



Dear Parents,

Kirkland Rowell Survey, January 2022

Following COVID closures, it was felt that a thorough survey of parents, students and staff would be helpful in planning for the future. We were aware of the advice that carrying out such a survey in January was likely to yield a slightly less optimistic response than, say, in the summer, but we wanted the information, warts and all, as promptly as possible.

Among students, the response rate was 93%. The parental and staff response was 68%.

The main negative issues that students and parents raised were the cleanliness of the school and the state of some toilets/changing rooms. We had already signed a cleaning contract, starting in January, to supplement our in-house cleaning. This became fully operational after the survey was carried out and the improvement can now be seen around the school. At Easter, improvements are scheduled for the A block changing rooms.

Sadly, the situation with some toilets elsewhere in the building has been very dispiriting for our Site Team. One set of toilets has been repainted twice in a month and still graffiti has appeared within 24 hrs of the paint being dry. Other toilets are damaged by students stuffing huge amounts of loo paper both down the toilet and down sinks, as well as scattering the free sanitary products around. You can imagine that it is very distressing for our colleagues to have to clean and repair such damage. We will continue to do our best to maintain a pleasant environment but, as you can see, it is more of a challenge than some might imagine. It only takes a very small number of students to spoil things for the rest, and, particularly in the case of toilets, we have to rely on the good behaviour and leadership of the vast majority of students to ensure that such bad behaviour is challenged and made unacceptable.

Another issue that students and parents raised was the issue of student happiness and community spirit. COVID has undoubtedly had a negative effect on student wellbeing and community spirit, and I have written earlier to parents about the renewed importance of being in school, 'bearing with one another' in the words of our school prayer. The demands of being in school, achieving one's best and managing our workload are felt by students and staff alike. We cannot 'make students happy', and for some students coming to school is not their preferred way to spend their time, but within the limits of an academically high-achieving school, we will continue to look for ways to achieve balance. Our current initiative 'Proud to be Ursuline' is giving a safe space for students to talk about LGBTQ issues, and our House competitions are up and running, as you will see from this Newsletter. There are numerous super-curricular activities offered throughout the week, so I would encourage all students to get stuck in and be active (dare I say, particularly those in Years 9-11), which is much more likely to result in positive

wellbeing than simply sitting around, or spending one's time glued to a mobile phone.

Parents and students were very positive about the school's work in bringing out the potential of each student and achieving high standards. Similarly, it was felt that homework was about right. A positive attitude to uniform and behaviour was evident, but it was felt that more could be done to promote racial harmony. Our Student Council is active in continuing the conversation about cultural diversity that has been reflected in changes to our English curriculum and History curriculum. There has also been work within science and maths, as well as events outside the classroom, such as the celebration of Chinese New Year, displays and the Fashion Show. This is a shared, long term project of increasing dialogue, tolerance and understanding at BUCHS, reflecting the situation in our wider society.

Those teachers that responded reflected many of the positive features of parental responses. Concern for the manageability of workload was an issue, however, as it is in all schools at the moment. It is a challenge to balance the expectations of parents and students regarding marking, trips, communication and so on, with paying due attention to teacher wellbeing. Later in the year, we will be clarifying our approach to marking, assessment and reporting, with workload and wellbeing a key factor, alongside ensuring rigour in the assessment of students.

COVID is still having an effect on teacher absence, so we would ask parents to bear with us as we try to manage the last (and in many ways most important) term. I hope parents of students in Years 11 and 13 will feel that their children are being challenged and supported in equal measure, so that we can once more achieve exam results that everyone can be proud of. For all parents, please be assured that we are taking the messages from the survey very seriously and striving to both reinforce the positives and address the negatives as best we can.

Dr Richard Wilkin MA, EdD, Headteacher



Ukraine Appeal



The Justice and Peace Group led the BUCHS appeal to support Ukraine. They collected donated items, sorted them and donated them to Caritas for them to be sent over to the people of Ukraine.

In addition, Tillie in Year 12 made blue and yellow ribbons which were sold to staff and students, raising over £800 for the Caritas appeal. We have some fund-raising events planned for next half term to continue raising funds for the Caritas Ukraine appeal.

Thank you to everyone in the BUCHS community who has made donations to support this worthy cause.

**Loving God,
We pray for the people of
Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them
and protect them.
We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength and
wisdom to guide their choices.
We pray for the world, that in
this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity to
our sisters and brothers in
need.
May we walk in your ways, so
that peace and justice
become a reality for the people
of Ukraine
and for all the world.**

Amen.





Women in STEM: House Competition update

Just before the February half term break, on Friday 11th February, we held the 'Women in STEM Spaghetti Challenge.' We were delighted to see so many students coming along to have a go at the challenge of building a tower from spaghetti and marshmallows; the intention being to build the tallest tower that could hold a crème egg!



Well done to Genevieve in 12C for building the tallest and most successful tower at 26cm, and Sophia and Huberta in 8A for building one just 2cm shorter! It was a close call for the judges and a fantastic effort from all the students!

House Winners: 1st Prize: Clare's 2nd Prize: Angela's 3rd Prize: Ursula's



British Science Week: March 2022

As part of British Science Week, lots of activities were run within the Science Department to highlight the fun that students can have with Science and the links that can be made to their other subject interests. The theme of 'GROWTH' was reflected through the activities undertaken and a big thank you goes to the Year 12 STEM Prefect team for their efforts in organising and supporting a range of events throughout the week.



Growing Crystals



Focusing on the theme of 'Growth,' students had the opportunity in our launch event to mix solutions that would allow them to grow their own crystals. Choosing copper sulphate or sodium chloride, students created solutions and hung threads within them in the hope that the weekend would give their crystals time to grow. We were really pleased to return after the Jubilee Bank Holiday to find a range of fantastic crystals waiting in the lab!

Meet the Scientist

To follow on from our 'Meet the Scientist' activities for Women in STEM before the half-term break, during Science week, students had the opportunity to meet with a STEM Ambassador and discuss potential career paths and developments in Engineering. The session with Pete, an Engineering and Manufacturing professional, allowed the students the opportunity to discuss their aspirations, potential paths through university and apprenticeship routes, as well as to discuss extra-curricular activities they can be doing now to show their own growth and development. Alongside this, Pete was able to share with the students his own evolving career path as he moved through various roles in Mechanical Engineering.

