



TUNBRIDGE WELLS GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS

Mr J G Harrison, B. Ed. (Hons) **Headteacher**

2 November 2011

Dear All

Hard to believe we are already at the beginning of term 2. We have had a very busy term 1 with lots of sporting fixtures, rehearsals for our musical "Our House", Year 11 Work Experience and the 'Risk' day on Tuesday 18th October all adding to our experiences at the School.

The Risk Day attended by Years 7 to 10 the week before half term was a tremendous achievement. Lots of staff worked very hard to put on special activities, including a climbing wall, archery, fitness MOTs, first aid training and a Maths Roadshow from Cambridge University to name a few. The boys seemed to have a wonderful time and a few photographs are included later in the newsletter.

Should, like last year, we have some bad weather with significant snow fall during the winter, please do visit the School website for updates. It will remain our intention to be open whenever possible.

Best wishes to you all.

Mr J G Harrison, Headteacher

Forthcoming Events

Christmas Fair	Saturday 3 rd December
"Our House" Musical	Thursday 8 th , Friday 9 th and Saturday 10 th December
Success 2011	Friday 18 th November (Year 12 and last year's Year 13)
Christmas Lunch	Wednesday 14 th December
Last day of Term 2	Friday 16 th December





Economics and Business Studies

It has been an extraordinarily busy first term for the Economics and Business Studies Department with a number of events taking place and being planned.

Work experience

All Year 11 boys were placed in work experience employment during the last week of the term. Feedback so far has been extremely positive, with the vast majority of students enjoying the experience and employers impressed with the calibre and attitude of our students. I would like to remind students to complete their work experience diary as fully as possible. These will be collected via form tutors in the next couple of weeks.

Young Enterprise

This is the 19th year of Young Enterprise at TWGSB. In the last few weeks two new companies have been established. This year our business advisors are Steve Lukacs and Mike McSweeney, both established business men with years of experience. At the moment the companies are deciding on their product and drawing up business plans.

Sell for Success

On Humanities Day, half of the students in Year 9 took part in the 'Sell for Success' Challenge. The group was divided by House and each one was tasked with designing, marketing, financing and presenting a prototype games console. For most boys this was their first experience in the world of business studies. All boys enjoyed the day and learnt a great deal from the activities.

Leadership Lecture

A free lecture was held at Combebank School on 1st November after school, given by Keith Hardy of Ernst and Young on the topic of Leadership. This event was fully booked and we took 32 students of Economics and Business Studies from both Year 12 and 13.

Upcoming events

On November 29th we will be taking Year 12 and 13 Economics to a revision workshop at Vue in Fulham Broadway, London. I would strongly encourage all Economics students to attend this event in preparation for module exams in January. I have provisionally book places for all 80 students of Economics. The cost is £20. Permission slips and payments must be returned by Friday 4th November.

Mr P Carey, Head of Economics and Business Studies



Sell for Success

History

Year 9 visit to the First World War Battlefields

Ninety two year 9 pupils and ten staff spent part of a weekend studying the impact of World War One by visiting battlefields, museums and cemeteries in the Ypres salient in Belgium. We also attended the Last Post ceremony at the Menin Gate at 8pm on the Friday evening and four boys laid a wreath on behalf of the school. We revisited the Menin Gate Saturday lunchtime.

Mrs Glover, Head of History



Year 9 at the Menin Gate

Year 7 Battle Abbey trips

Year 7 students made the short journey to 1066 country in late October, as part of their study into the Norman Conquest. Students were able to handle replicas of swords, shields and armour from the Middle Ages and take in a film in the visitor centre before trekking around the historical site to re-enact



the events of the famous battle. Unlike October 1066, England fortunately avoided invasion and the students of TWGSB paid their respects to the late, great Harold Godwinson and his brave Saxons.

