

**Dear Parent/Guardian**

**We have been delighted to welcome to TWGGGS new staff this September:** Mr Tugby joins as Curriculum Leader English; Miss Greenwood, an ex-TWGGGS pupil also joins the English Department part-time; Ms Land is teaching Psychology and Sociology; and Miss Barling teaches Science and Geography, covering the maternity leaves of Dr Taylor and Miss Smith. Mrs Scovell, previously Mrs Haskett's maternity cover, now has a permanent post teaching PE, whilst Miss Withers (another ex-TWGGGS pupil) also has a permanent PE post, having trained here last year. Miss Stead is the new Head's PA, Mrs Roberts has joined us as HLTA, and Mrs Kottler and Ms Threlfall are both carrying out their teacher training at TWGGGS, in History and Music respectively. We very much enjoy working with them.

Sadly, since the beginning of term, we have had to say goodbye to two members of our invaluable support staff. Mr Hawkins has been part of the TWGGGS caretaking team for over 6 years, fulfilling his role superbly and with good humour. We will very much miss him, but wish him a happy, well-earned retirement. Mrs Stewart-Smith took early retirement earlier this month, in order to relocate to France. She has been at TWGGGS for 19 years, during which time she has held a myriad of roles, most recently Admissions Manager, Personnel and Executive Assistant to the Headteacher, and in all of these she excelled. To say she is already missed is truly an understatement, and we wish her and her husband every happiness in their new life.

**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 TWGGGS 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sporting events, drama productions etc, however, if the photographs include pupils other than your daughter, please do not publish these on social media.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.

**Parents' Evenings – Mrs Wybar**

We have again made the decision this year to hold most parents' evenings virtually using SchoolCloud; we would be interested in your feedback on this as opposed to in person parents' evenings. We hope to hold the two Year 7 parents' evenings in January on the school site, in order to allow these parents new to TWGGGS to meet teachers in person. There were very positive comments received from Year 11 parents about the recent virtual Sixth Form Options Evening; this information, including subject specific presentations, is now on the school website.

**Covid-19 Vaccinations - Mrs Wybar**

We have recently been informed that the Covid-19 vaccinations will be co-administered on the 29th November 2021, the same day as the Flu immunisation. If you have a child in Years 7-11, you should be receiving information from the NHS about this very soon, through your TWGGGS ParentMail. NHS England will soon open an offer for 12-15 year olds to get the COVID-19 vaccine out of school, such as through vaccination centres. This offer will run in parallel to in-school vaccinations. Parents of children aged 12-15 will receive a letter from the NHS with more information on the vaccination programme, including how to book an appointment out of school, if that is preferred.

**Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 2021- Mrs Wybar**

I am delighted to announce that Lulu Marken (11) was one of the fifteen winners of the Young Poets of the Year Award for her poem, *Dragons' Tails*. This year's top 100 poems (15 winners and 85 commended poems) were selected by Clare Pollard and Yomi Şode from 14,408 poems from over 6,775 poets aged 11-17 from across the UK and around the world. Writers from 109 different countries entered the competition from as far afield as South Africa, China, Ethiopia and Georgia, as well as the four corners of the UK. The top 15 poets are invited to attend a residential writing course at the Arvon centre, The Hurst in Shropshire, in February 2022; there they will spend a week with the judges, focusing on improving their poetry and establishing a community of writers. All 100 winners receive a year's youth membership of The Poetry Society and a goody bag full of books.

### **Dragons' Tails - Lulu Marken**

Limescale curling around a plug hole as a dragon's tail.  
I washed underwear, colour of Virginian red clay mines  
In the same sink  
That I spat toothpaste in at five years old.  
Nimbostratic rusted water, hemmed with soap scum,  
The kind of water you could drown in –  
as your mother is settled by the stove searing onions in oil –  
Without ever being killed.

Lulu's poem was one of a small number specifically mentioned in the judges' comments: "But it is the vivid images that have stuck most forcefully out in our minds:..... 'limescale curling around a plug hole as a dragon's tail'..... These are poems that fully inhabit this present moment." We are hugely proud of her achievement; many congratulations Lulu!

