



# Westcliff Newsletter

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*The Westcliff Newsletter is online at: [www.whsg.info](http://www.whsg.info)*

<b>Wednesday 5 December</b>	Fashion Show - 7.00 - 11.00 pm - Main Hall
<b>Thursday 6 December</b>	Fashion Show - 7.00 - 11.00 pm - Main Hall
<b>Monday 10 December - Friday 14 December</b>	Charity Week
<b>Wednesday 12 December</b>	Charity Week Quiz Night
<b>Friday 14 December</b>	Charity Week Disco
<b>Tuesday 18 December</b>	Carol Service - Leigh Baptist Church - 7.30 pm
<b>Thursday 20 December</b>	Year 8 Interim Reports issued to Parents <b>LAST DAY OF WINTER TERM 2007</b>
<b>Monday 7 January</b>	<b>SPRING TERM 2008 BEGINS</b>
<b>Tuesday 8 January</b>	Year 12 Parents' Evening - 4.00 - 7.00 pm
<b>Wednesday 9 January - Friday 18 January</b>	Year 12 and 13 Module Exams
<b>Friday 11 January</b>	Year 10 Performance Updates issued to Parents
<b>Monday 28 January</b>	Year 10 Parents' Evening 4.00 - 6.30 pm Year 12 and 13 Performance Updates issued to Parents

## Term Dates 2007 - 2008

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

The last day of the Summer Term will be **Wednesday 23 July 2008.**



## Dates for Non Pupil Days

- Friday 4 January 2008
- Thursday 20 March 2008
- Wednesday 2 July 2008



## Carol Service

Our Carol Service takes place at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 18 December 2007 at Leigh Road Baptist Church, Marguerite Drive, Leigh on Sea. You are most welcome to join us for this traditional event. The service lasts for about 1 hour, and this year our PTA are providing coffee and mince pies afterwards. If you would like to attend please could your daughter/son obtain tickets from the school office by Wednesday 12 December 2007. Tickets are complementary.



## Christmas Lunch

Our annual Christmas Lunch will be provided in the school canteen on Monday 17 December 2007. The cost for this lunch is £3.50 and tickets are now on sale in the canteen. Tickets must be purchased in advance, it will not be possible to take extra orders on the day. If your daughter/son would prefer not to have this meal can you please ensure she/he brings a packed lunch with her/him on this day.



## Last Day Arrangements Thursday 20 December 2007

It has been traditional for all pupils to be allowed to leave school early on the last day of the Autumn term and I would like to maintain this tradition. The school canteen will be providing a limited cold lunch service to the girls on this day, which they need to order in advance. If your daughter would like a school lunch can you please ensure she advises Mr Bott in the school office, no later than Friday 14 December 2007.

This year, all the pupils will be dismissed at 12:25 pm (after final registration). This early closure may cause difficulties for some pupils who are reliant on buses to get them home. We shall provide supervision for the small number of pupils left in this situation and they should report to the front office to sign in at 1:25 pm. I know most parents will make alternative travel arrangements for their daughter's journey on that day, but please can you ensure that if your daughter needs to catch a bus at the end of the normal school working day, you are satisfied as to her whereabouts and safety during the afternoon.

Can I remind parents that pupils are due to return to school on Monday 7 January 2008 at 8.25 am.

I do wish you and your family a relaxing and enjoyable break at this time.

*Dr Paul Hayman*  
**Headteacher**



## **ELECTION OF NEW SENIOR TEAM**

We are pleased to announce that we have elected our new Senior Team for the term November 2007 to October 2008. They are:

### Joint Head Girls:



**Annaleise Docking**



**Emily Hunt**

### Deputy Head Girls:



**Haidee Barratt**



**Pooja Dasgupta**

### Senior Prefects:



**Fiona Almond**



**Stephanie Moss**

We wish them well in their new appointments.

