



Dear Parents/Carers,

This has been a very busy term for our older students, with UCAS applications, 'early entry' tests and interviews for medicine, Oxbridge and other competitive courses. There have been assessments for Year 13 in September and autumn exams for Years 11 and 13 in December: spare a thought not only for the students but also for the teachers who have to mark this quantity of material! It's all part of acclimatising our students to the demands of public exams, as well as giving them accurate data on which to base their future plans and work schedules.

All this preparation pays off. In the summer of 2023, our GCSE value-added score was the highest of all state schools in Essex, including the grammar schools. This achievement puts us in the top 1% of schools in the country for the difference we make to each student from Year 7 to Year 11. Even in absolute terms (i.e. raw results with no allowance for the starting point of each student), the Times Parent Power Survey puts us third among non-selective state schools in the Eastern Region of England. 'Teach to the top, then support' will continue to be our mantra, as it has been for the last 12 years.

In amongst all this focused hard work, there have been numerous opportunities for enrichment. The Lille trip for French was a highlight, as was the Kairos retreat for our Sixth Formers; the Dance Show traditionally rounds off the autumn term and our sports teams have had a full calendar of fixtures. History students have been to the 'Secret' Nuclear Bunker as part of their GCSE studies and geographers have enjoyed both interviewing shoppers in Chelmsford and wading into cold water in Epping Forest. I hope you enjoy reading about the many activities that your children have been engaged in this term and that you have a happy and restful Christmas break.

Dr Richard Wilkin MA, EdD, Headteacher

### **Message from Brentwood Town Hall - Parking restrictions**

Please be aware that from 27<sup>th</sup> December, Monday to Fridays, the Town Hall Car Park will be for Council staff only. Students will need to park in either William Hunter Way or Coptfold Road Car Parks.

The car park is also not to be used for drop offs and pick ups.

### **VACANCY**

#### **PAYROLL AND PENSIONS MANAGER REQUIRED for January 2024**

Part-time : Term Time + 10 additional days  
25 hours per week over 5 days  
9.30 – 2.30 pm

(Note: There is some flexibility on hours per day)

**Actual Salary £20,646 pa**

In the first instance email C.V. to:  
[mfreeman@buchs.co.uk](mailto:mfreeman@buchs.co.uk)

Applications will be considered as and when received with final closing date 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

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.

### **Month of Remembrance**



The senior student team representing BUCHS on 10th November



## Month of Remembrance Continued

Senior students represented BUCHS at the Remembrance Service at the Brentwood War Memorial on 10th November.

These students were in school helping with the Sixth Form Open Evening the previous evening and, despite preparing for their upcoming exams, they still took time out to take part in this important ceremony to prove that we are all 'united in harmony'.

Mr Giles, Director of Sixth Form



During the month of November, we all remembered those who lost their lives in conflict and war. On Friday 10th November there was a two minute silence through the whole school as a mark of respect.

At a Year 7 assembly, Mrs Corless asked students to offer creative ideas based on the theme of 'remembrance'. From a flurry of submitted ideas, four are displayed in the following pages.



Remember  
Eleventh hour  
Minutes of silence  
Eleventh day  
Millions of soldiers  
Battlefields of poppies  
Eleventh month  
Respect for them

Isabella L, 7C

Remember those who lost their lives at war.  
Ensure we don't take freedom for granted.  
May love be in everyone's heart.  
Ever thankful for the people who fought.  
May harmony and peace fill this world.  
Bring love into our lives.  
Respecting each other.  
Acknowledge the courage and sacrifice of those who died.  
Never forget how people sacrificed their lives for us.  
Care for everybody.  
Every day we salute you.

Amelie, 7C





### Month of Remembrance Continued

**R**emember those who have died before us.  
**E**ducating ourselves about history.  
**M**aking a difference everyday.  
**E**ncouraging those around you  
**M**iracles for miracles do happen.  
**B**ravery of those fighting in wars.  
**R**especting others and what they've been through.  
**A**ppreciation for the world and those around you.  
**N**ice to everyone you meet  
**C**ourage for those who fought in war  
**E**mbreacing love everyday.

Tyra, 7T

**R**emember our soldiers who risked their lives,  
fighting for our country.  
**E**veryone who died in the wars so we can be free,  
**M**aking our world into glory and peace.  
**E**nlist the soldiers - courageous  
and strong.  
**M**others memories of their boys who died  
for us.  
**B**rothers who bled just for us.  
**R**espect the soldiers who fought for our country.  
**A**rmistice Day - wear poppies with pride.  
**N**ovember 11<sup>th</sup> and armed weapons fall  
silent,  
**C**elebrate the soldiers who survived.  
**E**njoy our freedom in happiness and peace.  
Pray for the soldiers who fought during the war  
to make sure we can unite together in peace.

Georgia 7C



HM Government



### Parental Consultation

I would like to draw your attention to this consultation, requested by the Secretary of State for Education, The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP, on 28<sup>th</sup> November. Please follow the link below to take part.

'I have launched a consultation on minimum service levels in the event of strike action, and I want to invite you to share your views on what this could look like for schools, colleges, and universities. I want to work with you to design a policy that will help us protect children and young people's education whilst balancing an individual's right to strike.'

Link to the consultation survey:

<https://consult.education.gov.uk/industrial-action/minimum-service-levels-mls-in-education/>

The consultation will be open for 9 weeks, between 28 November and 30 January 2024.

