



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you enjoy this edition of the School Newsletter. I was struck by the quantity and quality of the artwork, not to mention the BUCHS Bees and our Sixth Form enrichment: the list is long. There is plenty to celebrate across all areas of school life.

Recent research that I have been reading draws attention to the importance of cultural and social capital in the lives of young people. Put simply, the more parents involve their children in enrichment of all kinds outside of school, the higher the educational outcomes for their children; the more parents are seen reading by their children, the higher the outcomes for their children; the more positively parents talk about education and school life, the more positive the outcomes for their children. As the 'first educators of your children' (the words used by the Church), the holidays are an ideal time to add to your children's cultural and social capital. Social media, despite the name, is not considered to be a contributor to social or cultural capital; in fact, it could be seen as an obstacle.

This half term holiday, I would encourage you to limit your child's exposure to social media and increase their exposure to culture, the arts, science, history and literature.

I hope you enjoy the break.

Dr Richard Wilkin MA, EdD, Headteacher

Admissions News

The closing date for Year 7 admissions 2025 is 31st October 2024. Please do not assume that because you have a daughter already in the school that you will automatically receive a place for her sibling. Please complete a Supplementary Information Form, which can be found on the school website:

<https://www.brentwoodursuline.co.uk/admissions/admissions-welcome>

and attach any supporting faith documentation. During the half term holiday, you can post applications into the black post box next to the electric vehicle entrance gates on the second entrance down Queen's Road. These applications will be dealt with after half term and treated as on-time applications. You will receive a letter in the post acknowledging your application.

Note that we **cannot** accept applications via email.

If you have any queries, please contact Miss Lester, admissions officer— clester@buchs.co.uk

Remembrance Day

Our school will be selling poppies as part of the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal.

Our Sixth Form Students will be coming round to form rooms after half term selling poppies. Students wishing to buy a poppy in support of the charity will need to have cash for this.

£1 is the suggested donation.



Online Safety

The Essex Safeguarding Community Hub have launched some guidance on safety online: <https://www.escb.co.uk/onlinesafety>. There are some key awareness posters below.

I DIDN'T KNOW!

When using social networking sites:

- there are a lot of fake accounts
- people can screenshot and share photos and videos without permission.

I DIDN'T KNOW!

Some video apps:

- are not automatically set to private so people can video call you without you having to accept
- show location information, unless you turn it off in settings.

Did you know that livestreams can be recorded and then sent to others?

One of the best things you can do to keep your child safe from online abuse is to talk to them and have open, honest conversations - show an interest in what they are doing online.



