



Dear Parents,

February half term is that wonderful milestone in the year, when we notice the evenings getting lighter and the signs of spring just around the corner. Unfortunately for our Year 13s and Year 11s, it also means Mock exams, but as I sometimes point out to them, it has been that way for generations in the past and will be for generations in the future: it's part of life's rocky journey.

For those not involved in exams, there has been much happening, particularly in the field of reading. Every student, from Year 7 to 13, should have a work of fiction in their bag, to be read not just in tutor time but whenever possible: we are a reading school. That does not just apply to the students, but to the staff as well. We wear 'Ask me what I'm reading' badges and several students have asked me. Currently I tell them I'm reading the latest of the Strike books by J.K. Rowling, writing as Robert Galbraith. I always, however, have at least one history book on the go; at the moment it is a book about German history. Other staff are equally enthusiastic readers, and I would encourage all parents to join in by taking a close interest in what their child is reading.

This half term has seen the challenge of a strike day (no pun intended), something that is likely to be repeated over the coming weeks. We will continue to do our best to ensure that the disruption to our exam year groups is kept to a minimum, but inevitably there will be an effect felt by some students. The next interruption, on March 1st, falls within the Mock period, but whilst that means there will be fewer students in lessons, it also means that our available spaces for supervision are significantly reduced. The effect may be that we are not able to accommodate as many students in school on March 1st as we would ideally like, but I will communicate with you after half term with more detail on this.

I hope you enjoy reading this Newsletter and that you and your families have a good half term break.

Dr Richard Wilkin MA, EdD, Headteacher

Student Leadership Team and Prefects 2023-24

Our new Student Leadership Team took part in their inauguration ceremony at the mass celebrating the Feast of St Angela on 26th January.



Above: Outgoing Student Leadership Team from right: Alaina, Stacey and Olivia. Newly appointed deputy Head Students from left: Ella and Katherine and Head Student Mia, third from left.





New Head Student Speech

It is customary for the newly appointed Head Student to deliver their speech at the St Angela's Day Mass:

'After growing up at the Ursuline for five years, I am incredibly proud to say that I can now represent the school as Head Girl. Firstly, I'd like to begin by saying thank you to the current leadership team; Olivia, Stacey and Alaina for doing such an amazing job and being an inspiration to us in the past year – I hope we can all achieve as much as you have. On behalf of all the new prefects, we are very excited to take on these responsibilities and will do so with enthusiasm and confidence.

Last year demanded a lot from us – with the ease of the pandemic came new challenges to face: From dealing with three different prime ministers, and mourning the late Queen Elizabeth's passing, to Russia invading the Ukraine. The world had to adapt and change. In times like this, we put our 'Duty' into action. We as an Ursuline community helped raise money to support those in need during the war. We have shown that even during difficult moments we can come together to demonstrate our resilience. 2022 has taught me that we must look for the light in dark places.

Over the holidays, I, like many of you made a new year's resolution – instead of the usual 'new year, new me' - I wanted to continue building on the achievements I have already accomplished and concentrate on improving, not changing, my character. By setting more targets you push yourself to reach your full potential and could end up surprising yourself. I urge you to focus on developing your talent and abilities, adding to your successes. At the Ursuline, it is undeniable that we have a range of different skill sets within the academics and within the arts.

I hope that the new year will bring a renewed sense of hope and optimism and so we should try to welcome the challenges that come our way. Something that has always inspired me to be positive, since primary school, is 'shining like a lantern.' I believe that everyone has their own light and we should do what makes our candle burn brightest.

The next months will certainly feel intense and maybe overwhelming, specifically for the Year 11s and Year 13s. Heading into your exams, remember that as a community we want the best for you and are there to provide any support that you may need. Know that your hard work will reward you later down the line - I wish you the very best in your efforts. To all the other students, seize opportunities, be curious and risk new things. This mindset will allow you to make the most of your journey through the years at the Ursuline.

I hope we can all grow and learn together and help each other as Ursuline students do in order to become the best version of ourselves.

Thank you'



Student Leadership Team and Prefects 2023-24

<u>Senior Student Leaders</u>	
Head Student	Mia Andre
Deputy Head Students	Katherine Burton & Ella Qurrey-Ruane



Student Leadership Team and Prefects 2023-24

House Team	House Captain	Deputy House Captain	House Prefects
Brescia	Ria Sammy	Daisy Makumbi	Adeola Ladipo
Clare's	Sarah Finni	Eve Moran	Lysette Aniche
Ursula's	Maria Hopal	Naomi Osemwekhae	Holly Allington
Trinity	Imogen Qurrey-Ruane	Maria Thompson	Sophia Richards-Harry
John's	Danielle Olaiya	Nila Niranjan	Joy Shokunbi
Angela's	Ella Webb	Preetika Kaur	Lisa Jacobs

Prefects for Faith

Liturgy Prefect	Precious Ibe
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Prefects for Sport

Sports Prefect	Kayla Wyatt
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Sixth Form Prefects

Post-16 Ambassadors	Tyra Boampong Tatenda Chimhini Tinufemi Delano
STEM Co-Curricular Ambassador	Chloe Owusu
Co-Curricular Ambassadors	Nathan Evans Charlie Leavens
MedSoc Ambassador	Denzel Yeboah-Jones



Student Leadership Team and Prefects 2023-24

Sixth Form Prefects

Reading Ambassadors	Elizabeth Bishop Evie Neppl
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Prefects for Pastoral

Well Being Prefects	Callie-Mae Doucy Sophie Hegan Liz Mensah Chloe Spooner Lilah Stephens
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Senior Prefects for Subjects

Art	Trenyce Joseph
Biology	Olivia Clarke
Business	Emmanuella Owolabi
Chemistry	Franchesca Daliva
Economics	Janyce Mathiu
English Language & Literature	Josephine Livesey
English Literature	Evie Stanford
Dance	Ava Maher
Drama	Isabella Downey
French	Chelsea Bendo
Further Mathematics	Lyra Sinclair
Geography	Ronan Tucker
History	Lilly Hope