Dr Wilkin

### Inconsiderate parking in Eastfield Road

It has come to our attention that a few parents are parking very inconsiderately in Eastfield Road at the end of the day.

The management of the care home in Eastfield Road have rightly pointed out that they need to ensure emergency vehicle access at all times. I am sure that any parent can understand that, were their relative to need an ambulance, they would be dismayed to see the way blocked by cars parked thoughtlessly. Please put yourselves in the shoes of others and act accordingly. Everyone thinks they have a good reason to park badly 'just this once', whether it be on double yellow lines, blocking the pavement or on the zig zag markers, but, as we try to tell the students, we know the right thing to do and we should do it.

### Maths Independent Learning on Sparx

A number of students are currently going above and beyond with their efforts in Maths. They are not only completing their homework on Sparx but have also put in a considerable amount of extra effort, completing independent learning tasks on Sparx at home. The top three students in each year group with the highest Independent Learning 'XP' points are as follows:

Year 7: Isla, Olivia and Sharon

Year 8: Ava-Maria, Amelia and Amelie-Rose

Year 9: Frances, Yaa and Cara

Year 10: Temilope, Amy and Maria

Year 11: Deanna, Fiona and Alicia

All of these students will receive achievement points for their commendable work and effort and a chocolate prize.

**Well done everyone!**

**Sparx Maths**

### Careers Update

The Christmas and New Year break is often a time that people think about their future plans. With UCAS and Sixth Form deadlines approaching, it's a good chance to consider future options. Why not take a few minutes to do some further research to find out more?

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) and [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk) are good starting points. And, once you are back after the festive season, if you'd like to talk through your career ideas, do make an appointment via Mr Barber to see me.

Mr Yates, Careers Advisor

### KS4 STEM

The Key Stage 4 STEM Club are focussing on product design using a computer programme to create a strawberry tower. They are currently in the modelling stage and next term will move on to planning to construct and build their towers.

'I am really enjoying STEM Club. I enjoy the mathematical aspect as well as the engineering side in completing our main focus for this term which is a strawberry tower. It is nice to see the support we receive from our teachers and I look forward to the completion of the tower!'

Temilope, 10T





## Christmas Reflection



### Missing!

Three Wise Men have been spotted traversing the school corridors for the last couple of weeks searching for the one who will be born king of the Jews, as foretold by the prophets. At the time of writing, the Magi have been to Textiles, Spanish, French, History, Geography, Music, Business and RE.

Hopefully they will find the Messiah before the end of term!

Tradition has it that while the three wise men arrived from the east to visit the baby and his mother Mary, they each originated from one of the known continents; Europe, Asia and Africa. They bring gifts announcing the importance of Jesus: Gold, symbolising that Jesus would be a king, Frankincense, symbolising that Jesus will be a priest and teacher, and Myrrh, symbolising Jesus' important and transformative death.

Today, the wise men remind us that we all belong to Jesus, regardless of where we are from and the gifts we bring him. Jesus came to save everyone, all we need to do is come and meet him, to say 'yes' to him and welcome him into our lives. Jesus asks for nothing but ourselves. During this time of celebration and gift giving, let us remember that Jesus is the greatest gift of all.