CELEBRATING

125

YEARS OF
BRENTWOOD
URSULINE

26 APRIL 2025

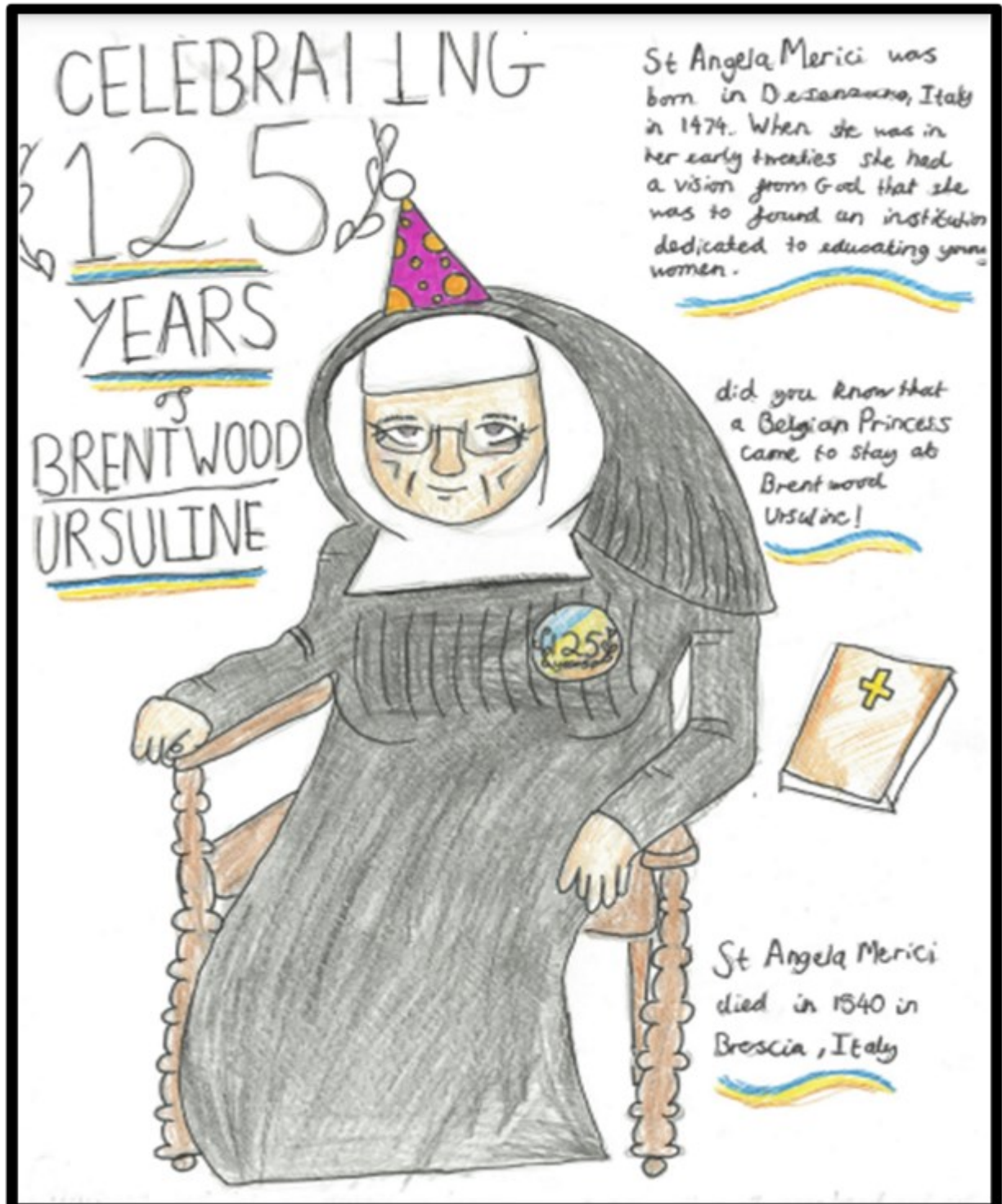
SAVE THE DATE!



BUCHS 125

This year, BUCHS celebrates our 125th anniversary. Seren in 7T has drawn this beautiful picture of our founder, Mother Clare to celebrate. I am sure you will all agree that this is an excellent and fitting start to our school celebrations.