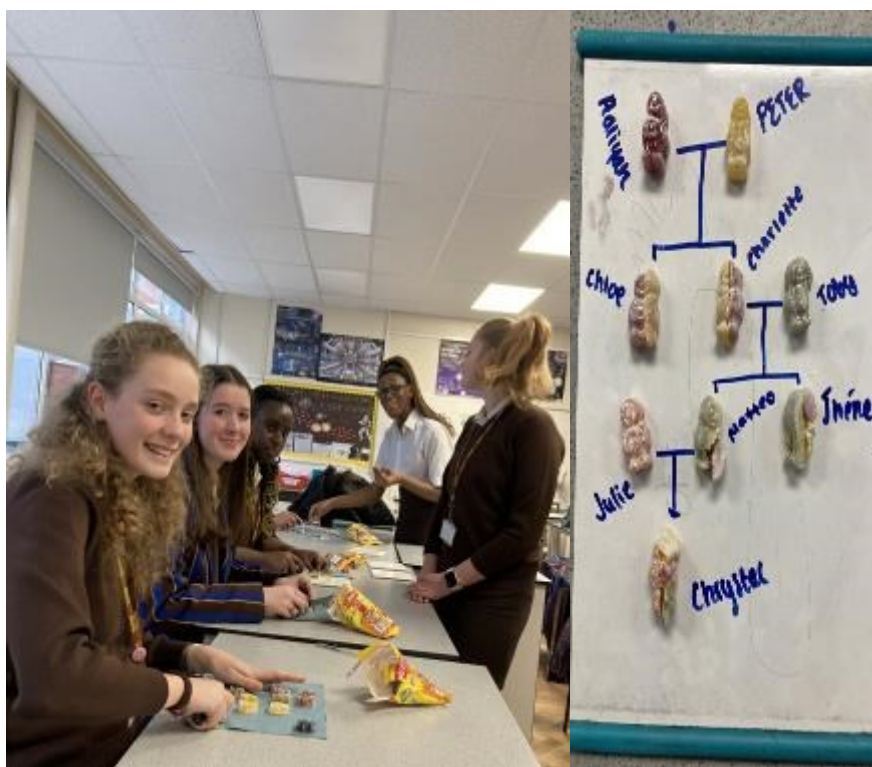


Student Leadership Team and Prefects 2023-24

Senior Prefects for Subjects	
Mathematics	Jessica Brice
Physical Education	Evie Antoniou
Physics	Estella Threadwell
Politics	Hannah Zyss
Psychology	Eliza McAllister
Religious Studies	Kotryna Ramancauske
Spanish	Caroline Pardo-Downs
STEM	Lilian Threadwell
Textiles	Annabel Midson

KS4 STEM

Four of our Year 10 students; Fiona, Purity, Layla and Mayowa investigated inheritance by making Jelly Baby family trees.





Language Ambassadors

This half term, we have appointed language ambassadors in Years 10 and 12. They will be supporting our students in Years 7-9 and helping to raise the profile of languages at BUCHS. Their first assignment was to host our first biscuit stall on Tuesday 7th February. Students in Years 7 and 8 entered a competition to bake valentines themed biscuits using a recipe in either French or Spanish, with the funds raised donated to Brentwood Foodbank. The winners of this competition will be announced in the next newsletter.

Our language ambassadors are:

Caroline and Chelsea, Year 12 and Lucy, Elaine, Federica, Neve, Ohemma, Shirley and Purity, Year 10



Dance

During a recent weekend, my dance company (AYD,) Mya in Year 12 and I took part in a 'Lion King' makeup workshop with one of the makeup artists from the cast of The Lion King in the West End. This was held at the Lyseum Theatre where the production currently performs. During the workshop, we learnt the basics of makeup such as making the perfect base, blending eyeshadow, highlighting properly, and how to enhance our features. The workshop was based around the importance of stage makeup and how to do makeup in a way that will ensure it lasts throughout a 2 hour show. The workshop was very beneficial and at the end we were all given a sheet with the makeup look and all the products used.

Tami, 11B





A-Level Politics Trip to the Houses of Parliament

On Friday 13th January, Sixth Form Government and Politics students were able to visit one of the most famous buildings in the world - the Houses of Parliament in Westminster, and find out more about British Politics and its long history.

First, we visited the Robing Room where the monarch prepares for the State Opening of Parliament, then crossed into the ornate Royal Gallery. The walls were lined with huge murals of Nelson at Trafalgar and Wellington at Waterloo. Great stacks of 'White Paper' government documents also lined the side-tables and we were even allowed to look through the policies that the Houses were working on and would soon pass into law.

As Parliament does not sit on a Friday, we were then able to see the luxury of the House of Lords from the floor itself. I was struck by the elaborate nature of the House and the gilded panels that made it look like a church or palace. Out into the Central Lobby, we were met with mosaics of the nation's Patron Saints and the detailed stonework which can often be seen in the background of news channel interviews. We then ventured through the division lobbies (where MPs actually cast their votes) which were lined with copies of Hansard and into the House of Commons. The difference between the two chambers was stark. The Commons' muted green were much less astounding than the rich red and gold of 'The Other Place.' It felt incredible to be on the floor of where the most influential politicians, all the way from Churchill to Blair, once stood.

We then rounded off the tour by visiting Westminster Hall, the oldest part of the Palace dating all the way back to 1097. It was once a court holding the trials of King Charles I, Guy Fawkes, and Thomas More, then a tennis court for Henry VIII, but we now know it as where Elizabeth II lay in state, and where Dr. Wilkin took our photograph, of course! At the end of the day, we took part in a workshop discussing the British electoral systems and how representation works in Britain today. Overall, the experience was incredible and really opened our eyes to the wider view of British Politics. However, I think one of our main takeaways will be how small the two chambers really are, in spite of them looking much larger on TV!

Many thanks to Mr Earle for his hard work in organising the visit.

Hannah, Government and Politics Prefect, Year 12





Art and Languages Departments Christmas Card Competition 2022

Mrs Yates, Head of MFL and I, were excited to work together on a joint competition for Years 7, 8 and 9 students to design Christmas cards which each form group throughout the school could send to the Ursuline sisters.



Our competition asked the students to create a Christmas card design of their choice, in any media they wished, representing a Christmas theme. The only 'must' was that the card had to display a Christmas message in another language. The students could also choose to represent a Christmas scene or tradition of their chosen country and language. So, there was lots of choice and variety. Many students chose to represent a theme and Christmas message from their own culture and in a language spoken at home—this made their entry very personal and special. It also added a lovely community feel to our competition.

