As we draw to the end of another busy, successful year, it gives us great pleasure to celebrate the many and varied achievements of girls and staff here, of which we are enormously proud. In and out of the classroom, individuals and teams have met challenges, reached sometimes seemingly impossible goals and, I hope, had a lot of fun along the way! I am most grateful to all the staff and girls that made this possible.

With very best wishes,
Linda Wybar

Inside…

Une Visite à Boulogne

The author
Sophia Bennett
comes to school

Lower Sixth Production
“Our Country’s Good”

A2 Art

Ghana 2012

CCF Annual Camp

Year 10
German Exchange to Bad Godesberg

2012-2013
On May 15th Sophia Bennett, who is a successful author of teen books, came to TWGGS and met Year 7 and 8 pupils. In our English lesson she spoke to us about her life as an author and what inspired her to write, as well as telling us about her novels, “Threads”, “The Look” and her new novel, “You don’t know me”. We were able to ask Sophia questions and she answered each question very honestly; she was extremely interested in what we were asking her. At the end of the talk she invited us to enter a competition on her website in which we would be able to win a copy of her newest novel. At lunchtime she visited the library for a book sale and signing.

We could buy the books which she had talked about in her presentation, which she would sign for us. Sophia was very down to earth and very pleasant to talk to. It was the first time I had met a successful author and as a fan of her books I really enjoyed meeting her and listening to her talk about writing.

Elle Ayton 8T

Sophia with her loyal fan, Elle Ayton

West Kent Schools’ Teen Book Awards

On Tuesday 19th March 2013, after 5 months of hard work as book and film judges, girls attended a glamorous Gala Award evening at Kent College, Pembury.

Our theme for 2013 was “The Book Came First. From Page to Screen” and the evening was organised like an Oscar-style event: red carpet, photographers, we had it all! The girls all looked fantastic, either dressed in their best “red carpet frocks” or in fancy dress as book characters. Some of our girls had to go on stage and tell the audience why they liked some of the books we had read. Kira Prowse (7T) and Emily Brook (8T) confidently addressed the audience with their reviews. “It was great,” they both agreed.

Just when we thought it couldn’t get any better, we were privileged to a presentation and discussion between famous teen book author Anthony McGowan and film maker David McKean, which gave us a real insight into what inspires authors and how difficult it can be to make a book into a good film.

The Hobbit, by J R R Tolkien was awarded best book in the teen category and best book in the young adult category went to The Other Boleyn Girl by Philippa Gregory.

Emily Brook, 8T

Emily Brook, Mia Vyner, Anna Brian, Mr Hodges and Mr Russell at the WKSTBA gala evening
Every year we participate in the Carnegie Children’s Book Award Shadowing Scheme. Over 10 weeks we read the 8 shortlisted books, discuss their merits and vote for our winner. I joined the Carnegie scheme this year as an avid reader along with the rest of my bookworm group. Our task was to crown one fortunate entry, in a balloon debate with 3 other schools, the winner for 2013. Our collaborators in debating the books and competitors in winning prizes were Skinners’ Kent Academy, The Boys’ Grammar and Skinners’ School. We had to design a fresh new cover for one of 8 shortlisted books, write a masterpiece review and present a 3-minute debate which would hopefully sway the audience into voting for the book we were promoting. On Wednesday, 19th June we set off to Skinner’s Kent Academy to prove that our book was the best. It was a ferocious battle of words and we overwhelmingly voted for “Wonder” by RJ Palaccio to be our winner. However, you can imagine our surprise when we found out that the official prize committee disagreed and awarded the medal to “Maggot Moon” by Sally Gardner! Some were upset, some were victorious but we were all glad to have had such a good time.

Hannah Naismith 7G

On Friday, 8th March 2013 you could have been forgiven if you thought there was something wrong with your vision – blue faces everywhere? What was going on? It was World Book Day and we proved once again that the girls at TWGGS are not just brilliant academically, but have real talent and flair for creative projects, too: The blue vision was actually 7T who all dressed up as Smurfs as part of our Year 7 dressing-up competition for World Book Day. Lots of innovative and imaginative costumes were wandering the corridors, and awarding the prizes was really difficult. Our Best Individual costume overall was the brilliantly devised Marvin from the Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy, which turned out to be Rosie Neville from 7S.

Mrs Mattheus-Ratcliffe, Librarian

Rosie Neville, 7S as Marvin
Finally, after a year and a half of counting down, we were off to Ghana!

We landed in Accra early on Monday 22nd October, and after just a few hours, were in a swimming pool in Akosombo, which we all agreed was one of the best Monday mornings of our lives!

The next day we drove up to Nkwanta, and spent a couple of days settling into the Kyabobo Centre, meeting local people and acclimatizing to the heat, as well as getting to know the children we would be working with.

The first part of each morning was spent in the primary schools teaching the children simple Maths, English and Geography. It was brilliant, but did become completely hectic at times; for example, when we attempted to teach the “Hokey Cokey” to 60 eight year olds with limited English!

We also spent time in high schools, where we could really relate to students of a similar age to us. We chose an Aesop’s fable, and focused our lessons around it to develop their English skills, and creativity. This was challenging as little emphasis is placed on independent learning in Ghanaian schools – we had to work hard to encourage them to write what they really thought about a subject, as opposed to what they thought the correct answer might be.

Spending time with the students of our own age, particularly the girls, who were so grateful for their education, was very humbling, and it was brilliant to see the enthusiasm of the children, who have so few opportunities in life and their willingness to learn.

The afternoons gave us the chance to challenge local students to volleyball and badminton on the sports fields - however we were no match for them, and often had to admit defeat after the Ghanaian heat got the better of us!

Our final week was spent in the south of the country around Cape Coast, where we were able to print our own Batik fabric, make jewellery, visit the slave forts and Wli falls, and go on the famous Ghanaian tree top canopy walkway, all of which were all incredible experiences and a perfect end to the trip of a lifetime. We returned to TWGGS with a much greater appreciation for just how lucky we are in this country to have the opportunities that we do.

