



Westcliff High School for Girls

Produced by Mrs H Taylor

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Beth Tweddle Opens New Sports Facilities

Hard work and determination are two of the key factors in achieving success according to British gymnast Beth Tweddle, who opened Westcliff's new £450,000 dance studio and fitness suite earlier this month.

"It is very important not to give up when a hurdle gets in the way," she added. Miss Tweddle spoke about a major injury she suffered when she was 13 which resulted in her ankle being pinned and screwed. "Many people advised me to give up at that point but I knew I wanted more from the sport," she said.

WHSG Headteacher Dr Paul Hayman said: "We were very pleased that



Beth agreed to carry out the official opening of these new facilities which are proving really popular with students. Beth is a role model for all pupils as she has managed to balance success in education with the intense training necessary to become an Olympic standard athlete." He added: "We want to motivate our pupils by presenting them with the best of

the best and we will be encouraging all girls to use the new facilities to excel."

The dance studio, which has maple wood sprung floors and floor-to-ceiling mirrors, will be used by Year 7, 8 and 9 pupils as part of their PE lessons.

Use of the fitness suite is being built into PE lessons and is likely to appeal to students who do not enjoy taking part

in team sports. Members of the school's fitness club are also permitted to use the facilities. There is the possibility that, in the future, it may be used after school by teachers and sixth formers.

Most of the money for the extension came from parent donations to the school fund.

Beth Tweddle MBE, was the 2009 World Champion on the floor and was the 2006 World Champion and European Champion on the uneven bars. She is also seven-time British National Champion, having won the title every consecutive year between 2001 and 2007. She was awarded her MBE earlier this year.

Author Sally Nicholls visits Westcliff High School for Girls

Author Sally Nicholls visited Westcliff High School for Girls earlier this month to talk about her experience of getting published and to run creative writing workshops. She also signed copies of her



book, 'Ways to Live Forever', which is currently being made into a film.

Year 8 girls met with Nicholls and, during her sessions, were asked to write creatively about a

variety of objects brought in by the author. Poet Anthony Dunn also visited the school and, after an introductory talk, encouraged the girls to write their own poetry.

Westcliff Girls Go For Broke with Go4Set!

A team of Westcliff girls has won the engineering competition Go4Set, which required students to redesign their DT block, making it environmentally friendly. To enter the competition the team of six girls had to make an architectural model



using foam board. The six girls, who formed a lunchtime and after school club, are: Hermione Grafton, Roisin Gendall, Ellie Payne,

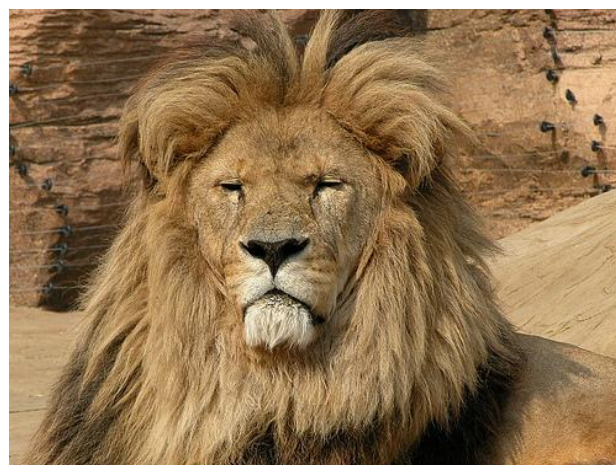
Sachini Ranasinghe and Sue Springall. Sue Springall said, "After all our hard work, it was great to know it had all paid off." Well done girls!

- Westcliff has also experienced success in the Chelmsford Engineering Society Competition. The school won first place in the Years 7-9 System and Control category and was highly commended in the Years 7-9 Design category.

Year 7 Learns About Animal Classification

A trip to Colchester Zoo gave Year 7 pupils the opportunity to study the animal classification system. They also listened to a talk by the zoo keepers on how various animals adapt to their habitats.

Carole Cobb, Head of Science said, "The pupils had a very enjoyable day. The weather was very hot and sunny and Colchester Zoo's ice cream stocks were no doubt cleaned out by the time our party left!"



Year 9 Pupils Find Mars and Venus in the Night Sky



The history of telescopes and astronomy was the focus of a Year 9 day trip to Greenwich Observatory last month. Pupils also considered how developments in these fields affected the discovery of new lands and trade routes.

The visit included a planetarium show where pupils learnt about the life cycle of a star and were shown how to find Mars, Venus and certain stars in the night sky.

Head of Science, Carole Cobb said, "The professor presenting the show was very impressed by our students' knowledge and willingness to contribute and participate."

The Art department held a successful exhibition on 30th June. Many students of all year groups came to have a look around and the parents of the exhibiting pupils (GCSE, AS and A2) enjoyed seeing the work in the evening.

Westcliff girls have become Borough Rounders Champions in the under 13s and under 15s categories.

Further information on dates and events, PTA news, buildings updates and headteacher reports can be found online at www.whsg.info