



NUMBER 122 - July 2009

Westcliff Newsletter

Headteacher: Dr Paul Hayman
Chair of Governors: Mr M Foster
Head Girl: Jessica Leonard

Produced by: Mrs L Seaby

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

FUTURE DATES FOR DIARY

Wednesday 2 September	NON PUPIL DAY
Thursday 3 September	AUTUMN TERM BEGINS WEEK A Pupils return to school
Wednesday 9 September	School Photographs - Years 7 to 13
Thursday 10 September	Year 10 Mersea Day (all pupils in school from 7.30 am - 5.00 pm)
Friday 11 September	NON PUPIL DAY - EXCEPT YEAR 7 (all day) and YEAR 11 (am only) Year 7 Learning to Learn and Danbury Outdoors Year 11 Revision Roadshow
Saturday 12 - Monday 14 September	Duke of Edinburgh Silver Assessment Weekend - South Downs
Thursday 1 October	New Year 7 Parents' Evening - 5.45 - 9.00 pm
Friday 16 October	School Activity Day
Monday 26 - Friday 30 October	Half Term
Tuesday 3 November	Autumn Concert
Tuesday 10 November	6 th Form Open Evening - 7.00 - 9.00 pm
Monday 16 November	Year 11 Mock Examinations Begin
Tuesday 17 November	NON PUPIL DAY - EXCEPT YEAR 11
Thursday 19 November	Senior Awards
Saturday 21 November	11+ Examinations
Monday 7 - Friday 11 December	CHARITY WEEK
Monday 14 December	Carol Service - to be confirmed
Tuesday 15 December	School Christmas Lunch
Friday 18 December	LAST DAY OF AUTUMN TERM

TERM DATES 2009- 2010

AUTUMN TERM 2009	Thursday 3 September 2009 - Friday 18 December 2009 <i>Half Term Monday 26 October - Friday 30 October 2009</i>
SPRING TERM 2010	Monday 4 January 2010 - Thursday 1 April 2010 <i>Half Term Monday 15 February - Friday 19 February 2010</i>
SUMMER TERM 2010	Monday 19 April 2010 - Thursday 22 July 2010 <i>Half Term Monday 31 May - Friday 4 June 2010</i>

NON PUPIL DAYS

Wednesday 2 September 2009

Friday 11 September 2009 - EXCEPT YEAR 7 (in all day) and YEAR 11 (am only)

Tuesday 17 November 2009 - EXCEPT YEAR 11 (in all day)

Monday 22 February 2010

Thursday 22 July 2010



END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

I intend to allow all pupils to leave school at 12.30 pm on the last day of term, Friday 17 July 2009. Lunch will not be available on that day and Consortium bus pupils will **not** be supervised until their buses are due to leave at their normal time. Please can you ensure that if your daughter needs to catch a Consortium bus at the end of the normal school working day, you are satisfied as to her whereabouts and safety during the afternoon. If this creates a real difficulty for any parents, would you please write to Mrs K Herlock by 15 July 2009, so that we can try to make alternative arrangements.



AUTUMN TERM ARRANGEMENTS

Next term begins on Thursday 3 September 2009. New Years 7 and 12 should arrive at 8.30 am and all other pupils between 10.00 - 10.15 am. Pupils arriving by Consortium bus will be supervised in school from their arrival until breaktime at 9.50 am. A register will be taken at 8.35 am to check that all those travelling by Consortium bus have come into the school.

Dr Paul Hayman
Headteacher



STAFF MOVEMENT SUMMER 2009

At the end of this term we say goodbye to a number of staff, some who have been at our school for a number of years and some who have been here for only a short time.

However long they have spent with us, we shall miss them and wish them well for the future.

TEACHING STAFF

Mr D Webster



Mr Webster (Head of ICT) is retiring at the end of this academic year. Mr Webster joined the staff at Westcliff High School for Girls in September 1995 as Assistant Information Technology Coordinator and became Head of ICT with additional responsibilities for whole school ICT development and management from January 1998. During his time with us, Mr Webster has overseen a significant growth in the provision and teaching of ICT at our school and under his leadership the department has consistently produced some of the very best GCSE and A level results.

Mr Webster is also a qualified Ofsted Inspector and has undertaken a number of inspections in other schools and we have been fortunate to be able to use his expertise in this area to help develop our procedures at school and raise our awareness of the Ofsted process.

For the past 2 years Mr Webster has been part of our extended Leadership Team; he has also been Chair of our Quality Assurance Team; in this role he has assisted many staff in developing their expertise in lesson observations and the self review process.

Mr Webster leaves us to take a greater role within his church and we send him our very best wishes for this work.

