

Dear Parent/Guardian

This time last year, I described the 2019-2020 as “the most extraordinary year”, however, it has easily been outdone by the current academic year, which has yet again truly tested us all. As it draws to a close, I would like to say an enormous thank you to pupils, staff, parents and governors for their resilience and support in the most challenging of times. Characterised by lockdowns, groups and individuals being required to isolate, and Teacher Assessed Grades once more, these have been tough times indeed, in particular for our lovely outgoing Upper Sixth who have been unable to mark the end of their time at TWGGGS with the usual Leavers’ Service or Leavers’ Ball. We fervently hope to celebrate with them at Speech Day in December! I struggle to express how proud I am of the whole school community, and I am sure that we are all ready for some rest and recuperation over the summer, before returning to school in September.

It has been lovely to welcome back Mrs Haskett from maternity leave this week, but sadly, we need to say goodbye to some staff who are leaving TWGGGS this year. Having joined TWGGGS last September, Miss Pitts leaves us to take up a promoted post as Head of PE in a school in London, where we wish her well. Mrs Scovell has been covering Mrs Haskett’s maternity leave, and we are delighted she will be joining us permanently from September.

Mrs Johnstone joined TWGGGS as a teacher in 2001, and has been inspiring pupils in English for twenty years (having previously been a TWGGGS girl herself). In addition to her teaching, she has led TWGGGS debaters to incredible success over many years, regionally and nationally, even judging in international competitions. Accompanying the French exchange (and hosting on return); supporting cross-country running; and being active on trips, from the Sixth Form visit to Russia to innumerable theatre visits, all indicate how wide and varied Mrs Johnstone’s contributions to the school have been. We will miss her hugely and wish her a very happy retirement, confident that she will be busy as ever! We are pleased to welcome Miss Greenwood (another ex-TWGGGS pupil, taught by Mrs Johnstone!) to teach English from September.

Very sadly, Miss Parkinson has made the decision to take early retirement for personal reasons, and therefore leaves TWGGGS after 32 years. Having joined in 1989 as teacher of PE, she was promoted to Head of PE in 1994, and began her pastoral roles in 1997, with responsibility for Year 7. From 2001, she was Assistant Headteacher, and for the past five years she has been Deputy Headteacher, the school’s pastoral and safeguarding lead, as well as SENCO. From generations of pupils enjoying Year 9 Camp, to hockey, cricket and other sports teams who have been inspired by her, and so much more, Miss Parkinson’s view of education extends well beyond the classroom, and she is always keen to support pupils, encouraging and inspiring them to achieve their best and to develop as rounded, caring individuals. Unfailingly supportive, an excellent listener, perceptive and fair, Miss Parkinson is an exemplary role model for pupils, truly espousing the values and standards which TWGGGS holds dear.

We struggle to imagine TWGGGS in September without Miss Parkinson: she has been so much part of the school, in so many ways. In the same way she has been a huge part of TWGGGS for the past 32 years, she will leave an equally substantial void when she goes. We wish her the very happiest of times ahead, for no one deserves it more.

Goodbye from Miss Parkinson

I would just like to say a huge thank you to all pupils, staff, governors and parents. I have loved every minute of my 32 years at TWGGGS, and I am very sad to leave. I will miss everyone terribly, but I feel so fortunate as I have had such a happy career at the school. It has been an honour to work with so many talented pupils and staff, and I thank them all for their dedication and commitment to this wonderful school. I wish everyone all the very best for the future.

Miss Parkinson

Staff Changes from September

There are a number of staff changes from September:

- Mr Smith and Dr Blanch both take up roles as Deputy Headteachers
- Mrs Smith will be known as Mrs Marchant from September and will be Assistant Headteacher Pastoral
- Mrs Waddington takes up a new post as SENDCO on the Senior Leadership Team
- Miss Johnson has been appointed Director of Music
- Mrs Davis becomes Assistant Director of Achievement Sixth Form

- Mrs Haycock takes charge as Admissions Manager
- Mrs Moody is promoted to Data Manager
- Miss Withers takes up a permanent post as PE teacher, having trained at TWGGS this year
- Mr Tugby joins the school as Curriculum Leader English
- Ms Land joins as Psychology/ Sociology teacher
- Ms Stead joins as Head's PA/ Personnel

Mrs Stewart-Smith plans to take early retirement in the Autumn Term, and therefore some support staff appointments have been made ahead of this, in order to enable training and handover. In addition, Dr Taylor goes on maternity leave in August; and we look forward to welcoming Ms Barling to teach Science and Geography for next academic year, and Mrs Kottler who will train as a History teacher.