Our endless fundraising had paid off and we raised over £53,000 for the Ghana Education Project. This, and an incredible three weeks, would not have been possible without the continued help and support of Mr Breeze, Miss Muddle, Dr Brimsted, Julie Robinson, and all of our parents, for which we are hugely grateful.

Ella Morris and Tasba Smith L6
This has been an unforgettable experience. It goes without saying that participants have no doubt made life-long friendships which have been strengthened by the enthusiasm and sense of community within the group. During our time in India, we were immersed in an entirely different culture; we soon found out that the food, weather and way of life were nothing like we had ever experienced before. The vibrant colours and wonderfully different smells of Kerala really made an impression on us; green oranges and the colours at the market certainly impressed us most. Personally, my most memorable moment was visiting the Lotus Temple. The sense of well-being and prosperity overwhelmed us, particularly when meeting the Guru, who spoiled us with gifts and sweets. Elephant riding was also a wonderful experience where we all had immense fun, and we equally enjoyed the chance to visit numerous cultural landmarks and vibrant market places.

We have all enjoyed hosting our exchange partners here in Tunbridge Wells; being able to show someone from an entirely different corner of the world our culture is highly rewarding and has been an immense pleasure. Pub lunches, trips to Thorpe Park and seaside adventures have left each and every Indian visitor with (hopefully) incredibly happy memories of their time in England. This has enabled us to repay the hospitality we enjoyed whilst staying with our exchange families in India. Our Indian guests have, likewise, experienced a totally different culture here; freezing temperatures of 25C and the amount of tea and toast consumed have certainly been a shock!

Libby Halsall
This term we had an overnight camp at school, which was the culmination of everything we had learnt this year in CCF.

We got the chance to put all of our new skills into practice, including orienteering, teamwork, first aid and camouflage. We also had to cook our own food on a Trangia gas stove, which for most of us, was a first! Luckily there were no accidents and we all managed to eat the food that we had cooked. During the evening we had the chance to learn some new skills in survival, such as how to obtain water from the ground and trees and how to make a shelter for protection. The manhunt was great fun; we did not spot Mr Nugent disguised as a tree! Finally, we did manage to get to sleep in our tents after hot chocolate with marshmallows. We had a really good time and it gave us all an idea of how CCF will be next year.
Annual Camp with 28 Cadets (Year 10 -13). Activities including Field Craft, Military skills, Competition Day, Overnight Exercise and Drill.

The winning drill team at camp - congratulated by the regional RSM where he thought the quality was simply ‘faultless’. Well done on your triumph, girls!

Laserquest - a truly fun afternoon of leaping about in the forest at Crowborough - great to see the girls having so much fun and trying to outscore each other.

Putting survival skills into practice during annual camp

A week at sea on the T.S.Royalist - United Youth Voyage

On 22nd June 2013, I set off on my adventure into the unknown: a week at sea with the sea cadets. Once a year, they invite 24 young cadets aged between 13 and 17 years old to sail their 24 metre rigger ship, the T.S.Royalist. I was extremely lucky for my letter of application to get noticed and I was chosen to do the voyage from Weymouth to Dartmouth.

It was definitely an experience that I will never forget and I loved every second of it. Thanks to the CCF Unit at TWGGS for giving me the opportunity.

Lauren Galloway 9T
5 Lower Sixth girls and four members of staff went to the south of France for our new, overseas Biology coursework trip. After a long coach journey we arrived at The Eagle’s Nest field centre, very tired, but in time for breakfast on the Monday morning. On arrival we headed straight out onto a very sunny ski slope to practise a wide range of terrestrial sampling techniques and equipment in preparation for our all important coursework. After lunch on the terrace overlooking the valley and a brisk walk to a freshwater stream, we practised our skills at data collection and identification in an aquatic environment. Dinner was followed by games: with 7 teams of girls competing against each other to complete a variety of team activities against the clock. The stakes were high, but one group emerged triumphant to claim the crown.

Breakfast on Tuesday morning was early, but we were all refreshed and it was time to put some of the techniques we had learnt into practice. After a statistics session, we headed out onto the meadows to sample the grasshopper and cricket populations and the squeals were barely stifled when we found some mega-beasties! We walked through the coniferous and deciduous woodlands, passed an ephemeral stream and back through the hay meadow, all the time looking for sites to carry out our wide range of projects. Back at the centre, the girls formulated their coursework titles and then in smaller groups travelled to 7 different ecosystems, where they spent the afternoon testing their hypotheses and refining their methods and equipment lists to ensure that their coursework investigations would run to plan. After another lovely dinner, we were back in the classroom, analysing our pilot data and preparing our experimental methods.

Wednesday was coursework data collection day. After a classroom session we went to the local village of Pont-de-Montvert before heading out for six hours of ecological investigation. Groups focussed on sites as varied as a peat bog, open meadow, freshwater stream, sewage plant and a ski run. The titles chosen ranged from the impact of light levels on plant diversity to the petal colour preferences of butterflies; we even had one girl examining the micro habitats inside cowpats!! The final evening finished with the pub quiz! We were competing with the staff and students from another school, so the pressure was on! TWGGS teachers were the overall winners, winning £40 for the school charity and one of our teams: Catherine Holkham-Coates, Paige Edmonton and Alex Young triumphantly collected a prize! The evening finished with a disco and we all fell into bed truly exhausted.

Thursday was ‘write-up day’, so after a BBQ on the terrace, we did a tough hike high up to the Tors on the mountain. The return journey was uneventful and smooth, culminating in our arrival back at school mid-morning – exhausted but glad to have achieved so much!
Maths Trip to Wales

The Maths department, headed by Mr Nugent and Mrs Matthews took 10 Lower Sixth Girls to Bangor University in Wales. Thursday we took part in the Stock Market Challenge held by Bangor University, which was an exciting experience for the TWGGS team as it included a practical application of maths on a Trading Floor environment. The challenge included a virtual week in the Stock Market where we bought and sold shares to gain a profit, while taking into account constant media reports about the companies which affected share prices. The fast pace and the bustling atmosphere brought out the competitive spirit amongst our teams. Of the two teams we entered, one came 6th and the other 16th out of 28 teams. In the afternoon we were given a tour of the Business School followed by a lecture by a Financial Economics Professor, which related to the morning's activity.