The World in 50 to 100 Years Time





British Science Week: March 2022 Continued

Feeling 'arty,' our Prefects came up with a creative activity to get the students thinking about some of the impacts of human population growth on the planet, and the impact that this is expected to have over the coming decades. Students enjoyed some 'mindful' sessions during lunchbreaks undertaking some paper mâché and painting, to create their own globe designs, before then decorating these to show the impact of population growth. Human activities such as deforestation, fossil fuel use and throw-away fast fashion were discussed and the impact on biodiversity and the changing planet considered. We hope the students enjoyed the chance to use their artistic talents and link this to the potential impacts we are having on Planet Earth. Our need to consider how we behave sustainably continues to be an emphasis within the Science Department ethos; encouraging us all to reflect on changes we can make to protect the environment for future generations.

Growing food on Mars

Our final session involved looking at the potential options for life to evolve on another planet and the need that would arise for a sustainable food source should the human population grow to a point that required expansion on Mars. Our Physics and STEM Prefects put together an excellent session to teach the students about the challenges of growing food on Mars, with a 'soil' more like regolith, alongside potentially harmful contaminants like perchlorate. A video on the progress being made by NASA gave a fascinating insight into the challenges: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h_jXEZFuw38



Students then had the opportunity to pot some seeds to grow their own food in a more Earth-like compost! We look forward to seeing the results as they care for their seedlings over the Easter break and hopefully reap the tasty rewards!

Miss Overton-Smith, Coordinator of Science





2022 Chemistry Olympiad

Aimee and Celine, both Year 13, competed in the 2022 Chemistry Olympiad. This is designed to challenge and inspire, and is a unique opportunity for students to push themselves further and excel in the field of chemistry.

The competition is designed to challenge, so is not easy. Students should see it as an opportunity to develop their thinking and problem-solving skills, and to test their existing knowledge of chemistry in real-world situations.

Both Aimee and Celine secured a Bronze Award which is a brilliant achievement based on the demand of the questions.



Dance

Recently, I went to the world-famous dance convention 'Move It.' At the event, performers and dancers from all over the world came to perform, take part in classes, and find their dream dance school! Whilst at the convention, I took part in two classes: the first one being a musical theatre workshop hosted by "Wilkes Academy." The class was really fun as the song used was from the film 'The Greatest Showman.' It was so upbeat and intense. The dance was a bit fast, but it was an exciting challenge. The second workshop I took part in was a 'Moulin Rouge' workshop hosted by the school "Dancebox studios." The class was taught by Kelly Ewins, the lead choreographer for the West End production of the same name. The class was so amazing; Moulin Rouge is one of my all-time favorite musicals! At the event, there were also mainstage performances where some of the biggest performing arts schools in the country performed. It was so interesting to see so many different styles of dance. There was also a stage where people could sign up and do freestyle dance to a random song for two minutes. It was amazing seeing so much musicality and creativity. My favourite part of the event was meeting some of the biggest names in the industry. I met Layton Williams from 'Jamie' the musical, Khyrese Heron from 'The Next Step,' Miriam Teak-Lee from '& Juliet' and many more. Overall, the convention was an amazing experience and I definitely plan to go again next year.

Tami, GCSE Dance student





Dance continued

U●DANCE

Regional

On Sunday 13th March, I competed for Artistry Youth Dance in the Udance Regional Dance Competition, which celebrates youth dance across the country. The company was accepted through our audition tape and were able to perform for a panel of judges at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance. Before our performance, we attended two workshops with professionals who worked with Boy Blue Entertainment (whom we study as part of our GCSE course) and Rambert School. Being able to learn from these skilled dancers gave us even more confidence going into our final performance. I am so thankful that I was finally able to dance on stage after 2 years! We are currently awaiting the results and hope to go on to the nationals.

Mia, 11B

Angela's House Week



Angela's House Week took place between 24th – 28th January. During this week, the team ran some fabulous activities such as bake sales, guessing how many sweets were in a jar, matching the correct pet to the teacher, The Masked Singer finals and Karaoke; all to raise money for our chosen charity – Ursuline Links.

Ursuline Links is a volunteer programme sponsored by the Ursuline Sisters. It aims to give students and adults opportunities to be of service in the UK and abroad. The Ursuline Sisters are working with others to lead these projects.

The programme gives young people the chance to work together for the benefit of others. It allows them to work, pray, relax and have a good time together. It helps them to develop their understanding of how we embody Gospel values in our lives today.

During this week, we managed to raise an amazing £372.50 which we are proud to donate to such a good cause. Special thanks to Mr Earle and Mr Kitchen for their Karaoke support, Mrs Wortley and the BTEC Performing Arts students and the House team – Jemima, Laena, Shannon and Erin for all their hard work.

Mrs Hilder, Head of Angela's House



Library News



Book Fair

Our students enjoyed attending another successful Scholastic Book Fair in early March. They were able to use their £1 World Book Day tokens against the cost of books. There were also bags and stationery on sale. We raised a further **£82.50** to spend on books for our library too! Thank you very much to all who came along and to the group of Year 12 students who helped Mrs Osborn.



Competition Winners

Many congratulations to Gabrielle and Alexa (8C,) Grace W (8A,) Makarria (7T) and Grace A (7U) who each won a £5 voucher to spend at the Book Fair. These students have read the most library books since September.

Alexa and Gabrielle are pictured above collecting their prizes on the non uniform day.

Poetry Competition

Calling all students who enjoy reading or writing poetry! The Foyle Young Poets of the Year Award 2022 is now open. There are many prizes to be won, plus a chance to have your poem published in next year's anthology. The closing date is 31st July, so there is plenty of time to enter. Please see Mrs Osborn in the library for more details. It would be wonderful to see some work from BUCHS' students recognised by the judges!





A YOUTH GROUP FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL AGED YOUNG PEOPLE
All schools welcome!

