



Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing this introduction after our amazing Sports Day. We only had one, sharp shower with the rest of the morning dry and sunny. Records were broken and there was a wonderful spirit of participation and mutual support among the students.

The Sponsored Walk was also a very enjoyable morning for us all and we will aim to keep the event at this time of year, when the conditions underfoot are generally more reliable. Well done to the PE department and all those involved in organising both events.

It has been a busy end to a very busy year. I know that my colleagues and the students will enjoy a well-earned rest. We say a fond farewell to a number of colleagues who are moving on and we look forward to welcoming new faces in September.

Meanwhile, I wish you a happy holiday and thank you all for your cooperation and support this year.

Dr Richard Wilkin MA, EdD, Headteacher

This summer we say farewell to the following colleagues:

Miss Ashford, Mr Bakshi, Mrs Burton, Ms Carrol, Mr Cotier, Ms Doe, Mrs Harrington, Mr Humphrey, Ms Kennedy, Mr Kitchen, Miss Ritchie, Mrs Smith, Mrs Townsend and Mrs Wilkinson-Ross.



Brentwood Ursuline
Convent High School *Founded 1900*

YEAR 7 OPEN EVENING

Thursday 28th September 2023

6.30 – 9.00pm

Headteacher's talks at 6.30pm and 7.30pm

OPEN MORNINGS

Thursday 5th and Friday 6th October 2023

9.30am – 11.30am

By appointment only

Please note there is no onsite parking for these events

**Queen's Road
Brentwood
Essex
CM14 4EX**

**01277 227156
admin@buchs.co.uk
www.brentwoodursuline.co.uk**



'The quality of education is outstanding, including in the Sixth Form'

Ofsted 2023



**PASTORAL SUPPORT
ASSISTANT
WITH SIXTH FORM FOCUS
INITIALLY
REQUIRED FOR
SEPTEMBER 2023**

Part-time: Term time plus one
week
over exam results period

35 hours per week over 5 days
8.15 am – 3.45 pm
A 2.45pm finish time could be
considered

Actual Salary £18,678 pa

**In the first instance email C.V. to
mfreeman@buchs.co.uk**

Final closing date 25th July 2023.

BUCHS is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of its students and expects all its employees to share this commitment. The successful candidate will be subject to an enhanced DBS check.



Sixth Form Open Evening

Thursday 9th November 2023

6.30 – 8.30pm

Headteacher's talk at 6.30pm

Please note there is no onsite parking for this event



'The quality of education is outstanding, including in the Sixth Form'
Ofsted 2023

Our day explored the Ursuline Values by examining the life of Christ and his impact on those closest around him. One of our favourite parts was meeting some of the animals in the plays, especially the donkeys, and learning about their importance to Jesus' story. In the afternoon, all the schools came together to celebrate being Ursuline through art. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves and learnt a lot about Jesus and the Ursuline Values.



Year 7 Trip to Wintershall

On Thursday 8th June, a group of students from Year 7 joined others from five Ursuline schools at Wintershall in Surrey. Each year, Wintershall puts on plays of the Nativity, Passion and life of Jesus, as well as running retreat days for schools.





2023 Biology Challenge Results

In May 2023, Year 10 students took part in the British Biology Challenge; a national competition assessing the student's knowledge of GCSE Biology and the wider application of Biology in the real world. The results are below:

GOLD:

- Florence Hubberstey
- Olga Voytovych
- Chloe Webb-Weller

These students were in the top 5% nationally!

SILVER

- Cherys Bartlett Avant
- Riona D'Souza
- Grace Robertson

These students were in the top 10% nationally!

BRONZE:

- Mya Lubin
- Natalie Williams
- Grace Akintode
- Tessa Jacob
- Beatrice Stuopyte
- Brielle Henry Ezimoha
- Aimee Hedley-Barnes
- Lara Jane Gorman
- Grace Wridgway
- Charis Ayodele
- Shauna Mengou
- Deborah Anthony
- Nella Jukonis
- Tillie Fitzgerald
- Ozioma Herbert

These students were in the top 15% nationally!

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

- Elaine da Silva
- Katrina Hamber
- Becca Evans
- Yvonne Nabirye
- Lauren Dowsett
- Mary Hogarth
- Sophia Aimienwanu
- Jazmin Frilles
- Akosua Sarfo
- Naomi Gobekile
- Alex Datu
- Fiona Lee
- Blessing Nwaehi
- Beatrice Bazley
- Nancy Clarke
- Zara Onyegbula
- Clarisse Mathiu
- Grace McPake
- Madison Smith
- Elexis Bartlett-Avant
- Zoe Twitchett
- Ijeoma Kiyem
- Erin Oye
- Shekinah Adeyemo
- Emma Chapman
- Angel Nduka
- Riya Jacob
- Roxane Lynch
- Neve John-Lewis

A fantastic set of results, well done to all students
gaining national recognition!

