



Westcliff Newsletter

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The Westcliff Newsletter is online at: www.whsg.info

Dates for your Diary

Sun 21 Oct	PTA Boot Sale	Mon 19 Nov	Year 13 Art Trip to Florence - Returns
Mon 22 Oct	Years 8 & 10 Hockey Tour to Holland - Departs	Mon 19 Nov	Year 11 Mocks Begin
Thurs 25 Oct	Years 8 & 10 Hockey Tour to Holland - Returns	Tues 20 Nov	Years 7 to 11 Cross Country - Garons 9.00 am- 1.00 pm
Mon 22 Oct - 26 Oct	HALF TERM	Wed 21 Nov	Year 12 Geography Trip to Cranedale - Returns
Mon 29 Oct	RETURN FROM HALF TERM	Thurs 22 Nov	Autumn Concert - 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm
Tues 6 Nov	Senior Awards	Sat 24 Nov	11+ Examinations
Wed 7 Nov	New Year 12 Open Evening 7.00 - 9.00 pm	Sun 25 Nov	PTA Boot Sale
Thurs 8 Nov	Senior Maths Challenge	Wed 28 Nov	Year 13 Parents' Evening - 4.00 - 7.00 pm
Fri 16 Nov	Year 12 Performance Updates issued to Parents	Fri 30 Nov	Year 11 Mocks End
Fri 16 Nov	Years 7 to 10 Science & Engineering Student Activity	Tues 18 Dec	Carol Service
Fri 16 Nov	Year 13 Art Trip to Florence - Departs	Thurs 20 Dec	LAST DAY OF TERM
Fri 16 Nov	Year 12 Geography Trip to Cranedale - Departs		
Sat 17 Nov	Years 7 to 10 Science & Engineering Student Activity		



Welcome to new staff



New Teaching Staff:

We have welcomed a number of new teaching staff this September.

Mrs Bamber, joins us from The Coopers Company and Coborn School (Upminster) as our new Assistant Headteacher with responsibility for our Science and Engineering specialism.

Mrs Feeley joins us from Moulsham High School (Chelmsford) as our Subject Leader for Geography.

Miss Limentani joins us from Sir Roger Manwood's School (Sandwich, Kent) as our Subject Leader for Biology.

Miss Rankin joins us from Southend High School for Girls and has been appointed as Head of Design and Technology.

Mr Saxton joins us from Shenfield High School as our new Head of Modern Foreign Languages.

Miss Lang, who completed her GTP training here a year ago, joins us from The Deanes School (Thundersley) as a full time teacher of History.

Mrs Pye de Rochas completed her GTP training with us last term and now joins us as a full time member of our Modern Foreign Languages Department.

Mr Mitchell joins us from Southend High School for Girls as a full time member of our Mathematics department.

Miss Patel completed her teacher training last year and has joined our Mathematics department full time.

Dr Bowman completed her teacher training last year and has joined our Science and Chemistry department.

Mrs Staines has worked in a number of schools locally (including WHSG) and has now joined us as a part time teacher of English.

Miss Wilkins has joined us as a part time teacher of English.

Mrs Webster joins us from Plashet School (Newham) as a part time teacher of History.

Mrs Smith has joined us as a part time teacher of Psychology, and also teaches Psychology at Felsted School.

Mr McCurdy has joined us to teach Physics & Mathematics. Mr McCurdy previously taught at Westcliff High School for Boys.

Miss Michelle Herring has joined us to teach Textiles & Design and Technology. Miss Herring joins us from Sawyers Hall College (Brentwood).

Miss Blackhurst joins us to teach in Food Technology.

Miss Boatwright joins us to teach in PE.

Miss Gardner joins us to teach in Drama.

Miss Jardine joins us to teach in Art.

Miss Phillips joins us to teach in Textiles.

Mrs Pitt joins us to teach in Biology.

Miss Turner joins us to teach in Psychology & English.

Miss West joins us to teach in History.

Miss Lee joins us to teach in Biology.



Support staff changes:

At the end of last term we appointed Mr Bott to be our School Business Manager. Mr Bott was the Bursar at Westcliff High School for Boys. He will also be Clerk to the Governing Body.

Mrs Adams has joined our School Office in a part time capacity as an Administrator & Curriculum Technician.

Two new Midday Assistants have been appointed; Mrs Anderson and Mrs Gahagan.