Mr N Wood



Mr Wood has been our Head of Mathematics for the past 10 years. He was a co-opted member of the Leadership Team in 2003/04. We wish him well in his move to Southend High School for Boys as their Leader of Mathematics.

Mr B Fletcher



Mr Fletcher joined our school in 2004 and in 2007 gained promotion to Second in our English Department. Mr Fletcher has also been House Tutor to Devereux and a Teacher Governor - roles in which he will be greatly missed. He leaves us to take up the position of English KS5 Coordinator at Mayflower High School in Billericay.

Mr J O'Connell



Mr O'Connell is leaving us to return to St Thomas More School where he taught before joining our school as Head of Economics and Business Studies in September 2000.

Mr K Naughton



Mr Naughton has taught ICT and Mathematics at our school since September 2005. He is leaving us to take up the position of Teacher of ICT at New Hall School, Chelmsford.

Miss V Fishburn



Miss Fishburn joined our Geography department in 2007 as a trainee teacher. She is now moving to another part of the country and we wish her well as she continues her teaching career.

Miss V Lang



Miss Lang has been a Teacher of History at our school since September 2007; she leaves us to take up a position within the History department of Chase High School.

Mr J Mitchell



Mr Mitchell has gained a position at a school nearer to his home and leaves us to join Chelmsford County High School for Girls as Teacher of Mathematics.

Miss K Rankin



Miss Rankin has been our Head of Design & Technology since September 2007 and now moves to be Head of Design & Technology at Chelmsford County High School for Girls.

Mrs H Riebold

Mrs Riebold has been a member of our Mathematics department for the past year. We are pleased that she has now gained promotion to Head of Physics at Southend High School for Girls.

Mrs Collins

Mrs Collins has been a part-time member of our RS and PSHCE departments since Autumn 2008, firstly to cover Mrs Howard's absence following a knee operation and then staying on with us to support the RS department when Mr Gilson left at Christmas.

GRADUATE TEACHER TRAINEES

We continue to be very pleased with the success of our Graduate Teaching Training Scheme at Westcliff High School for Girls and this year's cohort has continued with this tradition. Each year we need to say goodbye to some of the trainees as they gain their first position as a qualified teacher.

The five trainees who are leaving are:

- Miss Charlotte Butcher** - who is relocating to Bishops Stortford
- Mr Andrew Harrison** - who becomes a teacher of Drama at Hurst Community College, Hampshire
- Miss Elizabeth Knifton** - who becomes a teacher of Physical Education at Honeywood School, Coggeshall
- Mr Anwar Mismar** - who becomes a teacher of Science at The Sandon School
- Mrs Christine Rivers** - who becomes a teacher of Mathematics at St Thomas More

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Earlier this term we advertised and interviewed for the position of Head of Mathematics. I am delighted to advise you that Mr Bines has been promoted to this position with effect from 1st September 2009. Mr Bines has worked for Westcliff High School for Girls since September 1998 and has held the position as Second in the Mathematics Department for the past 7 years. Our congratulations go to him on achieving this promotion.

ICT AND D & T DEPARTMENTS

I am very pleased to advise you that Mrs Swift has assumed responsibility for the ICT department, following the retirement of Mr Webster and Ms Mills has taken over responsibility for Design & Technology from Miss Rankin.



SWINE FLU UPDATE

Following the letter sent to all parents in May, we now know that Swine Flu has moved to the World Health Organisation Level 6 pandemic phase.

The UK government has moved from 'containment' to 'treatment' of the disease. They now expect schools to remain open, even if there are infected children who have been at school. This will continue to be our situation at WHSG - but should Health and Safety be compromised (for example, a significant number of staff are absent with illness and the remaining staff cannot adequately supervise the pupils) we will let parents know by text message or e-mail that we are closing; we would also place this message on the school website. So far it looks like the effects of this disease are milder than expected, but anyone with existing health problems may find it harder to fight this virus. We also know there may be a rise in infection rates when schools return for the Autumn term.

The key message to prevent the disease spreading is maintaining levels of hygiene and cleanliness. At school we are continuing to regularly disinfect surfaces; we have also installed hand cleanser units outside the main computer rooms and cleanser wipes beside computer terminals. Girls and staff can clean their hands with alcohol gel before entering these rooms and clean their keyboards with wipes to help reduce the risk of spreading infection.

The latest guidance from the Health Protection Agency is that if a child has come into contact with someone who has been **confirmed** with Swine Flu, providing she is not feeling unwell, or suffering any flu like symptoms, she should continue to attend school. To assist the school, please would parents not send their children in if they exhibit flu like symptoms, but instead contact your GP or NHS Direct for advice. Please also ensure your contact details are up to date with the School Office in case we need to contact you.