Ms Gillespie, Lay Chaplain







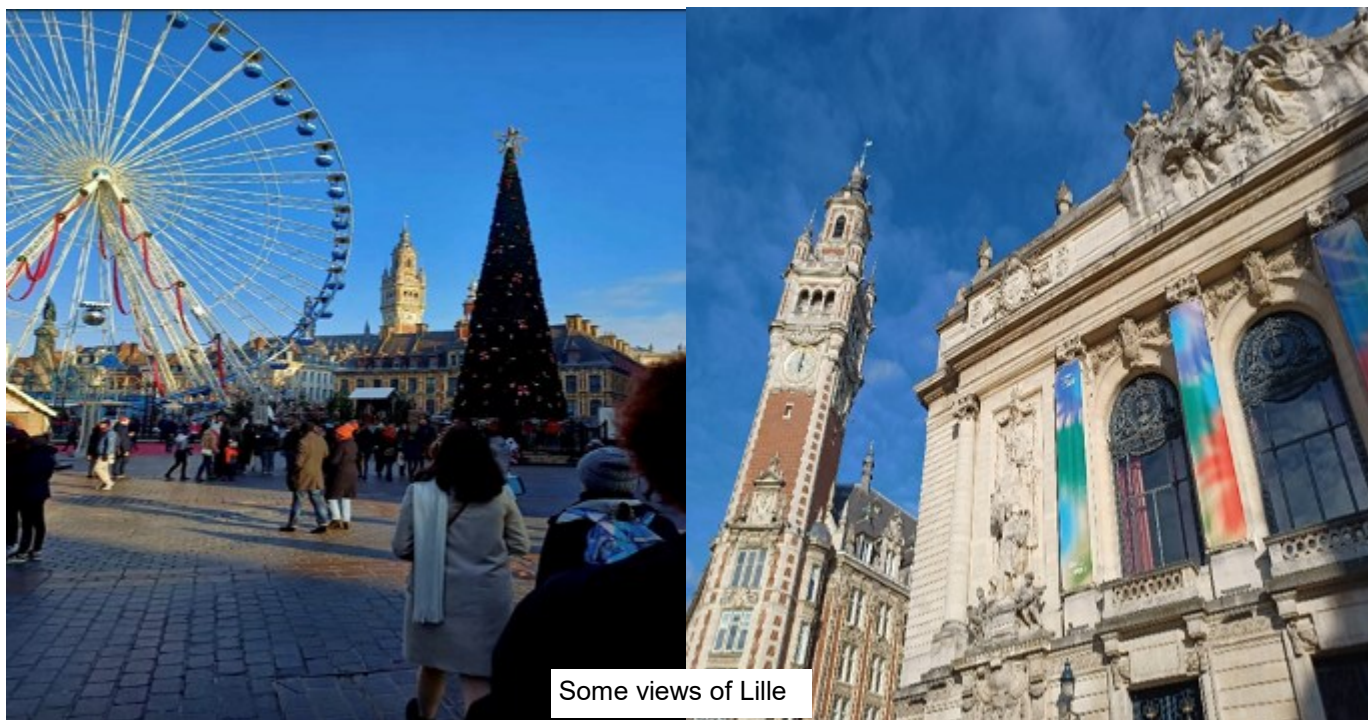
## Lille Trip

The MFL Department was delighted to offer a trip to the French Christmas market on the weekend of 1-3<sup>rd</sup> December. Forty four students in Years 10-12 participated and were a credit to themselves and the school. We left very early on Friday morning at 6am, travelling by coach and ferry to Calais before driving to Lille, stopping for a visit to a waffle factory en route!



Outside the waffle factory

During the day on Saturday, we were able to visit the old town (vieux Lille) and learn more about its history. We then went to the Christmas market to sample some French delicacies such as cheese fondue and beignets (French donuts.) On Saturday evening, we enjoyed a game of bowling in our own private bowling alley!



Some views of Lille





## Lille Trip Continued

On Sunday, we walked through the snow to attend mass in Lille Cathedral and stopped off at the market for some lunch before our journey home – we had a fantastic time and can't wait to return next Christmas!



Everyone from the trip outside the Cathedral

Here is a report in French from Abi and Alex, two of our A level students:

### **Notre voyage à Lille!**

Après beaucoup de voyages, nous sommes finalement arrivés dans une petite usine de gaufres en France. Nous avons tout appris sur les gaufres et avons même pu en essayer.

Puis nous sommes arrivés à l'hôtel et nous nous sommes détendus après une longue journée. Nous avons fait une visite de la vieille ville. C'était une ville très intéressante et très historique, avec beaucoup de jolis bâtiments. Après cela, nous sommes allés au marché de Noël et avons déjeuné. Bien sûr, c'était très mignon. Il y avait beaucoup de choses à acheter, par exemple de délicieux beignets. Puis nous sommes allés faire du shopping à Westfield ! C'était très amusant ! Le soir nous sommes sortis faire du bowling! C'était très sympa et tout le monde était très compétitif!

Le dernier jour, nous sommes retournés dans la vieille ville où nous avons fait encore quelques achats, puis nous sommes retournés à Westfield. Après cela, nous avons fait le long voyage de retour à la maison !

Quel beau voyage!



Above: Mrs Yates, Abi, Alex and Matilda at the Bowling Alley



**Christmas Dinners at BUCHS December 2023**







## KS3 Debate Club

Here at BUCHS KS3 Debate Club, we have had a busy term debating life's quandaries. Linking to our liturgical themes of the week, we have covered; 'Rules for the Universe' (How should we live?), 'Is Being Famous a good thing?' (All Saints week) and students have even designed and argued for their own school uniforms. We hope to build confidence whilst forming and delivering perspectives and opinions, as well as providing a safe space to be creative and practice our communication skills.

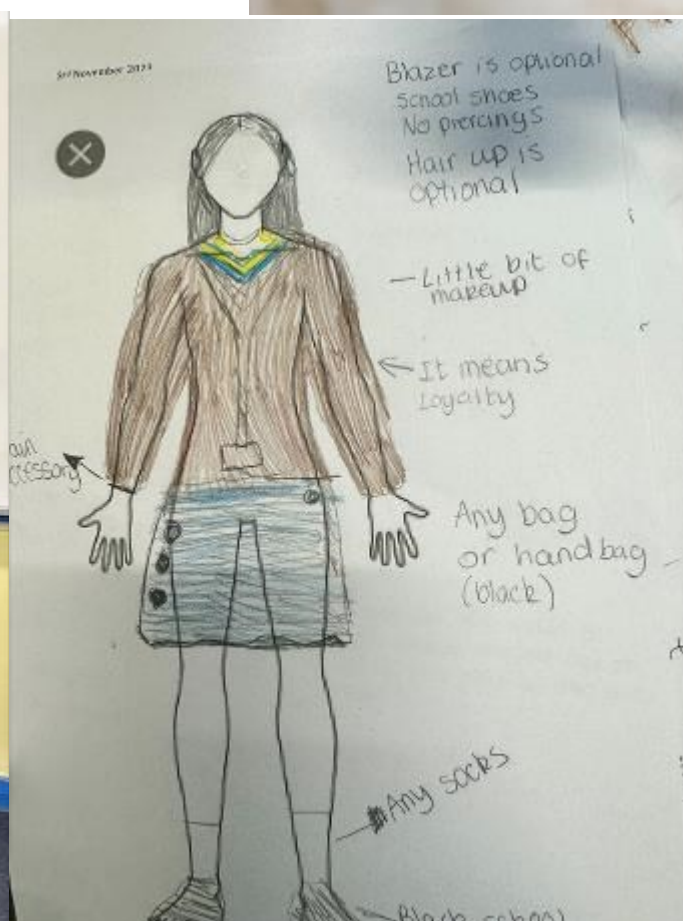
Miss Sanders

'I really like Debate Club as it is fun, and clubs help you to make new friends. It allows you to stand up for your rights and beliefs and it might even help you be a stronger speaker. Debate Club has made me more confident over the sessions we have had. I have loved all the different and wonderful things we have discussed in each session. I would definitely recommend this club to all.'

