



ISSUE 4

FRIENDS OF WBGS

NEWSLETTER

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The June Ball



Charity Cycle Challenge



Friends Film Night

It's June - Summer Ball

Final preparations are well under way for the – 2015 Watford Boys Grammar School Summer Ball. The Ball is the social highlight of the School year and will commence at 7pm on 12th June at the Watford Hilton with a Drinks Reception, followed by a Welcome Speech by Mr Allchorn, dinner, silent auction, raffle prizes, music and dancing.

The Friends have been working hard selecting the venue, choosing the menu, setting up online ticket pages, seeking active sponsorships from various local businesses, and encouraging parents and Year groups to sign up for what promises to be an excellent evening of fun! Tables at the Hilton seat ten but we're putting some "Friends" tables together for those who are coming in a small group or buying a single ticket. Please contact Rita, rita@organisedpa.co.uk who can



arrange seating at these tables. Remember the proceeds of the Ball will help buy a new mini bus for our school.

Book your tickets now on the Eventbrite page: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/watford-grammar-school-for-boys-summer-ball-2015-tickets-16677010387>

Rita Gosrani & Archana Singh



It's a great opportunity to meet others, have fun and support the school

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Charity Cycle Challenge

Three boys from Year 9 interviewed Mr Allchorn recently to ask him about his cycling expedition to Germany to raise money for the school.

Can you tell us a bit about your charity cycling trip, Mr. Allchorn?

Yes, at 2pm on Friday 26th June, straight after the Upper Sixth Leavers Lunch, I'm going to cycle from School to Mainz in Germany. First I'm heading down to Folkstone through London, which could be the worst part of the trip because of the Friday rush hour. From Folkstone I'll cross at night to Calais and then, over the weekend, I'll cycle through France, Belgium and Holland until, by Monday morning, I hope to be doing the last stretch of 150km down the Rhine Valley to Mainz. All in all it will take about 4 days and I will have covered around 750-800km. It's a fair challenge.

Why did you choose this route?

Back in the 1950's the school organised cycle expeditions to Europe. They visited Mainz and that started the German exchange between our School and the Gymnasium am Kurfuerstlichen Schloss. In fact it's the 50th anniversary of the Exchange this year. The German Exchange will be coming here in the last week of June and they will be back in Mainz by the time I get there to greet me. I'm happy to say I'm not doing my expedition on a 1950's bike but a 21st century carbon fibre bike!

What advice would you give young cyclists planning longer cycling trips?

You've got to plan. You need to look at distances, geography and climate. You also need to get some training in. For a young rider, look out for opportunities to cycle around 50km a day or more and your body will quickly become used to that. Remember to drink lots and eat high energy



food like bananas, energy bars and flapjacks. One of the worse things that can happen is when you run out of energy.

This is a fundraising expedition. What are you raising money for?

I'm raising money for the Friends of the School because we need at least one new mini bus. I'm hoping lots of people will sponsor me and I'm hoping to raise about £10,000.

This will really motivate me to get those miles in. There will be tough times when I'm just spinning the wheels and counting the kilometres... and I've just got to keep on going.

If every boy gives £10 then that will get us to our of course target and beyond. I have opened a [Just Giving Page](#) and remember donations can be Gift Aided.

How do you find time to train for your expedition?

I work about 60-70 hours a week for the School and I also cycle on average about 250-300km a

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week. I cycle to and from school and for longer at weekends. I find cycling helps me focus on solving problems and coming up with creative solutions. Cycling is a significant part of what I do and makes me better at my job.

How have you enjoyed this year as Headmaster?

I have really enjoyed this year. The best thing has been seeing pupils learning and teaching in the classroom as well as being involved in sport, music, drama and extra curricula activities. Seeing pupils taking opportunities and developing into well rounded young adults gives me a real buzz

of satisfaction. It's been really good meeting parents, Old Boys and boys who have recently left the school and are doing so well in different fields. I have also enjoyed meeting stakeholders like our MP and the Mayor. Being involved in the Hustings at Watford Boys' recently was quite a challenge. There were five different politicians with ten different points of view and it was hard work keeping order!