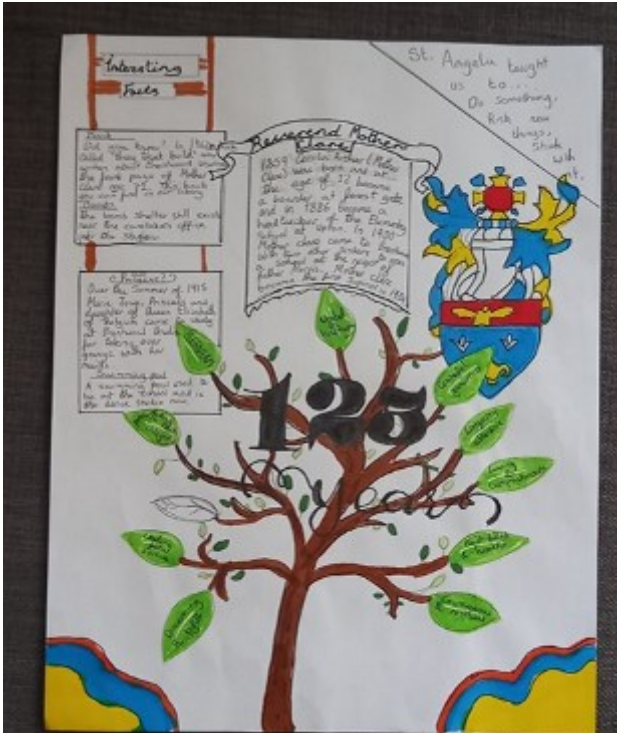
Miss O'Grady, Head of Trinity House



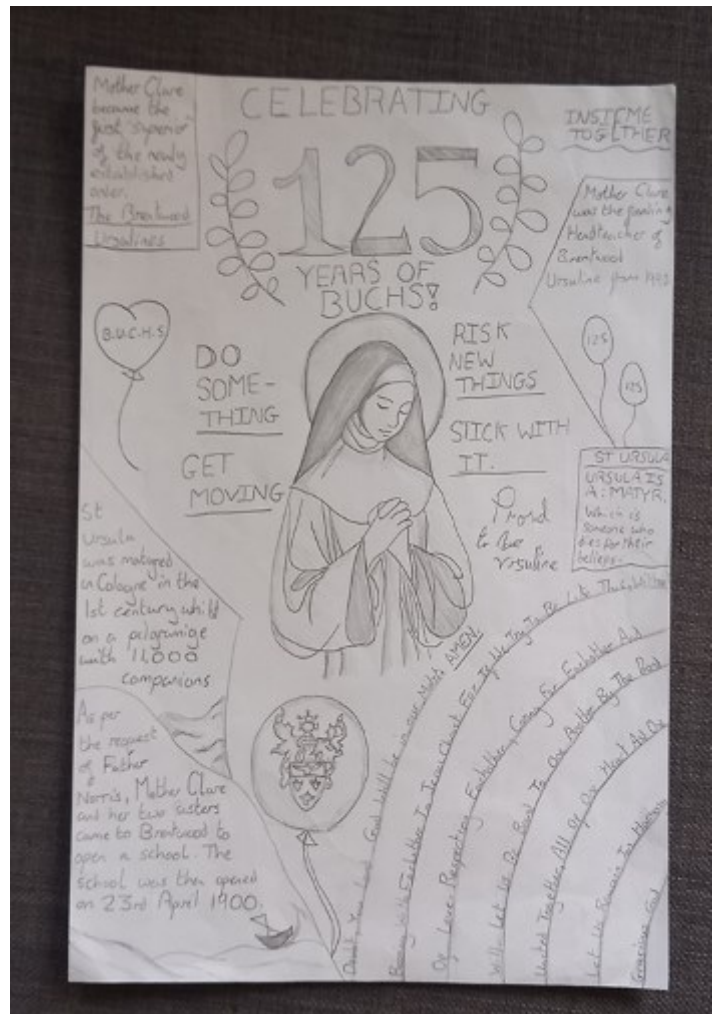
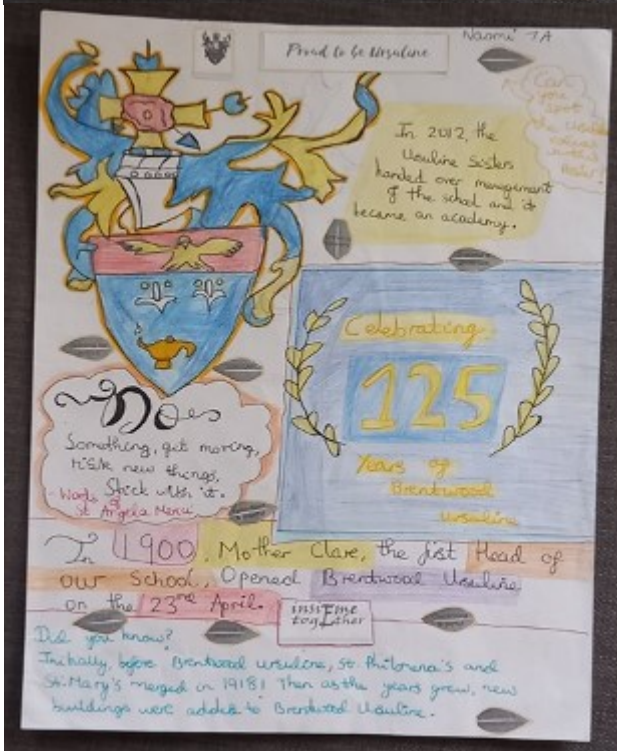


PSHE in Year 7 this Half Term

Since 1900, BUCHS has provided a first-class Catholic education. This long tradition gives our school a very special ethos and a strong reputation for educating young people; not only to a high academic standard, but also to be caring and responsible leaders in society. We are celebrating 125 years of Brentwood Ursuline on 23rd April 2025. In Year 7 PSHE this half term, we have been studying the history of our school throughout its 125 years. Here are some examples of the work produced:



Left: Harriet, 7J
Below Left: Naomi, 7A
Below Right: Angelina, 7A





Music

Welcome

Welcome back to the half termly updates from the Music Department here at BUCHS. I am very excited to be sharing all of the updates from the department this year with you all. This being the 125th year of the Brentwood Ursuline School, I aim to make music very much at the forefront of the school's essence and identity. I hope you are able to join us for all of our events and concerts this year where we celebrate our very proud 125 years.