Wednesday *Term Time*
After School
3.30 - 5.30 PM

YOUR SPACE TO CHILL AFTER SCHOOL

Dodd Road Community Church
56-60 Doddinghurst Rd,
Brentwood CM15 9EH
www.doddroadcommunitychurch.org
01277 224528

DRCC Youth BRENTWOOD EST. 2017

Activities Include:

- Activities
- Food and Drinks
- Nintendo Switch
- Homework Space
- Free WIFI
- Music
- Chill Out Space
- Crafts

@doddroadchurch
@doddroadcommunitychurch

In Partnership with:
BRENTWOOD BOROUGH COUNCIL
YOUTH SERVICE

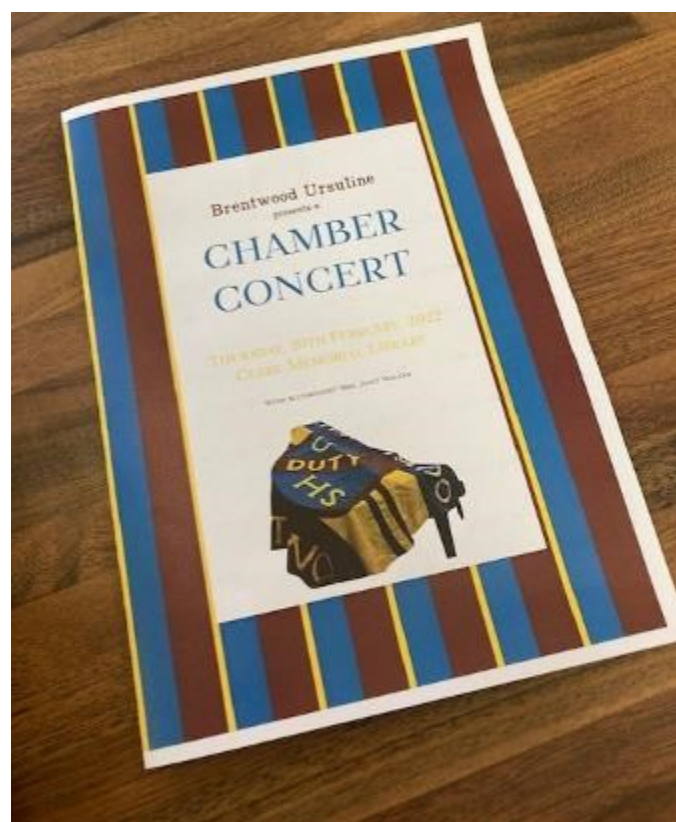
Chamber Concert

Our director of Music, Mr White, arranged a chamber concert which took place in the school library on Thursday 10th February.

Supported by piano accompanist Mrs Janet Walker, the audience were treated to a programme of pieces from our singers and instrumentalists.

Well done and thank you to the following students who took part:

Jessica J, 11T	Olivia D, 11C
Imogen Q, 11T	Alice H, 11C
Beatrice S, 9B	Riley L, 12.1
Ella Q, 11B	Mary M, 10A
Emma M, 7A	Macey S, 10U
George C, 13.3	Christina G, 11B





Tree Planting

Last year, BUCHS was given the opportunity to take part in Brentwood Council's initiative to create more woodland. The Council provided hundreds of native trees, which we planted over an area of 0.5 of a hectare: the main part is on the slope above the lake, an area largely unused by students at present; two secondary areas have also been planted, along the southern boundary and below the tennis courts. This will eventually mean that our site will contain hundreds more trees, with all the environmental benefits that will bring in the decades to come. The picture looks pretty undramatic at the moment, but from small acorns....



Lake improvements

Brentwood Council has started work on improving our lake as part of their local flood alleviation plans. This has been worked out with the school over the last couple of years and involves renovation of the outfall and the area around the pond. This should create both an important flood defence for our neighbours and a better habitat for the flora and fauna that depend on the lake.

The picture shows the lake completely drained as part of the works. Sadly no sunken treasure or important archaeological relics have been found so far.

It's good for BUCHS to be part of such improvements to our local environment, working as good neighbours and continuing to be an important part of the wider Brentwood community.



Cultural Events

The Year 9s have been given the opportunity to try their hand at some cultural and relaxing activities after school with the aim to trial a different activity each month. Mrs Wilkinson-Ross hosted a rock painting session after school in February where students used acrylic paint pens to create their own designs. We saw some excellent art on display by the end of the session and it was a thoroughly relaxing evening. So positive in fact that it may become a club next term!





Cultural Events Continued



The second Year 9 cultural event was a mandala workshop by local artist Steve Lawes. We learnt how to create patterns that are symmetrical and also the history of where mandalas can and have been seen; such as that created by Aboriginal Australians, puffer fish and their 'mating art' and Barcelona's Basílica de la Sagrada Família.





Chaplaincy



Our Lenten Journey

On Wednesday 2nd March, we celebrated Ash Wednesday; the first day of the most important season in the Church's liturgical year - Lent. Our school community was able to come together for this special occasion after almost 2 years. Ashes were marked on our foreheads. Lent is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand the Lord a little deeper, so that when Good Friday and eventually Easter comes, it is an opportunity to receive the overflowing of graces God has to offer.

Reconciliation services

Years 7 and 8 have had an opportunity for reconciliation during Lent. Some of them had the opportunity for individual confessions. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is an opportunity for the students not only to look deeply into their lives but to move forward into the future filled with hope and confidence and becoming better friends to each other.

Retreats

Every student in Years 7 and 8 will have the opportunity for a full day of retreat. It is a time out from the routine of everyday school life to reflect on themselves, their relationship with others and their relationship with God.



Stations of the Cross

Each class in KS3 had the opportunity to pray the Stations of the Cross during RE lessons. The Stations of the Cross is a popular devotion to reflect the passion and death of Jesus. Each of the fourteen stations stands for an event which occurred during Jesus' Passion.

Justice and Peace Week

We celebrated our Justice and Peace week from 21st to 25th February. Through various fundraising activities, we raised £1,061 which will go to CAFOD; a charity working with communities around the world whilst campaigning for global justice.

We meet every other Thursday during lunch time in the Chapel. Our aim is to work together to build a deeper awareness of justice and peace issues in our school community. The mission of our group is to create awareness about war, poverty, inequality, homelessness, supporting refugees and environmental issues. Our team is inspired by the social teaching of the Church and the example of St. Oscar Romero, our Patron Saint, who is remembered for his outspoken support for social justice, courage, faith and, above all, his great love for the poor and oppressed.



Above: St. Oscar Romero

Mr J Ravi, School Chaplain



Cambridge University Visit



On Wednesday 9th March, a cohort of Year 9s, 10s and 12s were provided with the opportunity to attend a trip to Emmanuel College, University of Cambridge. When we arrived in Cambridge, we walked to the college, digesting the unique and beautiful architecture of Cambridge, and we were able to experience an insight into the incredible landscapes possessed by the city. The rest of the day consisted of beneficial talks from multiple speakers who either work at or attend the University, a tour of the college, and the opportunity to ask questions to gain knowledge that we otherwise might not have been able to obtain. The talks focused specifically on personal statements: what to include and how to enhance them. Personal statements offer a first impression of your interest in your chosen course and why you are motivated to study that subject, which is why you must include evidence of engagement and enthusiasm through your participation in super-curricular activities.