Viel Glück, Mr. Allchorn!

Mr. Allchorn was interviewed by Nicholas Bush, Jonathan Conquest and Andrew Lai.



Mainz, Germany

Funding details

The link for the JustGiving page is <https://www.justgiving.com/Mark-Allchorn1/>

Newsletter put together by: Kathryn Bourke, Deborah Bush, Nicholas Bush, Victoria Conquest, Luzia Lai

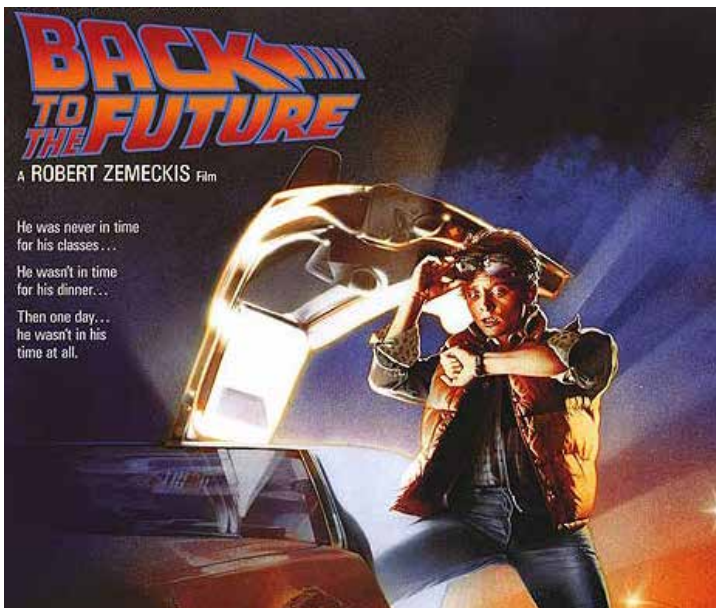
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Coming up in June

Film night

The Palace Film Club is hosting a Family Film Night for our School on the 28th June at 7pm in the Muse. The main feature is Back to the Future which is a sci-fi classic. Also showing is the short film 'Surviving' which has been made

by a group of young people with the support of FilmBox. 'Surviving' is set in Oxhey. This event is free and supported by the Friends of the School. To ensure a place please contact [Deborah Bush](#).



Marty McFly (Michael J. Fox) is thrown back into the '50s when Doc Brown's experiment goes awry.



Teri's walk

On Saturday 27th June, Terri Bishop is walking the 50 miles between Cassiobury Park and Leighton Buzzard to raise money for the Special Needs Department of our School. Please support Teri by sending donations in cash or cheque, payable to the Watford Fuller Foundation, to the School Office for the attention of Mrs Burt. More information about Terri's journey can be read in Issue 3 of the Friends Newsletter.



The Music Box Project

Launching Next Month in Abbots Langley, the Music Box project has been organised by Three Rivers Council and is open to all 14-19 year-olds. It will enable them to work with a professional

musician for 8 weeks, learning about music production and DJing, as well as them helping to set up, promote and run their own live music event.

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for 14-19 year olds

THE MUSIC BOX

8 week music project . . .

working with a professional musician

- song writing
- music production
- DJing and mixing

be a part of organising a live music event!

every Thursday from 11 June - 30 July, 6pm - 8pm

at Abbots Langley Community Centre, Manor House Grounds,
The High Street, Abbots Langley WD5 0AP

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ACTIVITY

BOOK NOW

call 01923 776611

or email

leisure@threerivers.gov.uk

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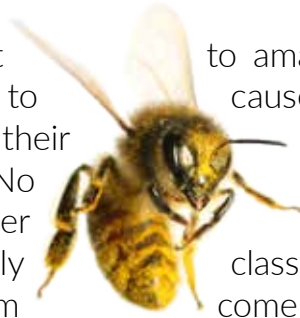
Mainz