We were delighted to receive so many entries, all with such thought, care and hard work put in by our super students. There was painting and drawing, collage, embellishment, textile work and papercraft...the list went on. The ideas and creativity shown by the students were truly exceptional. Mrs Kempton and Miss O'Grady worked together to scan and print the Christmas cards for each form group to sign messages in for the Ursuline sisters.



A big well done to every student who entered! All entries will receive Achievement Points and winners received prizes.

A £20 Amazon Gift Voucher was awarded to the overall winner, Navya in 8T.

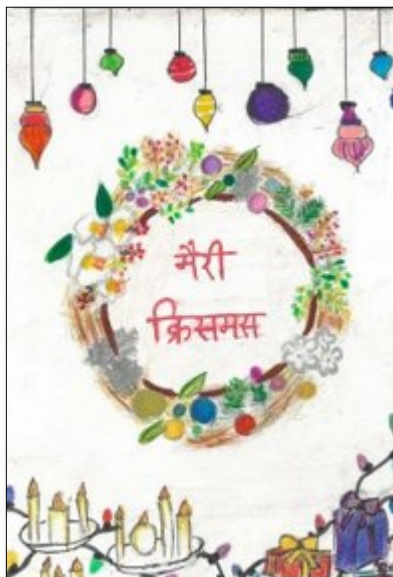
Well done to all of our exceptionally talented students!

Miss McGoldrick, Head of Art





Christmas Card Creativity



Co-operation



Independence



Communication



Exceptional



Creativity



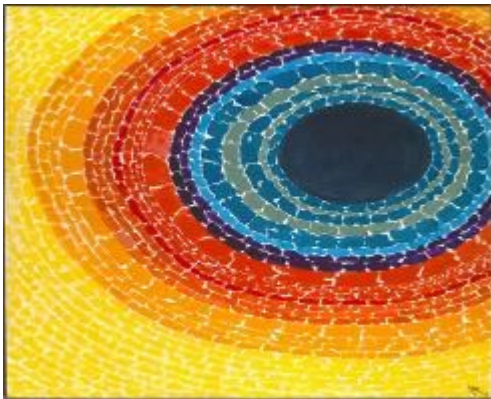
Concentration

Resilience





Year 9 Art and Textiles Students' Collaborative Artwork inspired by Alma Thomas



Alma Thomas (1891-1978) was a painter and art educator. Her work has been the inspiration for a collaborative extra-curricular art project for our Year 9 Art and Textiles students. We have taken inspiration from this pioneering black female artist, who was the first black woman to have a solo exhibition at New York's 'Whitney Museum' and exhibited her paintings at the White House three times.

Thomas' abstractions have been compared with Byzantine mosaics and the Pointillist technique of Georges Seurat, yet her work is distinctive and exciting. Her signature abstract painting style often consisted of broad, mosaic like patches of vibrant colour applied in concentric circles, which has particularly captured our imaginations. Thomas was inspired by the colour and light that she observed in nature. Her paintings have a spiritual quality to them, especially 'Resurrection,' 1966, (pictured above) which was acquired by Michelle Obama to hang in the White House.



Currently, students are working to add wording to their piece, inspired by the circle and the meanings associated with the it. The circle is a universal motif with extensive symbolism. It represents the notions of totality, wholeness, original perfection, the infinite, eternity, timelessness, all cyclic movement. The circle is an endless line, having no beginning and no end, which symbolises eternity or God. In some cultures, when people want to come together and support one another, they form a circle. The circle represents unity, community, completeness, infinity and eternity, never-ending existence, perfection, protection, the universe and the heavens. Adding to the collaborative piece continues, as students across four classes in Art and Textiles engage with this special shared creative endeavour. It is hoped that the piece will also represent the collective creative abilities of our students and the special community of our school.



Students will continue to work on the piece adding other media and techniques. We will be delighted to show the finished piece in a future newsletter.



RA Royal Academy of Arts Young Artists' Summer Show



Now in its fifth year, the Young Artists' Summer Show is a free, open submission exhibition for students aged 4–19 studying in the UK. Artworks are judged by a panel of artists and arts professionals, with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Our school is registered for our students to submit entries to the competition. Get involved!

How can you enter? Submitting artwork is completely free and is done online. If you're 12 your parent/guardian or your teacher will need to enter for you; if you're 13 or over you can submit artwork yourself.

Each student can submit one artwork and there is no theme. When you enter, the Royal Academy will ask for an image of your artwork plus some information about the piece such as title, size, and a little text about the artwork and why you made it. Your artwork will be seen by the Royal Academy's panel of judges and the selected pieces will be shown in their online exhibition. Some of the artworks will also be shown at the Royal Academy of Arts.

Closing date for submissions is 29 March 2023.

How does the judging work? All of the artworks submitted are viewed and judged by a panel of experienced and passionate artists and arts professionals and they work together to select which pieces will be shown online and which will be shown at the Royal Academy. Judges are looking for imagination, originality and skill and seek to represent young artists across the breadth of the UK.

Judges are looking for imagination, originality and skill. Although many great artists 'copy' in creative ways, artworks that closely reproduce another artist's work or ideas won't be selected.

What kind of Artworks are accepted? The artwork can be made using any material; it can be a painting, sculpture, photograph, installation, video, drawing, or a combination. It could be a textile piece, video, performance piece, or surprise the RA!

There is no theme, so artworks can be of any subject and the RA doesn't mind when you made the artwork as long as you are between 4-19 years old when you submit it. We also welcome collaborative pieces made by more than one student, a whole class, a whole year group or even a whole school!

Each submission can include a short written statement, written by the artist themselves (if possible) and can include why they created the work and what it means to them.

Prizes Prizes are awarded each year for inspiring artworks, as chosen by the President of the Royal Academy. You can also vote for your favourite artwork in our annual People's Choice Award.

Students at BUCHS are exceptionally creative. Get involved in this prestigious competition for young people. Find out more at:

<https://youngartists.royalacademy.org.uk/>



Tower of London Schools Coronation Competition!
BUCHS Art Department has registered to take part in this special competition.

Our students will create an illustration for specially designed Coronation benches to mark the Coronation of King Charles III. Over the coming weeks, we will invite students to work through Coronation learning resources, bringing the Coronation to life and exploring it as a moment of transition. The competition wants students to think about the values and symbols which they wish to define the new era.