Rejoice, 7A



Annabelle, 7A





## Food Technology

### KS3 Update

This term, our students have been introduced to making pizza from scratch and producing chicken wraps/fajitas too. Those who did not wish to use chicken have used Quorn or haloumi and the results have been enjoyed by all. Some classes were able to make muffins and biscuits in the week before the Christmas holidays and they were excited about these lessons. Students continue to be very engaged in Food Technology lessons in the lower school. They send us pictures on Teams of recipes they have tried again once they return home and explain how they have managed to feed their whole family. Some have changed our recipes slightly. One student altered our carrot muffins into a large carrot cake and served it with custard. Another mixed RE and Food Technology together and made the stable at Bethlehem and the Holy Family. Students have also been invited to be part of a Christmas competition, celebrating the foods which they themselves cook and eat over the festive period. They were asked to cook or prepare the food, photograph it, upload it to Teams and explain to us why it is important to their family. This is also proving popular.

Look out next term for our Valentine themed biscuit making competition which we are running again, building on the success of last year.



Above: Rinay, 8T Carrot cake and custard



Above: Amelia, 8U Portuguese custard tarts. Competition entry.



Above: Bethany, 8J The Nativity biscuit stable



Above: Baaba, 7J Year 7 pizza making lesson





## Food Technology Continued



Above: the whale having swallowed Jonah!



Above: the three Kings visiting the baby Jesus, with a biscoff crumb topping

**Happy Christmas to all of our KS3 Food Tech students!**

## Year 10 Geography Field Trip

On Monday 4th December, Year 10 went on a GCSE Geography field trip to carry out our River Field Investigation which makes up part of our GCSE grade. We attended Epping Forest Field Centre, where we investigated the changes in Loughton Brook River. Loughton Brook is a small river that runs all the way through Epping Forest. Each geography class was taken to separate locations along the river to measure its width, depth, and velocity. We were then split into small groups, and each was assigned a certain part of the river to study and collect data from. We later then shared and compared our results with the other groups.

To enable us to complete this investigation about how characteristics of rivers change, we were given specific equipment to use in the various tests. For example, a meter ruler to measure the river's depth, a cork to measure the velocity and a tape measure to measure its width. As a year group, we took part in a lesson beforehand about rivers and learnt some interesting facts about their shape and how they are formed. This was useful to us and widened our knowledge of rivers and their processes.

Throughout the day, we were encouraged to recognise our surroundings and identify the changes that our environment is experiencing due to climate change, along with using any skills we knew prior to the trip or learnt from the day. Overall, it was an enjoyable day putting our river knowledge into practice. We embedded the skills that are needed to move forward in our Geography GCSE to help us get the best marks.

Keira-Marie, 10J



Classroom based work at the centre





## Year 10 Geography Field Trip Continued



Above: Year 10 were split into small groups to measure the depth, width and velocity of the river at specific points.

## Dance



### Tapathon 2023

On November 18<sup>th</sup>, the Tap Company came together to participate in the Tapathon; a Guinness World Record attempt for the largest number of tappers performing the same routine at the same time in multiple venues. Whilst doing so, we also managed to raise £310 for Children in Need which is an excellent achievement. The current record stands at 7,596 tappers and we were very close with 7,384 participants nationally. Collectively, we raised in excess of £35,000. The date for next year's event is 17<sup>th</sup> November and it would be wonderful to have as many tappers join us as possible!

**RAINBOW**  
**TRUST**  
CHILDREN'S CHARITY

### Angela's House Fundraising

On 20<sup>th</sup> November, Angela's House took over the Main Hall to raise money for our chosen charity for the year – The Rainbow Trust. We had so much fun playing a variety of board games and playing Just Dance! Thank you to everyone who came to support the event, we were able to raise an amazing £82 for our charity!

Photos of the event can be seen on the next page.





## Dance Continued



BUCHS Dance Department Presents ...

*Kaleidoscope*



12th & 13th December 2023  
7pm

## Dance Show

The 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> December was the annual Christmas Dance show. The theme of the show this year was colours, and the students have been working incredibly hard to challenge themselves and entertain with such a variety of dances. I would like to thank the Dance Prefect, Ava for all her hard work and dedication this year in helping to organise and run extra-curricular companies and helping me with the preparation for this show. Special thanks also to the caretakers for helping to set everything up, Mr Whitworth for filming the performance, Mrs Wortley, Mrs Corless, Miss Orritt, Miss Newman, Miss Fazakerley, Miss Strachan and Mrs Hammond for all your help backstage and during the interval. Lastly, thank you to our audience! Your support at events like these allow us to raise money to provide many wonderful opportunities and experiences for your children in the Dance Department. Your generous contributions, provide the students with a variety of costumes, props, technical and visual effects. DVDs of the show will be available to purchase through ParentPay in the New Year.