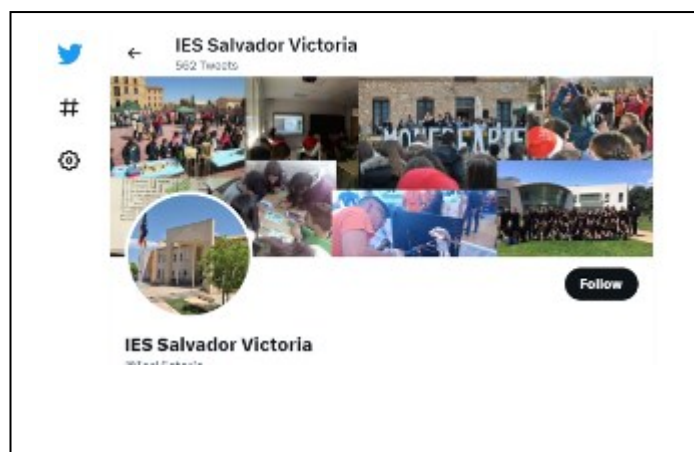
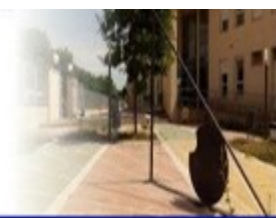
BUCHS Biology Department



Spanish

Pen Pals

IES SALVADOR VICTORIA



Mrs Gavira has established a Pen Pal Project with the IES Salvador Victoria, in Monreal del Campo, a small village in Teruel, Spain. The school is a comprehensive secondary school offering both standard secondary education and BTEC style modules. Monreal del Campo is a good example of a lesser populated and visited part of Spain, definitely worth a visit away from the hustle and bustle of the tourist areas.

BUCHS students from Years 7, 8 and 10 wrote to their Spanish pen pal and we have already received our first letters from them too.

We are looking forward to continuing with the project next year and the Spanish teacher, la Señora Peribañez has already confirmed so.

On the next pages are examples of some of the letters received by our new Spanish friends.



Spanish continued



My name is [redacted] I'm 13 years old I live in Montreal

My birthday is the 22nd of May

I have green eyes, I am 1,5 m tall I have bangs and brown hair

I am very talkative, I am extrovert and pessimist.

My favourite color is green.

I play the clarinet, I dance Jota (is one typical dance in Aragón) and I play basketball.

My favourite subject is FyQ

I usually spend my freetime with my family or with my friends buying candies or hanging out.

I have one brother his name is [redacted] he is 10 years old

I wish I can pass to 3rd year.

Elena



I decided to take part in the Spanish pen pal activity because I thought it would be interesting to learn about a person from a different country. When I got my pen pal's letter, I was excited as I found out a lot about the girl. Recently, I sent a letter to her about my holiday! I hope she enjoys reading it.

Ava, 8A



Spanish continued

Date: 23rd of April 2023

Location: A small village in Spain.

Dear British friend,

My name is [redacted], is a name in arabic which means "the light that guides", but you can call me Noor. I'm 14, I was born the 24th of February in 2009 in a city of Spain called Terver. And I live in a village in the province of Teruel.

My skin colour is brown (not too much) and my hair is really curly and dark, I have dark brown eyes. I'm an active person, I love helping people, I'm a little bit extrovert and social and I also love spending time with my friends. And an important thing, I'm a Muslim girl.

Some of my hobbies are: drawing, reading, doing craft and crochet, playing the ukulele and basketball. My favourite colour is green and my favourite songs are: Pompeii, Atlantis, One day and Taunt (by Lovejoy) and This side of paradise, I have more but I'm going to run out of paper. My favourite band is Lovejoy.

My actual goals are improving my English, also my other languages (Spanish and Arabic), improve my marks (they are really good actually but they can get better) and be a neurosurgeon or a cardiologist, that are of my dream in this life.

Some of my dreams also is being an author and public a book, or being a famous poet, traveling, meeting new people...

And how about you? What are your goals, dreams and the reason why you keep going? I hope the teachers assign me your letter.

A big hug

- I am looking forward to hearing from you

- Your friend,

[redacted]



Spanish continued

BRITISH FRIEND

-Dear English friend,

My name is Carmen, I'm a 13 year-old girl who lives in a little village in the province of Tervel, Spain. I have brown eyes and hair, I'm medium sized and I wear both, brackets and glasses. According to people around me I'm very stubborn and perfectionist, but personally, I think I'm very nice and honest too. My favourite color is yellow and my favourite sport is basketball which takes us to the next point, my hobbies. I play the flute, I dance jota (traditional dance from here) with my friends and I go to basketball classes. Apart from those, I have other hobbies such as travelling or watching movies / TV shows. I normally spend my free time sleeping, meeting my friends or chilling seeing TV shows.

I do well in school but I don't really have a favourite subject, even though I love English and everything related to it. My family is pretty big but I don't have any siblings. They are the most important thing in my life and I love them so much.

Now you know a little more about me and I'm looking forward on to knowing you too.