Mr Hale, History Dept



Year 7 at Battle Abbey

MUNGA Briefing Day

Year 12 and 13 students pitted their wits against students from a range of local schools as delegates at a recent briefing day at Tonbridge School on October 3rd for the Mock United Nations General Assembly. Students prepared delegations to debate human rights, armed conflict and environmental issues against other UN member states from around the world. This, the first of two MUNGA events, included lectures exploring the nature of global debt and the role of the IMF and the UN in resolving and more frequently, exacerbating problems for the developing world. The afternoon enabled political horse trading between delegates and seminars on world issues. In these sessions, the highlights included Alfie Cotton's spirited put downs of a vicious neo-conservative delegate on human rights issues and Daniel Jennings call for a UN message of support for Hugo Chavez. The students will now

be busily preparing for the full General Assembly in December at Tunbridge Wells town hall, attended by local MP Greg Clarke.

Mr Hale

English

We have been busy this term. KS3 pupils have been writing poetry for a Young Writers competition, Year 7 pupils have been reading for Readathon and are collecting sponsor money during half term and an evening performance of 'Macbeth' for Year 8 at the E M Forster Theatre, Tonbridge proved an interesting experience, prior to studying the text in class.

Some of our A Level students visited the Devonshire Park Theatre in Eastbourne to see an excellent production of Joan Littleworth's 'Oh What a Lovely War' and others took the train to Canterbury for a drama workshop on their Shakespeare text 'Othello'. Hopefully this will support them in their coursework and their wider reading.

Mrs Welford

The Cooking Bus at TWGSB

TWGSB is a Bronze award holder with the Food for Life Partnership. The FFLP is a network of schools and communities across England committed to transforming food culture. The FFLP aims to improve school meals, reconnect children and young people with where their food comes from, and inspire families to grow and cook food.

As a reward for achieving our Bronze award, we will be welcoming the FFLP Cooking Bus to TWGSB during the week beginning Monday 5th December 2011. The 'bus' is actually a huge specialist built articulated lorry that opens up into a purpose built and fully equipped mobile kitchen / classroom, designed to accommodate 16 pupils in a session. The bus is staffed by fully qualified teachers who devise practical cooking lessons for young people and the wider community, and training for teachers, youth workers and health professionals. All the food and equipment is provided by FFLP.

Whilst the bus is here, we are offering each year group a 90 minute cooking session. Places are limited to 16 pupils per session, so we are offering the students a chance to win a place by entering a competition for their year group, the details of which they will be given in assemblies after the half term break.



We will also need two adult volunteers per session to wash up and help with the activities, and so if you think you would be able to spare 90 minutes during that week to do so, please will you contact Mrs. Tull at the school via email (atull@twgsboys.kent.sch.uk). Please will you also encourage your sons and daughters to participate in the competitions to try for a place? This is a unique opportunity to experience the Cooking Bus – we have been told that due to funding being withdrawn from the scheme, it is very likely that TWGSB will be the last school that the FFLP Cooking Bus will ever visit.

Anita Tull, Food and Nutrition teacher



The Cooking Bus

Eco Club

This term we have continued to visit primary schools to run Solar Powered Car workshops with Year 5 and 6 pupils. We are currently in the process of supporting Southborough Primary School with their Eco Club and a number of 6th formers will be paying them a visit twice a month over the course of this year. Each Year 7 form has the opportunity to visit an organic farm. The visits are spread throughout the year so that boys can monitor the changes that take place through the seasons and feed back to the rest of the year group at assemblies. The first of these visits has now taken place and was a great success.

Following an audit of how eco-related issues appear in our curriculum, the Eco reps were very pleased to see that nearly every department deals with sustainable aspects at some point over a pupil's time with them, and we cannot help but feel that this is setting the tone for some conscientious and caring future adults.

We have continued to harvest produce from our allotment and have produced an audit of what grew successfully as well as the occasional failure; information which we will share with other sustainable schools in the area. On Humanities Day we collected manure and dug this in, and we have sorted out our winter planting so that we can grow produce year-round for the school kitchen.