Preparation for Nativity in Autumn 2

Throughout this autumn 1 half term, Year 7 have begun preparations for the special performance of the Nativity in December. Year 7 have been working extremely hard on each of their carols. The form groups will be performing the following carols: 7A – 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel,' 7T – 'While shepherds watched their flocks,' 7U – 'We Three Kings,' 7J – 'Away in a manger,' 7C – 'O little town of Bethlehem' and 7B – 'The Angel Gabriel.' We look forward to sharing this special performance of music and scripture in December with you all.

Music Rehearsals for Music Ensembles

All of our music ensembles and groups have been very busy rehearsing for forthcoming events, concerts and assemblies. The Year 7 Choir has been a tremendous success to date and we are hopeful for assembly performances in the near future. Likewise, in the String Orchestra, students have been working exceptionally hard on showcasing performances of 'Gymnopédie No.1' by Satie and 'Hall of the Mountain King' by Grieg. Moreover, Chamber Choir and Gospel Choir have been busy preparing for the St Ursula's Mass on Monday 21st October. I am very much looking forward to directing the choirs on this occasion as we sing new hymns and old in celebrating St Ursula's Feast Day.

Preparation for a Chamber Concert in November

Finally, we are very excited to be offering our first chamber concert of the year on Monday 11th November, 6-7pm in the school library. This event marks the first concert of the year celebrating the 125th anniversary of the Brentwood Ursuline. Our GCSE music scholars and places students are all hard at work rehearsing their performances for the concert. We look forward to sharing these high-quality performances with you very soon.

All are very welcome to this chamber concert.

Thank you very much for supporting the Music Department and we look forward to seeing you all at our events this year.

Mr Maynard, Director of Music

Second Hand Uniform Donations Needed

The school would welcome donations of pre-loved uniform suitable for Years 7-11 in good, used condition.

Items can be handed in at reception.

If donating school blouses, please ensure these are of the plain, yellow type and not the striped version.

Many thanks





Ursuline Tree in Jones' Square

Year 10 students have been working very hard over the past few months to paint our wonderful new Ursuline Tree on display in Jones' Square. This welcomes students, staff and visitors to our school, celebrating the Ursuline virtues, as well as reminding everyone that our Ursuline ethos is central to our school.

Thank you to: Cara, 10T, Maria, 10T, Anjolaoluwa 10T, Navya, 10T and Ly-An Therese, 10B, for their hard work, alongside Miss McGoldrick and Mr Smith.



United in Harmony ~ Trinity House Week



'united in harmony' being bound to one another by the bond of love, respecting each other, helping each other and bearing with each other.'

Ursuline Student Profile

insieme togLther

This term, we have been focussing on the Ursuline Student Profile virtue of 'Courageous and Resilient'. This virtue is also one of two guiding principles, the others being 'United in Harmony' & 'Serviam'. All of these virtues were witnessed especially during Trinity House week, which took place from the 30th September to the 4th October.

On 3rd October, Father Matus from Brentwood Cathedral celebrated Mass for all of Trinity House in our school Chapel. It was a special occasion to be able to come together, insieme. Our wonderful Trinity students led us in prayers and beautiful music.

During House Week, the House Team organised a very successful biscuit decorating competition.

I would like to say a huge 'thank you' to Sally in Year 13 who led the biscuit decorating competition. A great example of our Ursuline motto of 'Duty' and working together.

You can see some of the students' wonderful creations below.





**United in Harmony ~ Trinity House Week
Continued**



Thanks to all for this wonderful effort—over £100 has been donated to the Brain Tumour Research Trust.

Miss O'Grady
Head of Trinity House
Head of Year 8





Year 12 Induction Day Brunch

The welcome back brunch was the perfect addition to the Induction Day! It allowed us to not only enjoy the delicious food, prepared by Mr Benson and his lovely team, but also to settle in with our new academic year. Whilst enjoying my pain au chocolat and hot cup of tea I spoke to my new classmates and the wonderful Miss Lake who is currently Head of Year 12. It gave me the confidence and opportunity to ask any questions I had whilst being comfortable and relaxed.

