

**Dear Parent/Guardian**

Well, this is the strangest newsletter introduction I have ever written. As you are all too well aware, school closed on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March for all except vulnerable children and those with key worker parents. We had to say farewell to our outgoing Upper Sixth Formers with indecent haste, but with much warmth and a host of happy memories. Out of nowhere, they and Miss Smith, Director of Achievement Sixth Form, carved a leavers' event on Friday lunchtime, where we were able to say goodbye with some music, readings, speeches – and fish and chips! Meanwhile Year 11 pupils have also had their last lessons in KS4, and we were all impressed by their positivity and good spirits, despite the uncertainty with regard to how examination grades will be awarded. As soon as we have more information about this, I will communicate with parents, as well as with our pupils in Upper Sixth, Year 11 and those in Lower Sixth who are entered for AS Level or resit GCSEs. In the meantime, may I thank you all for your wholehearted messages of support and appreciation over the past week or so; they have been hugely appreciated by us all.

Dr Boone returns from maternity leave in early April, therefore Mrs Twaites' classes will then be set work and assessed by Dr Boone. I am delighted to say that Mrs Twaites is continuing with us, albeit with fewer hours, as she is taking over Dr Bloom's classes after the Easter break (although Dr Bloom is still with us in her technician role). We are most grateful to both Dr Bloom and Mrs Twaites for their superb support and commitment to their classes, and are so pleased still to be working with them both, albeit currently at a distance.

**Lost Property Coats – Mrs Holloway**

There are a number of very nice coats in lost property, unnamed, that will be going to "Coats for Kids" at the end of May if they are still unclaimed. If you think one of them may belong to your child, please email Mrs Holloway as soon as possible on [reception@twggs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:reception@twggs.kent.sch.uk) with a detailed description of the missing coat, and she will let you know whether or not it is amongst those in her possession. Please be aware that she is only working in school occasionally, therefore it may take a while for her to check.

**Rowing Gold for Biba Rabjohns – Mrs Wybar**

Many congratulations to Biba Rabjohns 10W who won a gold medal at the National Junior Indoor Rowing Championships Year 10 Girls at the Copper Box in the Olympic Park at the end of February. This age group had a field of 116 taking part, over a time trial of 5 minutes. Very well done Biba.

**Fencing Gold for Sophie Ho – Mrs Wybar**

Congratulations to Sophie Ho 7T who won gold at the 2020 South East Youth Championships & BYC Qualifier held on 1st March 2020 at Whitgift School. She has qualified for the British Youth Championships to be held in May, although of course these may well now be a casualty of COVID-19. Well done Sophie.

**UKMT Team Maths Challenge – Mrs Thomas**

On 25th February a team of two Year 8 pupils and two Year 9 pupils - Daisy Kelly 8I, Ella Kelly 8I, Georgie Ringer 9G and Caitlin Taylor 9W - took part in the Kent Regional Final of the UKMT Team Maths Challenge at Tonbridge Grammar School. The challenge comprised four rounds of mathematical problem solving in team based activities and was attended by 17 independent and state schools from across Kent. Participation was good natured but very determined and competitive. Our pupils demonstrated excellent teamwork and problem solving skills, including a very successful Crossnumber round where they only dropped two marks, resulting in a highly impressive ninth place finish. Well done and congratulations to the team!

**Hockey Squad Selection for Harriet George – Miss Parkinson**

Congratulations to Harriet George 8I who has been selected for the Kent U14 Girls County Hockey Squad. This is a fantastic achievement, well done!

**Athletic Championship Success for Freya Ridge – Mrs Wybar**

Well done to Freya Ridge 11T who competed in the South of England Indoor Athletics Championships in January where she came 3rd in the U17 high jump with a PB of 1.60. After finishing an exhausting week's CCF course in Pirbright at the beginning of March, Freya then travelled to Sheffield to compete in the English Indoor Athletics Championships where she equalled her PB and came 7<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations Freya.

### **Cross Country Success for Penny Horne and Georgia Conroy – Mrs Wybar**

Well done to Penny Horne 8I and Georgia Conroy 8T who recently competed in the English Schools Cross Country Championships against some of the top Y8 and Y9 girl cross country runners in the country. The race was pretty tough and the standard was incredibly high so we are very proud of both Penny who finished 118<sup>th</sup> and Georgia who finished 246<sup>th</sup> out of 344 girls. Very well done!