PARENTS' VIEW FROM THE KIRKLAND ROWELL SURVEY

Early this year we asked parents to complete a questionnaire to help us identify those things which we do well and areas you would like to see changes or improved.

The main results of the parents' survey were:

- ❖ From the parents' perspective the school has reason to be happy with most of its activities.
- ❖ With regard to academic subjects, parents are most happy with the delivery of ICT, Psychology and Chemistry.
- ❖ The parents are least happy with the delivery of subjects where we have had staffing difficulties, such as Religious Studies, where significant parts of the Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 curriculum have had to be taught by non specialist teachers.
- ❖ With regard to Non-Academic areas, parents are most happy with the delivery of Social Health Education, computer access and school facilities.
- ❖ The parents' top priority for improvement is teaching quality.

The analysis of additional comments from parents revealed that a concern over teaching quality arose from teacher absence for lessons and the quality of work carried out in their absence.

We are concerned to address the main areas of concern raised by parents and have taken the following actions in these areas:

Improving the Quality of Teaching

AfL (Assessment for Learning) and BLP (Building Learning Power) and extra lesson observations

We have worked hard this year to raise the quality of learning in the classroom by incorporating Assessment for Learning strategies in our lessons and building learning capacity through planning lessons with "learning in mind". Each teacher is a member of a Learning Community, where discussions and sharing of good practice entuses us all to try out new ideas to encourage learning amongst the students.

There will be more on "Building Learning Power" in the next newsletter.

The Ofsted Monitoring Visit in February reported the following "There has been a clear and effective emphasis on improving teaching and learning in the last year. The school is accurate in its judgement that, overall, the quality of teaching and learning in the main school is now good. There are many signs that actions taken since the 2008 inspection have led to improvements, such as the broad range of professional development focused on students' learning. This focus is the guiding principle in teachers' planning and in the implementation of their lessons.

In the best lessons, teachers use questioning techniques very effectively to ensure students are challenged, and they have good opportunities to develop their skills as independent learners. Staff are skilful at ensuring that the work they set is at an appropriate level. Teachers' subject knowledge is excellent, as are relationships between students and teachers. The school has made good progress in improving the quality of teaching and learning since the last inspection."

Reducing the use of Cover for Lessons

We have spent some time looking at how we can improve this situation and have agreed the following actions from September:

Most trips out during the school day will now take place during 'Activity Days'. We plan on having 6/7 of these throughout the year, when trips can take place, but also pupils may be involved in Enterprise Days, or other activities that otherwise disrupt teaching and take teachers away from their normal lessons.

Staff absence for Continuous Professional Development, curricular competitions and other events are also being curtailed.

We cannot totally end staff absence; staff may be ill or have to attend essential courses during the school day; but we hope these changes will mean there are less times when a class is without its assigned teacher.

Staffing in Religious Studies

We are pleased to have been able to employ another specialist teacher of Religious Studies from September 2009, which we hope will improve this area of concern.



THE RULES ON CHEWING GUM ARE CHANGING

For a long time we have tolerated pupils bringing chewing gum (or bubble gum) to school, but they have been banned from chewing it whilst on the premises. This rule is supported with sanctions detailed in our Behaviour Management Policy.

Sadly this policy is not working and pupils are still regularly chewing gum whilst on the school site - and they must be chewing gum in school and some of them disposing of it by sticking it to the underside of our school tables - as shown in the photos below found on the underside of tables in Room 7:



This disgusting action by some of our pupils makes extra work for the cleaners, but also results in pupils sometimes getting someone else's gum on their clothes such as their blazer, tights or skirt. Gum is also found ground into carpets around the school.

This cannot continue and we seek the support of all parents to prevent gum from being brought to school.

From September the Governors have agreed the rule on any form of gum will be:

Pupils found to be in possession of gum will (on the first occasion) be excluded from school for one day.

This rule will apply to all pupils, including the Sixth Form.



DISCOUNTED RAIL FARES

For students who travel to school by train on either the C2C line or the National Express East Anglia line, there is a discount scheme available, which could reduce the cost of travel by a least 10%.

Students who would normally have to pay the adult fare can receive an adult season ticket, but only pay the child rate less 10%.

Students aged between 11 and 15 can receive a 10% discount on their season tickets. If you would like to take advantage of this generous offer please log on to the school's website for further details and instructions on how to apply.

Mr C Bott
School Business Manager



RAMPAGING CHARIOTS

Since January, some keen Year 10 Engineers have been building remote controlled robots after school every Friday. They had to construct the chassis and mechanics, as well as build the control circuits.