[Redacted signature]



Fatima Whitbread, MBE, visits BUCHS

On Monday, 5th June, a selection of students from our excellent athletics team were fortunate enough to receive javelin coaching from our local Olympic heroine Fatima Whitbread, MBE. This was a fantastic opportunity for our talented young athletes; not many students of secondary school age can say they have been coached by a world record holding Olympic champion!

The students spent an afternoon being expertly coached by Fatima, alongside Mr Boshier and Mrs Hammond. Students were delighted and spoke highly of the experience. Fatima brought in her Olympic medals, her MBE and even the famous cockroach that got stuck up her nose in 'I'm a Celebrity ...' in 2011!

Fatima spoke candidly to the students about her tough beginnings, how she spent the first 14 years of her life in the care system. She explained how sport was her escape from the difficult environment she lived in and her drive, motivation and dedication to become a successful athlete led to her meeting her adoptive mum and gaining a family, becoming World Javelin Champion in 1987, being voted Sportswoman of the Year and receiving an MBE for service to athletics.

Fatima is a fine example to our young students. She has faced many challenges from a young age but has shown true resilience and never gave up when life got hard and challenges were thrown her way. This is reflective of the meta skills, especially resilience and independence, we ask our students to model during their time at BUCHS.

In addition to her success on the athletics field, Fatima has spent the latter part of her life as an ambassador for Action for Children, a charity that works to protect and support vulnerable children and young people by providing practical and emotional care and support. She passionately campaigns to make sure children get the best start in life by doing amazing challenges to support the charity which helps the foster, adoptive and modern residential services find children safe and loving homes. Having spent her childhood in children's homes, Fatima is a firm believer in the fact that "there is no better gift that you can give to a child or teen than a loving family and a stable home. Every child has the right to a safe and happy childhood."

Fatima recently completed the London Marathon in aid of Action for Children and the even bigger challenge of walking 100 miles in 24 hours around the South Downs to continue her fantastic fundraising work for this wonderful charity.

If you wish to support Fatima and make a donation, however small, paste this link into your web browser.

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/fatimawhitbread?utm_source=whatsapp&utm_medium=fundraising&utm_content=fatimawhitbread&utm_campaign=pfp-whatsapp&utm_term=4ca5eefe661b491a974ea0c2a7aea41e



We send our thanks to Fatima for the time that she gave to our students here at BUCHS and hope to see her again in the near future.



Proud to be Ursuline



Fatima Whitbread MBE visit continued



EXCELLENCE





Fatima Whitbread MBE visit continued



Expert Teaching



No barriers to
ACHIEVEMENT



Students who took part in the session were:
Shekinah, Abigail, Mae, Katie, Mara, Olivia, Keona, Nile, Elizabeth, Elexis, Aisling, Jo and Lily.



Year 10 Reward Day

'On Monday 10th July, many Year 10 students who had a high attendance and a low amount of behaviour points had an afternoon out at Adventure Island in Southend as a reward trip . The Year 10s had a fantastic time going on all the rides, playing arcade games and spending lots of quality time together.' Chanelle, 10A.





History

The Holocaust Memorial Project—Year 8

As part of our study of the Holocaust In Year 8 during the Summer term, students are set a homework project to design a memorial to the victims with materials and guidance provided by the Holocaust Memorial Trust.

The outstanding examples pictured were made by Emma, Kimberly, Jess and Ava in 8A and Maria, Navya, Cassy, Diana, Makarria and Cara in 8T.

Maria's painting commemorates the Polish Jewish educator Janusz Korczak who refused a place of sanctuary to accompany the 192 children from his orphanage to Treblinka Concentration Camp where they were all probably murdered.

From Wladyslaw Szpilman's book, "The Pianist"-

'He told the orphans they were going out into the country, so they ought to be cheerful. At last they would be able to exchange the horrible suffocating city walls for meadows of flowers, streams where they could bathe, woods full of berries and mushrooms. He told them to wear their best clothes, and so they came out into the yard, two by two, nicely dressed and in a happy mood. The little column was led by an SS man.'





Textiles
supplies
needed

WE NEED YOUR HELP

*DO YOU HAVE ANY UNWANTED TEXTILES AT HOME?
ARE YOU RE-DECORATING?
CLEARING OUT OLD ITEMS OF CLOTHING?*

**Any of the following would be helpful to
Textiles Students in their work:**

- OLD PILLOW CASES
- TABLE CLOTHS
- FABRIC (PLAIN OR PATTERNED)
- OLD CURTAINS (FABRIC, NET, LACE ETC.)
- OLD CLOTHES (WASHED) E.G. CHECKED SHIRTS,
JEANS, PATTERNED FABRIC SKIRTS, BLOUSES, TOPS ETC.

ALL DONATIONS VERY GRATEFULLY RECEIVED.
Thank you in advance for your support.

Any donations should be handed to Mrs Strachan



Art

Incredible Ink!

Our Year 12 Art students have created high quality large scale studies in ink and mixed media on their themes for their coursework unit. Each student produced a series of expressive works using a range of drawing media and tools—from toothpicks, pieces of cardboard and bubble wrap, to feathers and twigs! Students combined their studies with their choice of other media including brush, watercolour, coloured sprays and collage. They used these pieces as a springboard for their paintings in response to contextual stimuli. Well done Year 12 and we look forward to seeing more exciting work in September!