**Have a wonderful Christmas!**



## Dance Continued

### Hip Hop workshop for Year 10 and 11 GCSE Dance Students



I gained understanding, and it felt like I was actually doing an audition for EofE because of the way she made us keep going and how she explained everything – Neve

I definitely think going through the movements properly will help us remember them more and be able to describe them in theory – April



On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2023, the Year 10 and 11 GCSE Dance classes performed in a hip-hop workshop led by Boy Blue Entertainment professional dancer Yolanda. This was a fantastic opportunity to further explore the professional work of study 'Emancipation of Expressionism' of which Yolanda is a performer. Yolanda reinforced the key motifs within the dance and explained the technique for choreographing your B Points routine.

I had lots of fun and it was very useful – Blossom

It definitely improved my knowledge of the EofE movement content. I loved learning the B Points and choreographing our own dances in groups – Katie

Conditions really helped and learning all of the moves in detail was really good. Yolanda worked us hard – Lavinia

Mrs Hilder, Teacher in Charge of Dance and Head of Angela's House

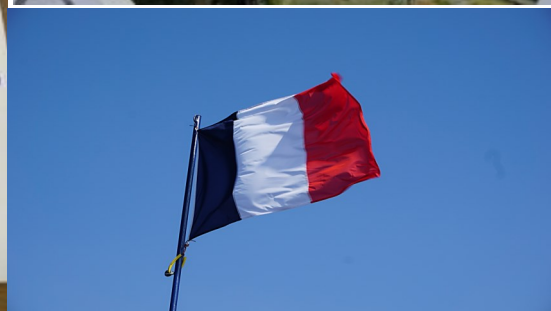
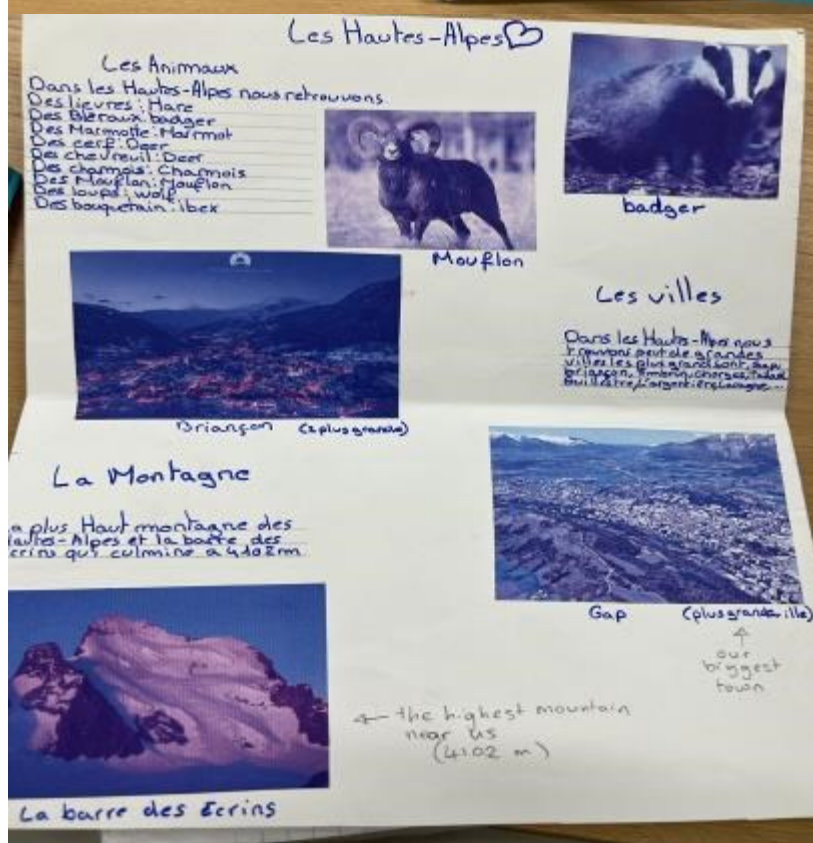
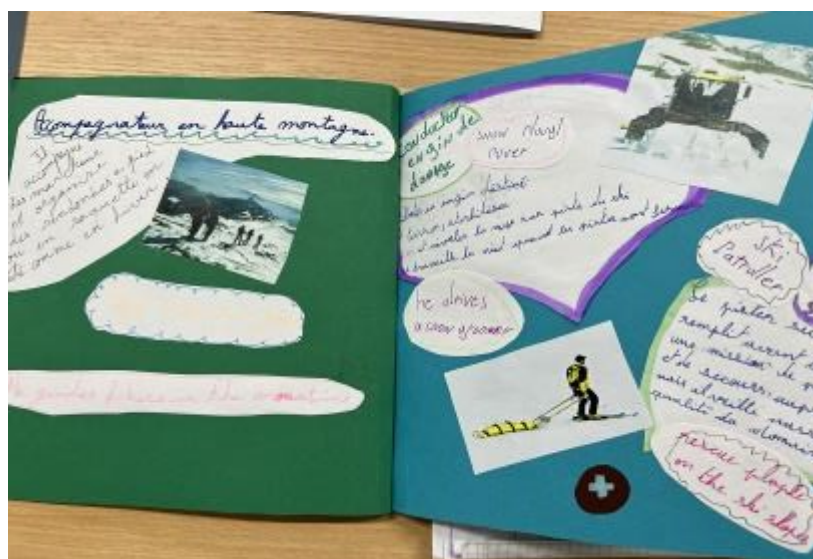




## Ongoing Link With Ex BUCHS Student in France

Our link with Lisa Talma in France continues. Lisa left BUCHS as a pupil in 1984. She moved to France having studied French at University and has lived there ever since. Lisa teaches English in a French school in the Alps and her students enjoy snow boarding and skiing for their PE lessons! Lisa visited us at BUCHS last year and was very happy to walk the corridors again of a school she loved. Our students write to some of her students and recently, Miss Lake sent some Geography projects to Lisa, describing Essex. Lisa's students have now returned the favour and have sent these lovely projects back to us. Both sets of projects were in a mixture of French & English. Watch this space for winners of prizes in this venture and also look out for more cross - curricular events in the future. Lisa's nearest airport is Turin. Turin is home to the Turin Shroud.

