

10th September 2019



Brentwood Ursuline

Convent High School

Dear Parent/Guardian(s)

Welcome Letter and Early Closure Dates

Welcome to the new academic year at Brentwood Ursuline. I would like to begin by giving thanks for the results in August. No fewer than 12 of our Year 13 students achieved entirely A* or A grades, with well over half of all grades across the cohort being A*-B. This resulted in a large number of students leaving to study demanding subjects at leading universities; not just Oxford (History) and Cambridge (Classics) but Durham, LSE, Southampton, Warwick and many others. Our BTEC students all achieved or exceeded their target grades and all passed comfortably, enabling those students also to take up places at university or start apprenticeships. Our strategic aim to strengthen STEM at the Ursuline is bearing fruit once again, with top grades in maths and the sciences and take up for those subjects again strong for 2019-20.

At GCSE, you will remember that BUCHS has been the top-performing non-selective school in Essex for the last two years and I am delighted to say that our results in 2019 have been even stronger across the board. No fewer than 30 students gained 8 or more Level 9-7 grades, entitling them to wear the prestigious 8 Badge for achievement. We look forward to great things in two years' time when the 2019 entry comes to take its A Level exams.

A huge amount of hard work was involved from students, teachers and parents. These results are also the product of years of patient work behind the scenes in recruitment, curriculum planning, pastoral support and quality assurance. Consistently excellent results are not produced in months but in years, and we will continue our drive to ensure that the Ursuline retains its leading position over the coming years. The effort is continuous and the challenges, financial, political and in many other respects, are considerable, so we ask for your prayers and practical support in fulfilling this vocation.

An important component of our academic success is our insistence on high standards of attendance, behaviour and appearance. I know that it can be tough as a parent when caught between the requirements of school and the wishes of a teenager, but we rely on you to support us, even (especially) if there is a conflict between the two.

It is helpful if parents count to ten before picking up the phone or firing off an email, still more helpful if they suspend final judgement on a situation until they have heard the school's version of what happened as well as their child's. I am greatly encouraged by your positive response to our communication about wearing only the pleated design of skirt in Years 7-11 and our students have started the year looking very smart.

P.T.O.

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Headteacher: Dr R. J. Wilkin

It won't be long until you will be receiving the first Newsletter of the year; time flies as always. In the meantime, I would like to remind you about the following events resulting in early closures:

Please ensure your child is aware of their onward travel arrangements on these dates:

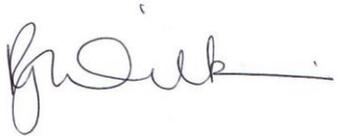
Tuesday 24th September 2019 – Open Evening

School will close early at 2.40pm to allow for final preparations for Open Evening. Contract buses have been ordered to coincide with this.

Friday 4th October 2019 – Sponsored Walk (Reserve date Monday 7th October 2019)

Pupils may travel home as soon as they have checked back in school and we are expecting that the first walkers will return around 11.00am. Please ask pupils to make sure they know their own travel arrangements. For those using contract buses, these have been arranged for 12.30pm.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr Wilkin', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dr Richard Wilkin
Headteacher