They entered a competition at Selex Galileo on Saturday 6th June and competed in several events, adopting a boy from WHSB who had been abandoned by a sick teacher.

They got through to the Quarter finals of the Sumo contest, being knocked out by the team who went on to be the runners-up.

They also got through to the Quarter finals in Football, but the assault course was the biggest triumph getting through again to the quarter finals with the only clean run of the whole day and being second fastest in the heats. Unfortunately, in the knock out rounds, they were put out by the eventual winners.

All in all, a really enjoyable, successful day was had by all and if they were handing out prizes for team work, enthusiasm or support, we would have cleaned up.

The girls who took part all got a goodie bag and a medal.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| ❖ Amy Dorking | ❖ Jennifer Warren | ❖ Daniella Rourke | ❖ Emily Whatton |
| ❖ Liana Cardy | ❖ Charlotte Bartlett | ❖ Beatrice Jarvis | ❖ Emelia Hollington |
| ❖ Abigail Lawrence | ❖ Danielle Brown | ❖ Hannah Taylor | |



MR ANDY SASIADEK

Andy Sasiadek joined Westcliff High School in 1979 aged 22, his first teaching job. He taught Biology. He was very popular and a great teacher. Recently he had been lecturing at Havering 6th Form College. He died suddenly on Saturday 23 May 2009, during a cricket match, aged 51. He leaves behind his wife Theresa, son Keiran and daughter Jessica. The funeral took place on Wednesday 10 June 2009 at Our Lady of Lourdes in Leigh on Sea. The family would like to thank all ex-students and teacher colleagues for their support and requested no flowers, but rather donations to the British Heart Foundation.



WESTCLIFF PE DEPARTMENT FOCUS ON FITNESS



Throughout this year the PE department has been focussing on the fitness of the pupils. Starting in September we introduced a 5 minute run for all girls to complete at the start of each lesson. We decided to target the Year 7s as it was felt that this could then be monitored over the 5 years of formal PE. To some girls this was a huge challenge, however all teachers kept up the routine and as time passed we increased the amount of time that the pupils were running. By the Easter Holidays every pupil in Year 7 was running a minimum of 8 minutes continuously each PE lesson. Some of the pupils have found this

extremely difficult, however they have persevered and now seem to be steadily improving their fitness levels. Now it is athletics season and the girls are over on Bentalls field. As a warm up in the past all pupils would have been expected to run round $\frac{3}{4}$ of the track, this year however all pupils are completing approximately 800m. We have seen this as a huge success in the PE department and intend to continue with this trend over the coming years as the health and fitness of the pupils in school is vitally important.

Miss A Farrar
Head of PE



IPOD NANO PRESENTATION

Completing a Parents Questionnaire for Extended Services in schools in Southend has led to one lucky parent winning an Ipod Nano. Kerry Falconer completed the questionnaire after her daughter, who attends Westcliff High School for Girls, brought it home. Kerry had no idea that she had been entered into a draw and was surprised to hear she had won. Kerry said 'Although her daughter already has an Ipod, she is certain to want the new one'.

The information from the survey is to be used to develop and improve extended services in our schools which includes after school activities, support for families and more community access to school facilities.



Congratulations to Kerry for winning.

Pictured:

Kerry Falconer receiving her prize from Diane Baker (Extended Schools Adviser for Southend Borough Council) and Dr Paul Hayman, Head of Westcliff High School for Girls.

Diane Baker
Extended Schools Adviser



YEAR 7 WORKSHOPS - ENGLISH PERFORMANCE POET

Friday 5 June 2009

Antony Dunn is a successful poet who has won two awards for his work. He came to our school on Friday 4 June 2009 to talk to us about poetry and help us with our poetry unit. In the one hour we had with him we read through the poem, "About his Person" written by Simon Armitage. We had a fun lesson creating a huge whirlwind of stories about the character in the poem even though he wasn't really even mentioned at all.

After reading through the poem we did an exercise all about using over the top similes and metaphors to convey completely opposite meanings about the same thing. It was really challenging, but some of the results were very impressive. The hour session ended with us writing our own poem in the style of 'About His Person'. We had to think of a distinct memory and convey it as a poem by only describing the objects around us. This was also very difficult, but once we got the hang of it, some people in our class produced some excellent poems that conveyed a really strong sense of the place they were in.

Overall the hour we had with Antony Dunn was really fun and was a great experience that's really helped us with our poetry skills. We are really grateful for being able to have this opportunity as it's one we may not get to experience again.