More specifically for Oxbridge, personal statements act as a starting point for the interview process, therefore, it is necessary to be prepared to elaborate on subject specifics and develop your ideas surrounding your subject under pressure. When speaking to two of the current Cambridge students, they advised us that their top tips for the interview process were to be prepared, listen carefully, and importantly be yourself. The interviewers are assessing your response to challenges. By being yourself, you will find it easier to think aloud and present your true ability.

After the detailed talk, the students took us on a tour of the college, allowing us to more clearly understand Cambridge University life and appreciate the Hogwarts– style architecture!

Alaina, Year 12





Cambridge University Visit continued



On Wednesday 9th March, a group of students were invited to visit Emmanuel College, University of Cambridge. It was an enjoyable experience. We started off the day by getting a coach to Cambridge, which is quite a big place, and as the whole city seems to revolve around the University, it is perfect for students.

When at Emmanuel College, we had a talk from a student who was going on to do a Master's Degree in History. They told us a lot about universities, not just about Cambridge, and offered us lots of information about Russell Group Universities and how universities actually work. What came as a shock to most of us is that the University of Cambridge was broken off into colleges, and that we were visiting just one of the thirty-one at Cambridge! They expressed clearly that although Cambridge is a great university, it's not for everyone. We learnt about the many courses you could study, as well as the variety of clubs and societies you could join.

They also offered us more information about the application process and how your A Level choices will affect what you are able to study at university. Then we were able to have a tour of the college where everything looked so nicely presented. We were shown the library, the Chapel, the swimming pool, the outdoor area, and we saw much of the greenery surrounding the college. As well as this, we learnt that each college had its own selling point (why you might want to join a particular one.) Emmanuel College had its own swimming pool – albeit outside and unheated, and a laundry service, where you could drop off your dirty laundry and get it back cleaned the next day!

Overall, this trip was a really great experience because it opened many of our eyes to the opportunities available to us in the future and how beneficial going to university could be. It helped us settle on the idea of wanting to go to university, so we think that this trip was beneficial to us.

Hannah and Lara Jane, Year 9



Cambridge University Visit continued

The trip was extremely educational and we gained a deeper insight into how university works (both the process of getting in and life as a student.) The people at the university were very welcoming and well spoken - we were treated to tea and biscuits too! It was a wonderful opportunity and my peers and I really enjoyed it.

Leonie, Year 10

The trip to Cambridge was an incredible experience. The college was beautiful and I got to learn more about both the academic and the fun side of Cambridge life.

Emilia, Year 10

The Cambridge trip was highly informative as it taught me that Cambridge and Oxford are not the only universities that I could aim for. There are other universities (such as those that belong to the Russell Group) that are available and might better suit my needs. It was also very helpful in teaching me the entry process to a university. This trip will really make an impact on my decisions regarding which universities I apply to and I'm very thankful for having this opportunity.

Jennifer, Year 10



UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE

Poster Competition Winners

Below are the winning entries of the competition to design a poster that reflects the virtues: 'Listening and Attentive.' These virtues form part of the Ursuline Education Community's student profile which is depicted by leaves on a tree.



Listening AND Attentive

What is listening and attentive?
These two words mean we are paying attention and being observant.

Why are they important?
It helps people know you are listening because you are not talking, fidgeting or looking around. Some ways you can be a good listener is to make eye-contact and to put everything down from your hands. Being an attentive listener can build stronger relationships because we are showing stronger and more effective communication skills, it could also show more trust and respect. Attentive listening encourages openness, honesty and success.

It still adds in
show eye-contact
listening: such
don't fidget

Make eye-contact
so they can see you are looking at them which shows you are paying attention.

Don't interrupt
them, they may feel a bit sad because you are talking over them.

Stay focused,
don't fidget with anything if you do the teacher could feel ignored.

Ask questions
this can show you interacting with the conversation.

iff for a
fast!

By: Kimberly C

Kimberly, Year 7

Listening & attentive

Being Ursuline!!!

Brain
thinking about what is being said.

Eyes
looking at the person talking

Heart
caring about what is being said

Back
sitting up straight

Feet
quiet on the floor. NO moving when someone talking

Hands
both ears

Mouth
quiet (no talking, humming or making sounds) show respect

Head
folded and quiet in lap or by your side.

Bibire, Year 7



PE News

What a busy term it has been! The PE Department have been here, there and everywhere. Many students have represented BUCHS in a number of sports including netball, hockey, rugby and many others.

We have been busy with inter-house and GCSE moderation with many students taking on roles of responsibility and leadership. Two Year 10 students were inducted to new Sports Ambassador roles, and we have been very impressed by their work ethic and assistance with many events.

Next term, we look ahead to Sports Day and many more fixtures in cricket, rounders and athletics.

Thank you to all the students who have represented the school this term!

I hope you enjoy reading about our endeavours.

Miss G Cook, Head of Physical Education

Hockey



BUCHS took two hockey teams to the Essex Hockey Festival on Tuesday 15th March with pupils from Years 7-10 playing. The hockey club has had a strong turnout this year and it was great to finally get some match play in. The U14 team came across some well drilled teams and unfortunately didn't win a match, but they improved quickly and developed their skills really well.

I look forward to seeing them progress next year when we continue with our hockey. The U16 team was made up of Year 8-10 pupils and they really showed their ability. A great goal from Suna gave Brentwood School a run for their money in the deciding group match. BUCHS did lose in the end 4-1 but against mainly Year 11 students. It was an excellent effort and the girls came away with silver medals and runners up trophies. Next year, they will have a strong chance of taking a trophy if they continue to develop their skills.

Mrs Wilkinson-Ross, Teacher of PE





PE News continued

Interhouse:

This term, we have been running many sports in our Interhouse competitions. Well done to Clare's who won in three of the four year groups. The finals of the other sports competitions are taking place up until the last day of term, so we wish all the Houses good luck.

We had the help of some of our House Captains and young leaders over the different competitions; these came from Years 8-10, 12 and 13 who helped referee, keep score and organise the teams. Without their help, the events would not have run as smoothly.

In the summer term, there will be Interhouse Rounders and Sports Day to look forward to.