Lily, 12.1

Year 12 welcome brunch; what a great way to start the year! On our induction day, all of us starting Sixth Form had a great opportunity in the morning to talk to old friends from previous years and meet new students who were just beginning their journey at the Ursuline. We were introduced to our subject teachers, form tutors and Head of Year, Miss Lake. There was an amazing selection of food to choose from, such as bacon, sausages, scrambled eggs and so much more, along with some sweet treats like croissants and fruit. The welcome brunch gave us time and a sociable space to enquire with teachers about the Sixth Form journey we have just begun and what to expect. It was lovely to meet new faces and see which subjects people had chosen as well as indulging in a delicious brunch.

Tillie, 12.1

'8 Badge' Assembly

The 8-badge assembly was a truly rewarding and inspiring experience, not just for me, but for all my fellow students. It felt incredible to be recognised for the accomplishments we achieved in our GCSEs. What made this moment even more meaningful was the unwavering support we received from the school throughout our GCSE journey. The extra study sessions, the one-on-one guidance from teachers, and the constant encouragement from them pushed us to aim higher. I am deeply grateful for the support of the teachers, whose dedication played a huge role in helping us succeed. This experience has motivated me to keep pushing myself and to set even higher goals for the future. It's a proud moment I'll carry with me as I continue to my A-Levels.

Riona, 12.1

Open Mornings Autumn 2024

On 3rd and 4th of October, Year 12 assisted current Year 6s and their parents on tours around the school. It was an enjoyable experience to meet new people and interact with next year's possible intake. The Year 6s were all so polite and enthusiastic, highlighting how they should continue to uphold the school's high standards if they join next year. We cannot wait to formally meet the new intake.

Becca, 12.4

My Medical Experience

On September 13th, I had the wonderful opportunity of being able to be an actor for a real trauma and response medical examination. Truthfully, I have always been fascinated by the work of doctors and nurses and so being able to see their performances in real time was incredible.

Assisting in the medical examinations greatly enhanced my learning experience. It provided me with a valuable insight into the medical training process and the challenges healthcare professionals encounter when interacting with patients. By speaking to these professionals, I was able to deepen my understanding of medical terminology and the complexities of patient care.

The use of special effects to make me look injured was an exciting part of the experience. The team applied realistic makeup and prosthetics to create various injuries, making the scenario more authentic. They used techniques like fake blood, bruising, and even special adhesives to create the appearance of wounds. Watching the transformation was intriguing, and it added a whole new level of realism to the role.





My Medical Experience Continued

Despite the serious nature of the exam, the experience was a lot of fun! It was exciting to step into my role and act out my medical conditions. The friendly atmosphere made it easy to enjoy. Overall, it was not just educational, but also a joyful experience that I'll remember fondly.

Erin, 12.3



I've wanted to go into medicine for a long time so when I was approached with this amazing opportunity, I was so excited to expand my experience within the medical field. Upon entry, we were greeted with refreshments from the ATLS team and changed into our scrubs - I felt like an actual doctor! Then we got our makeup done to make our injuries look real. My scenario was a drunk woman who got into a fight at the pub! She had a stab wound on her back and had trouble breathing and communicating. Because she got into a fight, I had bruises all over my face and hands and blood on my face. It was really cool to be able to have that done as I felt like I was in a real hospital, and I was actually injured.

Then we were each put into individual rooms with 2 instructors and a nurse. For me, it was so good to be able to network and find more information about med school and the process of becoming a doctor, since both of my instructors were doctors. Soon after, the first candidate came in. The actual process of them coming in and checking my injuries was quite quick as it was a trauma assessment, so it is very fast paced. I had to go by a script, so when they first spoke to me, I had to be unaware of where I am, and then I had to faint. When they felt my abdomen, I had to wince in pain as I was severely injured there and I had to show trouble breathing.

We had 4 practice candidates and 4 real candidates (8 in total), so when it came to the 5th one, I had it registered in my head what was meant to happen.

Overall, it was an amazing experience, as I learnt so much and was able to add to my knowledge of what becoming a doctor would be like. Not just this, but it made me feel certain that medicine was for me because I felt like I was in my element, and I didn't want to go home. I was so grateful for this opportunity and I can't wait for more things like this to come my way.