6th formers are in the process of monitoring our energy consumption and are looking at ways to help the school to reduce this, which will not only have ecological benefits, but financial ones as well. At a recent meeting with other schools, TWGSB arranged for a presentation from Power Perfector, who offer a solution for reducing an establishment's carbon footprint. Whether this becomes a viable option for schools in the area remains to be seen, but it certainly raised some important points to consider.

As we apply for our Green Flag this term, litter remains our nemesis! Eco reps are on the case and we have just received free posters and stickers from "Keep Britain Tidy" which we will display round the school to reinforce the message. The boys are trying to come up with a system to encourage pupils to use the dustbins provided and any ideas would be more than welcome! Recycling of paper and cardboard is going well, and some pupils in Year 7 have had the opportunity to use the pads of paper made earlier in the year, meaning that we are re-using rather than recycling... always a more sustainable option.

Ms Lovera



Year 7 Farm Visit



'RISK' in Global Bond Trading

One of the many 'Risk' Day activities offered by TWGSB Teachers:

Five houses formed teams (mixing Years 7 – 10) based on the UK and other global economic areas (North America, Central and South America, Europe, Asia and Australasia, Africa). Using 'The Economist', they researched current economic challenges and the needs that different areas of the world are trying to meet through international trade commitments.

Based upon their study of domestic products and demands, they then structured a trading strategy around anticipated sources of supply. They issued 'bonds', which representatives competitively 'traded' in the international financial marketplace. The aim was to sell as many bonds as possible to achieve highest returns. Trading was intense and sometimes dramatic: always very competitive.

Finally, a presentation was made by each team, highlighting the particular successes in their portfolios: examples of these included, North America trading a new vaccine to Africa (to combat a malaria epidemic) in exchange for a bumper harvest of coca beans, or Asia/Australasia selling rice to Europe in exchange for the manufacture of quad bikes!

With traders like these, the future of the world economy would appear totally secure.

Mr Eaves, Ms Thomson and Mrs Green, English Department

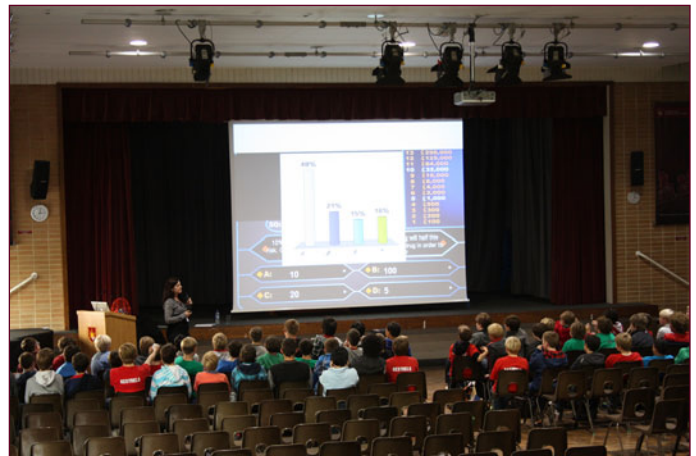


Art: A Risky Business

Risk Day Activities Photos



Climbing Wall



Maths Roadshow from Cambridge University



Health MOT



Physical Education

Football

An extremely busy term of football fixtures draws to a close for all year groups. Many thanks to the large number of boys who have represented the school in Inter-School or Inter-House competitions. We have had block fixtures against some very strong football schools including St Bedes, Sackville, Ardingly College (140 boys representing the school on one Saturday morning), Brentwood and Wilson's School at A, B and sometimes C team level. All age groups have played National and Kent Cup matches and at the time of writing the following squads are still involved in Cup competitions:

Year 7 – Kent Cup

Year 8 – Kent and National Cup - won all their games so far.

Year 9 – Kent Cup

Year 10 – Kent and National Cup

Year 11 – National Cup

1ST X1 – Kent Cup

2nd X1 – Kent Cup

All of our senior teams have performed well in the East Kent League. Our 1st X1 are currently 4th in the Premier Division and our 2nd and 3rd X1 squads are 3rd and 7th respectively in Division 2.