Miss Charlotte Long
English Department



WORLD CHALLENGE FUN RUN

Virunee Viravong and Beth Gregory ran 5km at the World Challenge Run at Alice Holt Farm on Sunday 10 May 2009. Although nobody knew about it, Cotswold were giving a prize for the best fancy dress and they both won dressed as the Blues Brothers/Sisters, receiving a bag full of Cotswold goodies that will help them on their expedition.



From: Virunee Viravong



FLAMENCO AFTERNOON

Wednesday 24 June 2009



iIlusión Flamenca!, a group of Spanish Flamenco artists from London, came to give a workshop and performance for pupils of Spanish in Years 8, 9 and 10. There were three artists, Angela, Tomás and Juan. Between them they danced, sang and played the guitar and castanets.

The artists started by introducing themselves in Spanish and giving information about the Flamenco art form, including telling pupils about its origins, the clothing, history, music, theatrical elements and different styles of dancing. Angela, Tomás and Juan then started their powerful performance which wowed us all. Pupils accompanied the artists by stamping feet and clapping to the rhythm of the music in true Flamenco style. It was then the turn of the WHSG girls to try Flamenco dancing under Angela's tuition. They built up a series of movements to make an entire dance whilst Juan played guitar and both he and Tomás sang. The afternoon came to an end with another rousing performance by the Spanish artists which saw Angela dance with a 'manta' (special Flamenco shawl) and heard all three artists sing, clap, stamp, all accompanied by the Spanish guitar.



From Mrs J Rojas



YEAR 13 GENETICS WORKSHOP

During Science Week all of the Year 13 Biology students had the opportunity to trace the origin of an HIV infection using advanced scientific techniques. The workshop was run by EDVOTEK the world's leading supplier of biotechnology kits designed for education. After an introduction in which one student was unknowingly "infected" with HIV, other students were subsequently infected by hand shaking and thus the HIV infection was spread. Ultraviolet light then detected those students who had successfully contracted the disease. An ELISA technique which uses the presence of antibodies and enzymes was carried out to identify the student who was the origin of the infection. This was followed by a simulation DNA test which assessed whether the viral DNA was indeed HIV or influenza. This DNA technique is also used in forensic science, paternity testing and screening for some inherited diseases.

Feedback from students was very positive and they clearly benefited from the practical experiences. Some comments included "it helped me to understand the topic through practical work", "good fun", "it was good to actually try out the experiments rather than just read about them".



From Mrs M Bamber



WHS G PTA NEWS

Westcliff High School for Girls Summer Ball 2009

The WHSG Summer Ball 2009 was a huge success. The Main Hall - transformed into a Ballroom - looked splendid. After a reception in the evening sun, 95 guests enjoyed a delicious 4 course dinner before they danced to the live band "*Street life*" into the early morning hours.

A big THANK YOU to the committee members and their families for organising such a wonderful event, and to everybody who purchased tickets for being such fantastic guests.

A special THANK YOU goes to the *WHS G Woodwind Ensemble* who provided the perfect music during our reception, to *Balloon Inspirations* for creating the beautiful decorations, to *Waller Caterers* for creating a lovely meal and to the following businesses for donating beautiful raffle prizes:

Adventure Island, Allegro Music in Westcliff, Mrs J Bambridge, Mr N Beverly, BMW Fairfield, Cliffs Pavilion, CJ's Bowling in Hockley, Clement Hall in Hockley, Cozens Beauty in Leigh, Mr J Duddridge MP, Lakeside Shopping Centre, Mrs Deborah Osman - Reflexologist, Southend United F.C., Tomassi's Restaurant in Southend, WHSG Mums.



WHSG PTA NEWS

For more details see www.whsg.info/pta.html



BOOT SALE

Every 2nd Sunday in Month

Next dates:

Sunday 9th August 6.30am - Noon

Sunday 13th Sept 6.30am - Noon

Cars £6 and Vans £8.
No pre-booking required.

Future Dates



Race Night:

4th October 2009 (tbc)

AGM of WHSG PTA:

8th October 2009 (tbc)

Winter Lunch at the Boatyard:

18th November 2009 (tbc)

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Help us raise money the **EASY** way!

Register for free at

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/westcliffhigh

and use Easyfundraising every time
you shop online.

In 2009, 23 members raised £350 just by shopping
online via this internet portal.

Please, please sign up today.

It does not cost anything, you will get special vouchers
and discounts and we will raise funds for the school.

All fundraising ideas gratefully received by
petra.bromfield@talk21.com

PLEASE!!

Excellent

If you would like to help, come to an event or have
any queries;

Please contact Petra Bromfield, chair WHSG PTA on
01268-792577, 07990-512386 or
petra.bromfield@talk21.com.

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.