### **CCF Siberian Tiger Cub Camp 1 - Cadet Haycock 9G**

On Friday 28th February 2020, over 100 cadets began our journey to Folkestone for the Siberian Tiger Cub Camp, our first for the year. Once we arrived, we went to our billets, unpacked and received our full uniform. We then moulded our berets and got everything ready for the activities that we would be doing over the next few days. These were communications, navigation, weapons and first aid (to name a few) and all were exciting. We focused mostly on weapons, as we had our weapons test on the Saturday evening which, luckily, we all passed. This camp was extremely beneficial and memorable for us. I particularly enjoyed developing new skills, such as teamwork and courage, and watching others do the same. I know we are all looking forward to the next camp, so we can continue to develop our skills further and continue to learn.

### **CCF Siberian Tiger Cub Camp 2 – Cadet Pearson**

On Friday 28th February, TWGGS CCF set off on the annual Siberian Tiger Cub Camp, to help the new Year 9s settle into their sections and build on skills from their 6 week induction period. Once at St Martins Plain, all cadets were assigned their various tasks and roles. It was at this point that we Year 10s found out about our leadership roles over the weekend and we became the 2IC of a section. This was the first time we had experienced this responsibility, so I was quite nervous but also excited to learn. Across the weekend, the new cadets learned lots of new skills, such as handling a rifle, first aid, navigation, and cooking and sleeping in the field. Also, the cadets participated in many other activities, including a navigation exercise, in preparation for their Bronze D of E expedition; they learnt various first aid skills, in case anything went wrong on their trip. The Year 9s also practised cooking ration packs and putting up bashas while battling with the wet and windy weather but never letting it affect their morale.

After experiencing other aspects of a CCF camp, such as marching around camp and early starts, the Year 9s ended the camp with their nerve-wracking weapons test. Despite their concerns, all cadets had passed by the end of the weekend and there were big grins all round. The camp ended with a final parade where many senior cadets got a well-earned promotion to corporal after completing their CFIT training, and the Year 9s all received their rank slides. The best billet was awarded to Solerno and edible goodies were given out. All in all, I, and all the cadets, really enjoyed this camp, learning so many new skills. The Year 10s had a great time learning how to help and lead the cadets and the camp really helped build our confidence. The senior cadets also had a good time teaching and passing on their knowledge to the younger cadets, with some even getting promoted.

### **CCF Siberian Tiger Cub Camp 3 - Cpl K De Putter**

Siberian this year has been such a rewarding experience, both for the Year 9 cadets involved as well as older cadets. When we arrived at camp in Folkestone, we were briefed on what we were doing for the weekend. After a delicious dinner, the Year 11 Lance Corporals branched off to start teaching their final assessed lessons, before we could be judged competent instructors. During the weekend, everyone completed their 45-minute lessons to a very high standard; lessons were both educational and very enjoyable. My lesson, on patrolling and movement in the field, took place outside, right when it started raining! By Saturday afternoon, we had all completed our lessons and we joined a recruit section to assist the Year 10s. On Sunday morning we had a parade where the new cadets 'graduated'; all of the Year 11s were also promoted to Corporal as we had completed our C-Fit (Instructor) training. We all look very much forward to leadership roles in the future.

### **Jungle School – Cpl Gibson-Smith**

On the 13th March, about 30 cadets left TWGGS to begin a fun, exciting but very challenging exercise. When we arrived at Crowborough camp, we went into the 74-acre wood to begin our training from regular Royal Engineers. In the morning, we were taught obstacle crossings and firing manoeuvres by the RE Sappers and break contact drills with Sgt Rai. Learning how to cross obstacles was something that we had done before, however, we expanded our knowledge by learning how to cross multiple obstacles at once, at a fast pace. It is safe to say that they were very impressed by how quickly we caught on, as well as our efficiency when carrying out drills. After lunch, we continued our lessons in Signals, Range Cards and Patrolling formations that were all very informative. In the evening, we went over six-section battle drills and navigation skills, which we had done before but it was helpful to fill gaps in our

knowledge. It was certainly helpful for what was to come the next day...