Inter-House Football Results

Year 7A Winners Merlins

Year 7B Winners Merlins

Year 8B Winners Ospreys

Year 9B Winners Merlins.

Fitness for Life

Congratulations to all the boys who have represented their House so ably in the recent Inter-House Cross Country races. We split the boys into 3 groups per year so there was an A race, B race and C race and the race distance was two miles. The fastest three boys in each year group and overall house winners are listed below:

Year 7: Ospreys

Joint 1st - Tyler Adams E, James Bingham K,
3rd Max Sheppard O.

Year 8: Kestrels

1st Chris Boxley H, 2nd Will Thornton K, and
3rd Max Borland M

Year 9: Merlins

1st Chris Cohen O, 2nd Sam Larkin M, and
3rd Toby Francis O



Year 9 Inter House Football

Year 10: Eagles

1st Hamish Wyatt M, 2nd Charlie Simpson F, and
3rd Nick Mc Douall K

Year 11: Kestrels

1st Alistair Bishop K, 2nd Joe Storey F, and
3rd James Prentis E

Mr Downing – Head of P.E



Year 11 Fitness for Life Race

U14 Rugby

The TWGSB U14 rugby team has progressed in to the quarter finals of the Kent Shield. After an impressive win over Bishop Justus CoE School, the team was given a 'walk-over' by Bethany School and will play either; Dover Grammar, Hayesbrook or Oakwood Park Grammar school in the next match. The play by date for the Quarter final is Friday 4th November and the game is due to be played at home.

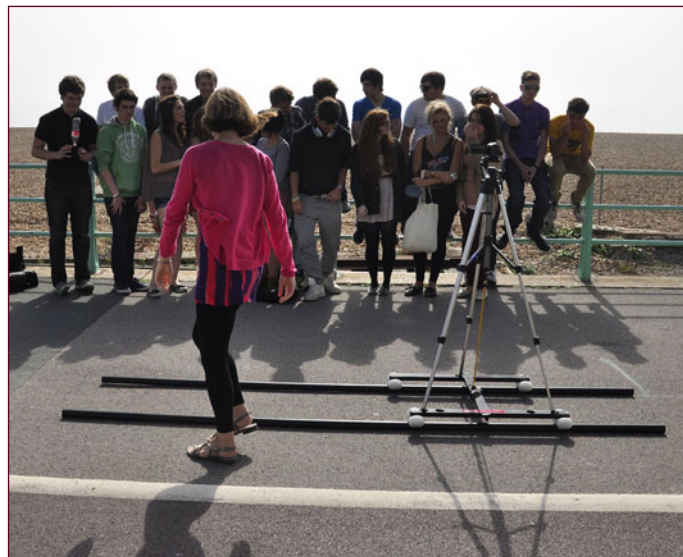
Mr Douse, Rugby Master



Y13 Filming Trip to Brighton

The Year 13 students made the most of the opportunity to spend the day filming in Brighton in preparation for their Advanced Production coursework where they have to shoot a music video, design an album cover and case and magazine advertising campaign. The students took the tracking dolly, camframe and fish eye lens and were able to experiment with the equipment, carry out a thorough recce of the location and completed a set shot list to deadline. This was an excellent opportunity to work in their production teams under pressure, develop film making skills and carry out a risk assessment of shooting in an urban environment, as well as enjoy the sunshine!

Mrs Fernandez, Head of Media Studies



Year 13 Media Studies students in Brighton

Macmillan Cancer Support

8K raised £140.10 from a cake sale held in the dining room on 30th September for Macmillan Cancer Support. A Special thank you to Oliver Brett, Sam Brown, Guy Osborne and Ben Holmes.



Mrs Buttery, 8K Form Tutor

Art

Gerhard Richter: Panorama

Spanning nearly five decades, and coinciding with the artist's 80th birthday, Gerhard Richter: Panorama is a major retrospective exhibition that groups together significant moments of his



Year 12 and 13 Art and Photography Students

remarkable career. Y12 and 13 art and photography students visited the exhibition.