I know you will join me in wishing all our new colleagues every success and happiness at Westcliff High School for Girls.



GTP Success

A major area of work in our school relates to our Graduate Trainee Teacher programme. I am very pleased to report that all five of last year's GTPs have successfully gained teaching jobs in schools.

They were:

- ❖ Miss Brown who has been appointed to St Martins School, Brentwood.
- ❖ Miss Datson who has been appointed to William De Ferrers School, South Woodham Ferrers.
- ❖ Miss Hurley who has been appointed to Colchester Royal Grammar School.
- ❖ Miss McCloud who has been appointed to The Fitzwimarc School, Rayleigh.
- ❖ Mrs Pye De Rojas who has been appointed to Westcliff High School for Girls



Public Examination Results 2007

Overall evaluation of the school's results.

Following last year's record A Level results, the A2 results this year were once again excellent with the school placed 33rd in the Times league table of state schools.

Most students did well enough to get into their chosen Universities with seven girls gaining places to Cambridge and one girl winning a place at Oxford.

Oxford	Raffaella Tomassi
Cambridge	Fay Beverton
Cambridge	Jennifer Brown
Cambridge	Stephanie Chan
Cambridge	Natalie Dixon
Cambridge	Jazmin Glassborow
Cambridge	Hayley Hand
Cambridge	Jennifer Stuart

49.2% of the Upper Sixth results were at grade A, with 80.9% of them were at grades A & B. There was a 100% pass rate, and 30 students, which is just under 25% of the whole year group, gained straight A grades in their examinations.

I was very pleased to learn that Natalie Dixon was amongst the top ten who achieved the highest overall marks in the Edexcel Government and Politics examinations.

The Lower Sixth AS Level examinations were noticeably down on last year with 38.3% of the results at grade A (as opposed to 41.6% last year). 13 students achieved straight A grades. The GCSE results were slightly down on last year - but comparisons are difficult as girls took more examinations making their total points scores higher than before. This year 57.5% of the grades were at A* or A.

All our pupils obtained 5(+) GCSEs including maths and English at Grade C or above - making a headline rate of 100%. 61.2% of our pupils achieved at least 5 A* and/or A grades. 18 pupils gained all A and A* grades.

At Key Stage 3 the English results obtained last year for Year 9 were a bit down, but this was more than made up for by the best ever English results obtained by this year's early entry Year 8. The Mathematics results were just below last year's record breaking figures, with 147 (out of 152) girls achieving Levels 7 & 8. The results in Science were a record, with 107 girls gaining a Level 7.

For the second year the Languages Department entered all the Year 9 girls not continuing with French or Spanish to GCSE for the new ASSET languages course. This means that all girls have the opportunity to gain a nationally certificated qualification in the language and help them to remain focused in Year 9 post option choices.

All of these results reflect the commitment and hard work by the pupils, teachers and support staff, and I thank everyone involved for what has been achieved.



Echo's Healthy School Dinners Competition

We were very pleased to learn (after term ended!) that our Catering Team had won the senior school Evening Echo Healthy School Dinners Competition.



**Mrs Jackie Carroll - Catering Manager at WHSG
(fifth from the left)**

This was an excellent recognition of the quality and range of Healthy Food provided in our school canteen. Mrs Jackie Carroll, Catering Manager, was able to receive the award and you may have seen her picture in the Echo on Friday 27 July 2007.



Premises Improvements

During the summer holiday a number of premises improvements took place which included:

- Installation of 17 more Smart Boards
- 9 new computers in CDT
- Safety film applied to unprotected glazing around the school
- Stonework on windows (especially on western flank) repaired and replaced
- Flat roofs above corridors mended
- New (and additional) picnic benches installed on re-laid bases
- Dining Hall redecorated
- Fire escape steps replaced
- New ramps installed to E Huts

Planning Application update

I was very pleased that we managed to submit the planning application to the Local Authority for our new school wing which will be the teaching base for English and Psychology. At present, we do not anticipate a response until the end of November.



Use of Private Road

Can I please remind parents that the Private Road should not be used for dropping off pupils as they come to school. Facilities are provided adjacent to the fire station on Blenheim Chase for parents to stop safely and allow pupils to disembark and walk the last few metres to school.

