence for organising this experience for us.

Adventure Training in Scotland - Able Seaman 1* Morgan

In September, I attended an adventure training weekend at Rothiemurchus Lodge in Aviemore, Scotland. I would be working together with the other 17 cadets to keep the lodge in order while also enjoying outdoor activities such as canoeing and mountain biking. The lodge was surrounded by the most incredible scenery which made me extremely excited for the weekend to come. After meeting all the cadets, we were quite tired after a 9 hour journey so not long after dinner we all went to bed.

After a somewhat chilly night, we awoke the next morning, had breakfast and were sorted into two teams. I was in team two and we decided on the name, The Highland Cows, which the leaders found highly amusing. Once split into our groups, we all got ready for our first activities and started packing our day bags. Unfortunately the wind was too strong for canoeing so my first activity was mountain biking. Once being fitted to the correct clothing and a

bike, The Highland Cows set off on their first activity. Although being the only one to fall off their bike, I did enjoy the views that we got as we zoomed down the side of mountains. Our second activity of the day was group orienteering which I particularly enjoyed as I got to work with the cadets who weren't in my group. Although my small group didn't win the challenge, we did manage to find four points and worked really well as a team. After returning to the lodge and enjoying a delicious pizza dinner, we sat down to watch Guardians of the Galaxy while eating chocolate!

The last day began with bag packing and thank you speeches, as we all prepared to leave the lodge. After breakfast we went on an outdoor hike that found us trekking up mountains and navigating through forests. I particularly enjoyed this activity as it allowed me to improve my land navigation skills and gave us a final opportunity to appreciate the extraordinary scenery. After the walk, we loaded our bags into the minibus and were driven back to the train station where we made our final goodbyes before heading back to Tunbridge Wells. I feel that my confidence has grown after the experience as I was thrown into a new environment with new people but still managed to work with them all as a team.

Royal Navy Sailing - Able Seaman 1* Godsmark

In October I was presented with the exhilarating opportunity to take part in the annual Cowes Small Ships Race on the Isle of Wight. It was a truly amazing experience and also allowed me to brush up on my sailing skills. I arrived at the H.M.S Excellent in Portsmouth after a long train journey. I immediately settled in, having stayed on our boat, the Cornish Air, prior to the trip. That evening we were also issued with our rather smart team polo shirts for the race. Although I knew no-one on the trip, I quickly began to make friends and socialise with my ship mates. The next day we sailed across to Cowes Yacht Haven and Marina after a short safety brief. We tacked through harsh winds and lashing rain, at points achieving a (slightly scary) 90 degree tilt. Although the weather may have been foul, we barely noticed amongst pulling in various ropes and the exhilaration of our gathering speed.

On the day of the race we weren't so blessed with the weather, having to sit on the hand rails to catch wind in the sail, however, soon the gusts picked up and, thanks to our large front spinnaker sail, were carried right around the course with ease. Morale among the boats was high, and due to the close proximity of our yachts, so was the level of inter-boat banter. The trip ended with some festivities in the hall at Shepherd's Marina, where we chatted with other teams and found out our ranking. Our ship, the Cornish Air, came in at second, pipped at the post by the Ballard School yacht, the High Spirit. Overall the experience was incredible, and I hope to take advantage of the opportunity if it arises again next year.

Wilsons Leadership Camp – Cadet D Ghita

As a cadet in TWGGS CCF I am extremely thankful that the contingent has offered such amazing opportunities such as the Wilsons Leadership Camp. You are not only taught and instructed but you are also a leader in your own right; this helps in not only developing yourself and your character but also setting yourself on the path to promotion. Wilsons Leadership Camp was a wonderful experience, meeting new people from different schools and furthering yourself as a leader. It had the pleasant surprise of containing many obstacle courses and this tested both our mental and physical resolve leading our section through the various challenges. However, the equally exciting and maybe slightly nerve-racking main event was teaching a lesson to our peers in our section, testing our leadership and ability to teach to a crowd. Even the weather held off the rain on all but one of the days making it an almost perfect camp. These five days were an amazing experience and I would most definitely recommend it to anyone; I am incredibly grateful for the chance to develop my leadership and find my own style of leading.