Sienna, 12.2



My Medical Experience Continued

On 13th September, myself and four other Year 12 students received the opportunity to take part in the training and assessment of a group of consultants, anaesthesiologists and surgeons. This training is a requirement for all medical doctors, no matter how experienced they are, as it teaches/reminds them of the skills and processes needed to successfully stabilise and treat a severely injured (trauma) patient. To aid the doctors in their exams, we took the part of patients!

We received briefings, informing us that we had been part of an incident, such as a car crash or electrocution, resulting in severe injury. To help us play the part, a professional makeup artist painted our faces, arms and legs showing bruises, cuts and even a broken leg. After our makeup was complete, we were given scrubs to wear, before entering the examination rooms. Before their actual exams, the doctors were given the chance to practice and view another doctor's practice examination. The instructor acted as a narrator, informing the doctor of our injuries and emotional states. As 'patients,' we were free to act out the emotions and personalities shown in our brief. For example, the person involved in 'drunk driving' was angry and confused, while the 'electrocution' patient was quiet and in distress. The doctor being examined worked under pressure to identify the problems with us and used equipment such as neck braces, chest drains and spinal boards to stabilise our conditions, all while reassuring us and completing the thorough processes needed to find any other complications.

As aspiring medical professionals ourselves, this trip was invaluable. Not only did we witness first-hand the equipment and skills used in emergency medicine, but we also gained an insight into the thorough and continual training needed to remain a senior medical professional. We were also able to meet several doctors, who provided us with admissions advice and resources to bring us closer to entering the medical field. One of these resources was [In2MedSchool](#), which is an organisation dedicated to widening access to medical school through a mentorship programme. Through this programme, prospective medical students are paired with a mentor (a current medical student) who guides them before and during the medical school process. Thanks to this experience, we were given a look into hands-on medical assessments, and information on how to begin this journey for ourselves. Thanks to Miss Scott for organising this trip, which was a great experience!

Mya, Year 12

Year 12 BTEC Business Recruitment trip

Our Year 12 Business class are currently studying recruitment and selection and we were given the

opportunity to undertake an interactive workshop at a local recruitment company. The workshop deepened our knowledge of recruitment processes and also provided a valuable insight into the workplace. The firm hosting this event has recently earned two prestigious accolades: the Sunday Times Best Company to Work For 2024 and a King's Award for International Enterprise. We really enjoyed engaging with a highly respected business in the recruitment industry.

This meaningful experience gave our whole class a brilliant insight into this complex industry and an enhanced understanding of the theory we have been studying in our lessons.

We undertook a number of interactive activities and enjoyed hearing the company's first-hand experience. After an exciting break enjoying the company's office (which included a racing-car simulator and some playing of FIFA and Mario Kart!), we split into two groups of 6 to pitch our 'new recruitment companies to clients', which consolidated our new learning and understanding of the recruitment processes.

Here is some feedback from students that went on this trip:

"It was an eye opener and a good experience!"

"Hearing from an employee of a recruitment company gave us a better perspective."

"They were very accommodating and it had a warm and welcoming atmosphere."

"It broadened my career choices."

Chesna, 12.1





Library News



It's been a busy start to the new academic year in the library!

Students in Year 7 have received their induction sessions and taken part in activities to familiarise them with how our fantastic library works. They are encouraged to stretch themselves with their reading choices and know there is a wide choice available for all interests and all abilities. Our library motto is 'Something for Everyone.'

Years 7 and 8 are exploring 'genre' and have surprised themselves when introduced to books from genres they may not have already considered; it's been great to see them enthusiastic about borrowing some of the titles they've discovered.

All students are reminded that the library runs two ongoing reading challenges:

BUCHS Bookworm

Each time a student completes a fiction book, they can fill in a BUCHS Bookworm form available from the library. Completed forms should be handed to Mrs Osborn who will keep them on file. The aim is to read as many books and complete as many forms as possible.

There are three levels of achievement within this scheme. On achieving each level, students will be awarded a pin badge and achievement points. Level 1 is brown, level 2 is blue and level 3 students will be awarded a gold badge. Below shows the number of forms required to attain each level:

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



We've been delighted with the engagement in BUCHS Bookworm since September. At time of writing, 38 reviews have been completed, but we need more!