Hockey Success for Harriet George and Freja Holder – Miss Parkinson

Congratulations to Harriet George 9I on being selected to attend South of England trials for hockey and also to Freja Holder 9I who has been selected to represent the South of England. Very well done to you both!

Annie Chown - Mrs Wybar

Annie has been awarded the Director's Prize at the Junior Guildhall Prize-giving ceremony this year. She was also nominated by her teachers there for both the Academic Prize and the Piano Prize, having had five wonderful years at Junior Guildhall. Many congratulations to Annie, who hopes to study Music at Cambridge from October.

TWGGS Ski Team

Lila Ayton 9G has started the 2021 dry slope ski racing season well placing 1st at two London & SE Region races, 1st and 2nd at two National races and 2nd at two GB races. In July, August and September Lila will travel to Stoke, Sunderland, Southampton, Llandudno, Aldershot, Bournemouth, Brentwood and Chatham (!) for more regionals and Nationals before the Welsh and English Championships.

The TWGGS Ski Team are training hard at their weekly sessions and looking forward to their races on 19th September and 3rd October. There are still places available if your child is interested in joining. Please speak to Lila Ayton or email Lindsay.i.ayton@icloud.com

Evie Ayton U6I and Rebecca Forte U6S have completed their A level examinations and will leave the TWGGS Ski Team. They have enjoyed much success during the years and have recently placed 1st at two Regional races and 1st at a National race (Evie) and 2nd at two Regional races (Rebecca). We thank them for their dedication over the years to the training and racing, and wish them success with their university ski teams.

Virtual Art Exhibitions – Mrs Woods

The Art department would like to share the exciting, creative outcomes from this year's final year GCSE and A Level Art pupils. These virtual exhibitions celebrate their fantastic achievements and high standard despite the challenges they faced throughout their courses.

Well done Year 11 and U6. We are very proud of you all!

Please find both virtual exhibitions via this link:

<https://www.twggs.kent.sch.uk/508/news/post/59/gcse-and-a-level-summer-exhibitions-2021>

Extracurricular activities - Mrs Wybar

It has been truly wonderful at last to be able to reintroduce some extracurricular activities into school life, many of which are celebrated here. In addition to these, the Geography department led Year 7 field work to Bluewater and took Year 8 to do coastal studies at Pett Level as well as enabling field work for examination classes, all invaluable in enhancing pupils' understanding and knowledge of Geography beyond the classroom. The CCF Annual Camp had to be a daily affair, rather than residential, however, it still offered fabulous opportunities in skills development, personal challenge and leadership for individuals and groups.

Year 9 Devon Activity Week – Jemima Gorman and Daisy Clifford 9G

Year 9 Camp was the perfect opportunity to relax and have fun with our friends after the hectic year we've had, in and out of lockdown. We did a range of activities from team building games and tree climbing to surfing and

water-skiing and many of us even braved the infamous underground tunnels. We also had to overcome the challenge of putting on and taking off a wetsuit! Having a ride on the speed boat was another highlight, feeling like we were in a James Bond movie and even the coastal walk provided a calm break, with an ice cream at the end. Overall we loved the experience which strengthened our existing friendships, whilst at the same time allowing us to make new ones with people we hadn't even spoken to before.

Year 7 Bewl Water Trip - Evie Doyle and Chloe Sacks 7G

We had an absolutely great time on the Year 7 Bewl Water trip. We did lots of fun team-building activities, such as a high wall with no handles that we all had to climb, a rope swing and many more. We had lots of fun doing water activities, which were canoeing and raft building. These activities gave us a chance to get really wet! We got to explore the grounds when we went orienteering, which really tested our team-building and co-operation skills. The highlight for us was the water sports as we thought that the building of the raft taught us great skills, and then getting wet was cold, but fun. Overall it was a great trip, which gave us many fun memories.

Year 10 Enterprise Day – Ms Hogben

In June Year 10 took part in Enterprise Day. This annual event gives pupils the opportunity to work with external facilitators to work in groups as mini companies. The aim of the day was to win the catering company tender for a key event to be hosted at the school. This year's winning team Thymeless give their thoughts on the day.

Enterprise Day is a day for Y10 students to become immersed into a faux business and understand the work and effort needed in the workforce. I became part of a team with 5 other people. We had to create a catering company and plan a gala for a client, which involved creating business cards, menus and invitations and planning out the events of the gala. Our theme was based around women in STEM and the suffragette movement. This influenced our colour scheme and decorations. We planned to educate the guests by handing out information booklets about women in STEM.