*Mr B Hayton*  
**Head of Sixth Form**





■ Keeping safe – pupils from Westcliff High School for girls and Darlinghurst Primary 425862

## Road safety lessons from one school to another

A PIONEERING scheme to improve road safety has been launched by sixth form students at Westcliff High School for Girls. The leaders of the scheme are Year 12 pupils at the school in Kenilworth Gardens, Westcliff. Year 5 pupils from Darlinghurst Primary School, in Westcliff, were the first to take part in a Pals day, which was held at the high school. Head of drama at the girls school, Colin Bell, dreamed up the scheme, which he aims to extend to other primary schools in Southend. He said: "There was a lot of enthusiasm. The Year 5 pupils responded really well and have gone away more aware of road safety. "Year 12 pupils can start to learn to drive. That is why it is so important to them too to participate."

## ROAD SAFETY

When we first heard that we would be helping children write poems about seatbelts, we couldn't stop ourselves from dreading the prospect of a whole day of safety-centred creativity. Despite sounding like a ridiculous idea, we ended up enjoying ourselves immensely and we hope the kids feel the same way!

On Wednesday the 21 November 2007, Westcliff High School for Girls found itself overrun by fifty or so 10 year old children from Darlinghurst Primary School. After a quick orientation in the Drama Studio, the children split off into groups assigned to Art, Music, Drama and English.

The day was split up into five sessions each divided by a 10-15 minute break; there was also a lunch break in the middle of the day. For the breaks in between sessions, the children were allowed out onto the playing courts surrounding the school to run around and remind us all just how old we really are. The first session was taken up by the departments giving their groups a brief talk about road safety in general, which was followed by the preparation of a

presentation. The children had to research their topics, some of which were cycle safety, the green cross code and of course, seatbelts, and then prepare something to show the others. Drama came up with a short performance, Art made some posters using photographs and collages, Music made a song for the green cross code and English wrote some poems. In the last session all the groups came together and all the Sixth Form helpers and teachers seemed very proud of what the children had achieved. We were shocked at how good all the presentations were.

Then it was time for the children to leave Westcliff and we were all a little sad to see them go, although we did feel a little better after being given goody bags of road safety gear!. The day proved to us that education really *can* be fun, even for the teachers.

*By Jenny Nolan-Lee and Emily Jupitus*



# SAFETY ON BICYCLES

Could we please remind parents that we do ask that if your daughter cycles to school that she wears a safety helmet. We do appreciate that these are not the greatest fashion accessory, but the evidence from accident data clearly shows that students wearing bicycle helmets have a much greater chance of avoiding a serious head injury than those without.



## Lesson Supervisors

The school are currently looking to employ additional Lesson Supervisors to undertake the supervision of classes in the short term absence of the teachers. No experience is necessary and full training will be given to all successful applicants. If you are interested in applying, or would like more information on this important role, please contact Mrs Dawn Jones through the school office.

Thank you.

*Mrs D Jones*



## HOUSE ART COMPETITION

**Well done Devereux!**

This year's House Art Competition was very successful. Students were to produce a visual diary on their life at Westcliff High School For Girls. They were to produce a comic strip and were very creative. The entries ranged from Year 7 through to A-Level. As you can imagine asking students to illustrate their time at school produced some funny and informative sketches. Dr Hayman had many cameo roles in the stories and even featured as a vampire in one! The work was a pleasure to judge and has brought a smile to many of the pupils and teachers faces.

Well done to all the students who entered!

*Mrs Foakes*

*Art Teacher*



# Success For Graduate Trainee Teachers

We were very pleased that our Graduate Trainee Teacher Scheme proved to be successful again last year with all 5 of our trainees gaining Qualified Teacher Status and permanent teaching positions.

The five trainees attended a Graduation Ceremony last week (date) when they were congratulated by our local MP David Amess for their success in the scheme.



**Miss Laura Hurley**



**Miss Gemma Datson**



**Mrs Jo Pye de Rojas**



**Miss Kim Brown**



**Miss Anthea Mcloud**





## **HOCKEY TOUR TO HOLLAND**

### **Years 8 to 10**

### **Monday 22 to Thursday 25 October**

### **2007**

On a very cold Monday morning on 22 October, 21 Westcliff hockey players and 2 staff loaded a coach at 7.00 am. Our driver, Alan, was to spend the next 4 days with us being our chauffeur. We set off on the 11 hour journey to Nordwijk aan zee in Holland. The journey was fairly uneventful and as we pulled up to a 1970's concrete building everyone was hoping we weren't stopping but further inspection revealed that this was to be our home for the next 3 nights. Bunk beds and very little floor space was what met us but all rooms were ensuite with a shower and hot water. What more could we want! The dining room was very pleasant and the lounge area was warm and cosy.