If you are interested in learning more about Lisa and the school in France, contact Mrs Yates or Mrs Sullivan.







## BUCHS Bees

Over the past term, our BUCHS Bees group has been busy harvesting some honey from our hives and preparing the bees for winter. This has been the first year we have been able to take honey from the hives and although it has been a tricky year for beekeepers given the colder weather and smaller honey harvests, we are so excited to have been able to produce our first honey jars while leaving the bees with plenty of honey to keep them going over winter.



## Honey extraction



Early on in the Autumn term, we extracted our honey from the hives; collecting Super frames, uncapping the comb and using the centrifuge extractor to spin the honey out. We then needed to filter the honey to remove wax and capping material. We were fortunate to be able to borrow some equipment from the Chelmsford Beekeeping group to be able to do so.

## Insulating the bees for winter

As the weather started to get colder, our next job was to insulate the hives for winter to improve the chances of our colonies surviving. Mr Overton-Smith came in to help us check over the hives while Mr Foster is off, and we then set to work getting the hives in the best condition we could for the colder weather. We were surprised to hear that it isn't usually the cold that is the biggest threat for colonies, but instead the water that forms inside hives as a result of condensation. Therefore, we have insulated our hives by filling the top super boxes with felt, sawdust and bubble wrap to ensure that the hives stay warm and dry and our bees are tucked up as best they can be for the winter season.







## BUCHS Bees Continued

### Eke building



With our bees tucked up, we then moved on to building some ekes; smaller frames that are used to eke the hive lid up a few inches and provide space for fondant to be supplied to the bees. Although we have left each of the colonies with their own honey supplies for winter, we will also be giving the bees some additional fondant to ensure they have sufficient sugars to help them survive the winter as a strong colony. We learnt some new skills in sawing and joining the wood to build the frames, at the same time as saving ourselves some money building them rather than buying them pre-made. We were relieved to see them fit squarely onto the queen excluder templates at the end of our session!

### Our first BUCHS Honey

In the lead up to Christmas, we organised a fundraiser to help us raise the money that we need to set the BUCHS Bees group up for the next year. We each designed some labels for the jar and these were taken to Mr Foster for the winning design to be chosen. Well done to Felicity for designing the winning label that has then been incorporated into the design for our jars.

Keeping one jar of honey aside to take to The Grange and present to our Ursuline Sisters, we had three jars of honey from the hives that we were able to raffle. We were astonished at the support that we received from students, parents and staff and are really thankful to everyone who bought a raffle ticket and helped towards the items that we have been able to purchase!



## *BUCHS Honey Raffle*

*Total raised: £745*

### *Winners:*

- 1 - Poppy 8A*
- 2 - Esther 77*
- 3 - Imogen 13.2*

*Thank you!*

We have been able to order new bee suits to double the number of students that are able to help tend to the hives, Nuc boxes to go with each of our hives (to allow us to manage the colonies in Spring when numbers increase and colonies swarm,) as well as new Super boxes, frames and foundation to allow us to increase honey production next year. We could not have done this without the support of those at home, so a huge thank you!

Mrs Read & Mr Foster, BUCHS Bees



## **Kairos 2023**

We were pleased to relaunch our Sixth Form retreat, Kairos. Having taken place at Worth Abbey for many years prior to the pandemic, we were welcomed back to the Benedictine Monastery in Sussex. The students fully entered into the spirit of the 2-day retreat, exploring the theme of 'Salt and Light' through testimony, reflection, activities, and quiet time.

Our fantastic students have said of the retreat: "Kairos has ... also allowed me to connect with God in a new way. The experience has taught me a lot." "Kairos allowed me to reflect on myself as well as giving more time to God. I think this was my moment where I could share my light." "[My favourite part of the retreat was the] Emmaus walk because it was nice to take a breather and enjoy scenery while talking about our Faith and God." "I learnt that there is more to life than one would normally think."

It was wonderful to take such a fantastic group of young people and a privilege to accompany them on their personal faith journey. Mr Walker and Ms Gillespie are excited to take a larger group next year. If you are interested in Kairos 2024, please come and talk to either of us.