### **Sporting Success for Verena Pauling 7T**

Congratulations to Verena Pauling who recently won gold, 2 silvers and a 4<sup>th</sup> place at Swimming Gala in Crawley (Lis Hartley Long Course) and who has been selected for the 11 year old development pathway camp in Kent running at half-term. Very well done Verena!

### **Sailing Triumph for Ella Lance U6B**

Congratulations to Ella Lance and her new crew Will Martin who have become 2021 420 Class National Champions following a gruelling sailing competition off the North Wales coast in September. They were first overall, first open board and first mixed boat.

### **Hockey Selection - Freja Holder 10W**

As a result of regional trials in June, I was selected as one of two goalkeepers to go to the Futures Cup, representing the U15 South of England team, the Saxon Tigers. This is a four day long international hockey tournament where the four regions of England, and the Scottish and Welsh national teams compete for the prestigious Futures Cup. On 25th August, I headed to Hertfordshire to play the Welsh U16 national team, winning 6-0. Following a rest day on Thursday, gameplay continued on Friday when we beat the Pennine Pumas 8-1. This victory put us through to the final against Scotland on Saturday, which we won 2-0, were awarded gold medals, and proudly raised the Futures Cup. It was an amazing experience and I am very grateful to have had this opportunity.

Huge congratulations to Freja on her selection, for making three crucial saves against the Cougars, which in effect is the Scottish National side, and for winning gold!

### **Hockey Selection for Bea Rowbottom and Freya Jones - Mrs Scovell**

Well done to Bea Rowbottom 11S and Freya Jones 10G who have been advanced through the first round of the selection process for the South Performance Centre. If they are successful at the next round of selections, they will join Freja Holder at the Tonbridge Hockey Performance Centre.

### **U12 County Hockey Tournament - Miss Withers**

On 29th September, TWGGS U12 hockey team set off for the U12 county competition. Our first match was against Asford which ended up 0-0. We then moved on to play against Colfes, winning 5-0 with Anjalie Rohan scoring three amazing goals. Our last group game was then against Sevenoaks, a tough game with the final score 0-0. Having made it to the semi-finals, this was a great moment for the team; we played very well against Kent College Pembury, showed excellent determination and marking throughout, and came out on top 3-0. We had made it to the final!

In the final we found ourselves against our previous rivals Sevenoaks. We scored an early goal, which gave us the boost we needed; we defended well and moved the ball quickly, resulting in a 4-0 win. This result means that the team will now progress to the regional tournament. Well done everyone!

Squad: Flo Rowbottom (GK) 7W, Lottie Butcher 7G, Lizzie Bennett 7S, Daisy Brandon 7T, Charlotte Wren (VC) 7W, Anjalie Rohan © 7I, Madeleine Gibson 7S, Claudia George 7G, Niamh Daly 7S, Amelia Petrie 7G.

### **Kent Hockey Tournament 2021 - Maddie Malone 11G**

TWGGGS Year 10 and 11 hockey team went off to play in the Kent County tournament at Sevenoaks on 14th September. We were very anxious to play as we'd only played to match standard against one team prior to the competition, a game which we unfortunately lost. We arrived at Sevenoaks and managed to fit in a lengthy warm up and tactic talk in order to play more strategically from the start. The first round was a round robin - meaning there were four teams that all played each other and the top two went through to the next round. We came second out of the four, beating one team, drawing with another and losing (not by much) to Sevenoaks, with the help of some great saves from our goal keeper. After the first round, to secure a place in the semis, we had to play a fourth match against Cranbrook. This match was the most tense as it ended in a draw so we had to go to penalty flicks, which we'd never practised. However, we beat Cranbrook with some very strong penalty flicks and got through to the next round.

In the final round we had to play TGS and Sevenoaks for the top two teams to go to the regional tournament. We came third out of the three, however we are the first reserve team for the regional tournament. We started out less confident playing together but by the end of the day we were working and communicating so much better as a team; we all came back smiling. Many thanks to Mrs Scovell and Miss Withers for taking us; we all had a great time.