The next day we were going to Amsterdam. After an early start, we made our sandwiches

for lunch and headed off to Madam Tussauds. Miss Datson was hoping to see Johnny Depp and she wasn't disappointed. Leanne fell in love with Justin Timberlake and Miss Farrar got to sit with Robbie Williams.

We then went on a canal boat to soak in some of the history and culture of Holland. We all learnt that Amsterdam has lots of canals. We then made our way to the Ajax stadium which is one of the national stadiums in Holland. It was huge and we saw two of their international players a goalie and a striker, Klass Jan Hinterlaan. The stadium was an amazing sight, although we weren't allowed to stand on the pitch we went in to the control box, the very top stand and a hospitality box.

Shopping was next on the itinerary and into an Amsterdam market. The cheese stalls were a particular favourite of Molly and Lydia. We successfully avoided all undesirable shops and coffee shops. A good time was had by all.

On to our first fixture, after all hockey was the reason for the tour. Our first impression of the opposition was that they were very big. We started well and made some good attacks but they were physically stronger than us and a bit more skilful in areas. We learnt that they play rough in Holland and hit the ball hard. They took the upper hand late in the first half and took a

2-goal lead. They took their scoring opportunities well and we didn't. After half time they came out strong and slotted home another couple of goals. Aimee then scored a perfectly good goal that was unfortunately disallowed but we are still claiming it. We eventually lost 6-1 but it should have been a lot closer.



On Wednesday we went shopping in Nordwijk aan zee, bought plenty of sweets, chocolate and souvenirs. There was a NATO conference going on so we had to avoid all the armed police as they were protecting the important people. We then hit the pool, had a splash about and then went on to the bowling alley and mini golf course.

Our second match approached and we set out off on the 1½ hour journey. After getting significantly lost we turned up to be faced by a very skilful team who play division 1 hockey in Holland! Again we started well but were unable to string passes together and they used their skill to their advantage especially at penalty corners. We played good hockey but found ourselves losing 3-0 by half time all from penalty corners. Molly, however, made some outstanding saves and one in particular around chest height which everyone was very proud of. Leanne led the front line well and Bethan worked tirelessly in midfield and we started to attack well. Finally, we had a break though some great passing and Steph slipped the ball home very professionally and with a great deal of calmness. Unfortunately this only egged the opposition on even more and although we nearly scored again, they put 3 more past us. They were very friendly and we had teas in their club house. We then sang all the way back to the hotel.

I certainly enjoyed the tour and I hope the girls did too. It was a huge learning curve from one of the best hockey countries in the world. I hope

all the team continue to enjoy their hockey and strive to improve their skills.

*Ms A Farrar*  
*Head of PE*



## HOCKEY TOUR TO HOLLAND

What would the trip have been like without the Year 10s? We were the leaders of the sing alongs, the first users of the bumpy coach toilets!!

After the 11-hour journey we were looking forward to a good dinner and luxurious accommodation. This turned out to be a room the size of a shoebox which included 5 beds: one bunk bed, a mattress and twin singles! The food was passable although the teachers seemed to like it!

Waking up with an early start, during our half term we were looking forward to a full English, fresh orange and



Coco Pops. Unfortunately I don't think the Dutch have heard of this and we were presented with bread and peculiar looking food. So we had cornflakes, ginger cake and cheese! A cultural experience.

Arriving at Madam Tussaud's in the freezing cold, the year 10s braved the Pirates of the Caribbean Experience. We guessed it was going to be scary.

Going to the Ajax (i-ax) stadium we sat on the business executive chairs and looked across the massive stadium which has a 52000 person capacity. We also saw a couple of football players from the first team.

The whole reason we came to Holland was to play hockey so off we went. When we arrived we were greeted by a horde of scary Dutch giants, and we lost.

The following day it we went to the swimming pool where most of us went swimming (including the teachers) Vicky and Leanne had great fun on the water slides and the diving board. We then went onto another venue where some played minigolf and others went bowling and Lydia and Molly played pool.