We had some very wet weather on Saturday morning and we had to do our lessons indoors but they were all still fun. One of the main things we did was train on the scorpion air rifle; after lunch, we headed back to the woods to practise our navigation and TIWAF (training in woods and forests) with our sections. One thing I learned, aside from the actual content, was to look out for tree roots when you are walking! I learned this the hard way; the worst part was that I clogged the muzzle of my rifle with mud and this made cleaning significantly harder. However, you live and learn! As the sun was setting, we set off on our main activity of the day, our TIWAF as a troop. We put all the elements of our day into action. When it was dark, communications became even more important, especially for me, as I was the link-man between the right hand sweeps and stops. Staying tactical was important, so we had to stay quiet until contacted by the enemy but thankfully, I also remembered to watch out for the tree roots! Finishing off the day, we all fired the scorpion air rifle on the 25m range. It was a change from our normal GP rifle as there isn't any recoil and this made aiming slightly easier. I really enjoyed shooting this rifle after finishing the advanced fieldcraft test that we had to take. Since the test was a surprise, none of us could revise beforehand and it tested what we could recall from all previous practice sessions and lessons since we started in CCF. The end of our weekend was a surprise first aid scenario where many of us couldn't tell whether it was real or not! However, we treated our casualties and put our training from the previous day to good use.

Overall, this weekend was definitely a highlight to finish on, as it may well be the last camp for a while! Seeing how much effort everyone had put into this weekend, staff and cadets, was very inspiring. If anyone is considering whether a fieldcraft weekend is for them or not, honestly, come along: it's a blast!

#### **Tonbridge School International Science Conference for National Science Week – Laura McKnight**

On Friday 6th March, 10 TWGGS L6 Biology pupils attended the International Tonbridge School Science Conference, which allows the sharing of ideas and research between pupils in a very similar way to symposiums in the scientific world. The team was made up of three groups, all of whom created posters on a detailed scientific area of interest and one of the groups gave a fifteen minute presentation to peers and visiting research scientists. With students from schools in California, Germany, and all around the country, the day proved to be thoroughly exciting, and provided the opportunity to explore new areas of science outside of the A Level curriculum and broaden interests. TWGGS pupils performed excellently with poster presentations on "Biology's Alternative to the Fountain of Youth" by Emily Blackwell L6W, Tabitha Richards L6T and Emily Naismith L6T; "How Bio-printing is Revolutionising the Future of Medicine" by Carla Bone L6G, Millie Portch L6G, Lucy Waters L6G and Eleanor Clarke L6I; and a presentation on "CAR T Cells in Cancer Therapy" by Ellie Burcombe L6G, Mimi Hope L6G and Laura McKnight L6G. All in all, it was a very enjoyable and stimulating day! A big thank you to Mrs Lewis, Mrs Lamb and Ms Mitchell who organized and chaperoned the trip.

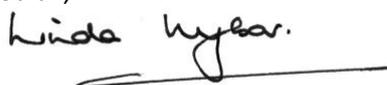
#### **Arriva attachment**

##### **Child and Student Saver Direct Debit Scheme – Mark Christie (Arriva Southern Counties)**

Our direct debit scheme is our most cost effective solution for both Child Scholars (Under 16 or to the end of year 11) and Students (6<sup>th</sup> form upwards). For those who are currently purchasing daily, weekly and 4 weekly tickets, the direct debit scheme not only offers them and their parents/carers a cost saving, but also the flexibility to stop and start payments when they wish. The additional benefits of these tickets are that the Students and Children can use them in the evenings, weekends and during term holidays. **Attached is some further information.** We also offer a range of other solutions including travel warrants, tickets for students entitled to free travel and our discounted travel scheme for employees. If you do have any further questions or require any further information, please do contact me on [christiem@arriva.co.uk](mailto:christiem@arriva.co.uk)

Finally, I very much hope that you and your families stay safe and well in these challenging times. I will continue to write to parents and pupils with relevant updates, however this is likely to be my last newsletter of this type for some time.

With very warmest wishes to you all,



Mrs L Wybar, Headteacher