



Westcliff High School for Boys

Designated Outstandingly Successful on four occasions (Ofsted)
Headmaster: Mr M A Skelly, M.A.

August 2023

Dear Parents,

WESTCLIFF CENTRE FOR GIFTED CHILDREN (WCGC)

I am pleased to inform you that we shall continue to offer our exciting programme of WCGC events at Westcliff High School for Boys during the 2023-24 academic year. As you may know, the *Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children* is now a well-established and effective means of encouraging pupils and parents who may have previously overlooked the possibility of a local grammar school education, to consider whether it might be a positive experience for them. It is one of our important strategies for challenging disadvantage and, through the WCGC programme, we are always delighted to have the opportunity to work closely with local primary schools in encouraging every local pupil to fulfil their potential.

WCGC Go for Grammar! Themed Days.

The *Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children* is delighted to offer three 'Go for Grammar' Taster Days for local Year 5 pupils (boys and girls). If you have received this letter via your child's primary school, then your child will be eligible to apply, as this opportunity is only open to children living within our priority postcode catchment area, SS0-SS9.

These taster days will include a range of fun activities designed to challenge, engage and give a flavour of what could be expected from attending a grammar school. This will include some formal 11+ activities, alongside other activities designed to develop those aptitudes tested in the 11+ Examinations. The day will commence with registration at 9.00am in the School Hall, and a short introductory presentation at 9.15am, followed by the event-specific themed activities, and concluding at 3.00pm. Pupils will need to bring a packed lunch and soft drink or water on the day.

Finally, parents are invited to attend the *Helping Parents to Help Their Children* session at 2.00pm, before collecting their children at 3.00pm. The aim of this session for parents is to provide practical advice and guidance relating to the CSSE, the 11+ examinations and life at a selective grammar school.

Each themed day will include sessions in Mathematics and English, alongside the themed activities for the day. The themed activities have been programmed as follows.

Saturday 30 September 2023 – Sport, Adventure and Leadership

An action-packed selection of outdoor sporting opportunities and exciting tasks run by cadets from our WHSB Combined Cadet Force (CCF) Army, Navy and RAF sections that are fun and inclusive for pupils of all abilities.

Saturday 20 January 2024 – All Things Creative

Pupils will enjoy sessions in Art, Music and Technology, and Modern Foreign Languages to learn and develop their creative skills, using our dedicated specialist facilities.

Saturday 27 April 2024 – Lively Laboratories

A series of hands-on practical activities in the School's science laboratories will introduce pupils to the exciting science of chemical reactions in Chemistry, the relationships between matter and energy in Physics, the science of life in Biology, all brought together in Earth Sciences.

The days are priced at £15 (non-refundable) to cover the cost of administration and staffing, but there will be no charge for children who are in receipt of Pupil Premium Funding.

When making an application, the pupils and parents are welcome to apply to attend more than one of the programmed days, and we shall do our best to accommodate as many of those requests as possible. Should we find that we are unable to accommodate one or more of the requests, for example due to oversubscription, we shall write to parents to notify them of that position. However, we would always endeavour to ensure that the pupil has access to at least one of their chosen days.

Unfortunately, places cannot be allocated on the basis of chosen friendship groups, however we always take an overview of the applications from each primary school and ensure that there will be some children in each group with whom your child will be familiar.

Parents should complete the online WCGC application form and this can be found by using the following link: www.whsb.essex.sch.uk/444/community/wcgc. The deadline for applications is **Thursday 21 September 2023**.

We look forward to receiving applications on behalf of your Year 5 son/daughter and to warmly welcoming them to Westcliff High School for Boys.

Yours sincerely,



Andy Baggs
Director of Lower School
Westcliff High School for Boys