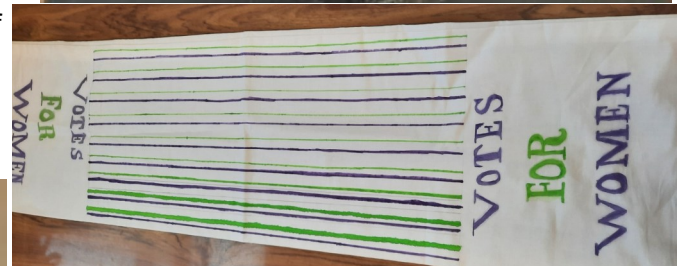


## History

### Suffragette Campaign

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December, Year 8 historians took part in a Suffragette Campaign Competition. As part of our curriculum, they have been learning about women over 30 gaining the right to vote in 1918 and those over 21 being granted the vote in 1928. They have been studying the significance of the women's movements: the NUWSS, the Suffragists and the WSPU, the Suffragettes and the role of the First World War. Their learning inspired them to write poems, raps and make models. One student, Carlotta, even made a replica of Emily Wilding Davison's scarf! All students voted for the finalists from their form group and they presented their work in the Year 8 assembly. There were some amazing performances. Students showed their work and spoke confidently about what they had learned. The History Team were so proud of their enthusiasm and hard work. The judging panel included Miss Orritt, Mr Moore, Ms Gillespie, Mr Hammons and Mr Earle. The winning form were 8A with students: Nikki, Elie, Michelle, Amelie and Lauren leading and organising the presentation. Very well done to all of the finalists. They were awarded achievement points and 'Votes for Women' badges to wear with pride!

Mrs Cooper, Head of History



**We are closed for Xmas on 22nd  
December until 2nd January.**  
No online orders will be processed within  
this time.





## Harvest Festival Update and Christmas Toy Appeal

Many thanks again for all the wonderful Harvest Donations during the first half of the Autumn term. All the donations have been given to the five charities that we supported this year: Brentwood Foodbank, Little Edi Project, Little Haven Children's Hospice, St Francis Hospice and Changing Pathways Refuge.

In the lead up to Christmas, you have also donated over 100 toys and books for the Salvation Army in Harold Hill, helping children receive presents who would otherwise miss out. With the cost-of-living continuing to rise and many more families struggling, these donations are vital for people, and all the charities we have given to are very grateful.

If you are struggling this winter, or know someone who needs support, both the Brentwood Foodbank (Doddinghurst Road Community Church, CM14 9EH, 01277 224528) and Salvation Army (Petersfield Avenue, RM3 9PP, 01708379458) are available to help.

We will be running our Len-TIN drive from Ash Wednesday (14<sup>th</sup> February) until the end of the Spring term (28<sup>th</sup> March) and collecting tinned foods for the St Vincent de Paul charity in Southend.

Ms Gillespie, Lay Chaplain







## Library News

### Scholastic Book Fair



Once again, our students really enjoyed visiting the Scholastic Book Fair in the library. Everything was half price and so many were able to pick up some bargains for themselves and as Christmas gifts. We very much appreciate your support for this event as BUCHS earns commission on books sold.



### Book Fair Prize Winners

Very well done to the following five students who have completed the most BUCHS Bookworm review forms. They have each been awarded a £5 book token to spend at the half price Scholastic Book Fair in December. We hope they enjoyed choosing their prizes!

<b>Charlotte</b>	<b>12.4</b>
<b>Jessica</b>	<b>8C</b>
<b>Christianah</b>	<b>7T</b>
<b>India</b>	<b>8U</b>
<b>Penelope</b>	<b>7C</b>



### BUCHS Bookworm

Keep completing your BUCHS Bookworm review forms each time you finish a book. They are available from the library front desk. Once you have completed your first ten, you will be awarded achievement points and your level one brown badge. Penelope, pictured above in 7C, has been awarded her brown badge which she wears on her blazer with pride! She is now well on her way to earning her level two blue badge. Well done Penelope. Keep up your reading!





## Library News Continued

### The Great BUCHS Book Swap!

On Thursday 30th November, the library welcomed students in Years 7 and 8 for our Great BUCHS Book Swap event.



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.

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



Some of the Book Swap donations

Right: Nile, 8T and Charlotte, 7C with their 'new' books



### Twelve Books of Christmas Challenge

As has become tradition at BUCHS, Mrs Harbott once again challenged students in Years 7 and 8 to read twelve books during Advent.

Each was issued with a challenge form guiding them to choose a wide variety of genres and to review their favourite and least favourite reads.

To give them some inspiration, the library put together a display of suggestions for each category. The challenge must have been popular, as it had to be restocked regularly! Well done to all those who took part. We hope you found some fantastic stories amongst the books you chose.



### Coming in 2024...

The library is delighted to confirm that author Shade Lapite will be visiting Year 8 on Friday 1st March to talk about her new book, *Goddess Crown*; a fantasy novel with strong female characters and set in the lush West African inspired kingdom of Galla.

More details to follow in the new year!

This term, we have been focussing on the Ursuline virtue of 'United in Harmony.' Each week in tutor time, a variety of activities have taken place to help students realise how they can demonstrate this Ursuline value in their daily lives.



Students were asked to answer the question 'Who is an Ursuline student?' on these leaves and place them on the border of their tutor board (below left):



They were also asked to write a prayer entitled 'Be the heartbeat of the community.' These are to be displayed around the tutor group door frame (above right):

Next half term, we will be focusing on the virtue of 'Listening and Generous.'

We have challenged all students to demonstrate the ten Ursuline virtues across an academic year. When they complete this, they will be presented with a certificate and 'Insieme' badge (meaning 'together.') Parents/carers of students in Years 7-11 can log the progress of this by looking at the page in the student planner, which is signed off by teachers who witness a student demonstrating each virtue.





### Christmas Cards for the Ursuline Sisters

The Art and Modern Foreign Languages Departments have worked together to launch a competition for students to design Christmas cards to send to the Ursuline Sisters. Each card wishes our Sisters a 'Merry Christmas' in a different language, celebrating the diversity of our wonderful school.