Independence



Communication



Concentration





Art Continued



Creativity

'Drawing is like making an expressive gesture with the advantage of permanence.'

Henri Matisse



Independence



*R
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Co-operation

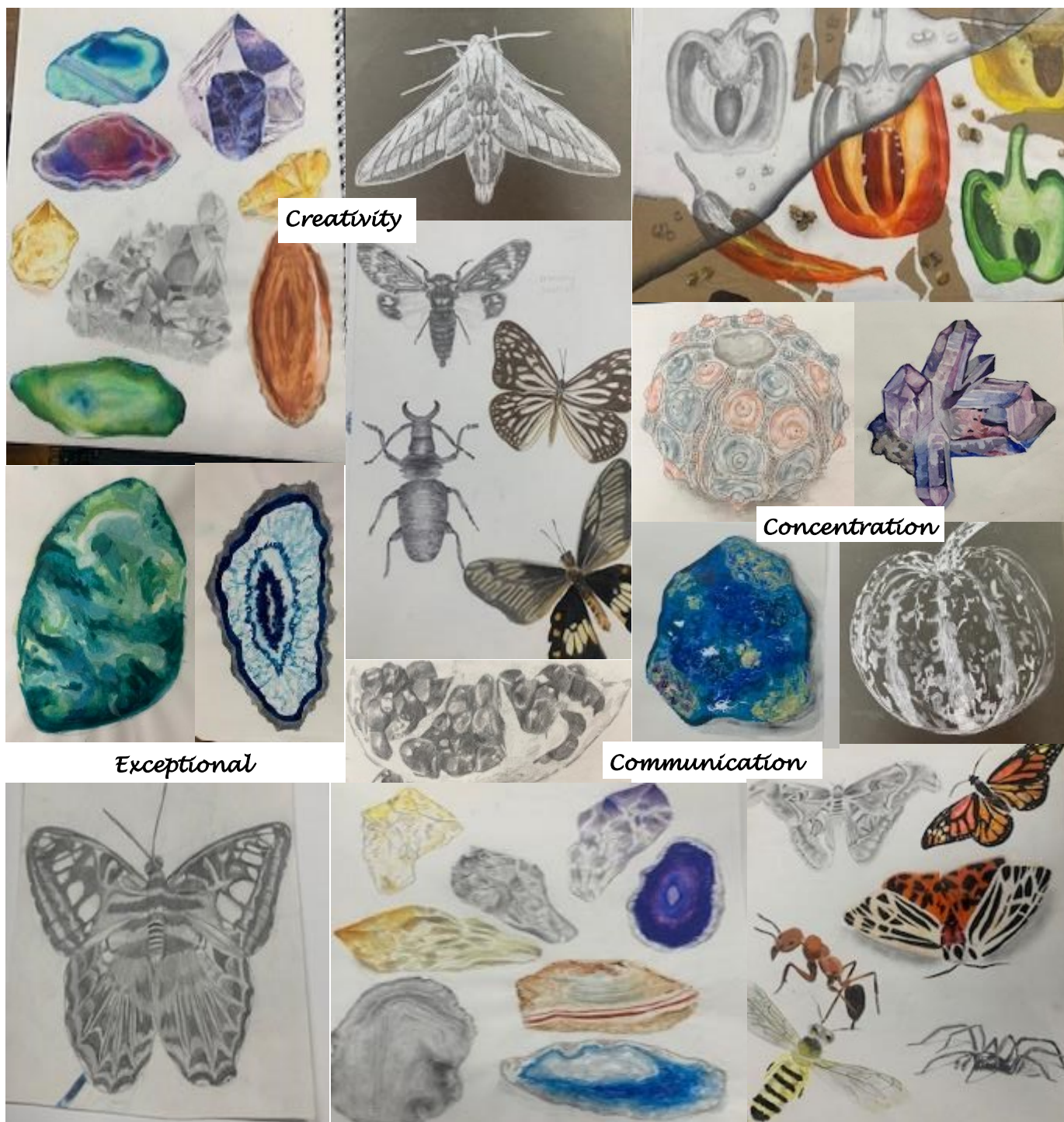




Art Continued

Year 9 GCSE Coursework Project

Year 9 Art students have made a fabulous start to their first coursework project. Students are given the opportunity to choose from 'Natural Form,' in which they can focus on anything from the natural world, including fruit and vegetables, rocks, minerals and gemstones, thistle and teasel, feathers, shells etc. Alternatively, they can select 'Insects': butterflies, beetles, spiders, cicadas. We have been impressed with our talented students who have thrown themselves into producing high-quality studies from primary and secondary source material in relation to their chosen themes.





Eco Club

"In Eco Club this year, we have been extremely busy. Our biggest project was the greenhouse. We have managed to get it cleaned up for our food that we have been growing.

We've planted tomatoes, strawberries, lettuce, cucumbers, wild flowers and more. They all started from little seeds and have grown so much.