The following day, still in high spirits from the Stock Market Challenge, we were excited to climb Mount Snowdon (especially Mr Nugent). While enjoying the spectacular views of the lakes and scenery, we mountain-climbed our way to the very summit, which was a massive achievement for us “Mathletes”. The motivation for many of us during the hike was the discussion of what we were going to eat at Pizza Hut for dinner. Overall, it was an amazing trip and it was a great opportunity for us. Many thanks to Mr Nugent and Mrs Matthews for taking us.

Victoria Witter and Ambie Shah.

Lower Sixth hit the ski slopes in Vermont, USA

On the 1st April 2013, 42 girls and 5 staff travelled to Killington, Vermont for a week of skiing. The conditions could not have been better, with plenty of snow as well as clear skies and sunshine.

Those who had skied before couldn't wait to get back on the slopes while for many of us it was a completely new and exciting experience. By the end of the week everyone was skiing confidently and in the 5 days everyone not only improved but had also had a brilliant week that surpassed any of our expectations.

On the last evening in Killington we had an Awards Ceremony, where more traditional titles such as 'most improved skier' were accompanied by some more inventive awards including 'starfish skier', 'most fearless skier' and - illustrating the importance of skin protection - Mr Jones with 'most sunburnt'.

On the Sunday morning we left for New York and after stopping at an outlet store on the way, we arrived in the city. We walked to Times Square which gave us the opportunity to explore and sightsee, including the Rockefeller Centre and the Empire State Building. Shopping in Times Square and dinner at the Hard Rock Café was a truly brilliant way to spend the last evening of a fantastic trip.

On the day of our flight we had a tour of New York, allowing us to experience some iconic New York landmarks such as the Statue of Liberty, Brooklyn Bridge, Central Park and Ground Zero. It was however the last day, and that evening we departed from JFK airport for our journey back to what seemed like the comparatively cold, rainy and boring UK!

Alice Pavey L6W
Exchanges

Year 10 Join French Families in Bordeaux

When we arrived in Bordeaux for our exchange, the first thing everyone noticed was the weather: I practically did a double-take when I felt the 21 degree temperature, in March! As soon as we arrived at Le Collège d’Heurle, our exchange school, we were introduced to our families and welcomed with open arms.

The trips during the week gave us a feel and a taste of the local culture. Favourites included Bordeaux, a beautiful city, in which we visited the museum, le Musée d’Aquitaine, le Petit Train, and of course, la Rue St Catherine, which is the longest shopping street in Europe and l’Atelier du Chocolat, were we tried so many different varieties of chocolate.

My personal favourite was le Dune du Pyla, the biggest sand dune in Europe. It was so steep that it made me think I was climbing Mount Everest, but the views once I had, finally, reached the top were phenomenal. If anyone is unsure of going on the exchange, I promise you that this trip is not to test your ability, but really to help your confidence, and it will improve your learning massively. You will not regret it!

Jessica Horsley, 10S

Year 10 German Exchange to Bad Godesberg

There had been a lot of excitement since half term among the 24 girls who had applied for the German Exchange. They got to know the names of their German partners and were in contact with them throughout November. Finally, on 7 December we boarded the coach, on the 61st anniversary of our Exchange with Clara-Fey-Gymnasium. Even the journey was exciting when we saw more and more snow starting to fall as we reached the German border. The girls spent the weekend with their partner families and all tried very hard to practise their German. On Monday they accompanied their partners to some lessons at school. On offer were Art, French, Science and History. Afterwards we visited Beethoven’s birthplace in Bonn and of course the Haribo factory shop where the girls stocked up on the popular sweets.

On the following days we enjoyed a trip to Aachen with its magnificent cathedral and a visit to a glassblower’s workshop in Monschau. We also went to Cologne to have a closer look at its cathedral, the chocolate museum and some more Christmas markets. It was difficult to leave on 13 December because the friendships had grown very quickly. All of us felt that we could have enjoyed at least another week. During the return journey the girls exchanged their individual experiences and started to plan ahead for the return visit of their German partners in March.

Year 10 Spanish Exchange

Year 10 girls embarked on the Spanish Exchange to El Escorial, Madrid in March. They had the chance to visit Madrid, Segovia and they explored the historical town of San Lorenzo de El Escorial on the Madrid mountains. The trip was filled with delicious Spanish delicacies and activities provided by the wonderful Spanish host families.
On 30 November we took 89 Year 9 girls on our annual visit to Cologne. The excitement was palpable and after 8 hours of coach travel we arrived at our first Christmas market at the Kölner Dom. Girls and staff thoroughly enjoyed the festive atmosphere and used their German to make their first purchases of food and Christmas presents. Reibekuchen (potato fritters) and different kinds of sausage were very popular as well as the waffles! After a visit to Museum Ludwig, an art gallery specialising in Modern and 20th Century art, the girls visited 3 more different Christmas markets and met St. Nikolaus during their boat trip on the Rhine. The girls frequently broke out into song and spontaneously performed a number of German and English Christmas songs to the public. We should probably have collected contributions from the numerous interested bystanders to support next year’s trip. Although it was cold during the trip, we sadly did not see any snow.

The girls returned both happy and exhausted to Tunbridge Wells on 1st December, having experienced a unique start to Advent and Christmas in Germany.