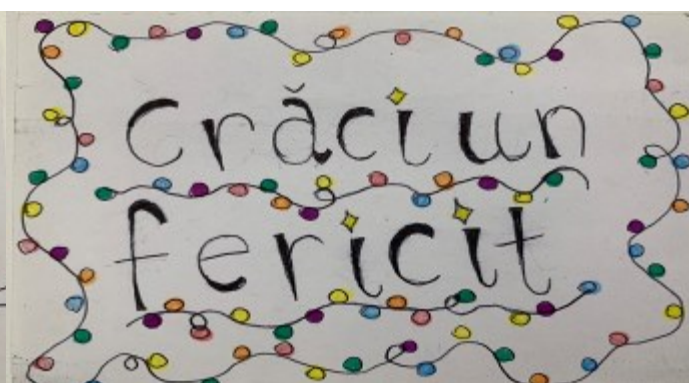
Here is a selection of the fantastic designs by the students:







### Christmas Cards for the Ursuline Sisters Continued







### Christmas Cards for the Ursuline Sisters Continued



### PE News

The U16 Netball Team travelled to Beaulieu Park School on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> November to compete in the National School Competition. The girls worked extremely hard to win three of their matches. Unfortunately, they narrowly missed out on the semi finals by one goal. The girls played brilliantly and should be extremely proud of themselves. Well done to: Grace, Tillie, Mae, Aisling, Tabby, Mara, Lexi, Jess and Wonuola. They will continue to progress in the Essex Cup playing their next game in January.





## House Week

From 20<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> November, we celebrated our first House week, where charity fundraising events took place over the space of 6 days. Each House hosted an event in the Main Hall, raising money for their chosen charity.

	Event	Charity	Money raised
<b>Brescia</b>	Doughnuts	Saint Vincent de Paul	£405.75
<b>Clare's</b>	Decorating biscuits	Haven's Hospice	£134.30
<b>Ursula's</b>	Movie with snacks	Brentwood Catholic Children's Society	£173.60
<b>Trinity</b>	Christmas card workshop	Stroke Association	£139.73
<b>John's</b>	'Just Dance' with snacks	Brentwood Catholic Youth Service	£81.70
<b>Angela's</b>	Games (e.g. chess, connect 4)	The Rainbow Trust	£82.00

Thank you to all the staff and students involved in the running and supervision of these events, as well as all the students who attended and donated their money!

At the end of the Summer term 2023, we completed the final of our Interhouse Competitions for the academic year. Trinity House was crowned House Champions on the final day of term and the House Captains can be seen accepting their trophy (right.)



Left: Students from Brescia House fundraising





## Interhouse Competitions

Our Interhouse Competitions have already started for this academic year. The table below shows the current position of each House.

Many events are scheduled for later in the school year including a Psychology House Challenge, Interhouse Cross Country, Chemistry Day House Challenge, Maths Relay House Challenge, University Challenge Quiz, Sports Day and Cheerleading.

	<b>Brescia</b>	<b>Clare's</b>	<b>Ursula's</b>	<b>Trinity</b>	<b>John's</b>	<b>Angela's</b>
<b>Biology House Challenge</b>	30	60	20	10	50	40
<b>Suffragette Campaign House Competition (History)</b>	50	40	20	30	10	60
<b>All Saints' Day Challenge (RE)</b>						
<b>Charity fundraising*</b>	£405.75	£134.30	£173.60	£139.73	£81.70	£82.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>100</b>

\*Each House is assigned a 'House Week' throughout the school year where they raise money for the charity of their choice – this is worth double points in the overall leaderboard. Some Houses have already been able to host both fundraising events, whilst other Houses have only hosted one.

## Clare's House Fundraiser

As part of the school's House charity fundraising week in November, Clare's House organised a biscuit decorating activity and sold sweet and chocolate goodies.

We were delighted that so many students wanted to participate in the biscuit decorating and were impressed with some of the designs! A huge thank you to the staff who helped support the event and to all those who purchased biscuits, sweets, and chocolates, as you enabled us to raise a fantastic £134.30 for Haven House, Children's Hospice.

Sarah, Eve and Lysette, Clare's House Captains



Left: Sofia, 8U with her decorated biscuit!





### Term Dates For 2023-24

<b>Autumn Term (2023)</b>	
Weds 6 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	Phased return of Yrs 7 and 12. <b>Early Closure 1.10pm</b>
Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	All students return.
<b>Mon 23 Oct – Fri 27 Oct 2023</b>	<b>Autumn Half Term.</b>
Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Students return.
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> December 2023	Last Day of Term. (Early closure).
<b>Spring Term (2024)</b>	
Mon 8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Students return.
<b>Mon 19 – Fri 23 Feb 2024</b>	<b>Spring Half Term.</b>
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Students return.
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 (Maundy Thursday)	Last Day of Term. (Early closure) (Students break up for Easter Hols).
<b>Summer Term (2024)</b>	
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Students return
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	May Bank Holiday Monday.
<b>Mon 27 May - Fri 31 May 2024</b>	<b>Summer Half Term.</b>
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024	Students return
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Last Day of Term for students (Early closure).
<b>Staff Training Days (Non Pupil Days)</b>	
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2023, Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September 2023, *Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2023, *Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2024, *Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July 2024	

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

The Student/Parent Calendar can now be found on the school website under 'News & Events' then 'School Calendar' <https://www.brentwoodursuline.co.uk/news-and-events/school-calendar>