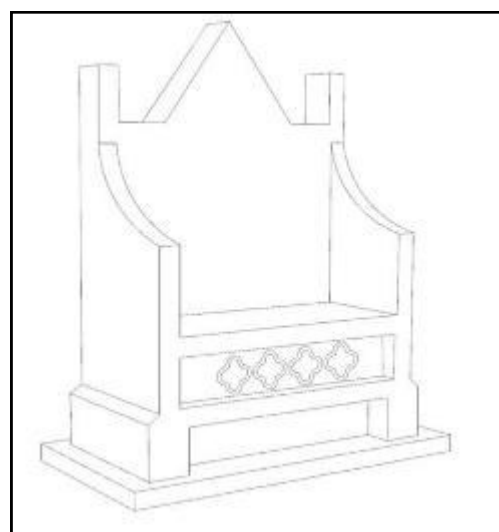
Fifteen winning schools will then work with an artist from 'Wild in Art' to bring their designs to life, each creating an illustrated bench which will be displayed in pride of place at the Tower of London during the Coronation celebrations in May 2023.

The winning benches will then be transported to the winning schools, where they will remain forever as a lasting legacy of the Coronation. Winning schools will also be offered a VIP trip for one class to visit the Tower of London in the summer of 2023, for which they will receive a bursary to cover travel costs. Students taking part in this visit will have the opportunity to see their bench and take part in themed activities. Every school entering the competition will be entered into a lottery to win a free class visit to the Tower of London in autumn 2023 or a set of Coronation bunting featuring some of the illustrated bench designs.

Teachers in the Art Department will guide students on entering this very special competition.



HISTORIC ROYAL PALACES





Food Tech

Future Chef Competition



"Entering the Future Chef competition was an absolutely wonderful experience. When I entered in October I wasn't expecting much, but I'm glad I was able to make it to the next round, and although I didn't win the following round, I was quite proud to be a local finalist. The competition took place at Chelmsford College and we got to cook in their catering kitchens and I found it fascinating working with all the industrial kitchen appliances. Cooking was both nerve-wracking and exciting and the chefs were very accommodating and helpful. I enjoyed hearing about the chefs Steve Walpole and Thomas Leatherbarrow speak about their professions and finding out about the people they've worked with and for. In addition, after we heard their verdict, they spoke to us individually providing guidance on how to improve. Hearing them compliment my palette and skills motivated me to try again next year. Overall, the competition was an amazing and thrilling experience that I enjoyed very much and would definitely recommend."

Julia, Year 10



Rock Painting Club

"I come to rock painting club as it is so relaxing and calming. The club helps you to moderate your feelings and express your creativity in so many ways. You can chat with your group and work together. It is a great way to relax and meet new people and to make more friends."

Stephanie, Year 7

"What is rock painting? Rock painting is on every Thursday in the Merici Hall classroom. It is a club for all years, and it is a place where you can paint rocks with your friends. I love going to rock painting because it is a time where I can forget all the craziness around me, and just relax while painting rocks and have a laugh with my friends. It is also a good place if you are struggling to make friends or want friends outside of your form/year group."

Tobi, Year 7





Criminology Conference

On 30th November, a group of A Level Psychology students travelled to London to attend a criminology conference. Our day was filled with talks from many different people in the field of criminology, informing us about the very interesting findings of their individual research on topic areas such as domestic abuse and male violence and also educating us on the psychology that is used within the police force.



The talks that were particularly interesting were the real-life stories from two rehabilitated offenders. The first talk being from the "Mafia Princess" who told her story of running the Italian Mafia, and detailed the consequences she experienced as a result of her behaviour in both the Italian and the UK criminal justice system. The second talk was from a man who suffered a brain injury which led him to become highly aggressive, causing him to eventually turn to a lifestyle of crime as a graffiti gang leader. Both speakers opened up the floor to questions, which allowed us to ask deeper questions about their experiences within the criminal justice system and their new role in helping others to avoid a life of crime.

Overall, the day was very enjoyable and enlightening. This new experience gave us, as A Level students, insight into university style learning and strengthened our understanding of criminal psychology.

Ciara, Psychology Prefect





History

Suffragettes

Last term, Year 8 took part in the History Department's Suffragette Campaign House Competition. They worked hard preparing banners, rosettes, PowerPoints, poems, acted scenes and even performed songs to promote 'Votes for Women.' They presented their campaigns to a panel of judges, made up of the Politics Prefect, History Prefect and Dr Wilkin, as well as the rest of their year group.



After a close competition, 8C were proclaimed the winners! Izzy Smith from 8C said that "the History competition was a really fun experience for the whole year and really encouraged everyone to get involved, and also got us to come up with our own ideas by ourselves. I think everyone found it really enjoyable." It's great to see so many of our Year 8 students working together to improve their creativity and public speaking skills as well as simply understanding the subject. The work which was created during the campaigns is now being displayed in Mr Hammons' classroom and in the History corridor. The photos on this page show some examples of the campaigns produced by Year 8.





History Continued

Thatcher Play

In October, the Sixth Form History and Politics classes were given the opportunity to attend the comedy show 'Handbagged' at the Kiln Theatre. The show centered around younger versions of Queen Elizabeth and Margaret Thatcher and then older versions of them, commenting on their prior decisions. The scenes are imagined private conversations between the women during their weekly audiences. Despite this fictitious element, the play linked very closely with the Thatcher depth study in A Level History. The play involved characters like Ronald Reagan, Arthur Scargill, Enoch Powell, and Michael Heseltine, whom we had previously explored within the course. We were all very excited to discover that Neil Kinnock had actually been at our performance, especially as two of the actors spend a scene fighting over who gets to perform his 'I warn you' speech! If you read our summer newsletter, you will know that the A Level History class had previously acted out our own mock trial on this subject, and our very own Margaret Thatcher, Laena-Theia, gave the show high praise calling it "the most amazing performance that truly brought Thatcher to life." Abigail said that "the play was very enjoyable as it provided an interactive and thought-provoking opportunity to engage with a section of our course."



Year 7 Netball

The Year 7s have really developed as a team and have progressed to the knockout stages of the Essex Schools Cup which means they are in the top 16 schools in Essex. Their last match was against The Coopers' Company and Coborn School in Upminster and they played so well, beating them 19-7.

They now have a match against Newhall School to be organised after half term.