Outreach

Razon Mahebus 11M, Ben Barham 11K, Matt Pruce 11E, George Marling 11M, Jake Mardell 11M and Maddie Johnson 13G went to help pre-school children at the Saplings Day Nursery which is situated at the Tunbridge Wells Sports Centre. They explored painting, sculpture, drawing and print making. The students' skills and enthusiasm were appreciated by both the staff and the students and the final show was magnificent.

Mrs Buttery, Head of Art



Saplings Day Nursery Exhibition



A team of four will also be taking part in the UK Senior Team Challenge on 16th November.

Maths Lectures

Fifteen Year 10 pupils attended the “Maths in Action” day in September, held at the University of Kent. The day, which was supported by the Further Maths Support Programme, aimed to entertain, consolidate knowledge and skills as well as extending experiences of our young mathematicians. We heard about “Patterns in Maths and Science” from Prof. John Dore, a fascinating insight into how patterns found in the world around us can be interpreted mathematically, and how mathematical theories have led to the search for patterns in nature. Rob Eastaway talked about “From Monopoly to Yucky Choccy: The Maths of Games”. Rob told us how TV companies employ mathematicians to devise games of chance such as Countdown. “Yucky Chocolate” is a game where the winner has chocolate to eat, but the loser eats soap. See one of the attendees for more details.

Overall an enjoyable and useful day, which also included a practical session on mathematical puzzles and games, and a campus tour to experience life at the University of Kent.

In the coming weeks, some members of the Sixth Form will be attending the annual “Maths in Action” lectures in London on 5th December.

Bridge Club

Miss Connell runs this club on Thursday lunchtimes in M4. It is open to all ages and abilities, and complete beginners in Year 7 are particularly welcome.

Maths Clinic

The Clinic operates on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes in M6. We have a large pool of successful and willing A-Level Maths students to call upon, willing to give their time to support pupils from Years 7 to 11, on an individual or small group basis, with their Maths homework or to go over recent work again.

Maths Clinic caters for two types of situation:

- A letter and Attendance Record Form, are sent home to inform parents where the class teacher has recommended that a pupil attends Maths Clinic for a period of time. Where possible, the pupil is allocated to a specific Sixth Former so that some continuity and a relationship can be

established. Reminders are placed in Register trays each Tuesday and Thursday. However, Maths Clinic is not a detention or punishment and attendance is not compulsory or chased. Lack of attendance will be evident to parents on the Attendance Record Form. However, a pupil who chooses not to attend or is not receptive to the help on offer, should not seek to make excuses if their future progress or results disappoint – they have chosen to waste the opportunity to improve as well as the Sixth Former’s willingness and time.

- A drop-in facility for pupils who want help with their latest homework or some other Maths problem. No invitation or appointment is necessary. Individual help will be provided by a Sixth Former. Some pupils find the experience of working with an older pupil to be less threatening than asking the teacher, and we would encourage such pupils to take advantage of what the Sixth Formers can offer. We often witness such pupils coming back for more!

www.mymaths.co.uk

The Department has a subscription to this site, giving pupils free home access. All pupils should be aware of our school login and password, and most will have additional access details in order to complete any online homeworks set. The site is frequently used in our teaching, and pupils can re-study and practise most topics that they have met.

Year 10 and Year 11 Maths Exams

Year 10 should be busily working towards their first GCSE Module (Unit A) to be taken on 19th January. As we approach the examination, please encourage your sons to make use of the Maths Clinic, mymaths.co.uk, the VLE etc.

Some Year 11 have a first attempt or resit on Unit B on 9th November (note this is a change of date from 8th November). Others may be doing a Unit A resit on 19th January.

Year 12 and 13 Maths Mocks and Exams

Mock details for all January exams have been on display outside M1 since early September, so there should be no excuses for poor performance. They are an essential and important part of the preparation for the real exams in January. In the case of Year 12, future university predicted grades will be based on the outcome of the real exams.

Mr Young, Head of Mathematics