At the start of the year, we spent some time brainstorming ideas to make the school more eco-friendly. We thought of bird houses, raising money for solar panels and ways to save water.

One of my other favourite things was to make apple juice. It was really fun and the apples got some use!

We also made sure to include recycling boxes in each classroom.

I like how much teamwork there is at Eco Club; bringing everyone closer.

Next year, I would like us to continue working on the greenhouse but also raising some money to make the school more sustainable/eco-friendly.

I think it would be a fun challenge to clean the lake as there is a lot of plastic in there.

I have no doubt that what we do next year will be beneficial. I'm really excited to see what is to come."

Alishya, 7T

"In Eco Club this year, we have progressed so much! The first time I ever went, I found it so fun and I learned a lot about plants.

We started growing tomatoes and pepper seeds, then they grew into little seedlings. We kept them in our form room and Alishya and I took care of them; watering them every day and putting little straws in the pot to help them stand up.

Once they were big enough, we sold them to the different staff members who have greenhouses or moved them to our greenhouse.

We planted lettuce, cucumber and courgettes. They are growing nicely, and we hope in Year 8 we will be able to grow more things, make apple juice from the orchard and honey from BUCHS' bees!

Eco Club has been amazing this year and I will be back next year too!"

Erin, 7T





Library News

The library was excited to welcome author A. Connors back to see 7T, A and J on Wednesday 28th June. Having presented a lively, informative and interactive talk back in March to the other three houses, we were keen for the rest of the year group to hear him talk about his novel 'The Girl Who Broke the Sea.' Adam explained how he became an author *and* physicist, the inspiration for the book, and how he balances his passion for writing with a career at Google!



Students who purchased a copy of the book met Adam at the end and had their books signed. We would like to thank Natasha Radford from the local bookshop, 'The Chicken and Frog,' for allowing us to book this event. The students really enjoyed the fascinating talk about what we do and don't know about the darkest depths of our oceans!



Chicken and Frog Bookshop

Brentwood's very own independent bookshop and tuition centre!





Library News Continued



Free Access to Online Books This Summer

BUCHS has signed up to 'myON' so that our younger students can access free digital books (with audio) and articles over the summer.

To login, students should paste this link into their web browser: <https://www.myon.co.uk/>

School Name: Summer Reads

Username: BUCH

Password: BRNU123!

RENAISSANCE
myON





Library News Continued

The Great BUCHS Book Swap



On Tuesday 27th June, the library hosted the first 'Great BUCHS Book Swap' for Years 7, 8 and 9.

Students were invited to donate suitable books from home in return for a ticket. The more books they donated, the more tickets they received.

At the event, they were then able to swap a ticket for a donated book of their choice. We received some wonderful titles and the students enjoyed browsing and choosing.

Thank you Evie, Estella, Kotryna and Elizabeth in Year 12 who helped run the event.

Well done to all the students who took part. Not only have they picked up some new reads for the summer holidays, but we applaud their eco-friendly approach by reusing and recycling.



Reminder to all Leavers in Years 11 and 13

Please ensure you return all books belonging to the school at exam results day, or to reception when the school reopens in September.

Students who do not return their books will receive an invoice and be expected to pay for a replacement.

We wish all Year 11 and 13 students every success with their exam results.



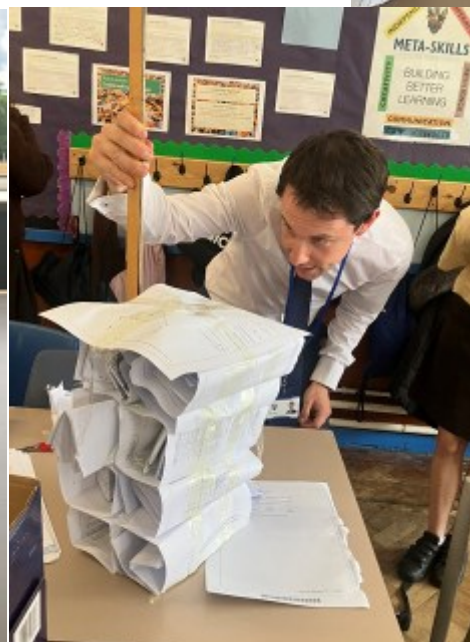
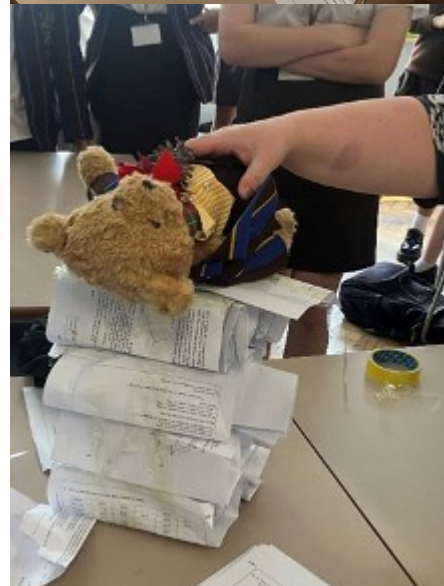
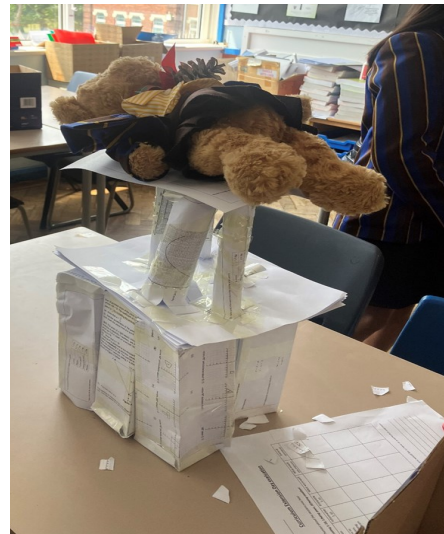
Inter-house Engineering Competition