Year 8 PSHE Assessment Task

Our Year 8 Students were recently set the following challenge for their assessment.

Year 8 PSHE assessment task
Citizenship and British value
Demonstrate your understanding of what it means to know your rights and responsibilities within the community. Include information and understanding gained on discrimination law and British values.

Here are some examples of the responses:

"God taught us to always care for others just as he cares for us. We were all born in his image and need to honour him. To be like this we need to use our British values to not discriminate and to not use stereotypes....In our wider community we need diversity. We should celebrate different cultures and educate ourselves on things we are unfamiliar with. It is good and right to learn and explore things. It will help us stop discrimination if we understand other people..... It is our differences that make us likeable."

Jo, 8B

"It is my responsibility as a citizen to promote diversity within our community and to show an example. You should all be respectful towards each other and not discriminate against someone because of their race....Some of you might want to change and become a good citizen and I'm here to help you become one; follow these simple steps:

- Volunteer for your community
- Follow the rules and laws of the equality act.
- Respect the property and rights of others
- Take responsibility for your actions and finally...
- Live the British Values!"

Naelle, 8J



Year 10 PSHE Assessment Task

Our Year 10 Students were recently set the following challenge for their assessment.

Year 10 PSHE
Economic Wellbeing

Demonstrate your understanding of what it means to be well informed about debt.

Here are some examples of the responses:

"Search around—Don't accept the first deal you are offered. If one APR is high, you should be very careful.
Repay quickly— If the interest rate is high, paying off debt slowly can work out to be very expensive.
Keep a good credit rating—Lenders use credit ratings to judge how risky you are. Good credit ratings will help persuade the lender to lend to you at lower interest rates."

Natalie 10J

"Debt is the term used to describe the act of needing to pay back money that you have borrowed. Of course it isn't that simple because in some cases, people can't afford or manage to pay back debt which can then lead to multiple problems surrounding that person and their family.
So if you take out a certain amount of money and pay it back within a suitable time period, then essentially you are borrowing money for free. However, if you fail to pay it back in time then your bank will start to charge you interest.
Failure to pay back loans such as pay day loans can also lead to a bad credit report."

Neve, 10T



LAMDA

Year 8 student Anna completed her LAMDA Grade 4 Acting examination on Saturday 21st January 2023 along with 14 other students across Years 8-13.

"My LAMDA experience so far has been amazing as I enjoy acting. LAMDA has helped me to experience the acting world. The first time I went to London for my LAMDA exam, I was quite nervous but excited since it was my first time doing something like that. Everyone there was so kind and welcoming. After the exam was over, I was thrilled!

LAMDA has helped me in many ways. It has built up my confidence and made me a clearer speaker. When you get your results back, they make sure that they highlight all of your performance; eg I used my space well but I should try to speak more slowly. This is something I tried to use in my latest exam. If acting's not for you that's fine, because LAMDA does musical theatre (singing,) acting and public speaking. It's also good for your CV because it shows creativity. I love LAMDA and acting in general and hope to carry it on in the future."

Anna, Year 8

If you would like to audition to join our LAMDA Examination class, please collect audition material from Mrs Wortley in the Drama Office.

Mrs Wortley, Teacher in charge of Drama



LAMDA

London Academy of Music &
Dramatic Art



Brentwood Ursuline
Convent High School *Founded 1900*

Newsletter
Spring 1 2023



**“We wanted to help children who needed a stable and safe home.”
Foster with our support.**



“It is the most rewarding job you will ever have.”

Fostering offers great flexibility and puts family at its heart. Training is local, support is 24/7 and your family could receive a competitive financial package per child, per week.

Join our fostering community and together we can transform children's lives.

**Could you or someone you know foster?
Get in touch today.**

Join us,
recruiting now.



www.essex.gov.uk/foster

0800 801 530





Cosy Club

Tuesdays - 3.15pm - 5pm
Brentwood Youth Centre

15 Shenfield Road, CM15 8AG

Come along for fun & freshly
cooked food every week and
to get out of the cold!



Make it your own! Come in for
homework club, reading corner,
arts and crafts, games, pool, and
much more!



Who can come?

You must be 11-19 (or up to 25
with SEND) - everyone welcome!

For more info contact: Claire.Love@essex.gov.uk





Library News

Michael Morpurgo Month

We will be celebrating Michael Morpurgo month throughout February in the lead up to World Book Day. Morpurgo, Children's Laureate between 2003 and 2005, has written over one hundred books including 'War Horse' (which has been turned into a film and successful theatre play,) 'The Butterfly Lion' and 'Kensuke's Kingdom.'

Students can come and look at the displays in the library and A3 corridor and borrow one of the many Morpurgo books we have available.

Years 7 and 8 have been taking part in a Morpurgo activity during their library lessons and, on World Book Day (3rd March,) will join a virtual 'live author visit' with Michael himself where he will be talking about his role as an author, 'War Horse,' which reaches its 40th anniversary this year, and taking questions from students.

What would you like to ask Michael?



Left: A Year 7 group participating in a Michael Morpurgo writing activity based on his book 'The Butterfly Lion.'

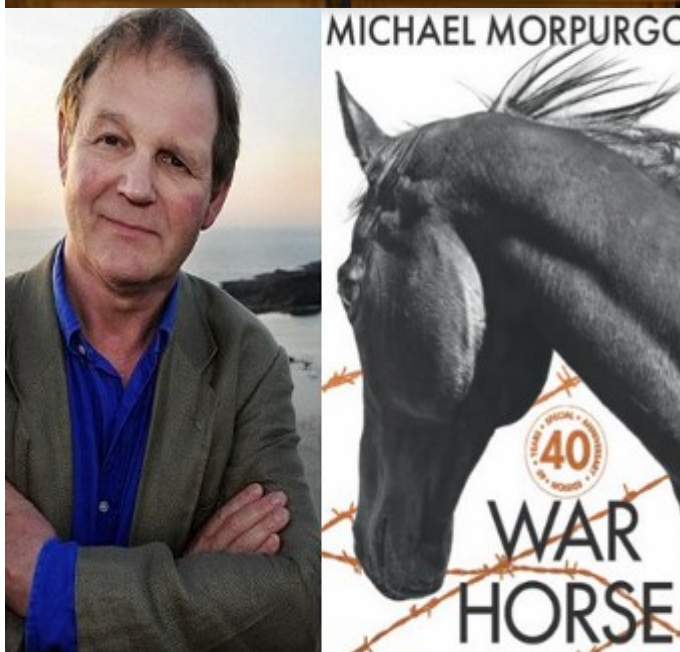
March Book Fair

The ever popular Scholastic Book Fair will be returning to the library on 23rd –28th March.