Team: Freja Holder 10W, Maddie Malone 11G, Lily Newberry 10W, Freya Jones 10G, Megan Houghton 10I, Erin Lawley 10G, Isabella James 11T, Maddie Kilgarriff 11W, Shaniyah Sood 10G, Sophie Barr 10W, Ash Naismith 11G, Amelia James 11I, Caitlin Bowler 10G, Emelia Belfield 10G.

### **TWGGGS Ski Team**

The TWGGGS Ski Team competed in the English Schools' Ski Association ESSKIA race at Chatham in September with the teams coming 4th in their categories. The team have been training hard and thoroughly enjoyed the challenge of a longer ski slope, rollers and the crowd watching them, and following their first run they all improved their second run times (Jess Tovey 9S, Bess McKibbins 9S, Kitti Holroyd 9W, Emily Holgate 8I, Emma Critchley 8I, Iris Holroyd 7T, Tabitha Cater 7W, Millie James 11I, Isobel Aves 11I, Maisie Lagden 10S, Amelie Lagden 10W, Lila Ayton 10I). Lila Ayton gained overall first place as the fastest girl racer of the day.

Two weeks later the team returned to Chatham for the Kent Schools' Ski 2021 Championships. Improved second run times were gained with TWGGGS B (Jess Tovey, Bess McKibbins, Kitti Holroyd, Emily Holgate) narrowly beating TWGGGS C (Emma Critchley, Tabitha Cater, Iris Holroyd) in the lower secondary competition. TWGGGS A (Millie James, Ella Stevenson 9I, Lila Ayton) won the overall fastest girls' secondary school shield of the championships. Bess McKibbins came 4th overall in the lower secondary competition and Lila Ayton gained silver as second fastest overall girl racer. Iris and Emily also gained podiums with their fun teams in the exciting dual slalom.

Training will restart at the end of October - please contact [lindsay.j.ayton@icloud.com](mailto:lindsay.j.ayton@icloud.com) if you are interested in joining.

### **Highly Commended for Kate de Putter in the German Classics Prize - Mrs Wheeler**

Congratulations to Kate de Putter U6F who was awarded Highly Commended for her essay on Kleist's *Die Verlobung in St. Domingo* and submitted to the Oxford German Classics Prize. Kate independently read and studied the book and wrote an essay in German which the judges described as insightful, well-written and as good as a first-year undergraduate essay. Kate has been invited to attend a prize-giving ceremony in Oxford in June. Well done, Kate!

### **Careers Talks - Miss Hutchinson**

Due to current COVID restrictions we are unfortunately unable to hold our biannual careers evening this year. In lieu of this we are really keen to provide pupils with information and insight into a broad range of careers and pathways through lunchtime/virtual talks throughout the year. Please do get in contact if you can give a talk about or guidance in a particular field. Likewise if you have any suggestions or contacts you feel might be of use, please do send them to me ([amy.hutchinson@twggs.kent.sch.uk](mailto:amy.hutchinson@twggs.kent.sch.uk)).

### **War Widows Association (WWA) Founders' Day Service - Sgt St Pierre**

On 24th September, a section of ten senior cadets and I travelled to the Guards' Chapel, Wellington Barracks, London to attend the WWA Founders' Day Service. It was a touching ceremony which not only celebrated the 50th anniversary of the WWA but also paid tribute to all loved ones lost in various wars. Three cadets were responsible for delivering the WWA Standard to the altar. Prior to the event, the Standard Bearing Party had attended extra drill sessions in order to learn the new, specific skills required to present the Standard to the priest correctly and play a pivotal role in the service. This really paid off as their drill was carried out in perfect unison on the day.

We had many opportunities to show our squad's drill abilities to high-ranking military personnel such as the Major General of the Irish Guards. However, attending the ceremony gave us the privilege to mingle with the widows themselves. It was fascinating to hear their stories, be it how they met their partners or even about their own time in the armed forces. Despite it being a small service, it was still an extremely rewarding experience as so many of the attendees commented on the professionalism and turn out that the TWGGS CCF displayed. We all thoroughly enjoyed ourselves (particularly the part where we got to eat cupcakes during the afternoon reception) but most importantly, by helping to escort the war widows, it was a perfect reminder to all the cadets how vital it is to help small associations like the WWA to come together and form such a wonderful society.