This term, teams of 4 Year 8 students represented their houses in our first inter-house engineering competition. With time to experiment and develop creativity, cooperation and resilience, while also having a lot of fun, our students got to try things out for the first time in a competitive environment. Frances from 8A explains:

For Inter-house Engineering, the task was to make the tallest tower that we could - but the catch was, we could only use paper and Cellotape! After a lot of planning with the other people in my team, we decided to create a structure that would give us height and stability. We made our structures over two days and a total time period of 40 minutes, and it was fun to see other houses' structures coming along. In the end, we didn't win, but I'm sure I could speak for my house in saying that we had fun making it together, and putting our minds to the test.

All the teams who entered managed to build impressive towers, strong enough to hold our own BUCHS Bear without crumbling. After some perilous moments, and a little loss of dignity for the bear, the winners were 8T with a tower 53cm tall.

Well done everyone who took part!





Curriculum Extension Day

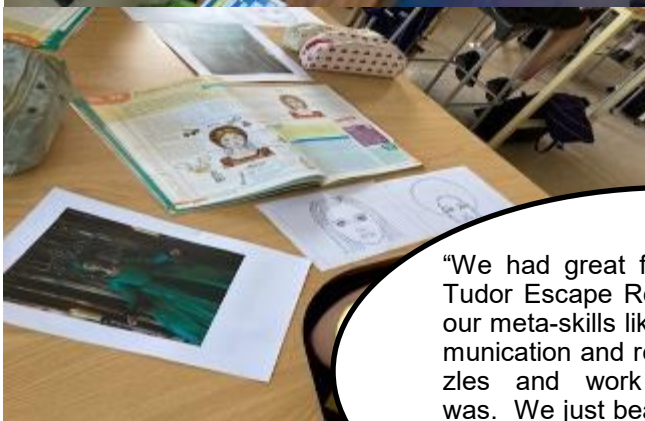
Our students came off timetable on Wednesday 21st June for the third CED of the academic year. Each year group took part in a range of activities throughout the day, each with a different theme to expand their understanding and experience beyond their curriculum subjects.

Year 7 enjoyed a Tudor Day arranged by the History Department. This included lessons in Tudor fashion, food, make up, dance, heraldry, music, a Tudor-themed escape room, and a fantastic demonstration from the Imperial Bird of Prey Academy in Billericay. Some photos of these events are below and on the next page.





Curriculum Extension Day Continued



"We had great fun taking part in the Tudor Escape Room. We had to use our meta-skills like concentration, communication and resilience to solve puzzles and work out who the spy was. We just beat the Purple Team by cracking the final code together."
Aseda and Caitlin, 7T





Curriculum Extension Day Continued



Vegetable Pottage



Ingredients

- 1 medium onion
- 2 leeks
- 1 or 2 parsnips
- Spinach
- Herbs from the garden (e.g. parsley, rosemary and thyme)
- Butter
- Stock cube
- Pinch of salt (for seasoning)
- Peppercorns (for seasoning)

Equipment

- Large cooking pot
- Sharp knife
- Chopping board
- Wooden spoons



Method

1. Wash your hands before you begin.
2. Peel the onion, before roughly slicing and chopping using the sharp knife.
3. Use the sharp knife to cut the top and bottom off the leeks and parsnips. Then, peel the outer skins and roughly chop.
4. Using the sharp knife, roughly chop the spinach.
5. Warm a pot on a low heat.
6. Add some butter (enough to soften the onions) to the pot and add the chopped onions.
7. Allow the onions to soften for a few minutes, before adding the chopped leeks and parsnips to the pot.
8. Make a stock using the stock cube and hot water, as suggested on the directions.
9. Allow the vegetables to soften for a few minutes, before adding the stock.
10. Add the spinach to the pot.
11. Keep the pan on a low heat until the vegetables are cooked through.
12. Add a selection of garden herbs to the pot.
13. Leave the pan on a low heat for a few more minutes.
14. Add the seasoning (salt and peppercorns).
15. Remove the pot from the hob and allow to cool slightly before serving.