Can I also please remind parents that they should not stop on the zigzag lines outside the school. Please do not pull into the entrance way to the Private Road to allow pupils to disembark and then turn round back into Middlesex Avenue, as this creates problems for the general flow of traffic as well as being particularly dangerous to the pupils who are trying to access the site.



School Police Liaison Officer

Last week one of the School Police Liaison Officers visited WHSG and observed how cars, collecting pupils from our school, were parking on Middlesex Avenue. The Police Liaison Officer expressed serious concerns about what he witnessed - particularly the "lack of consideration" of some parents when collecting their daughters from school.

Middlesex Avenue has a zigzag restriction outside the school gates and between 8.00 am - 9.30 am and 2.30 pm - 4.30 pm, cars may not wait or park on them. This is clearly signposted.

There are two designated drop off points; one on the corner of Manchester Drive and Eastwood Boulevard, and one behind the Fire Station, accessed from Mountdale Gardens.

Could I please ask parents to be particularly careful and considerate when dropping off or collecting their daughters from the school. The Leigh Neighbourhood Policing Team are now aware of these problems and have said they will be returning, and will take action to stop cars parking illegally or carrying out inappropriate/inconsiderate manoeuvres outside the school gate.



Uniform Update

We continue to insist that uniform is worn correctly in school and staff do try to recognise uniform infringements and sign uniform cards so that standards are maintained. With this Newsletter, I am writing to all parents of pupils in Years 7-11 to thank the vast majority of you for supporting the school's uniform rules and for helping us to ensure your daughter is well presented.

However, there are a few girls who continue to deliberately wear their uniform incorrectly. As a result, I am changing the uniform rules so that the girls who repeatedly break rules relating to skirt length will be required to wear the uniform trousers for at least one month.

Dr P Hayman

Term Dates 2007 - 2008

We are sorry that the dates given in the Diary for Parents has led to some misunderstanding about the date for the last day of this term. The last day of the Summer Term will be **Wednesday 23 July 2008**.

Dates for Non Pupil Days

- Monday 3 September 2007
- Tuesday 11 September 2007
- Friday 4 January 2008
- Thursday 20 March 2008
- Wednesday 2 July 2008

Term Dates 2007 - 2008

Autumn Term 2007	<i>Tuesday 4 September – Thursday 20 December 2007</i>
Spring Term 2008	<i>Monday 7 January – Friday 28 March 2008</i>
Summer Term 2008	<i>Monday 14 April – Wednesday 23 July 2008</i>
Autumn Half Term	<i>Monday 22 October – Friday 26 October 2007</i>
Spring Half Term	<i>Monday 11 February – Friday 15 February 2008</i>
Summer Half Term	<i>Monday 26 May – Friday 30 May 2008</i>



Wimbledon Monday 2nd July

Will we see play today? That was the question being posed on most newspapers on Monday 2nd July when we set off, in the rain, to Wimbledon 2007. In the minibus we tennis fans were worried by the thought of developing webbed feet as the weather worsened during the journey. However that soggy thought was forgotten when we read about the clash between seed two - Rafael Nadal - and seed twenty-three - Robin Soderling - on Court 1 which, we all knew, was going to be an exciting match.

After the tedious journey into London, mainly due to the constant mention of McDonald's breakfast and Bacon and Egg McMuffins, we arrived at Wimbledon. It was a shock to us that we saw so many of the great players walking around in close quarters to us, not to mention sighting Cliff Richard in a bright red jacket. Matches were due to start at eleven o'clock and we were keen to find our seats. After purchasing a programme we headed straight to Court 1. We only had two tickets to centre court where Serena Williams was playing so there was continuous swapping of seats and arguments over who would see Roddick play - no one ever did!

It was a tough game and Nadal did not seem at his best but Soderling was putting up a fight. The atmosphere was amazing and the support spectacular. The game never had a real rhythm due to the constant breaks, however, these gaps in the play allowed us to eat bowls of strawberries and cream; to start a Mexican wave round the stadium; and watch all the people in seats better than us get absolutely drenched.

After the clouds and rain had hung over Court 1 for most of the day, we saw a moment of sunshine where Nadal made it Match point. However our luck had ended and at this crucial moment in the match the rain began to pour. Instead of delaying our departure with hope to see the end, we decided to leave and make our way home.

Although the weather was disappointing, it was a real experience and we felt lucky to watch such talented tennis players.