Careers Department - Mrs Naomi Vallely

The careers department has had a busy term. We were delighted when our two careers prefects, Alice Atkins U6W, and Vipassana Bajracharya U6W, led a whole school assembly on the topic of Careers. Sophie Lewis, one of our U6th Leavers, who has now begun an apprenticeship with Google, sent a video clip of herself, telling us how she found the many careers events at school very helpful and inspiring. She encouraged her listeners to go along to the lunchtime talks, and to use the help provided by PathwayCTM, and other platforms, in the search for inspiration and to make contacts. We also heard from Amy Thomas U6I. She was at pains to tell us that, if she had not gone to the lunchtime talk from BAMNuttall, she would not have made contact with the representatives nor found the excellent work experience she did, and would have struggled to decide what she wanted to study at university.

We continue with the ongoing programme of lunchtime talks – the first from Mr Tony Burdon, speaking about working in International Development, for NGOs (non- governmental organisations), and working in

government, as well as about his different careers – which was of interest to a wide range of pupils; the second from Mrs Julia Baldock speaking about careers in computing. This was well-attended by pupils from Y10 and Y11 who realise that IT is not all about programming, but is vital to all jobs in the current labour market. To mark Creative Careers Week we were pleased that our own Kirsten Van Schreven was willing to give a talk about her varied career in designing computer games, film, and Fine Art. In the same week, we were delighted to support Mr Chambers and the Computing department in their attendance at the Digital Careers Conference at Maidstone Girls' Grammar School, taking with them a number of Sixth Formers. The conference gave them an enlightening programme of activities and information about careers using IT. Lastly this term, we welcomed back recent Old Girl, Bethany Bradshaw and her colleague, Emma Curl, from Savills in London, with an engaging presentation about the Savills with Schools Initiative, as well as about careers in the Real Estate sector, (which is not only about sales and being an Estate Agent) and where her path has taken her since leaving school.

In a joint venture, The Skinners' School, Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys and Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School worked collaboratively to organise a series of Careers Evenings in November. The various careers subjects were divided between the three schools and speakers invited to give a talk and answer questions on their career. All three evenings were open to Years 10, 11, L6th and U6th in the three schools. We had just short of 1050 people booked in to hear the TWGGS speakers, who included: Mr Jamie Buchanan, Consultant orthopaedic surgeon Conquest and Horder Centre, with Dr Alexander Hunt, and medical students, Ms Sophie Smith, (recent Old Girl), and Ms Michele Riska; Mr David Byard, Chartered Chemical Engineer; Dr Chris Duffy, Lecturer in Cellular and Molecular Biology at the School of Biological and Chemical Sciences, Queen Mary University of London; Mr Euan Furness, Geoscientist, Imperial College, London; Mr Dan Hamza-Goodacre, Executive Director of the Kigali Cooling Efficiency Program; Dr Chris Nicholson, Head of the Department of Psychosocial and Psychoanalytic Studies at the University of Essex; Ms Jessica Prestage, Conservation, Oyster Worldwide; Mr Chris Rawlinson, Director and Client Team Leader at YSC; Dr Abigail Stevenson, veterinary surgeon at Dacre House Veterinary Clinic; Dr Karen Finlay, and Dr Nicki Perry, local GPs, MTW NHS Trust; Ms Beth Jones, and Ms Ciaran Hart, Nursing/Research Practitioners, MTW NHS Trust; Professor Stephen Keevil, Head of Medical Physics at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals in London; Mr Alan Mills, Commercial and Events Manager - Animal Management, Hadlow College; Ms Corrine Perry, Lecturer in Equestrian Studies, Hadlow College; Ms Karen Schubert, Consultant Midwife, MTW NHS Trust; Dr Amir Tarki, Dental Surgeon; Professor Abigail Tucker, a research scientist at Guy's; Mr Oliver Howard, Registered Dietitian; Dr Vladimir Gubala, Medway School of Pharmacy, with MPharm Student Ambassadors Kruti Patel and Nikhil Kalia; two speakers from the Defence Science & Technology Laboratory (DSTL) – Ms Kate Cockle and Mr Edward Croft; Mr Sam Payne and Ms Milly Planterose, rotational physiotherapists, MTW NHS Trust; Mr Badrinath Mohandas, Optometry, Specsavers; Mr Peter Hockney, Mr James Moysey, Ms Charlotte Oben, Planning The Built Environment, TWBC; Ms Amanda Coombes & Colleagues, the Environment Agency.