In July the whole of Year 7 went on a French trip to Boulogne, leaving school at 6:45am. Everyone, passports in hand, got on to the coaches, filled with excitement. The coach drivers were jolly on the journey and before we knew it we were on the shuttle and going through the Eurotunnel. The arrival in France was exciting and several girls squeaked as we drove onto foreign ground. Our first stop was Auchan (pronounced ocean) the hypermarket, where we had a great time running around in the huge shop buying lots of things. Once our first shopping spree was over, it was time for a rest as many of the girls were yawning and complaining about their empty stomachs. The driver took us to a nice little park where we ate our lunches below the city ramparts. After our picnic we made our way, quizzes in hand, down to into the old town for our tour of Bologne. In the narrow cobbled streets we came upon the famous stalls where we could buy our berets! We had great fun buying things from all of the little shops and market stalls. All you could see as we made our way to the Town Hall was an array of coloured hats, glasses and the TWGGS school uniform. We marched on merrily into another street where we went shopping to see the famous cheese shop and a great chocolate shop! We then walked over to the square and ordered our drinks at the café in French. With tired legs we walked back to the coaches and we sat down for the return journey. Exhausted, but very happy, we all arrived back in England after a sunny and successful day trip to Boulogne.
In February I applied for a competition called ‘Young Start up Talent’, an initiative for 16 – 25 year old entrepreneurs with a flair for business. The prize was £50,000 worth of business products and services. I came up with the idea of a dress business where you could design your own dress and have it custom made for you instead of trying to find it on the high street. My business idea was selected for the semi-final.

I was up against three other businesses: ‘Double Take Discos’ a mobile disco and party planning service. ‘SMT trading’ a firm which supplies linen-based products to hotels and restaurants and ‘Easy Radio Kent’ a charity radio which aims to promote young people in the local area.

During the process I created a business plan, and analysed it with successful businessmen and women. Finally I had to pitch my business in a “Dragons Den” style interview and was asked grilling and testing questions, which put my business to the test, whilst being filmed by a television company. This film was then displayed at Trinity Theatre for the Grand Final.

Unfortunately I did not win the competition but I did get a lot out of the process and I have now been given the support to make my dress business into a reality.

Anna Wells

The whole of Year 10 attended two Business and Enterprise Days, which tested our knowledge and gave us the opportunity to learn more about the type of people that we are. The first day consisted of: financial skills, personality profiling and learning about resources and how to use them effectively. The finance lesson helped to develop our understanding of how to use money wisely and how much disposable income is left to spend on non-essential items. We then spent the majority of the day learning how to contribute to a team and to identify types of learner. The second day was a competition and the year was split into 5 classes with 5 groups in each class. Every team included: Project Manager, Marketing Executive, Finance Office and Catering Manager. Groups were then assigned the task of being a catering service who would deliver a dinner for 100 VIPs from the Commonwealth to celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee.

The groups were given half a day to plan what they were going to do, how they were going to carry out the event and how they were going to manage their money. After lunch the teams would have to deliver their pitch to the judges whilst competing with the other groups. The winning group from each class then presented their proposal to the year group and a new set of judges. The winning team received a prize. This task tested how well we would cope under pressure, how organised we were and how we should apply our skills to the task. Both days were a great success and gave us an insight into how we would cope in a business situation. We would like to thank all those who assisted with this enjoyable but challenging event.

By Emily Bone 10W

The debating year came to a very successful end in June, with a Y11/12 TWGGS team reaching the final of the England World Schools competition, held at Ibstock Place School in London. Having spent the rest of the year debating in the rather confrontational, quick-fire British Parliamentary style (think Prime Minister’s Questions and you have some idea of the usual atmosphere), we had to make the transition to the more polished, reflective World Schools style used in international debating. The team, led by the new Debating Prefect, Elle May, won all three of their first rounds and were only eventually beaten by an extremely experienced team from Dulwich College in a final on the subject of arming the Syrian rebels. Congratulations to Elle, and to the Y11 debaters: Coco Collard, Ellie Drewry and Polly Smythe.

Elle May (L6) and Lucy McCann (U6), record-breaking finalists in this year’s Oxford, Cambridge and Durham Schools Debating Competitions
Year 8 and Year 9 TWGGS pupils, including myself, travelled to Sevenoaks Magistrates’ Court to take part in the Kent Mock Trial Competition. Despite weeks of meetings, rehearsals and discussions, we were all extremely nervous as we walked into the building. We each had our own part to play in the courtroom drama for which we had prepared: lawyers, magistrates, usher, legal adviser, witnesses and even the defendant. Charlotte King, Rachel Weatherley and Kerensa Froome were performing double roles, making it even more difficult for them.

TWGGS began prosecuting against the TGS defence in a tough case. The competition takes place in the actual court room which was very daunting. However, once I had begun cross-examining the witness, it became exciting and tremendously enjoyable. My partner Katie Butcher Q.C. asked some brilliant questions and together we succeeded in a conviction! In Round Two, TWGGS defence lawyers, Emma Wilkinson and Caitlin Large, secured an acquittal of the defendant (an impressively composed Lauren Whitfield), against Skinners’ Kent Academy. The TWGGS lawyers spoke with great professionalism, superb confidence and style. It was exciting to watch!

Judd won the day and we were a little disappointed not to have met Judd in our rounds: we particularly wanted to have this match as their coach was Mrs Wybar’s son! However, we felt proud when the judges told us that it was a very close competition and we were delighted to have been the only team to win both defence and prosecution cases. Our team consisted of: Megan Brown, Katie Butcher, Helena Chadwick, Abigail Colletta, Eve Drysdale, Kerensa Froome, Charlotte King, Caitlin Large, Rachel Weatherley, Lauren Whitfield and Emma Wilkinson. We would like to thank Mr Franklin and Mrs Freeman, because without their guidance and support we wouldn't have had such a wonderful opportunity and done so well.

Eve Drysdale 9T

Kent Science and Technology Day

Mr Willis accompanied a team of 12 Year 9 pupils to this competition held at Canterbury College on March 22nd. Our girls were put in mixed groups with other schools and set a series of exciting challenges over the course of the day.