Images above and right are taken from some of the Interhouse events.



GCSE moderation

This term has been full of extra evenings for the PE Department taking the GCSE Year 11 students to their various events to get filming and extra training in ahead of moderation day. Many thanks to Miss Newman for organising this, and to the PE Department for their assistance.

Rugby Triad Tournament at BUCHS

On Friday 11th March, we hosted a triad tournament between BUCHS, Shenfield High School and Grays Convent High School. Years 8 and 9 represented our school.

There were over 60 girls playing; it was an absolutely enthralling battle between all participants. BUCHS played their hearts out in wet and muddy conditions (perfect for a game of rugby!) The students represented themselves exceptionally well. All teams are looking forward to the rematch. Players of the match were Avnita and Lily.





Interhouse Competitions



This half term has been a very busy time for Interhouse Competitions. The overall leader board is currently showing Clare's in 1st place, with Brescia in 2nd place.

	Brescia	Clare's	Ursula's	Trinity	John's	Angela's
House Music	40	60	20	30	50	10
House Cross Country	60	60	20	20	30	40
House Reading Challenge	10	30	50	60	20	50
House Maths Relay	60	40	30	20	10	50
House Science Competition	10	60	40	30	20	50
Charity fundraising*	£427.87		£203.52	£55.00		£372.50
TOTAL	180	250	160	160	130	200

Upcoming House events / results to be announced include:

- House Music – Instrument Day
- House Recycling Challenge
- House Netball
- House Hockey

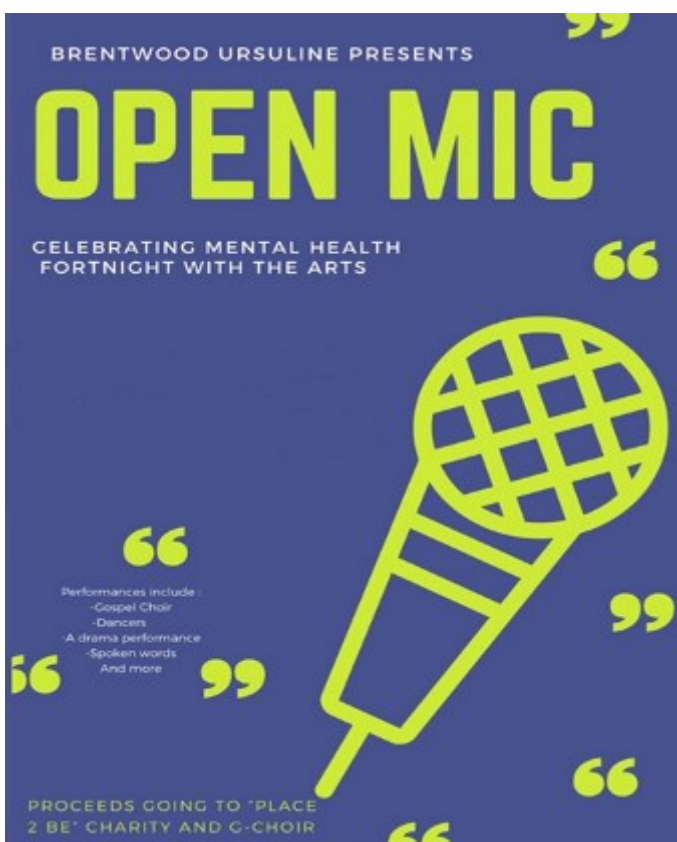
Please look out for details of these events on your House Teams page.

**Charity fundraising takes place during each House week – not all Houses have reached their celebration week yet.*



Mental Health Fortnight

As Mental Health Awareness week came to a close at BUCHS, an Open Mic event was held as a finale to the activities designed to highlight this issue. During the event, there were a variety of performances including spoken word, as well as music performed by students and a spectacular group performance from our Gospel Choir performing a song written by the choir's leaders. All the money raised from the event went to 'place2be,' a charity which helps schools fund therapy and one-to-one counselling. The school raised over £230 towards the charity. A huge thank you to everyone who was able to donate!



To begin the Open Mic event, Rachel (11J) presented an informative video on mental health that summarised the key issues and problems that affect people suffering from mental health issues. The video's aim was to assist people in getting the help they require. Additionally, Rachel's aim was to educate those on the importance of our mental wellbeing and to be understanding to those suffering from mental health issues.

Afterwards, students and Mr Kitchen performed their spoken word pieces.

The first poem was written and performed by Sarah (11C) called 'Growth.' Sarah said she wrote this poem to: "highlight the importance of growth in our everyday lives and remind people how change is different for everyone." Sarah felt that: "Nowadays people measure their success and growth by comparing themselves to other people, rather than realising that our growth will always differ from others'. It is authentic and incomparable to anyone."

Growth

*As you know, we all grow,
constantly changing, expanding what we know,
Often when this happens, we don't seem to notice,
We constantly compare ourselves to others in the room
Failing to see the beauty inside us as we bloom.*

*But eventually when we see the masterpiece unfold,
It may be scary, looking different to what you've been told*

*Or slightly alien to the perceptions that others hold,
But remember no two pieces of art are ever the same
Just as growth takes indescribable forms to each individual*

It is filled with life experiences fuelling growth that's pivotal.

*Together we all experience growth
Although it takes different forms
There's always one common component:
Change.*

*Growth and change go hand in hand,
Yet I feel change is sometimes vilified
Purely because going against the norm makes us terrified*

*But what we don't realise is that change is the most beautiful part of growth
The prettiest petals as the blossoms bloom in spring
And like that exhilarating feeling finishing a race can bring.*

*So, embrace and acknowledge your growth
As well as the change that inevitably follows after,
And try not to be afraid because,
As you know, we all grow, constantly changing,
Expanding what we know.*



Mental Health Fortnight Continued

The next spoken word performance was by Ibukunoluwa (10B) with a poem written by her called, 'I Am, I Was, I Will Be.' When writing her poem, Ibukunoluwa stated that, "I don't really know what to say for inspiration. Part of it was due to my own poor mental health, and I really like trying to use nature imagery when I write. I didn't want to make the ending of my poem too happy, because that's unrealistic, but I think it's important to try and give hope to people, especially when you're mentally ill; it's easy to lose hope, and you need something to keep you going."