Students will be able to browse and buy fiction and non fiction titles, bags and stationery.

Scholastic will accept a £1 World Book Day token in part payment of a book purchased at the fair (for books over £2.99.)

Every book sold earns commission for the school to enable us to buy more books for the library, so we thank you very much in advance for your support.





Library News Continued

BUCHS Bookworm

This new reading initiative, open to all, is well underway at school. The library has already received over 30 book review forms meaning that many students are on their way to earning their brown BUCHS Bookworm pin badge which represents passing the first level of the challenge.



BUCHS Bookworm review forms are available from form tutors or the library reception desk. Make sure you collect the correct form for your year group!

A reminder of the BUCHS Bookworm reading levels:

Brown Badge	10 review forms completed
Blue Badge	20 review forms completed
Gold Badge	30 review forms completed

Coming in March...

The 'Readathon' returns to BUCHS for Years 7 and 8. Students set themselves reading targets whilst also raising money for a wonderful charity to support children while they are in hospital:



"Our hospital programme provides brand-new, carefully chosen books and regular professional storyteller sessions to the UK's 30 major children's hospitals. Read for Good's specially made, colourful mobile bookcases can travel right up to a child's bedside, offering an enticing display of lovely new books to read and often keep for ever. Our service supports seriously ill children's disrupted learning, and gives them and their families precious distraction and comfort at a time when it's needed the most. "

Listen out for details of this challenge coming in March!

Chemistry



On Thursday 26th January, Year 13 Chemistry students sat the Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad exam.

Results will be announced at the end of February. Good luck to those who took part.

Eco Club

Below and on the next page are photos of Eco Club making apple juice from our very own apples grown here at BUCHS.

We are currently building birdhouses for the school grounds and are planting fruit and vegetables for the greenhouse too.





Eco Club Continued





Child and Family Counselling Services

Parents are now able to access direct support for their child by referring them into the safe hands of our Child and Family Counselling Services (CFCS). We have a team of highly experienced Counsellors, Specialist Child and Adolescent Counsellors and Play Therapists available within the counselling team who work in our specially adapted therapy rooms.



We offer support to children, young people and parents through talking, play and art therapy.

CFCS provides therapy to children, young people and families. We support many different issues such as:

- Self-harm
- Identity
- Anxiety
- Bullying
- Bereavement
- Parental separation and family issues or conflict.

The pathway is overseen by our Head of Child and Family Counselling Services, who is supported by a team that are both passionate about and dedicated to the wellbeing of children and young people. The team has achieved very positive and reparative outcomes for children and families.

What can you expect?

After an initial contact, we will arrange an assessment to explore the issues your child may be experiencing and will then identify which model best supports the difficulty your child may be facing.

Who do you contact?

If you are worried about your child and would like to talk to us further, please either email Catherine cmunns@bccs.org.uk or call on 07792 732206 and we will be pleased to help.

Take a moment to read about the experience a parent shared with us:

*I had contacted a number of professional services to assist me in helping my daughter. At the suggestion of my daughter's school a referral was made to **BCCS** and it was then that I met one of their counsellors. After months of unanswered questions and "hitting brick walls" I finally had answers, structure and a profound understanding of how a small little girl's mind works.*

*For me, there has been nothing so worrying as watching your child struggle and the **BCCS** counsellor's help has enabled me to help her for which I will be forever grateful.*



www.bccs.org.uk



headoffice@bccs.org.uk

BCCS, 133 High Street, Billericay, Essex, CM12 9AB

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society - Registered Charity Number: 1000661



BCCS
a children's charity for
Essex and East London

Safeguarding



BUCHS STAFF SAFEGUARDING REFERRAL GUIDELINES










Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and requires all staff and volunteers to share that commitment. This policy applies to all pupils, staff, parents, governors, volunteers, students and visitors to our school. For fuller details please refer to the school safeguarding policy or the BUCHS Safeguarding Staff Guide. The School Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy can be found on the school website; the link is www.brentwoodursuline.co.uk about the school/policies.

These staff members are the first point of contact for parents, students, teaching and non-teaching staff and external agencies in all matters of child protection.
** Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Champion*



School Safeguarding Team

Only take this next step if you continue to have concerns about a child and feel the situation is not being addressed appropriately by the Child Protection team.

			
Angela Corless - Designated Safeguarding Lead acorless@buchs.co.uk			
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads			
			
Kerry Mackenzie kmackenzie@buchs.co.uk	Bernadette Guler* bguler@buchs.co.uk	David Giles dgiles@buchs.co.uk	Sally Harbott sharbott@buchs.co.uk
			
Sam Wilkinson-Ross swilkinsonross@buchs.co.uk	Lucy Newman lnewman@buchs.co.uk	Sinthu Ratnapalan sratnapalan@buchs.co.uk <i>(Maternity Leave)</i>	Chloe Sanders csanders@buchs.co.uk <i>(Maternity Leave)</i>

How to make a referral to the Children and Families Hub
 Mon – Thurs 8.45am – 5.30pm and Fri 8.45am – 4.30pm
0345-603-7627 (Out of Hours: 0845-606-1212)

An adviser will listen to and respond to your concerns and will signpost support depending on the level of need identified.

Radicalisation Concerns
 Act Early Support Line - 0800 011 3764



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES 2023 Spring Term

For Any DofE Enquiries please see Mr. J. Addicott.

