



Westcliff High School for Girls

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March 2010

Houses of Parliament Trip

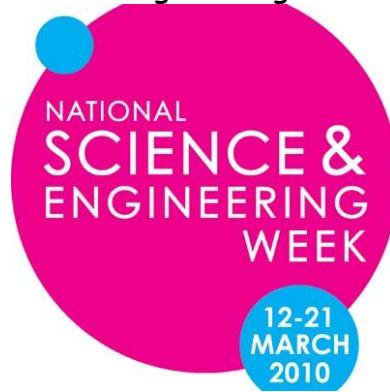
A trip to the Houses of Parliament was enjoyed by Year 12 Politics and Law students earlier this month.

Students were given a guided tour of both the House of Commons and the House of Lords, followed by a lesson in one of the select committee rooms. "The behaviour of our students was exemplary" said Mr Anthony Cains, Head of Government and Politics.



The House of Commons

Science and Engineering Week 2010



Westcliff High School for Girls held its annual Science and Engineering Week in March, offering a range of lunchtime and after school activities for pupils, aimed at raising the profile of science.

As part of the week's activities, four local primary schools: Chalkwell Hall Junior, Eastwood Primary, Blenheim Primary and Our Lady of Lourdes, were invited to take part in the Primary Science Fair. Pupils were invited to work on a science project within their own school and then to demonstrate

it at the Science Fair. The winning team came from Our Lady of Lourdes. Mrs Carole Cobb, Head of Science said, 'We were looking for teamwork, as well as knowledge of science.'

Many departments helped organise events during Science Week. The art department offered a lunchtime film editing event, the textiles department ran a "design-and-make-a-cushion" session and the technology department organised a "ready steady make" competition.

Little Havens Collection

A group of upper sixth form students this month organised a day for everyone to bring in old, unwanted and unused clothes to donate to the Little Havens charity.



Charity organisers

In just a few hours they had collected over 10 black bags of clothes to sort through before the event had ended.

The students, who are also young ambassadors of the charity for our school, would like to thank everyone for their generosity

Year 8 and 9 Pupils Take Part in Mock Trials at Chelmsford Crown Court

Fourteen pupils from Years 8 and 9 took part in mock trials at Chelmsford Crown Court earlier this month, taking on the roles of magistrates, lawyers, defendants and witnesses. The competition was organised by the

Citizenship Foundation and involved 13 schools from across the region. WHSG competed against two schools, the Plume School, Maldon and the Thomas Lord Audley School, Colchester. Head of Government

and Politics Mr Anthony Cains said: "We took on the Thomas Lord Audley School and won. Our defendant was found not guilty. Our lawyers gave particularly powerful and impassioned speeches and were able to persuade

the magistrate to find the case in our favour." Year 9 pupils, Kerry Bromfield and Laura Roberts were WHSG's defence lawyers in the case. Unfortunately, the Year 8 team lost against The Plume School.

Members of Youth Parliament in Two Day Meeting

Members of the UK Youth Parliament (UKYP) met in Sheringham, Norfolk earlier this month to discuss issues such as: cheaper travel for young people; the abolition of university tuition fees; the lowering of the voting age to 16 and the availability of mental health services to young people.

Rosie Woolgar, MYP for Southend, and her deputy Abbie English attended the two day residential meeting, along with other MYPs and their deputies from all over the East of England.

Rosie said, 'The weekend was really hard work but the issues we discussed were relevant and interesting. Many people argue that young people are the future but they forget we are here today. I would urge any young person to become involved with the UK Youth Parliament and campaign for any issues they want to change. One voice is loud but ten voices are louder and with UKYP you can learn to construct your ideas into achievable goals - it really gives you a platform to speak on.'

For further information on the Youth Parliament or to discuss any issues contact Rosie on:

southendmyp@btinternet.com.

Ladies Singles Champion 2010



Congratulations to Virunee Viravong, who has won the Essex County Ladies Singles Championship 2010.

The match took place at the Redbridge Indoor Sports and Leisure Centre, Ilford, on Sunday 7th March.

Virunee's victory was hard fought. She won the first set 5-2, but then lost five consecutive games to lose the second set 7-5. However, she then won the next two sets 6-1 and 6-3.

Speaking after the match Virunee said, 'I knew this was going to be a tough match as my opponent was the number 2 seed and the same age as me. It was a great experience and I hope the win can spur me on to achieve further success in bigger tournaments in the future.'

Valentine Saga Winners

The winners of the English Department's Valentine Saga Competition have been announced. Kiera Jenkinson (Bohun) was the Lower School winner. Cyan Turner and Helen McKeown (Mandeville) came first in the Upper School category and Ellen Palmer (Mandeville) won the Sixth Form category. Well done girls!

Here is Cyan and Helen's entry:

"I gazed at the perfect man in front of me. He had glossy black hair, slicked into the ultimate quaff. His skin, flawless, delicate peach. His eyes, like seductive fire, igniting desire, the colour of sapphires... My passion surged. I began to serenade my one true love. The mirror shattered."

Reading Circle

Parents are cordially invited to attend the English Department's monthly lunchtime Reading Circle. The next meeting is planned for Friday 23rd April. Please telephone the school for details.

Genetics Workshop

Year 13 Biology students took part in a genetics workshop last month, learning about genetic engineering and some of the skills involved in DNA fingerprinting.

The workshop was run by EDVOTEK the world's leading supplier of biotechnology kits designed for education. After an introduction in which the students were taken through some true stories in which DNA fingerprinting was used to convict criminals, students were introduced to the idea of 'photocopying' DNA. This involves using an extremely small DNA sample found at the scene of a crime to produce a larger sample. The students then carried out their own polymerase chain reaction to multiply up a DNA sample. To show that the procedure had worked, the students then carried out a DNA test to provide the evidence. This DNA technique is used in forensic science, paternity testing and screening for some inherited diseases. Feedback from students was very positive.

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