By Gabrielle Stewart 13.3



HAZELS POTTERY BARN Saturday 22 September 2007

The student's behaviour was impeccable on the Barleylands Art trip. As a teacher it is most important that my students represent the school

in a positive and mature manner. They exceeded my expectations.



The students were a perfect example of a well mannered and enthusiastic class. I was so proud to have the girls with me not only for the work that they produced but because they were such a joy to be with. Organising trips can sometimes be a bit of a headache; however spending such a day with the girls has only encouraged me to organise more.

Mrs J Foakes
Art Teacher



On Saturday 22 September, Year 11 GCSE art students went to the pottery barn at Barleylands. It was a trip that Mrs Foakes arranged after discovering the centre. At 10 o'clock we all met outside with our sketch books and went into the studio. The place had a cool, calm atmosphere and after a brief talk about the equipment we were allowed to start. Mrs Foakes had asked us to bring our sketch books so we could paint the pottery in theme with the natural form that we have been studying.



I chose to do a flower out of my sketch book, as did many others. It was a new style of painting for we were given a plate to design and draw on. The paints and technique were very new and exciting. During the 2 hours we were there everyone enjoyed themselves and had a good time. On behalf of all the students who went I would like to say thank you to the art department for taking us on a really enjoyable trip.

Harriet Jackson.



BILLY ELLIOT

Monday 10 September 2007

The visit to the Victoria Palace Theatre to see Billy Elliot was organised to celebrate the hard work in Year 12 of this group of students. Sixty girls signed up and thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

Mr B Hayton

Head of Sixth Form



DIGGERLAND, STROOD & CHATHAM DOCKYARD

Monday 10 September 2007

On Monday 10 September 2007, Year 7 visited Diggerland, Strood, and the Historic Dockyard, Chatham, for their first Science and Engineering Day.

At Diggerland all girls were given the opportunity to operate, ride in, and drive full size construction machinery such as Dumper Trucks, JCB's and Mini Diggers as an introduction to the world of civil engineering.



Whilst enjoying themselves on the equipment available the girls were involved in estimating the dimensions of some of the machines in preparation for work on measurement in Mathematics.



They were also able to learn more about the capabilities of the diggers from instructors who were on hand to give advice and safety instructions. During their visit to the Historic Dockyard the girls learnt some of the principles of ship design and construction in the days of 18th century timber framed warships, the Victorian era, and the 20th century. They were able to examine first hand the construction and materials used in the last remaining World War



2 destroyer and a British Cold War spy submarine. An informative and enjoyable day was had by all, including the teaching staff, and we plan to further develop the girls' knowledge and understanding in these areas in their Design and Technology lessons.



Mr D Webster
Head of Information Communication
Technology



IRONBRIDGE

Thursday 20 & Friday 21 September 2007


At 6.00 am on Thursday morning, Miss Dunn and I set off with 36 students for our two day History Field Trip to the museums of Coalbrookdale. The girls are studying the impact of heavy industry upon the progression of the Industrial Revolution. As many students have little understanding of the meaning of 'heavy industry', this trip takes them to Blists Hill, a town set in 1870, where they can experience seeing, hearing and smelling life at that time.

The girls were all photographed in Victorian costumes which gave another dimension to their understanding of the lives of women.

We then moved on to Coalport where the processes involved in making china were explained and where they made their own china flower.

After a comfortable night at the Youth Hostel, we moved onto the Darby Houses and the Enginuity Museum, where further aspects of heavy industry, in particular, the smelting and use of iron were explained.

We finally arrived back at 4.00 pm on Friday afternoon.

Mrs L Jenkins
Head of History


IRONBRIDGE

Thursday 20 & Friday 21 September 2007

Our trip to Ironbridge started at the crack of dawn, and having been told by Mrs Jenkins that we were not to talk until 8.00 am on pain of death, we revived when we reached the "Victorian" town of Blists Hill.

For four hours we were no longer in 2007 but had stepped back in time to the Industrial

Revolution. We explored all manners of shops, tradesmen's workshops and even a fairground! We also had our photographs taken as young Victorian ladies in stylish period costumes (no smiling allowed!). That afternoon we visited the Coalport China Museum, making china roses and being shown around the kiln workshops. We spent the night in a pretty Youth Hostel, before setting off for Ironbridge itself. After having our photographs taken on the bridge, we visited the museum of iron and picked up some useful coursework information, then headed home!