DAY	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
MONDAY			
Lunchtimes	12:50	GCSE Dance intervention & support	Dance Studio
	Lunchtime	PE All years Rackets Sports Recreational (SB/RBO)	Merici Hall
	Lunchtime	Yr. 11 GCSE Science Intervention (students to be invited) (Wk. B)	A21/A22/A26
	Lunchtime	Yrs. 7&8 Friendship Club	T43
	13:00-13:25	Yr. 7 Drama Club	U24
	13:00-13:30	Learning Support Lunch Club (TO)	Learning Support
	Lunchtime	GCSE Art (priority to Yr. 11) (YMC)	C12
	Lunchtime	GCSE Art & Textiles (priority to Yr. 11) (CST)	T37
	Lunchtime	GCSE Spanish revision (Wk. A) (LFH)	T42
	Lunchtime	GCSE French revision (SYA)	T41
After School	15:15	PE Fixtures	
TUESDAY			
Lunchtimes	12:50	PE Yr. 11 GCSE Intervention (KM)	MH2
	Lunchtime	Debate Club (held Fortnightly) (DEA)	J31
	Lunchtime	Yrs. 9+ Senior Dance Company (CH)	Dance
	13:00-13:30	Learning Support Lunch Club (TO)	Learning Support
	Lunchtime	PE Yrs. 8&9 Netball (LN)	Merici Hall
	Lunchtime	PE Yrs. 10&11 Football (RBO)	Netball Courts
	Lunchtime	String Orchestra (AMC)	C3.1
	Lunchtime	GCSE Geography Intervention (ELL)	U22
	Lunchtime	KS5 Biology Intervention	A12
	Lunchtime	KS5 Physics Intervention	A34
	Lunchtime	GCSE Art (priority to Yr. 11) (YMC)	C12
	Lunchtime	GCSE Art & Textiles (priority to Yr. 11) (CST)	T37
After School	15:10-16:10	Yrs. 8,9,10 Performance from Text	Drama Studio
	15:15-16:15	GCSE Art (priority to Yr. 11) (YMC)	C12
	15:10-16:00	Bee Keeping (MF)	
	15:15	PE Yr. 7 Netball (SB/SWR)	Netball Courts/Merici Hall
	15:15	PE Yrs. 8&9 Football (LG/AH)	Football Pitch
	15:15-16:15	GCSE Art & Textiles (priority to Yr. 11) (CST)	T37
	15:15	Yr. 11 French Intervention (DS)	J22
WEDNESDAY			
Lunchtimes	12:50	Yrs. 7&8 only Dance Junior Company	Dance Studio
	Lunchtime	PE Yrs. 7,8&9 Basketball (LG)	Merici Hall
	Lunchtime	PE Rock Painting (SWR)	MH2



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES 2023 Spring Term

	Lunchtime	KS4 Chemistry Intervention & workshop (HC)	A23
	Lunchtime	Yr. 10 BUCHS Geographical Society (ELL)	U22
	13:00-13:25	Yrs. 7,8,9 Theatre Design Club	U24
	13:00-13:30	Learning Support Lunch Club (TO)	Learning Support
	Lunchtime	KS4 Chemistry Workshops (HC)	A23
	Lunchtime	Gospel Choir	C32
	Lunchtime	GCSE History mentoring	J33
	Lunchtime	GCSE Art (priority to Yr. 11) (YMC)	C12
	Lunchtime	GCSE Art & Textiles (priority to Yr. 11) (CST)	T37
	Lunchtime	Wind Band (SHT & EBR)	C32
After School	15:15	PE All years Hockey (Gumshield & Shin Pads required) (SWR)	Courts
		PE All years Rugby (RBO)	Top Field
THURSDAY			
Lunchtimes	12:50	All years Ballet Company	Dance Studio
	12:50	PE Yr. 7 Netball (SWR/RBO)	Merici Hall
	12:50	PE All years Volleyball (LG)	Gym
	13:00	Justice & Peace Group (Wk. B) (JRA)	Chapel
	Lunchtime	KS5 Chemistry Intervention	A23
	Lunchtime	Creative Writing (JK)	T25
	13:00-13:25	Yr. 8 GCSE Drama Taster Club	U24
	Lunchtime	Yr. 10 BUCHS Geographical Society (Wk. A) (ELL)	U22
	Lunchtime	Yrs. 7&8 Globebusters (Wk. B) (ELL)	U22
	13:00-13:20	Yr. 11 RE Judaism Intervention	T34
	Lunchtime	Yrs. 7&8 The History Detectives (History Club) (WK. B)	J32
	Lunchtime	GCSE Art (priority to Yr. 11) (YMC)	C12
	Lunchtime	GCSE Art & Textiles (priority to Yr. 11) (CST)	T37
	Lunchtime	GCSE Spanish revision (Wk. B) (LFH)	T42
After School	15:15	Chamber Choir (RH)	C3.2
	15:15-16:15	GCSE Art (priority to Yr. 11) (YMC)	C12
	15:15	PE U14&U16 Netball (LN)	Merici Hall
	15:15	PE Yr. 7 Football (LG)	Field
	15:15	Eco-Club (Wk. B) (AHU)	A21
	15:15-16:15	GCSE Art & Textiles (priority to Yr. 11) (CST)	T37
	15:15	GCSE French revision (SYA)	T41



CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES 2023 Spring Term

FRIDAY			
Lunchtimes	13:00-13:25	LAMDA Club (invite only)	Drama Studio
	12:50	All years Tap Company	Dance Studio
	Lunchtime	PE Yrs. 10-13 Basketball (RBO)	Merici Hall
	Lunchtime	Yrs. 7&8 Friendship Club	T43
	Lunchtime	Initiation to Russian (Wk. B) (DS)	J22
	Lunchtime	KS3 Yrs. 7&8 STEM Club (Wk. B)	A24
	Lunchtime	GCSE Art (priority to Yr. 11) (YMC)	C12
	Lunchtime	Yrs. 7&8 Online Art Club drop-in session for extra help/guidance (YMC)	C12
	Lunchtime	GCSE Art & Textiles (priority to Yr. 11) (CST)	T37
	Lunchtime	Yrs. 7&8 Online Textiles Club drop-in session for extra help/guidance (CST)	T37
	Lunchtime	GCSE Spanish revision (Wk. B) CG	T36
	Lunchtime	Yrs. 7-9 French Club (Wk. B)	T41
	Lunchtime	Initiation to Russian (Wk. B) (DS)	J22
	Lunchtime	Yr. 11 Set 1 Further Maths (SMO)	A35
After School			
	15:15	Staff Sport	
	15:10-16:00	Dance Club (CH)	Dance Studio
	15:10-16:10	Whole School Production (starts December)	U24



