



Westcliff High School for Boys

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

July 2026

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 2026-27 academic year. As you may know, the *Westcliff Centre for Gifted Children* is now a well-established and effective means of encouraging local pupils and parents to consider a grammar school education. It is one of our strategies for challenging disadvantage and, through the WCGC programme, we are delighted to have the opportunity to work closely with local primary schools in encouraging every local pupil to realise 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 pupils in Year 5 for the 2026-2027 Academic Year. Both boys and girls are welcome. 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 area, SS0-SS9.

These taster days will include a range of fun activities designed to challenge, engage and give a flavour of attending a grammar school. This will include some activities in numeracy and literacy, 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, followed by the event-specific themed activities, and will conclude at 3.00pm. Participants will need to bring a packed lunch and soft drinks or water on the day.

Finally, parents are invited to attend the *Helping Parents to Help Their Children* session at 2.15pm, before collecting their children at 3.00pm. The aim of this session for parents is to provide practical advice and guidance relating to the Consortium of Selective Schools in Essex (CSSE), the 11+ Examinations and life at a selective grammar school. Each day comprises themed activities, which have been programmed as follows:

Saturday 26 September 2026 – Get up and Go!

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

Saturday 28 November 2026 – Express It!

Participants will have sessions based in our technology workshops, art studios and language labs, where they will learn and develop their creative and communication skills, using our specialist facilities.

Saturday 6 February 2027 – Bright Sparks!

A series of hands-on practical activities in the School's science laboratories will introduce participants 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 with a session in Earth Sciences.

The days are priced at £15 each (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, parents are welcome to indicate their child's preferred session, and we shall do our best to accommodate as many as possible. A maximum of two applications may be submitted; the same preferences should be expressed on the two applications. Should we find that we are unable to accommodate a request, for example due to oversubscription, we shall write to notify you.

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 endeavour to 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 17 September 2026**.

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,



Mr AC Baggs
Director of Lower School
Westcliff High School for Boys