Most people in the Tudor era lived on a diet of bread, butter, cheese and eggs. In addition, they would often eat 'pottage' which is a vegetable broth thickened with oats. Year 7 can be seen on this page making their own version!





Curriculum Extension Day Continued

Year 8 focussed on personal safety, first aid—both at home and in the community and preparation for their GCSEs.

Year 9 took part in a variety of team tasks and challenges and listened to a guest speaker.

Year 10 focussed on team building, apprenticeships, careers and workplace expectations.

Further up the school, Year 12 took part in a fascinating session with CAFOD whereby they were invited to a guided role play as refugees fleeing their country called 'Share the Journey.' Below are photos of some of the teams learning about the experiences of refugees today. They also worked in groups on shelter building.



Year 12 receiving their refugee game briefing from the CAFOD team



Teams of 'families' rushing to get on to the limited supply of transports ready to flee their home countries.

'I found this Curriculum Extension Day incredibly insightful with regard to refugees in terms of how much they have to endure just to stay alive. And they have to do so without having basic necessities that we take for granted every day. It allowed me to empathise more with these people as we put ourselves in their shoes. We re-enacted the journey in the life of a refugee. At the start of the day, I feel as though many of us were unaware of just how much refugees were made to sacrifice. By the end of the day, our ignorance was eliminated.'

Tyra, 12.4

'This event was extremely informative and really had me reflecting on the difficulty and challenges that come with being a refugee; from the language barriers to medical services. There's so much to consider. Being a refugee is existing without living.'

Liz, 12.2



Emotional distress / anxiety



Low mood



Social isolation

Has a young person you know
experienced?



Parental conflict



Challenging behaviours

How the Family Innovation Fund (FIF) can help

FIF offers a short term 'Solution Focused' support service for young people and their families. It focuses on "life without the problem" rather than analysing the problem itself. To allow for the benefit of peer learning and support this service is often delivered in groups.

FIF is county wide with priority given to young people in Basildon; Canvey Island; Harlow; Harwich; Tendring; Colchester; and Braintree. Professionals can contact us, or a family/young person can self-refer.

kidsinspire.org.uk/contact-us



Registered Charity 1129513. Company limited by guarantee. Registered in England, no. 06380082

Gymnastics Success

Hi! My name is Chloe and I am in 8A. I have been performing Artistic Gymnastics at the same club (Harlequins) since I was 4 years old. From 17th-18th June, I went to an Artistic and Acrobatic Gymnastics Competition in Middlesbrough. There were a lot of really good teams taking part. My display team chose the theme of 'Wicked' and we had a lot of fun making up the routine and performing. We did the routine twice and on Sunday we had an award ceremony. My display team won an award for variety and technique which we are really proud of. It was a super-fun experience, plus it was my first time going away for a gymnastics competition.





Rock Painting Club

Over the year, we ran a Rock Painting Club held for all year groups. A quiet space for anyone wanting to come and relax over lunch and use their creative side to decorate rocks. Some took them with them each week, others left them.

Those left behind have now been sealed so they can be left outside in all weathers. Across the summer, they will be dropped in various places in Essex and America for others to find, keep or re-hide.

If you are over 13 years of age, you can follow rock painting groups online if you are interested. Facebook: Love on the rocks UK, Finna Rocks, Chelmsford Rocks and Rock Painting and Stone Art.

Have a lovely summer rock painters!

Mrs Wilkinson-Ross, Head of Year 10



Chaplaincy News

On Tuesday 27th June, a group of Year 10s travelled to The Ursuline Academy, Ilford, for their Ursuline Links day with 5 other Ursuline schools. The day was jam-packed with reflection, interesting talks, music from BBC's The Voice, and former Ursuline pupil Adenike. The day was themed around 'forgiveness;' not being forgiven, but forgiving others. The keynote speaker was Margaret Mizen MBE, whose son Thomas was killed in 2008. Margaret spoke of forgiving Thomas' killer very quickly after the incident, mainly due to her faith. Forgiving did not change anything for the killer, but it enabled her to find peace within the tragedy. The day had a profound impact on our students and they really enjoyed sharing the day with other Ursuline students.





Chaplaincy News Continued

Brentwood Catholic Youth Service are hosting two events in the Autumn term:

The Year 13 Retreat: Made for a Purpose will be held at Walsingham House at Abbotswick and will be a time to think, pray, chat and focus on what you want to do next. There are two retreats in September and you can find details for both of them here: [Events Archive - Brentwood Catholic Youth Service \(bcys.net\)](https://www.bcys.net/events/yg23/)



Youth Gather is an adrenaline fuelled retreat for students in Year 9 and above on Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd October. Over two days, you will have the opportunity to try climbing, archery, zip lining, listen to guest speakers, workshops and music. For more information, click on the link here: <https://bcys.net/events/yg23/>



BUCHS Bees



Bee Keeping has continued over this academic year and we have three thriving hives as we approach the summer holiday. We went into the winter with 2 colonies: the Marconi Maidens and the Baddow Babes. Sadly, the latter didn't make it, probably due to the cold spell. During the winter, the club assembled another hive and built a stand.