Parent/Student Calendar

Wk 23A		Temptation
Mon	20/02/23	PE: This Week – Team Sports Yr7 Interhouse, in lessons. Yr 11 & 13 Mocks. Merici Hall/Main Hall
Tue	21/02/23	Yr 11 & 13 Mocks. Merici Hall.
Wed	22/02/23	Yr 11 & 13 Mocks. Merici Hall/Main Hall Ash Wednesday Services (Services to be held across the whole day). (Year group sessions in the Chapel throughout the day, with timings to be confirmed). Staff Wellbeing: 1.10pm—1.25pm (Prayer & Meditation) in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Weds Wk A.
Thur	23/02/23	Yr 11 & 13 Mocks. Merici Hall/Main hall
Fri	24/02/23	Yr 11 & 13 Mocks. Merici Hall/Main Hall Yr11 PE GCSE Moderation, visiting Examiner either (20th, 22nd or 24th) tbc.
Sat	25/02/23	
Sun	26/02/23	
Wk 24B		The Glory of God
Mon	27/02/23	Yr 11 & 13 Mocks. Merici Hall.
Tue	28/02/23	Yr 11 & 13 Mocks. Merici Hall.
Wed	01/03/23	NEU Industrial Action Day Saint of the Month: St Oscar Romero. Yr 11 & 13 Mocks. Merici Hall. Staff Wellbeing: 3.30pm—4.30pm (Meditation) in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Weds Wk B.
Thur	02/03/23	World Book Day Virtual Author visit in library for Yrs 7&8 in library, Chapel and classrooms. Starts at 10am -10:45. Arrive at 09:50. Yr 11 & 13 Mocks. Merici Hall.
Fri	03/03/23	Yr 11 & 13 Mocks. Merici Hall.
Sat	04/03/23	BUAS Meeting 11.00am, Reception Meeting Room, BUCHS.
Sun	05/03/23	
Wk 25A		The Dignity of Women John's House Week
Mon	06/03/23	
Tue	07/03/23	
Wed	08/03/23	Staff Wellbeing: 1.10pm—1.25pm (Prayer & Meditation) in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Weds Wk A..
Thur	09/03/23	GCSE Rock Climbing 12:00-4:30pm, Thriftwood, Yrs 10 & 11
Fri	10/03/23	British Science Week (10th-19th March).
Sat	11/03/23	



Parent/Student Calendar

Wk 26B		Spiritual Blindness
Mon	13/03/23	GCSE Rock Climbing 09:00-4:00pm, Thriftwood, Yrs 10 & 11
Tue	14/03/23	Pi Day (14 th) (Science).
Wed	15/03/23	Staff Wellbeing: 3.30pm—4.30pm (Meditation) in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Weds Wk B.
Thur	16/03/23	
Fri	17/03/23	
Wk 27A		Life After Death
Mon	20/03/23	Yr11 PE GCSE Moderation, visiting Examiner either (20th, 22nd or 24th) tbc.
Tue	21/03/23	
Wed	22/03/23	Yr11 PE GCSE Moderation, visiting Examiner either (20th, 22nd or 24th) tbc. Scholastic Book Fair in Library Staff Wellbeing: 1.10pm—1.25pm (Prayer & Meditation) in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Weds Wk A.
Thur	23/03/23	Scholastic Book Fair in Library Yr13 Parent Consultation Eve – Virtual, 4.30-7.00pm.
Fri	24/03/23	Yr11 PE GCSE Moderation, visiting Examiner either (20th, 22nd or 24th) tbc. Scholastic Book Fair in Library
Wk 28B		Resurrection and the Life
Mon	27/03/23	
Tue	28/03/23	GCSE Component (1) Dance. CH. Scholastic Book Fair in Library
Wed	29/03/23	Scholastic Book Fair in Library Staff Wellbeing: 3.30pm—4.30pm (Meditation) in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Weds Wk B.
Thur	30/03/23	Yr11 Parent Consultation Eve – Virtual, 4.30-7.10pm.
Fri	31/03/23	End of Term Service “Holy Week” Service – 2 services 10.30am and 12.00pm. Last Day of Term (Early closure)
Sat	01/04/23	Saint of the Month: St Mark. Anselm.
Sun	02/04/23	
Mon	03/04/23	Easter Holidays.
SUM-MER TERM		
Wk 29A		Believing Without Seeing
Mon	17/04/23	Clare’s House Week Students Return. Vaccines Year 9: Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio and Meningitis ACWY
Tue	18/04/23	
Wed	19/04/23	GCSE Art & Textiles Exam (19 th & 20 th). Staff Wellbeing: 1.10pm—1.25pm (Prayer & Meditation) in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, Weds Wk A.
Thur	20/04/23	GCSE Art & Textiles Exam (19 th & 20 th).
Fri	21/04/23	Foundation Day Mass at the Cathedral (Mass at the Cathedral & School 10.45-11.45am). (Two year groups will have in-school Mass)
Sat	22/04/23	Training for DofE Bronze Award, Danbury Year 10



Term Dates For 2022-23

Spring Term (2023)	
Wed 4th 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 8th May 2023	Bank Holiday to mark Coronation of Charles III
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.	

*These are the four commuted Teaching Training days:

Monday 17th July, Tuesday 18th July, Wednesday 19th July, Thursday 20th July 2023.

Term Dates For 2023-24

Autumn Term (2023)	
Weds 6 th September 2023	Phased return of Yrs 7 and 12.
Thurs 7 th September 2023	All students return.
Mon 23 Oct – Fri 27 Oct 2023	Autumn Half Term.
Mon 30 th October 2023	Students return.
Thurs 21 st December 2023	Last Day of Term. (Early closure).
Spring Term (2024)	
Mon 8 th January 2024	Students return.
Mon 19 – Fri 23 Feb 2024	Spring Half Term.
Mon 26 th February 2024	Students return.
Thurs 28 th March 2024 (Maundy Thursday)	Last Day of Term. (Early closure) (Students break up for Easter Hols).
Summer Term (2024)	
Mon 15 th April 2024	Students return
Mon 6 th May 2024	May Bank Holiday Monday.
Mon 27 May - Fri 31 May 2024	Summer Half Term.
Mon 3 rd June 2024	Students return
Fri 19 th July 2024	Last Day of Term for students (Early closure).
Staff Training Days (Non Pupil Days)	
Monday 4 th September 2023, Tuesday 5 th September 2023, *Friday 22 nd December 2023, *Monday 22 nd July 2024, *Tuesday 23 rd July 2024	

*22nd Dec 2023, 22nd & 23rd July 2024 commuted for teaching staff to twilight training sessions.