Lucy Overy and Alice Neve were in the winning group for the Robot Challenge and Sophia Radley and Olivia Youlton won the Bridge Construction Challenge with their team. However, Megan Brown and Issy Furminger were members of the overall winning team and will have the opportunity to participate in a National Science and Technology Competition. The other participants were Annabel Godfrey, Jess Williams, Zoë Ward, Emily Dobson, Ciara Finn, Georgia Lloyd-Roberts, Olivia Youlton and Sophie Radley.

Mr Corse told us all to be “open minded” about the day, since maths isn’t everyone’s cup of tea. However, we think everyone enjoyed it. There were many events throughout the day, such as maths ladders, tessellations, code breaking, binary numbers and orienteering. These were all great fun and made the people who weren’t so enthusiastic have a different view on what Maths is all about. It’s not all just textbooks and hard work…! Above all, we would like to say a big thank-you to everyone who put a lot of effort into the day, but particularly to the Maths teachers themselves. They made the Maths Fun Day fun!
Year 8 forms had the chance to go to the Europa Centre in order to practise their German language skills. We had to speak German the whole time to each other and to the staff, which was great fun. The challenge was to walk around the different shops in small groups in the pretend town and to buy things from the assistants. During the visit one of the staff members pretended to be a thief and we were shocked to see her stealing from the shops. She also took my “credit card”, so we went to the “police station” to report her. There, we found out that she had been very busy that day and had stolen a whole list of goods, ranging from bread and cheese to a bag and hat. We also had to find a missing person and get all their information in German. Finally, we ordered cake and drinks from the café and had our lunch. It was a really good experience, we liked our group leader Christel and we certainly enjoyed the opportunity to have some fun, speaking German.

Theresa Roxburgh & Ella Litchfield 8S

For me the World Language Day trip to the University of Kent was one of the best school trips I have ever been on: it was extremely interesting, fun and inspiring. It was very exciting to be at a university, which was like a village in itself! The sessions began with an introductory talk from the organisers of World Language Day about the day. We then split into two groups for either the Spanish theatre play (Sherlock) or the French theatre play (Les Misérables). I went to the French play and I thought that it was very interesting because the actors spoke very fast in French, and although I couldn’t understand every sentence they were saying, I could get the general idea from their body language and a few words that I understood.

After the break, everyone went off to their different language sessions, and I got one of my first choices, Russian. I chose this one because I have never heard or spoken Russian and I thought it would be exciting to try something so new and different. I was definitely right! The presenter, David Hornsby, was very good as he only spoke Russian for the whole session, and left us to try and figure out what he was saying. This idea seemed daunting at first when he was asking us questions and we had no idea what he was saying, but when we settled into it, he managed to make it quite clear to us what he was saying. By the end of the session I had picked up some phrases that will start me off in the Russian language.

After Russian I had a French Theatre Workshop, where we put some of our French knowledge to practice, and picked up a few new words. It was fun as we did a lot of acting and had to create a short play, all in French. I really enjoyed this because it made me push myself to my French limits.
On Monday 15th July we enjoyed a wide array of activities as part of an extravaganza celebrating the French National Festival of Bastille Day, officially celebrated on the 14th. During lunchtime girls participated in a French treasure hunt organised by L6th French pupils and many tried their hands at the traditional game of Pétanque (Boules). There were also opportunities to quite literally taste some French culture; a French themed cake and sweet sale at break raised money for Kent Air Ambulance, while the canteen offered a French themed menu which consisted of Poulet Provençal and Profiteroles au Chocolat amongst other dishes. The festivities were additionally embraced by the library, where new French books were displayed alongside fantastic Bastille Day posters designed by the Year 7s. The day was topped off by both students and staff sporting their bérets, allowing everyone to thoroughly enjoy themselves and get involved. A huge thank you to the French Department and to all those that made the day such a success!

Amy Tyler L6

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A very sleepy Year 9 climbed onto coaches to head off for our activity week in Devon. As soon as we arrived we started our activities which were amazing and ranged from dangling 50ft above the trees to surfing. My favourite event was water-skiing; it was so exhilarating and satisfying when you could do it. We all had a chance to go on the “Ringo Ride”, where we had to hang onto an inflatable rubber tube attached to a speed boat. Most of us managed to get around the lake at high speed – even the teachers! Every day was packed with activities, such as climbing, coastal walks, canoeing, pedal carting and low ropes. Everything was focussed around team building and achievement, which gave the days a really positive and fun atmosphere. Suddenly our five days were finished and we were getting into the coaches to head home with certainly less enthusiasm than we had on Monday. We will always remember the fun parts: Mr Russell capsizing, falling off the climbing wall, nearly running the instructor over in the pedal carts and eating chocolate spread sandwiches for lunch. It was an amazing opportunity and we would all happily do it again!

Charlotte Bartholomew

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On Monday 15th July we enjoyed a wide array of activities as part of an extravaganza celebrating the French National Festival of Bastille Day, officially celebrated on the 14th. During lunchtime girls participated in a French treasure hunt organised by L6th French pupils and many tried their heads for ‘no’ and shake them for ‘yes’! Finally we attended a fun Plenary Closing Session where World Language Day finished, and we found out the winners of the European Quiz.

I really enjoyed my trip to the University of Kent for World Language Day, and I hope that I will be able to go again.

Beth Shaw 8S

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Very sleepy Year 9 climbed onto coaches to head off for our activity week in Devon. As soon as we arrived we started our activities which were amazing and ranged from dangling 50ft above the trees to surfing. My favourite event was water-skiing; it was so exhilarating and satisfying when you could do it. We all had a chance to go on the “Ringo Ride”, where we had to hang onto an inflatable rubber tube attached to a speed boat. Most of us managed to get around the lake at high speed – even the teachers! Every day was packed with activities, such as climbing, coastal walks, canoeing, pedal carting and low ropes. Everything was focussed around team building and achievement, which gave the days a really positive and fun atmosphere. Suddenly our five days were finished and we were getting into the coaches to head home with certainly less enthusiasm than we had on Monday. We will always remember the fun parts: Mr Russell capsizing, falling off the climbing wall, nearly running the instructor over in the pedal carts and eating chocolate spread sandwiches for lunch. It was an amazing opportunity and we would all happily do it again!