I would say that the day was a great success with everyone taking away a lot of practical skills and understanding of the behind-the-scenes of a real company. The day began very promptly with the pupils taking full reign of the day with no teacher intervention. Our first task was to distribute our roles and come up with a name for the company: 'Thymeless'- a small pun for the catering company. I took the role of Financial Manager for the team and had the responsibility of managing the finance and costing for the catering company whilst simultaneously ensuring we remained on budget. This role required a lot of teamwork and time management as I had to work with the other managers and work with their schedules as well as the deadline. Later on in the day, we had to create a promotional presentation to sell our company to be chosen by the judges. We created a board to collate all our workings together and rehearsed our presentations to perform to the rest of the participants.

For me, enterprise day was an extremely valuable experience. I got to learn and develop many skills: as the leader / project manager of my group, I was able to get an insight into how to run a group effectively and develop my skills in communication and teamwork. I also learned many things that I had little knowledge of before, such as marketing, working with budgets and costs, and about women in engineering. I particularly enjoyed managing my own time and working with little to no support, as that allowed us to be completely independent and adapt to a working environment ourselves.

Modern Languages Enrichment Day - Olivia Meiklejohn 8G

Modern Languages Enrichment Day (16th June) was a great chance to explore different cultures that many people didn't know very much about. Each form in Year 8 was given a country, and was asked to dress up as something from that country. 8T was France, 8W Spain, 8I Germany, 8G Italy, and finally 8S Russia or Poland. A few people had some really interesting costumes - a hotdog from Germany, Pinocchio, Jiminy Cricket and a pizza from Italy! In the morning there was an assembly, in which everyone was given a booklet with the schedule for the day and a fun clue-cracking activity for break and lunchtime (involving languages, of course!). The booklet stated: "You've arrived at the border in France and are due to board the Eurostar to London at 4pm today but your passports have been taken and locked in a safe. You need to go back to Germany, Spain, Russia, Italy and Poland to get clues that will help you open the box and get your passports back!" Whoever found all the clues and emailed the secret phrase (found in the safe) to Frau Doyle won a prize at the end of the day!

At break, everyone received a free croissant to enjoy (in favour of France, of course). In Spanish Song, we learnt a fun song in Spanish, which we performed in the assembly at the end of the day (Una Vez Más- David Otero). In Spanish and French Art, we looked at famous artists who had particular styles of artwork, and tried to draw our own. In Russian, Italian and Polish Taster we learnt more about the two cultures and some beautiful landmarks. In Handball, as you may have guessed, we played handball! In German Poetry, a few of the classes looked at some German poetry, and how it is written in comparison to English poetry. At the end of the day, there was a big assembly to give out prizes and to wrap up the day, with the main prizes being awarded to:

Best Dressed Form: 8G

First to retrieve the passport from the safe: Lily Quaif-Davis, Bella Bollato-Velda, Emily Stuart and Poppy Goodwin, 8G

There were also a number of individual prizes given out for the best groups of people in various subjects.

Thank you to all the teachers who organised this!

Year 7 Maths Fun Day – Mrs Finlayson

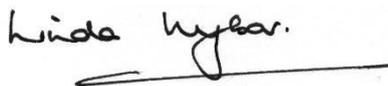
All of Year 7 were involved in Maths Fun Day, where they created tessellations, unlocked coded messages and discovered binary. They were able to see the links that Maths has with other subjects and enjoyed working as a team throughout the day. The whole day was a competition with the form 7G coming first. The overall joint individual winners are: Charlotte Green and Robyn Gray from 7G. Well done, Charlotte and Robyn!

Thinking of returning to your role as a healthcare professional? We can help you! – Claire Wardle, Programme Manager (Nurse Expansion)

This message goes out to all parents, carers and members of the local community who may once have been a healthcare professional such as a nurse or midwife and now considering a return. Returning healthcare professionals have a key role to play in ensuring patients and service users have access to experienced and well-trained care staff equipped with the right skills. Health Education England (NHS) provide funding to support the pathways to return and are keen to support or answer any questions you may have if you are considering returning to perhaps nursing, midwifery or If you trained as an allied health professional (AHP) or a healthcare scientist (HCS) but have since left the profession.

Please do contact us for more information on: 01865 932097 or email returntopractice.se@hee.nhs.uk

With very best wishes to you all,

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

Mrs L Wybar, Headteacher