### **Brompton Barracks Open Day - Cadet Payne**

On Saturday 11th September 13 cadets and I went to Brompton Barracks with Lieutenant Trebino and Sub-Lieutenant Shrubsole. It was an early start with the minibus leaving school at 6am but by the time we got there we were all wide awake. Our first activity was an assault boat race. Straight after that some of us got to use an actual digger to move a tyre around a small course. Our next challenge was an assault-course and climbing wall, physically tiring but lots of fun. We also took part in a team building exercise; this involved one cadet verbally guiding the rest of the cadets, who were blindfolded, out of a maze of ropes. After lunch we made bird boxes, rewired a plug and had a very interesting and informative talk about the history of the Gurkhas; we even got to hold a Kukhuri (the weapon which Gurkhas used to fight in different wars and battles). Finally, we had a bricklaying competition with some of the other cadet contingents. Despite not winning that trophy, we did win the award for the best overall section and got complimented on our drill by another contingent leader. All in all, it was a very exciting and enjoyable day!

### **Parachuting for seniors in our CCF - Cpl Trueman**

At the end of the first week back to school, cadets from L6 and U6 were offered the once in a lifetime opportunity to do a static line parachute jump at the Neveravon Army Parachute Centre in Wiltshire. We left TWGGS after school on 3rd September, nervous and excited after hearing stories from the jump that took place the previous weekend. After a budget challenge to see who could buy dinner closest to our £15 budget, we shared our favourite, funniest and weirdest moments from CCF before heading to bed excited for the jump. At 8:00am on Saturday we headed to the hangar to start intense training to prepare ourselves to jump that evening. Our lovely instructor Gemma prepared us for all scenarios like malfunctions, nuisances and the very rare static line hang up. We learnt how to perform control checks to check our parachute was functioning properly and we were taught the 2 different landing positions, neither of which I ended up adopting during my jump. At 6:00pm we started kitting up and doing some final practices of positions and drills. Unfortunately, we had a weather hold due to the clouds, meaning we had to jump the next day.

The following morning we had our refresher session before heading out to the plane at around 11:00am. Adrenaline running high, we all successfully jumped and completed our landing safely with no malfunctions. I think everyone would agree that it was the most amazing opportunity and, as Captain Naismith said, it was something that many think about, a good few talk about, some intend to do, a few try and we did. I am so proud of everyone who jumped and would definitely recommend it to anyone willing to take on a challenge!

### **Matthew Scott PCC Violence Against Women and Girls Survey**

Please see the below link to a survey that is being run by the Police Crime Commissioner Matthew Scott, the subject of which is Violence against Women and Girls. The police are keen to gain as many views and experiences around this subject, so this has been sent to staff and pupils as well as to you as parents.

<https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/VAWGKENTPCC/>

Many thanks,

Jodie Hobbs

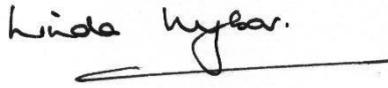
**Schools Co-ordinator**, Strategic Partnerships and Child Centred Policing Command

### **Coin Collection - Julie Robinson, Ghana Education Project Trustee**

Thank you very much to everyone who donated to the recent coin collection in aid of Ghana Education Project, this term's charity. To date we have collected just over £500 and have 13kg of foreign coin that will be exchanged for a further donation. The charity supports pupils at Kyabobo Girls' School, providing the pupils with all the resources they need to access education. One of the major items of expenditure this year will be for new text books and money

raised this term will greatly help. Future fundraising events include refreshments for Annie, a Hot Chocolate and Donut sale, and various form events. With your support we can raise lots of money for this small but very effective charity that really does make a difference to the pupils at Kyabobo Girls' School.

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 that serves as a separator.

Mrs L Wybar, Headteacher