BUCHS Bees Continued



We split the colony into the new hive to reduce the risk of swarming and fed them.



Spring saw the Marconi Maidens build up rapidly causing so much humidity inside the roof that it condensed and ran down the outside!





BUCHS Bees Continued

But they still swarmed!



We collected them and put them in the vacant hive that had the Baddow Babes in.

Letter from the Essex Wellbeing Service

We are writing to update you about an important national issue regarding drug taking amongst young people in particular. This letter is a joint letter from all the local Secondary Headteachers as this issue is a societal problem that is happening on a daily basis in our communities and enters our schools as a result. It is therefore not restricted to individual schools and not just a school problem.

Whilst all our schools have long-standing rules and guidance regarding drug taking which follow DfE guidelines, the purpose of this letter is to make you aware of matters and to share information in order to do the best we can to keep children safe from drugs.

'Vaping' and the rise of E Vapes has become a significant public health issue, and we have all been working together with Essex County Council, the Police and other agencies who all remain increasingly concerned about the rise of 'vaping' amongst young people across the county and in all schools.

This is particularly the case regarding the use of the following:

- Vape pens
- Liquids and oils
- THC

Some of these are currently legal and some of which are illegal, and the difficulty is being able to observe and know the difference between the two. Synthetic illegal substances can often be odourless and very difficult to detect due to the nature of chemicals used.

They can also appear to be quite innocently named. It seems to continue to be a fad or fashion for young people to experiment with vaping, particularly at parties and whilst in park areas with their friends.

One of the problems with vaping is pupils sharing a 'vape' often have no idea actually what they are inhaling, which is potentially very dangerous in itself. To vape from someone's pen is extremely dangerous – one simply does not know the safety of what is being vaped, and it is therefore extremely risky. The risks are heightened as some of these substances can cause extreme behaviours and reactions, and the national press covers sad stories on a regular basis of young people either dying or being seriously affected by such drugs misuse.

It may be helpful for parents to know that we are told vape pens, liquids, oils and other such paraphernalia can be legally purchased online and can also be purchased via Amazon, Ebay and other accounts. We encourage you to monitor your child's online purchases closely as these accounts are often set as 'private' and can be hidden. If you see a change in your child's behaviour, sleep or eating patterns we would advise you to speak to your child about your concerns and to search their room for any vape pens, liquids, oils and other such paraphernalia.

We all recognise the importance of educating our pupils when dealing with drugs related issues and constantly adapt and review our curriculum and assembly plan and work with external agencies to keep abreast of changes and issues. If you are concerned about your child:

Talk to Frank is an educational site for young people and their families with lots of help and advice on all topics related to illegal substances. Their website is user-friendly with advice and education to help and support. Telephone 0300 123 66 00 or visit their website: www.talktofrank.com.

Drugwise offers information on drugs, alcohol and tobacco and have an A-Z of drugs explaining what they are and how they are used: [DrugWise](http://www.drugwise.org)

The Mix provides information and support for the under 25s covering a range of topics. You can use their helpline or webchat from 11am-11pm daily. Telephone: 0808 808 4994 or go to www.themix.org.uk.

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/call-alert-young-people-dangers-spice>
<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/call-alert-young-people-dangers-spice>

Safe in Essex | The Children's Society
(childrenssociety.org.uk) – EYPDAS-choic-
es.referrals@childrenssociety.org.uk



Brentwood Ursuline
Convent High School *Founded 1900*

Newsletter
Summer 2 2023

Love Essex • Love Wildlife

Wild Drop-off days

EXPLORE
LEARN ABOUT WILDLIFE
NATURE BASED ACTIVITIES
MAKE NEW FRIENDS
BUILD CONFIDENCE
PLUS MORE!

School holiday drop-off days

We are offering drop-off days **for children aged 5 and over** to **explore our fabulous outdoor locations for wildlife!** Our programmes help to build confidence, enhance self-esteem and develop social skills. Each group is led by an experienced Wilder Learning Officer.

Book your sessions or find out more:
www.essexwt.org.uk/drop-off-days



Essex
Wildlife Trust

Registered Charity Number 230951



Brentwood Ursuline
Convent High School *Founded 1900*

Newsletter
Summer 2 2023

Love **Essex** • Love **Wildlife**



Make summer Wild

**NATURE TOTS
DROP OFF DAYS
FOREST FUN
SUMMER EVENTS
PLUS LOTS MORE!**

School holiday activities

Let your children **connect with nature** in the great outdoors this summer holiday! With fun Forest School days, weekly Nature Tots group, creative activities to help wildlife, trails to explore and amazing family events and activities, this will be the **best summer holiday yet!**

Book a place or find out more:
www.essexwt.org.uk/school-holiday



Essex
Wildlife Trust

Registered Charity Number 231015. Photo: Matthew Roberts.



Term Dates For 2023-24

| | |
|---|--|
| Autumn Term (2023) | |
| Weds 6 th September 2023 | Phased return of Yrs 7 and 12. Early Closure 1.10pm |
| 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.