Charlotte Bartholomew
For their Unit 2 examination, “Performance of an Extract of a Play”, the Lower Sixth showcased two amazing pieces of theatre. The first group’s performance of “4.48 Psychosis” proved to be a highly successful and challenging piece; the added benefit of performing in-the-round really helped the girls to interact with the audience and to create a visually spectacular result. The second performance of the night, “The Fall of the House of Usher”, was also very well received; the audience were hugely impressed with the girls’ stark Victorian adaptation in the style of Steven Berkoff. A special mention goes to Sophia Wallace for obtaining a total of 99% for her coursework and performance!

The Upper Sixth class showcased two innovative and contrasting pieces of original work, which they conceptualised and wrote themselves. The first piece, “The Poplar Tree”, utilised the features of Physical Theatre to explore the theme of marriage. The girls worked with puppetry, projection and a wide range of movement to realise their inventive ideas culminating in a visually spectacular final piece. The second piece, “Please Hold: Tales From The Third Storey” employed the stylistic features of Narrative Theatre to deliver a highly comedic outcome. The audience were thoroughly entertained by their imaginative concept, which featured references to musical theatre, Feminism and the Hippie Movement. All of the girls achieved Band 1 for their individual performances and should be commended on their professionalism and dedication throughout the devising process.
Ten groups performed across both classes, showcasing a plethora of different styles, genres and themes. The first performance of “Stags and Hens” bravely employed the notoriously tricky Scouse accent to deliver witty one-liners and entertain the audience. A stage adaptation of the popular novel, “Little Women” followed, opening with an ensemble version of “In the Bleak Midwinter” to establish a more serious tone. The third performance was “Teechers”, a three-hander, which used multi-role and exaggerated characters to create comedy. The penultimate performance of the first evening was “Shakers”, another multi-role piece, which used heightened characters to portray an ugly reality. The first evening ended with the highly inventive and original, “Villains with a Vendetta”, a devised piece written and conceptualised by the girls.

The second evening continued to display TWGGS’ talent at its best. The first piece, “Playhouse Creatures”, a Historicisation, explored the first female performers on the English stage; the girls wowed the audience with their accomplished performances, generating both comedy and pathos. The second, entirely different performance of “Find Me” used multi-role and ensemble work to explore mental illness. The third group to perform also combined naturalism and stylised acting in “My Mother Said I Never Should”, a unique performance looking at four generations of women. “Memory of Water”, a naturalistic play, was beautifully realised, entertaining and moving the audience in equal measures. Finally, “Blue Remembered Hills” ended the evening with a highly energetic interpretation of the popular classic. The girls delivered a truly spectacular performance, generating enormous laughter and poignancy; the perfect end to an entertaining evening.
Working alongside three boys studying Drama at Skinners’, the AS Theatre Studies class took on the almighty challenge of performing Timberlake Wertenbaker’s, “Our Country’s Good” in just five weeks! This A Level text, which the girls will write about in their Unit 3 examination next summer, explores the place of capital punishment in a society stifled by a rigid class system. Set in Australia in the 1780s, the play looks at the relationship between the convicts and Royal Marines who were sent to live in the first penal colony. They play exploits the Georgian judicial system and exposes the theatre as a humanizing tool that can bring about great change. The girls should feel extremely proud of how beautifully they realised such a challenging play. Eleanor Fitz-Gerlald’s portrayal of Governor Phillip was particularly impressive, revealing his quiet authority and controversial approach to rehabilitation. Opening with the flogging of Sideway, a convict played by the talented Beth Wright, it quickly became clear why the audience was restricted to Year 10 and above. Polly Murdoch delivered a mesmerising performance as the Aborigine, introducing each scene and watching the action from various corners of the stage. Sophia Wallace convincingly played the Liz Morden, “the most difficult woman in the colony”, Ellie Spink engaged the audience with her imaginative interpretation of Dabby, a “country girl” pining after her beloved Devon. Tilly Wood impressed the audience with her brave characterisation of Ketch, the colony’s hangman, and of Robbie Ross, the most feared officer. As the convicts grew to love the theatre and appreciate more humane treatment we saw the likes of Duckling, played courageously by Madeleine Nagel, and Arscott, played sensitively by Grace Connell, transform from hard-hearted criminals to buddy thespians.
Year 9 Drama Festival

After performing to a scrutinising younger audience (girls in Year 8), the girls were given some constructive criticism to assist them in preparing for the big night! The night started with an eerie piano solo as 9T took centre stage with “Sweeney Todd”. The actress Charlotte Batholomew was very convincing in her performance as Mrs Lovett, going on to win Best Actress owing to her fantastic characterisation and cockney accent. 9T won the prize for Best Publicity with their lifelike model set, amazing pie programme and imaginative display board.

The next play was “Oliver” by 9I. This won the prize for Most Visually Exciting, formulated by the brilliant costumes and crafty set design. Annabel Godfrey threw the most into her performance, picking up Best Supporting Actress award in the form.

The third form to perform was 9S with “Pygmalion”. This won Best Concept, which was clearly shown through their choice of scenes. Their understanding of this tricky play was evident in their impressive presentation.

The penultimate play was 9W’s “Roses of Eyam”. The play won Best Use of Space owing to the inventive blocking and imaginative way they dealt with such a large cast. Georgia Edgley, who gave powerful performances as Mompesson and Stanely should feel very proud of winning Best Performance in the form.

9G took to the stage with the final play and Overall Winning Performance of the night with “Lord of the Flies”. The transformation from sane to savage was notably the best aspect of the play; Miar Murphy, playing the Headboy of the school, gave a truly demonic performance worthy of Best Actress in the form.  

Emily Shailer 9W

Charity Fundraising

The national charity Papyrus, which aims to prevent suicide amongst young people, was our chosen charity for the winter term. We updated our Sixth Form fundraising evening and called it “TWGGS’ Voice”. With the support of a dedicated team of mentors, performers and technical assistants, we raised over a thousand pounds. It was a night of outstanding talent, with Holly, Issy, Abby and Emma from Lower Sixth winning a spot in “Tonbridge has got Talent” with their incredible four part harmony version of Beyonce’s End of Time.