Not only did we learn a lot, but we also had great fun.



Josie Turner (13.2) & Jenny Marshall (13.4)



THE FLYING COW F24 Electric Car National Finals

On Sunday 14 October 2007, The Flying Cow competed in the F24 Electric Car National Finals in Goodwood. This being the second year running that the girls have qualified, we were hopeful to improve our standings from last years race and possibly win another award.

The twelve strong Flying Cowgirls put in a good showing and increased our final rank to 61st overall, from a pole position of 70 at the start.

This was a full thirteen spots higher than last years final. Although we did not have the same problem as last year with burning out the motor, we did need a rescue from the track, which cost us half an hour of time along with a few places in the rankings.

The day was enjoyed by all and thanks must go out to all the girls, Miss Rankin, Miss Herring (for help with the banner), all the parents (for attending and bringing the girls to the event, especially the Team Manager, Dawn Palmer and Phil Overton for transporting The Flying Cow to and from the event), the PTA for their financial support, Mrs Bamber (contact and Science & Engineering Co-ordinator), Dr Hayman (for WHSG) and finally, Mr Cecil for council and attendance to the race.



From left to right:

Virunee Viravong (9T), Emelia Hollington (9U),
Abigail Palmer (9B), Alexandra Fogg (9R), Lana Sleight (11J),
Emma Campbell (11F), Stephanie Overton (9B),
Charlotte Bartlett (9R), Holly Palmer (11I),
Emily Whatton (9U), Georgina Feather (11H)

A solid base for The Flying Cow has been well established and we are looking forward to the 2008 season.

Mr T Burke
Science & Chemistry



This Newsletter is intended for the sole use of students and parents of Westcliff High School for Girls. We very much hope that others will enjoy the opportunity to read it and learn about the activities at our school, but it may not be further distributed or reproduced in whole or in part in any way without the permission of the Headteacher.

Dear Parents

OUR CONCERNS OVER UNIFORM INVOLVING SOME PUPILS

I would like to start this article on a positive note and express my thanks to all the parents who make so much effort to ensure their daughters arrive at school correctly dressed and well presented. It is thanks to your support that we are able to have a uniform to be proud of and the girls usually look extremely presentable.

Like all schools we are always dealing with minor infringements over the uniform but have been pleased to be able to count on the support of the vast majority of parents to ensure our standards are adhered to; indeed, for many parents, it is the nature of those standards that was one of the reasons for choosing to send their daughter to Westcliff High School for Girls.

The uniform is an important and distinctive feature of our school. Like all uniforms it serves to ease tension in the school between those who could afford expensive clothing and those who cannot, as well as contributing to our distinctive ethos. We want girls to be proud of their school and proud to wear the uniform.

However, we do have a problem with some pupils and their appearance. So far this term we have had three phone calls from members of the public to let us know that girls are seen wearing their uniform in a way that lets the school down (yet there is an expectation that girls will wear their uniform correctly to and from school as well as when they are here) and staff are having to continue to deal with a few pupils who have allowed their appearance to become shabby. For these pupils the amount of time that has to be invested by staff is far too much and I cannot continue to let our resources be wasted in dealing with these issues.

Our main issues with uniform at present are:

- Girls having skirts that are too short because they have outgrown them
- Girls rolling up their skirts at the waistband so it is far shorter than the 2" above the knee rule
- Girls with splits (usually tears in the seams) of their skirts
- Girls with un-tucked blouses

and of these, it is the first two that staff have to waste the most time in sorting out.

As a result, we are changing the rules relating to skirt length. From Monday 29th October any girl in Years 7-11 who accumulates three offences relating to her skirt length in a term will be required to wear the school uniform trousers for one month. If this uniform infringement is further repeated then the pupil will be required to remain in trousers for at least one term. To monitor this we shall be changing the uniform card and issuing girls with a new one after half term.

We are continuing to monitor the situation relating to the tucking in of blouses and will modify the rules/sanctions relating to this offence if it continues to be a problem.

If this change of rule affects your daughter and there is financial hardship at home we have agreed that the school will lend her a pair of trousers.

I am sorry to have to write and make this change to the rules. We very much value your support in these matters and hope that less staff time is used up in dealing with these offences and the girls can wear their uniform in such a way that in school and out of it we can be proud of their appearance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Hayman" with a diagonal slash at the end.

Dr Paul Hayman
Headteacher