I Am, I Was, I Will Be

*I am the seed, the beginning of life.
I am the promise of a new start, of a clean slate. I feel
the Sun, feel its tentacles of light reaching out to me,
giving me the energy to keep going.
I am the young fledgling, wings still half-formed
I am its cry, hungry for the nourishing milk of being.*

*I am the earth. I am the dust, the start and the end, my
roots connecting to others.
We inhale, we laugh and fall in love. We exhale, we lie
and fall apart.
I am the morning dew,
I am the celestial kaleidoscope, waiting to greet you in
the early morn.*

*I am the torrent,
I am the flood.
I am the late-night tears, away from prying eyes under
the protection of the duvet.
I am the strong wind,
I am the hurricane.
I am the whirlwind of thoughts before bed, the struggle
to keep eyes open in class.*

*I am the rush,
I am the euphoria.
I am the sudden zest and passion,
the impulsive shopping, the need to chop life, lati
gbadun ninu aye yi.*

*I am the inferno,
I am the anger.
I am the irritation, and the dirty looks, the snapping at
little things.
I am the pain, and I am the hurt,
I am the covered wrists in summer, the bruised knuckles
under gloves.*

*I am the dark circles under eyes, the kettle waiting to
come to a boil.
I am the ocean blue, the deep sadness.
The suffocating thoughts of not being here.*

Yet, you take my hand.

*Me the young foal, struggling to walk, and you the moth-
er, gently guiding me in the right direction.
You don't let go, even with the tears, with the angry, spur
-of-the-moment comments.
You're patient, and I am thankful.*

I am learning.

*I am learning how to live with this deep ocean in my
head, learning to not be swallowed every day.
I am the young bud after a harsh winter, a true testament
to resilience.
I am the flower in sweet summer,
Yet, I am also its thorns.
The thorns that pain me so, while being part of me.*

I will, I will, I will.

*I will be stronger; I will be me with you standing here.
I will be okay with you by my side.*

Following that, Robyn performed a poem called 'Stay.' When asked why she picked this poem, she said, "I chose this poem because I felt that it was so hard-hitting and truthful, but so uplifting at the same time. Everyone has been in a position where it feels like there is no end to the bad and everything feels like a struggle, but if we hadn't pushed through, we wouldn't get to experience the simple things in life that we love so much. Tomorrow is always worth staying for."

Lastly, but certainly not least, Mr Kitchen performed his poem. He was inspired to write it because he believes that: "creativity, however bad, is probably a good thing and I was inspired by the girls who set up and inspired the event!"

As the curtains closed for the spoken word performances, another was opening for our musical ones! Riley in 12.1 performed a song from a videogame called 'Lament of Orpheus' and explained that, "The myth of Orpheus and Eurydice is about Orpheus descending into the underworld to retrieve his dead lover Eurydice. When he arrived at the underworld he sang to the king and queen and convinced them to let her return to the world of the living. The myth varies here, but Orpheus turns round right before they reach the exit because he didn't think she was behind him. It's a myth that you can't defy death. This song is about Orpheus looking back on the event. This resonates with me since there are many things in my life that I regret."

Finally, the Gospel Choir concluded the event with a breath-taking performance of a song written by leaders, Luciya (10B) and Jemima (12.1) called, 'Gonna be Alright.' The two co-wrote the song during a FaceTime call, meticulously sorting out the melodies for each section of their song. The end result of their hard work was an amazing performance to end a fantastic event enjoyed by all!



Mental Health Fortnight Continued

Photographs from the open mic event:





Brentwood's Concert for Ukraine

On Saturday 26th March, Brentwood Council hosted a fundraising concert to raise money to support those affected by the war in Ukraine. The concert was performed by the Brentwood Imperial Youth Band at the Brentwood Centre. Some of its members are BUCHS students pictured below and right.

The concert raised over £17,000 for the British Red Cross Ukraine Appeal.

Pictured right: George, (13.3,) Mabel (11J,) and Hannah (8T.) Below: Alice (13.2) and Emily (10C.)



John's House Week

Last week, Eloise, Fope and myself set out to lead a range of events to help raise money for the British Red Cross. Across the week, we completed: a sweet sale, a talent show, a netball rally, a doughnut sale and a staff netball match. Events took place across lunchtimes, break times and even after school, and all received an excellent response from both students and staff. In total, we raised over £500 which will help towards the current crisis in Ukraine.

The British Red Cross will help by getting the right aid to the right place as quickly as possible, following international humanitarian law, and helping to build strong communities who can withstand and recover from disasters.

A breakdown of how our donations could help include:

- £10 could help fuel 2 emergency vehicles
- £30 could provide a cash grant to a household
- £65 could pay for an ambulance and crew to take people to hospital
- £85 could help to provide agricultural training to a farmer



Together as a House, and with help and support from Sixth Formers, we were able to ensure the week ran as smoothly as possible and achieved our main aim: of raising as much money as possible for charity. Our sales all ran really well with sell outs of both doughnuts and sweet bags! We would like to say thank you to all the students who performed in our talent show, and a huge thank you to all the staff who participated in the staff netball match. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed these events!