Whiplash Review

Undercover Teacher

As we approach the home stretch of yet another academic year, we bid farewell to our Upper 6th and wish them well in their exams...breathing a big sigh of relief. No more chasing work that is in the "Other Folder". Only I'm reminded very quickly that the Lower 6th are soon back from their study leave. They will be keeping us on our toes, and we will still be chasing that elusive "Other Folder". Now that the warm weather is upon us (or is that just wishful thinking), along comes another little classroom annoyance... The sun is shining, the birds are singing but the boys seem a bit agitated. You look around for the source of disturbance to discover that a bee has come into the classroom. It never ceases



to amaze me how such a small insect can cause so much pandemonium to a class of teenage boys as they shriek and dodge the insect. After a few rounds of me chasing the bee around the classroom with a folder I just happened to come across, I somehow manage to cajole the bee out of the window. I quickly shut the window and smile triumphantly at the class who cheer at my bravery, and whilst I turn around to face the board, I hear another shriek and I soon realise that somehow the bee has managed to find another open window and the fun starts again. As I dismiss the class and sit down exhausted I wonder if the chasing ever does stop, and will we ever find the "Other Folder"?

Mixed Spinach Bhajias

These Bhajias can be served as starters or with the main meal. To make them you will need

- 2 bunches of spinach (finely chopped)
- 1 bunch of coriander leaves
- 1 aubergine
- 3 florets of cauliflower
- 1 potato
- 1 onion
- 1 red/green capsicum
- 1 tea cup of Gram flour
- 1 teaspoon of ground pepper and red chilli powder
- Oil



1. Mix the gram flour and all the spices together then slowly add enough water to make a thick batter.
2. Cut all the vegetables into very small pieces.
3. Add the vegetables, chopped spinach and coriander to the ready batter and leave for 10 minutes.
4. Heat the oil and on a low heat and add small amounts of batter to form little balls. Fry these until golden brown.
5. Serve hot and with chutneys.

Recipe by Bhavna Dattani

Whiplash Reviewed



Whiplash, starring Miles Teller and J.K. Simmons, was a contender for Best Picture at the 2015 Oscars which took place in February. It didn't take home the big prize but it won a handful of awards, including the Best Supporting Actor Oscar for J.K. Simmons. It was recently released on DVD so I thought that now was the perfect time to recommend it seeing as it flew under so many people's radars.

Whiplash is the story of a young, aspiring jazz drummer who joins a band led by a prestigious but ruthless conductor determined to find the next great musician. As his relationship with this conductor develops, it spirals into a dark battle of wits that's every bit as thrilling and exciting as you wouldn't expect a movie about drumming to be.

I've seen this film twice now, and with every viewing I am more and more convinced that it's a perfect movie. Whiplash is a gem if ever there was one. It deals with complex emotional issues such as feelings of not fitting in and the yearning for greatness, but presented in the form of a fast paced, unrelenting thrill ride more exciting than any action film I saw last year.

The dialogue is sharp and the insults are thrown thick and fast. Conductor Terrence Fletcher is a character sure to go down in cinematic history as one of the great antagonists, and his one liners are destined to be immortalised. They make you laugh out loud but quake in fear at the same time. J.K. Simmons is so easily menacing and is mesmerising to watch in every scene he's in.

Miles Teller, however, holds his own against such a cinematic force and adds depth and sympathy to a character that could be seen as arrogant and one-dimensional.

In a movie about jazz the music doesn't disappoint. Musical numbers are allowed to play out in full but never feel like easy-going fillers. The plot is always advancing, especially when the characters are playing their instruments. Even if you're not a jazz fan this music will stick with you for a long while after you're done with the movie.

Whiplash may be described by many as a drama, and while it certainly is dramatic and brings intense depth and realism to its characters and their struggles, this movie is a thriller. In it's incredible final sequence it becomes the definition of the phrases 'nail biting' and 'edge of your seat' and left me giddy coming out of the cinema. I was so happy because this is the kind of movie that doesn't come around too often. It's the kind of movie that reminds someone like me why I love movies. It's a must-see, and with it being the lowest grossing Best Picture nominee since 2010's Winter's Bone, Whiplash needs all the help it can get to show that we still want creative, original and incredible independent cinema. If this review hasn't been enough to convince you to rush out and buy the Whiplash DVD, just search the internet for more reviews. I assure you their praise will be every bit as glowing as mine.

Orla Smith

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