We supported Kent Air Ambulance in the spring and summer terms, with numerous cake sales and fairs organised by forms, as well as a staff debate organised by Mrs Johnstone discussing whether the Arts or Sciences give a greater contribution to society. In April the stunning 12 piece Blues Brothers’ Little Brother entertained us with a night of fantastic music and dancing in a school charity concert. This year it has been a real pleasure to witness the school community coming together to do their bit for charity. Everyone involved should be very proud of the dedication shown to support charitable causes.  

Josie Howard and Jade Isted, Charity Prefects
The Year 10’s experience of D of E was one of excitement and struggle. There were many ups and downs but the result made it all worth it. We were straight to it; organising our skill, physical, and volunteer work. I, along with the majority of the year, decided on charity work once a week for 3 months. This proved to be my favourite part of D of E as I felt I got a lot out of it: confidence-through interacting with various customers, social skills and a desire to be better people as a result!

The choice of physical work was endless. Some people chose yoga or tennis, gym workouts and other classes. The skill choices revolved mostly around music lessons. One person chose to take up cooking—this proved to be a very good idea!

As the practice weekend drew closer, we all thought it would be a bit of a breeze; we were wrong. With this new, and extremely heavy, weight on our backs and having to fend for ourselves in the wilderness for a couple of days without showers or make-up, really tested us as a team and as individuals. But it was called a practice weekend for a reason, so thankfully the fact that my group got lost for at least 6 hours on that first Saturday, along with other groups didn’t matter. Nervously practising putting up tents and stuffing our pockets with sweets for easy access as we walked, we grew more nervous as the assessed D of E weekend came closer. That first night was great. Spirits were high as we piled into cake and sweets but the 12km walk the next day would not leave our minds. Thankfully no one got too lost that first Saturday and we all arrived at the campsite in one piece. With my team’s luck we managed to have to pitch up in the campsite right next to a main road. It rained, we had soggy noodles and blistered feet. Sundays walk hung over our heads and we were more than ready to get home!

Sundays walk confirmed our worst fears. My team took a 2 hour hike to our next checkpoint only to end up where we had started. With morale low and our feet really taking the strain, it was a miracle we all got to the finish line (even if it was a couple of hours late!) To be greeted by faces we recognised and access to a mobile to call our parents to take us all home, we were finally at peace.

I would definitely recommend D of E to younger years. It was one of the most tiring and exhausting experiences of my life but I wouldn’t change it for the world. I am sure that almost all of the people who took part in this year’s expedition are up for the challenge of Silver D of E. The experience widened many friendship groups and set a challenge for each and every one of us. And in the words of Beth Samuel ‘Honestly, it was horrific, but we got more out of it than we put in and I am ready for silver and the struggle but then the achievement, that comes with it.’

Well done guys we survived and PASSED DofE 😊 — 😪 feeling exhausted.
Our advisors worked flat out to support almost a quarter of the girls in the school in taking the award this year, with girls working on projects ranging from dance, creative writing, photography and music to cake decorating, art and textiles. The finished projects were of an amazingly high standard and the external moderators were particularly impressed by the girls who had published their work on their own websites. In total 240 girls attained the Award in Bronze and 12 were awarded Silver. Charlie Stuart who took her completed Gold portfolio to her Cambridge interview, clearly impressed the admissions tutors and has been offered a place to study architecture.

For our Arts Award in textiles we worked as a group to design and make a quilt. This was to be given to our Indian exchange school on their visit to England in July. Each of us chose a design that was unique to us. Personally I chose to do a number tree that represented Maths at TWGGS. I then cut numbers and a tree from different materials I thought this would best suit my design. We were only allowed to use TWGGS colours for this project as it is all about the school. I then sewed on the shapes with care and precision and then made some final adjustments to neaten up the edges. Everybody who did worked on the quilt enjoyed the experience as we learnt a lot and improved our textiles skills. We are all very proud that the hard work is good enough to be a gift for the Indian friends and that it will be displayed at their school ‘Bhavan’s Vadya Mandir Girinagar.’

Annabel Godfrey

Over 250 Girls Enjoy Arts Award Success

Professor of Sociology, Lord Anthony Giddens kindly (and unexpectedly) accepted an invitation in April to visit TWGGS to deliver a lunchtime lecture and Q & A session. The PAC was full to the brim. He spoke on climate change - a topic he is most passionate about - and awarded a copy of his latest book ‘The Politics of Climate Change’ to a Year 10 pupil who asked the best question. The turnout was impressive; the Sociology Department was out in strength, and we were joined by the Geography, Economics and Politics Departments too, as well as teachers and boys from the Boys’ Grammar, Skinners’ and The Judd School.

We were all suitably impressed by meeting someone whose theories we had studied, and on the pre-talk tour we were interested in hearing how an initial degree in Sociology and Psychology had led him to the House of Lords. He was extremely approachable, friendly and also modest – and full of questions for us about what we were studying; he was surprised to see his name is still on the Sociology syllabus!

Lord Giddens’ current field of interest incorporates the risks and opportunities posed by climate change and globalisation, and he has been collaborating with scientists on his latest work. In our preparation for meeting him we were amazed at his long list of achievements both within the field of Sociology and at the highest level of international politics.

Introducing such an influential and world-renowned figure on the stage of the PAC was an experience we will never forget.