Niamh, 12.1





Parent/Student Calendar

SUMMER TERM											
Wk 28B		He is Risen!									
		Clare's House Week									
Mon	18/04/22	Easter Monday. (Bank Holiday).									
Tue	19/04/22	Students Return to School.									
Wed	20/04/22	GCSE component 1 Choreography exam. Y9 Gp 1 – 11.10-12.00 Children's Society Course, Blue Rm. Y9 Gp 2 – 12.00-12.50 Children's Society Course, Blue Rm. Y9 Evolve Course – Blue Rm, 1.30-2.30pm.									
Thur	21/04/22	After school: DofE visitor Vicky Mundy to see Bronze DofE Students with Jason Addicott, Dining Hall.									
Fri	22/04/22	Foundation Day Mass at the Cathedral. and Stephen Lawrence Day. <table border="1" data-bbox="571 828 1316 1182"> <tr> <th colspan="3">Foundation Day Mass at the Cathedral – 10.45am</th></tr> <tr> <td></td><td> Year 9 and 10 in Main Hall SWR, RPE & Form Tutors P1 – as normal. 10.00 – Cake time in form rooms – collect from dining hall. Remain in Tutor Groups. 10.40 – Yr 9 and 10 to the Main Hall. 10.45 – Mass in Main Hall. 11.30 – Yr 9 and 10 HoY activity in forms. </td><td> Rest of School in Cathedral P1 – as normal. 10.00 – cake time in form rooms -collect from dining hall, remain in Tutor Groups. 10.25 – Start to move to the Cathedral. 10.45 – Mass in Cathedral. 11.45 – Return to school in forms. </td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">12.00pm - Period 4 and rest of day as normal</td></tr> </table> 13.30 (P5) – Year 8 in the Main Hall for Q&A session and talk on "Nightsilver" book series with the Author Annaliese Avery.	Foundation Day Mass at the Cathedral – 10.45am				Year 9 and 10 in Main Hall SWR, RPE & Form Tutors P1 – as normal. 10.00 – Cake time in form rooms – collect from dining hall. Remain in Tutor Groups. 10.40 – Yr 9 and 10 to the Main Hall. 10.45 – Mass in Main Hall. 11.30 – Yr 9 and 10 HoY activity in forms.	Rest of School in Cathedral P1 – as normal. 10.00 – cake time in form rooms -collect from dining hall, remain in Tutor Groups. 10.25 – Start to move to the Cathedral. 10.45 – Mass in Cathedral. 11.45 – Return to school in forms.	12.00pm - Period 4 and rest of day as normal		
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12.00pm - Period 4 and rest of day as normal											
Sat	23/04/22										
Sun	24/04/22										
Wk 29A		Community of faith									
Mon	25/04/22	Ed Visit: Y13 A Level Politics Conference at Stratford. 10.30-3.10pm, DEA, RJW. (Approx 14 students). TFL. MFL Speaking Exams (SSU). MFL Speaking Exams (DS). (P1-4)									
Tue	26/04/22	MFL Speaking Exams (SSU). MFL Speaking Exams (LFE). MFL Speaking Exams (DS). (P1-4)									
Wed	27/04/22	MFL Speaking Exams (SSU).(P1-4). MFL Speaking Exams (LFE). MFL Speaking Exams (CG). MFL Speaking Exams (DS). (P1-4) Y9 Gp 1 – 11.10-12.00 Children's Society Course, Blue Rm. Y9 Gp 2 – 12.00-12.50 Children's Society Course, Blue Rm. Y9 Evolve Course – Blue Rm, 1.30-2.30pm. Year 12 PA Unit 3 Performance .									



Parent/Student Calendar

Thur	28/04/22	MFL Speaking Exams (LFE). (P1-4). MFL Speaking Exams (CG). MFL Speaking Exams (DS). (P1-4) Year 8C Retreat in the Chapel. Senior Prize Giving Evening – 6.00-8.00pm at Cathedral with afternoon rehearsal (1.30-3.30pm).
Fri	29/04/22	MFL Speaking Exams (LFE).
Sat	30/04/22	
Sun	01/05/22	
Wk 30B		Living Witnesses ESAA 1 st round Track and Field Cup all day (one day this month).
Mon	02/05/22	Bank Holiday Monday (early May Bank Holiday).
Tue	03/05/22	
Wed	04/05/22	Y9 Gp 1 – 11.10-12.00 Children's Society Course, Blue Rm. Y9 Gp 2 – 12.00-12.50 Children's Society Course, Blue Rm. Y9 Evolve Course – Blue Rm, 1.30-2.30pm.
Thur	05/05/22	Year 13 Unit 5 exam (evening performance in Drama Studio).
Fri	06/05/22	Vaccinations: Y9 ATP, ACWY in the Main Hall.
Sat	07/05/22	DofE: Bronze Practice at Chelmsford, Mud and Maps.
Sun	08/05/22	DofE: Bronze Practice at Chelmsford, Mud and Maps.
Wk 31A		The Good Shepherd
Mon	09/05/22	Junior Choir Evening of Songs Concert (Main Hall/Merici Hall), 7.00-9.00pm, with afternoon rehearsals.
Tue	10/05/22	School Council Meeting, period 4 (venue tbc).
Wed	11/05/22	Y9 Gp 1 – 11.10-12.00 Children's Society Course, Blue Rm. Y9 Gp 2 – 12.00-12.50 Children's Society Course, Blue Rm. Y9 Evolve Course – Blue Rm, 1.30-2.30pm.
Thur	12/05/22	Year 8U Retreat in the Chapel.
Fri	13/05/22	
Sat	14/05/22	DofE: Bronze Assessment, Chelmsford, Mud and Maps.
Sun	15/05/22	DofE: Bronze Assessment, Chelmsford, Mud and Maps.
Wk 32B		Love one another
Mon	16/05/22	Exams: Y11 GCSEs Start.
Tue	17/05/22	Exams: Y11 GCSEs.
Wed	18/05/22	Exams: Y11 GCSEs. Y9 Gp 1 – 11.10-12.00 Children's Society Course, Blue Rm. Y9 Gp 2 – 12.00-12.50 Children's Society Course, Blue Rm. Y9 Evolve Course – Blue Rm, 1.30-2.30pm.
Thur	19/05/22	Exams: Y11 GCSEs.
Fri	20/05/22	Exams: GCSEs. BUCHS Cultural Diversity Day.
Sat	21/05/22	
Sun	22/05/22	



Parent/Student Calendar

Wk 33A		The peace of Christ
Mon	23/05/22	Exams: Y11 GCSEs and Y13 A2s.
Tue	24/05/22	Exams: Y11 GCSEs and Y13 A2s.
Wed	25/05/22	Exams: Y11 GCSEs and Y13 A2s. Y9 Gp 1 – 11.10-12.00 Children's Society Course, Blue Rm. Y9 Gp 2 – 12.00-12.50 Children's Society Course, Blue Rm. Y9 Evolve Course – Blue Rm, 1.30-2.30pm.
Thur	26/05/22	Exams: Y11 GCSEs and Y13 A2s. Feast of the Ascension (Holy Day of Obligation) 10.30-11.30 remainder in school. PCE: Year 10 Virtual PCE – 4.30-7.00pm remote via School Cloud.
Fri	27/05/22	Exams: Y11 GCSEs and Y13 A2s.
Sat	28/05/22	
Sun	29/05/22	HALF TERM HOLIDAY STUDENTS RETURN ON MONDAY 6TH JUNE (B Week)



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES Summer Term 2022

For Any DofE Enquiries please see Mr J Addicott.