In addition to the speakers, there were various stands available for parents and pupils to browse including Hadlow College, Oyster Worldwide, Plumpton College, InvestIn, Independent Careers Adviser, Specsavers, The National Citizen Service, Work Savvy, Medi Redi, and AXA PPP.

We are very grateful indeed to the speakers and stand holders who gave their time without charge, to the Senior Prefects, and the Lower Sixth Events Prefects, many of whom helped enormously on the evening, and to Mrs Julie Robinson and the TWGGS Ghana Team for selling refreshments. Feedback from parents and pupils has been very positive. We will be running a similar event in 2021. If anyone is interested in offering to provide a talk on their career at a similar event, please do email me on careers@twggs.kent.sch.uk

Half Price Book Fair - Ms Sanderson

The last week of November saw the ever popular pop-up Book Fair return to the library with over 200 new books, posters and gifts for sale, all at an enticing half retail price! For four days the library was a hive of book buying excitement with books by Alice Oseman, Kate Saunders and Liz Pichon being the favourite choices this year. As well as giving the girls and staff the opportunity to do a little Christmas shopping, the Book Fair sales also earned TWGGS nearly £50 worth of new books for the library so I am absolutely delighted with its success and look forward to doing it all again next year!

Visit from Ed Liddle of The Amelia Scott – Ms Sanderson

At the beginning of November the library welcomed Ed Liddle, Learning and Engagement Assistant at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council who came to talk to a group of sixth formers about the council's new Young Consultants

Programme. Open to anyone aged 16 – 25, the programme is designed to get young people involved in the redevelopment of the town's library, museum and art gallery building, known as The Amelia Scott. They are keen for the young people of Tunbridge Wells to have a say in the types of services and events on offer at The Amelia and this is a truly great opportunity to work with arts and heritage professionals, help shape the future provision of the new cultural service in Tunbridge Wells and gain skills for your UCAS personal statement and CV. If anyone is interested in joining the group please email Ed for more details edward.liddle@TunbridgeWells.gov.uk

Free Online Resources via Kent Libraries – Ms Sanderson

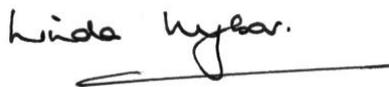
Did you know Kent Libraries offer access to a wide range of different online resources including Britannica encyclopedias and study guides, Naxos Music Library, Theory Test Pro and many other trusted reference sites? To use some of the links you will need to have a Kent Libraries card, which you can register for online. For more information visit kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/libraries

Parking and Dropping off Pupils – Mrs Wybar

We have yet again received complaints from local residents about inconsiderate parking and parents dropping off or waiting for pupils, especially in the Southfield Road/ Culverden Avenue/ Whitefield Road/ Beltring Road area. May I please ask parents **not** to drive cars down Southfield Road to drop off or collect from school. Please do not park in the turning area by the flats outside school as this causes congestion and could be dangerous for our pupils. At present there are several people ignoring these requests and causing real problems for our neighbours. The roads surrounding the school are a residential area with large numbers of schoolchildren on foot. If it is necessary to give your child a lift, please could she be dropped off further from the school, in order to avoid this congestion and ensure everyone's safety. Thank you

Finally, it only remains for me to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful, successful 2020.

With best wishes,

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 that serves as a separator.

Mrs L Wybar, Headteacher