On to the next hockey match. We thought we may have the upper hand, arriving at a water-based astro, but half way through the first half Jodie wasn't well and had to run off the pitch! We also lost this match but you can't win them all and we were given a huge feast at the end.

We got up the next day to go to breakfast and pack our bags. The rest of the journey was fairly uneventful. Overall it was one of the best trips we have ever been on!

*Lydia Aldridge, Molly Jupitus,  
Leanne Coutts, Jodie McGregor &  
Vicky Circus*



## **YEAR 10 HISTORY TRIP YPRES Friday 12 October 2007**

On Friday 12 October 2007, the History department took 95 Year 10 students to Ypres in Belgium.

Once there we visited the trenches at Sanctuary Wood, the British Cemetery, Tynecot, the German Cemetery at Langemark and the "In Flanders Fields" museum in Ypres town centre.

We also had an opportunity to explore the town, see the Menin Gate and, of course, buy some chocolate.

*Miss L Dunn  
History*



All Year 10s who had chosen history as one of their options of GCSE, went on a day trip to Ypres on Friday 12 October 2007. It was a very early start, with everyone having to meet at school by 5.15 am. After being registered and when everyone was safely on the coaches, we set off for Folkestone, where we took the Euro Tunnel to Calais in France. We arrived in France at 9.50 am, where we visited Sanctuary Wood. This is where one of the few remaining trenches are, unaltered. The students were divided into two groups, so while one group went round the trenches, the others had their lunch.

Everyone agreed that the best parts were the connection trenches which were pitch black so you could not see where you were going. The floor was uneven so we kept tripping and bumping into people coming from the opposite direction. Then, we returned to the coaches at 1.15 pm for Tyne Cot.

We arrived at Tyne Cot at 1.35 pm. This is where 12,000 British Soldiers' bodies are buried with 35,000 soldiers, whose bodies could not be found, but who were known to have died, are on the walls. The Germans started at the top, whilst the British started at the bottom. We won the land, but six months later, the Germans got it back again. We left Tyne Cot at 2.20 pm for Ypres.

We arrived at Ypres at 2.40 pm. We visited the Flanders Fields Museum, which showed lots of different aspects of the war including a model of what was left of Ypres at the end of the war. It had been completely destroyed, but they rebuilt it again exactly as it was before the war. We left Ypres at 4.00 pm for Langemark.

Langemark is the German cemetery. The German soldiers had been buried upright and there was more than one soldier to a grave. There was a big difference between the atmosphere of Tyne Cot and Langemark, as you felt more respect and a sadness in the British cemetery compared with the German cemetery.

Finally we left Langemark to return to Ypres for free time, which meant chocolate - yum!

We arrived back at school at 10.00 pm, exhausted, but having enjoyed a very moving day. We would like to thank the History department for organising it and everyone who helped out on the day.

*Abeera Imran 10M*  
*Romy St John 10M*



## **Westcliff High School for Girls**

### **Art Trip to Florence**

### **16 November 2007**

On 16 November 2007 Mrs Foakes and Mrs Nathan, took 14 students to Florence for four days. The students are working towards their A2 Art Exams. We



hoped that the students would gain a good educational understanding of Renaissance Art and the context of the environment in which it was produced.

When we arrived on the Friday afternoon we walked into the main city. Students warmed to the environment. That evening we went to a restaurant that was organised by the tour company. The girls found the traditional food quite interesting; and with a bit of persuasion they tried the local delicacies.

On Saturday we were taken around Florence by an Italian tour guide. Despite the bitter cold winds, the tour was informative and inspiring. Students sketched whilst listening. We looked at the architecture and learnt the history of Florence and what makes it so special. After lunch we visited the Accademia to see

Michelangelo's statue of David. The students were mesmerised by its beauty. We all sat there and sketched him for a good couple of hours.



That evening the students went out

for dinner by themselves. They met with a group of American Art students and were able to share tips and swap notes on places to go and see.

On the Sunday we went to the Uffizi Gallery. Students drew many of the great masters such as Botticelli, Michelangelo and Leonardo da Vinci. By experiencing the settings of the artwork students were able to see for themselves how important the Medici Family were and how they accumulated such wonderful masterpieces. On Sunday evening we took the students to a very traditional Italian family restaurant. By now the students were more adventurous with their food

The Monday was our last day. We decided to climb the 468 steps to the top of the Duomo Cathedral. After three days of walking and excursions this

was quite a challenge.