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
MONDAY			
Lunchtimes	12.50	Art Club all years	C12
	12.50	Yr8 GCSE Taster Club	Drama Studio
	12.50	Dance GCSE intervention and support	Dance Studio
	12.50	Percussion Ensemble (GWh)	C3.1
	12.50	Racket Sports – Recreational All Years. (SB)	Merici Hall
	Lunchtime	Science GCSE Intervention (Week A), A21/A23/A34.	
	Lunchtime	Friendship Club for Y7&8.	T43.
	Lunchtime	Yr7 Drama Club Yr 9,10,12 Blood Brothers Musical rehearsal	U24 B25
	12.50	Art Club – Yrs 10&11 Wk B (YMC).	T13
	1.00-1.30	Learning Support Lunch Club (TO)	Learning Support
After School	15.15	Fixtures	
TUESDAY			
Lunchtimes	12.50	Art Club all years	C12
	12.50	String Orchestra	C3.2
	12.50	Indoor Football, Years 10-13 (GC)	Merici Hall
	12.50	Year 11 GCSE Intervention (Wk A – SB) (Wk B – LN)	
	Lunchtime	Further maths – Year 11, Set 1&2 (SMO).	A35
	Lunchtime	Senior Dance Company (Years 9+) CH.	Dance
	12.50	Art Club, Yrs 7-9 (YMC)	T13
	1.00-1.30	Learning Support Lunch Club (TO)	Learning Support
	Lunchtime	String Orchestra (AMC)	C3.1
	Lunchtime	Gospel Choir (GWh)	C3.2
	Lunchtime	Y11 Geography Intervention (ELL).	U22
	Lunchtime	Y7-8 (Wk A) “The Listening Space” in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.	
	Lunchtime	Y9,10,11 (Wk B) “The Listening Space” in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel.	



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES Summer Term 2022

For Any DofE Enquiries please see Mr J Addicott.

TUESDAY			
After School	15.15	GCSE Art students	C12, T13
	15.15	Years 8&9 Performance from Text	Drama Studio
	15.15	Wind Orchestra (GWh, EBr to assist)	C3.1
	15.15	Netball U16, U19 (LN)	Netball Courts or Merici
	15.15	Football, Years 8,9 (LG)	Football Pitch
	15.15	Y7,8,9 Hockey (SWR) (Gumshields and Shin-pads required)	Hockey Astro
	15.10-4.00pm	Textiles Club for GCSE and A Level. (CST).	Textiles
	After Sch	Yr8,9,10 Production club	U24
WEDNESDAY			
Lunchtimes	12.50	Art Club all years	C12
	12.50	Junior Company (Years 7 & 8 only)	Dance Studio
	12.50	Junior Orchestra (GWh)	C3.2
	12.50	Basketball All Years, 6 th Form (SWR)	Merici Hall
	Lunchtime	Chemistry Intervention (sixth form).	A23
	Lunchtime	French - Y9 Intervention (KS3 to KS4 transition) (DS).	T41
	Lunchtime	Recorder Ensemble (Sha)	C3.1
	Lunchtime	Y10 BUCHS Geographical Society (ELL).	U22
	Lunchtime	Yrs7,8,9 Theatre Design Club	U24
	12.50	Art Club, Yrs 10&11 (YMC)	T13
	1.00-1.30	Learning Support Lunch Club (TO)	Learning Support
After School	15.15	Y7 Basketball (LG)	Merici
	15.15	Rugby Years 7,8,9 (GC) (Gumshields & Boots required)	Top Field



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES Summer Term 2022

For Any DofE Enquiries please see Mr J Addicott.

THURSDAY			
Lunchtimes	12.50	Art Club all years	C12
	12.50	Ballet Company (all years)	Dance Studio
	12.50	Netball Years 8 & 9 (LG, KM)	Merici Hall
	1.00pm	Justice and Peace Group (Week B) (JRA).	Chapel
	Lunchtime	Biology Intervention (sixth form)	A26
	Lunchtime	Textiles Club for lower years.	Textiles
	Lunchtime	Flute Choir (SHa)	C3.1
	Lunchtime	French – Y11 Intervention (DS)	T41
	Lunchtime	Creative Writing (JK)	T27
	12.50	Art Club, Yrs 10&11 (YMC)	T13
After School	15.15	Chamber Choir (RH)	C3.2
	15.15	Netball Year 7 (ELL)	Netball Courts
	15.10-4.00pm	Textiles Club for GCSE and A Level. (CST)	Textiles
FRIDAY			
Lunchtimes	12.50	Art Club all years	C12
	12.50	LAMDA Club (invite only)	Drama Studio
	12.50	Tap Company (all years)	Dance Studio
	12.50	Basketball Years 7,8,9 (LN) <i>Sign up on PE notice board</i>	Gym
	12.50	Art Club, Yrs 10&11 (YMC)	T13
	Lunchtime	French – Y11 Intervention (DS).	T41
	Lunchtime	Friendship Club for Y7&8.	T43



Brentwood Ursuline Newsletter

Convent High School *Founded 1900* Spring 2022

BRENTWOOD URSULINE CONVENT HIGH SCHOOL **TERM DATES FOR 2022-23**

Summer Term (2022)	
Tues 19 th April 2022	Students return
Mon 2 nd May 2022	May Bank Holiday.
Mon 30 May - Fri 3 Jun 2022	Summer Half Term.
Mon 6 th June 2022	Students return
Tues 19 th July 2022	Last Day of Term for students (Early closure).

Autumn Term (2022)	
Fri 2 nd September 2022	Phased return of Yrs 7&12 (9-10am only) timetables.
Mon 5 th September 2022	All students return.
Mon 24 Oct – Fri 28 Oct 2022	Autumn Half Term.
Mon 31 st October 2022	Students return.
Tue 20 th December 2022	Last Day of Term. (Early closure).

Spring Term (2023)	
Wed 4 th January 2023	Students return.
Mon 13th – Fri 17th Feb 2023	Spring Half Term.
Mon 20 th February 2023	Students return.
Fri 31 st March 2023	Last Day of Term. (Early closure) (Students break up for Easter Hols).

Summer Term (2023)	
Mon 17 th April 2023	Students return
Mon 1 st May 2023	May Bank Holiday.
Mon 29 May - Fri 2 Jun 2023	Summer Half Term.
Mon 5 th June 2023	Students return
Fri 14 th July 2023	Last Day of Term for students (Early closure).

Staff Training Days (Non Pupil Days)	
Thursday 1 st September 2022 – Staff Training Day.	
* Monday 17 th July, Tuesday 18 th July, Wednesday 19 th July, Thursday 20 th July 2023.	