Louise Togoh and Sunni Hussain
On Thursday 4th July the English Department hosted the 5th TWGGS Literary Evening in the Performing Arts Centre. A poetry competition on the theme of “The Sea” had been organised prior to the event, including participants from both TWGGS and various local primary schools; winners and runner-ups from several categories were selected by Kieron Winn—a successful poet who has had many works published in renowned anthologies and magazines. Kieron presented prizes to the winning poets: Agatha Fuller, Nellie Kottler, Holly Saw, Georgia Edgley and Hannah Cottrell were awarded for their beautifully creative poems about the sea, while Hannah Roberts, Beth Slatter, Emily Neale, Hannah Naismith and Lauren Gray won prizes in the science-related category. All of the winning poets read their carefully crafted works to the audience, and Kieron offered many complimentary observations from an analytical perspective, before presenting an engaging selection of his own poetry. In the second part of the evening, former TWGGS pupil and award-winning author, Bridget Collins, was welcomed for an interview by the Lower Sixth English prefects, Eleanor May, Charlotta Neely and Lottie Persad. The entire audience warmed to Bridget’s light-hearted sense of humour, while her thought-provoking and often entertaining responses to each question provided a valuable insight into the life of a full-time writer. The Literary Evening was not only a very enjoyable event, but also provided an opportunity to appreciate and celebrate written achievements across a range of talent, from those who have achieved success in their fields to those who are just beginning.

Thanks go to the Music Department for their support. The string quartet certainly added an air of sophistication to the event.

Charlotta Neely
Music

A Year in the Music Department

It has been another busy and successful year for the Music Department. I am sure we say this every year! We are thrilled to welcome our new technician, Mr. Tom Bartlett, who has definitely been ‘thrown in at the deep end’. However, Mr. Bartlett has immersed himself in the role; providing technical support for our many concerts and helping the many GCSE and A Level girls with their recordings.

One of the leading providers of residential care in the South East, Abbeyfield, asked us to compose a carol highlighting the plight of the elderly at Christmas. ‘Raise Our Voices’ composed by Leah Holm-Mercer, Sylvia Villa, Eleanor Hennebery and Emily Camburn, is the result of this collaboration. Singers across the school recorded the carol and we are very excited that Abbeyfield will be releasing the carol nationally in time for next Christmas.

Girls performed ‘Raise Our Voices’ at the Abbeyfield Carol Service in the beautiful surroundings of Aylesford Priory in the presence of the Mayor of Tonbridge. The carol is available to view on the Abbeyfield website.

The annual TWGGS Carol Service in St John’s Church on the 7th December with all of the school choirs was described as “the best yet”. Mr Corse of the Maths Department wrote and composed a carol especially for the service which was sung very enthusiastically by Year 7 supported by the Staff Choir, with Ellie Waddington, Lizzie Millar, Catherine Millar and Charlotte Dixon making up the supporting string quartet. A number of Year 8 and 9 girls also went with Mrs Harrod to two local Residential Homes to sing carols to the elderly residents. The girls were thrilled to meet and perform for the Mayor of Tunbridge Wells to much acclaim. I think a few mince pies were consumed as well!

Our chamber music groups competed in the first round of the Pro Corda Chamber Music Festival for Schools. This is a prestigious, national competition in which TWGGS is proud to be one of the very few state schools taking part. We were delighted when three of our groups were selected to perform in the semi-finals at Sevenoaks School. We are incredibly proud of the girls’ achievements and want to congratulate them for their incredible motivation and perseverance. Well done to the following: Telemann Violin Quartet – Olivia Ziani, Rosie Waddington, Harriet Mullis, Ella Frost; Mozart Quintet – Elizabeth Millar, Charlotte Dixon, Ellie Waddington, Amy Jackson-McIlwham, Catherine Millar; Mendelssohn Trio – Natasha Smith, Catherine Millar, Leah Holm-Mercer; Brahms Piano Quintet – Elizabeth Millar, Olivia Ziani, Ellie Waddington, Catherine Millar.

The Summer Junior Concert, organised by Mrs Harrod, was a wonderful event demonstrating the vast array of talent we have in Key Stage 3. From a steel pan solo to a West End show-stopping performance of Les Miserables – all girls performed with enthusiasm and great skill. 7T’s performance of ‘Revolting Children’ from Matilda was impressive and it was also encouraging to see so many budding soloists.

We are proud to have several girls who have auditioned successfully for local, county and national orchestras and choirs. Our congratulations go to Charlotte Dixon and Natasha Smith who are members of Kent County Youth Orchestra, Olivia Ziani who is a member of the National Childrens’ Orchestra, Amy Jackson-McIlwham, Elizabeth Millar, Bethan Samuel, and Ellie Waddington who are members of the National Youth Chamber Orchestra, and Hannah Samuel who is a member of the National Childrens’ Choir of Great Britain. Elizabeth Millar and Ellie Waddington will audition for the National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain in the October. We will have our fingers crossed!

Finally, a review of our year cannot pass by without mentioning our very dear friend and colleague Peter Booth whose tragic death just before Christmas left a gaping hole in our community. He was an inspiration to us all and he is sadly missed. We have dedicated the Abbeyfield carol mentioned above to Peter’s memory as it was the last thing he recorded here at school. I think he would be very proud.

Year 7 Music Festival

This year’s Music Festival was a great success. The main objective was to ensure that everyone had fun making music, which they certainly did, including the teachers. In the Class Performance category each of the forms chose a song from a musical and everyone had to be involved: singing, dancing or contributing to the arrangement. In the other categories, Battle of the Bands, Solo and Composition, pupils had been selected by their form for their talent. During the morning we really loved seeing the fantastic performances and the overall winner was 7I, who were exceptional. They won the Composition and Battle of the Bands events with their confidently performed pieces. It really was a brilliant event.

Hannah Roberts 7T
Weald Of Kent Competition - Regional Trios Achieved 2nd Place Thanks To Alex Young, Genevieve Hull and Emily Arnold

Gold Medals At The District U16 Badminton Tournament

6th At National Cross Country Championships

Biathlon Champions For The 2nd Year Running

U13 Knole Cross Country Run 2012

2nd At U16 National Netball Finals Photo With England Player Lindsay Keable

Weald Of Kent Competition - Regional Trios Achieved 2nd Place Thanks To Alex Young, Genevieve Hull and Emily Arnold

U16 Netball Squad Win County Tournament

Produced by Jade Goodwin and Jessica Coomber