We finally reached the top of the dome. It was the most breathtaking view looking over the whole of Florence.

Later some of us visited the local food market which

sold traditional produce to the locals such as breads, meat, and other local delicacies.



The value of the trip was immense. Florence was inspiring on so many levels.

The year 13 student's behaviour was impeccable and we were told by the hotel that they were the best behaved school group that they have ever had. The inspiring experience is something that I will never forget.

*From Mrs J Foakes  
Art Teacher*



### **The student's perspective on the Art Trip to Florence**

We have to admit that waking at 4.00 am on a Friday morning is not the best part of a trip to the beautiful city of Florence. We arrived at our hotel at 2.00 pm all wearing our personalised art t-shirts. The following day we were taken on a tour of the city by an expert. This allowed us to visit the main cathedral and more secluded parts which we would never have found. Not only did we draw landscapes, statues, buildings and people, but we also learnt the history behind them. It was inspiring to see all the amazing artwork scattered around Florence and we really felt that every street had history. Overwhelmed by our visit to the museum 'Accademia', with the original sculpture of 'David' by Michelangelo, we were drawing and painting at every available moment. The sheer size of the statue made us realise what an achievement it was. On Sunday we visited the beautiful 'Uffizi' Gallery. This is one of the most famous art galleries in the world. Its collection of Primitive and Renaissance paintings comprises several universally acclaimed masterpieces, including works by Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, Michelangelo and Caravaggio. By this point our sketch books were almost full and we left to prepare for our last dinner in Florence. After a final visit to the market, we walked to the top of the cathedral as a last outing before our flight.

We were able to see the Renaissance ceiling of the cathedral up close and realised the sheer scale of it as well as overlooking the entire city from outside the top of the dome. It was a wonderful, inspiring experience and our art has truly benefited from it.

*Gabrielle Stewart 13.3  
& Zöe Field 13.7*



### **The Old Bailey Friday 19 October 2007**

#### **7 Students & Mr Cains Go To Court**

Friday 19 October 2007, to all of my law class' delight, we made our way to the Old Bailey in London.

So, there we were, 7 law students not realising we were going to spend the rest of the day in the same room as a terrorist, a murderer, a cross dresser (that confused us all).

Arriving at the Old Bailey, we saw photographers and camera crew; we knew they were there for us, definitely.

Anyway, looking at the cases on the display board we saw a murder case, a few applications for bail cases, and a sentencing case plus other cases which didn't state what they were about.

Little did we know, we walked into a murder trial. Basically, a man was killed in his flat through being stabbed; we heard all the gory details from the brother who was also attacked in the same flat. As we sat there, I tried my best to stick my head over the balcony without falling and landing on the witness. We saw pictures of the attack, bloodstained carpet photos and after a few technical problems a line up on the huge TV screen. And the judge even managed the phrase "google search" which we found hilarious.

Also in the room were approximately 12 barristers furiously writing everything the witness was saying. As the morning's session of this case drew to an end, the jury were told they could leave and return Monday morning at half past twelve.

The tension in the public gallery was nothing I'd ever have imagined - not only did *we* have to listen to the details of the murder, the murdered man's family were hearing it being delivered by his brother. A woman, possibly the mother, was in tears. I think that's when it hit home how serious this sort of thing is.

After lunch we walked to get to the Royal Courts Of Justice, Nina and myself were amazed at the architecture of the building after we'd finally got in after going through the metal detector sensor. We walked around for about an hour and I couldn't help exclaiming how it looked like Hogwarts and how much you could get lost.

On our way back to the Old Bailey, Mr. Cains managed to fit a quick stop into a law book shop along the way. There were so many books!

We arrived back at the Old Bailey around half past 2 and went to sit in the next case in Courtroom 11.

It was getting close to 3pm and we decided to call it a day, as we left the Old Bailey however, Ella, Sam and I seized the opportunity to be on television but just out of shot. So I hope you were all watching the Channel 4 News on Friday 19 October, 7.00 pm.

All 7 of us in Law would like to thank Mr Cains for the trip :)

*By Aimee Howard*



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