So, take some time over the half term holidays to read a book or two!



Genre Tree

There are various ways in which students can challenge themselves with their reading. One way is by 'branching out' and choosing a fiction book from a genre that's new to them.

To celebrate students choosing to broaden their reading, the Genre Tree initiative works in the following way: Read a book from a different genre, then come and tell Mrs Osborn about it.

You will then receive a bookmark, an achievement point and a leaf on which to write your name and the book details.

You can then add your leaf to our tree in the library.





Library News Continued

Black History Month



Black History Month runs throughout the month of October in the UK and the theme this year is 'Reclaiming Narratives.'

It is important, therefore, that we take the time to read books about black characters and by black authors. We have a really wide range available in the library (both fiction and non-fiction) and the above shows just a small number available for loan. Come and take a look!



Our next Book Fair will be **HALF PRICE** in the library between 5th and 10th December. Come along and choose some bargains, and shop for stationery too! Ideal for Christmas gifts to yourself and others! The fair will be on during break and lunchtime each day. **It will be cash only.**



Competition Time!

Design a bookmark in the theme of your favourite book and hand it in to Mrs Osborn in the library by Wednesday 27th November.

The top 5 designs will each win a £15 voucher to spend at the December Scholastic Book Fair.

Please write your name, form and the name of the book that inspired your design on the back.

Bookmark templates are available in the library, or cut out your own.

Good Luck!



Catering

Did you know that we have an orchard on the grounds of our school here at BUCHS? An apple orchard with edible apples! Some mornings in recent weeks, you may have spotted me 'scrumping' apples to use in various recipes and I'm sure your children had no idea! These have been used in apple crumbles, on pork day (stirred into gravy), and mixed into various cakes along the way. We're always trying to find ways to use what we already have for free. As with everything in recent months, costs have increased with our suppliers and sadly we have had to pass this on. However, no child will ever go unfed during the school day and pupils are encouraged to speak to any member of catering staff if there is an issue and exceptions will always be made.

To give you an idea of food prices, please see the list below.

Kitchen – Seated

Mail meal £2.50, dessert and custard £1, piece of fruit 10p, yoghurt 60p

T-Servery - Takeaway

Wedges 90p, burger £2, pasta pot £1.80, plain pasta 50p, cheese pot 65p, ham/cheese roll £1.60

Lanyards

As you can imagine, serving over 800 pupils daily is a challenge, so if the pupils have their cards readily available it does speed things up for catering staff. Some pupils who repeatedly forget their cards for the catering till management system are being encouraged to inform their form tutor. The cost of a new card is £2 which can be replaced via Parent Pay. Lanyards can also be replaced on the same system.

Fun Facts!

Below is an example of the quantities of some of the food that the pupils consume each week here at BUCHS:

Chicken 60kg
Cheese 25kg
Pasta 25kg
Carrots 5kg
Flour 10kg
Eggs 70
Sugar 3kg

Portions per week used.
Pasta with sauce 120
Homemade rolls 200
Fruit Pots 225
Jellies 90

Trying to squeeze in the odd vegetable here and there into various 'makes and bakes' has been a real challenge for the catering team. Alongside the usual carrot cake, which still proves to be a firm favourite amongst the pupils, we have also tested beetroot brownies and pumpkin spiced loaf. Not all of these have been successful, but the challenge is still there, and we welcome suggestions!

Mr. Benson, Catering Manager

Religious Education

RE In Film Club

RE in Film Club is now on it's second film, and we relaunched this term with Pixar's *Coco* to explore themes of the afterlife, family traditions and cultural traditions. Our first film was *Zootropolis*, where we explored themes of Catholic social teaching, dignity, justice, prejudice and discrimination. Students made the connection between the film and the school's Ursuline virtues, considering examples of how characters demonstrated the virtues of leading for justice, being faith-filled and hopeful and being united in harmony.

In Year 7 or 8 and want to join? Come to T32 on Friday lunchtimes.

RE Saint Spotlight

Year 7 started the term by learning about Saint Angela Merici and how she founded the Ursuline order. Students reflected on what it means to live out our school motto of 'Duty' and how St Angela can inspire students to "do something, get moving, stick with it and risk new things."





October, Month of the Holy Rosary Year 7 & 8 Activities

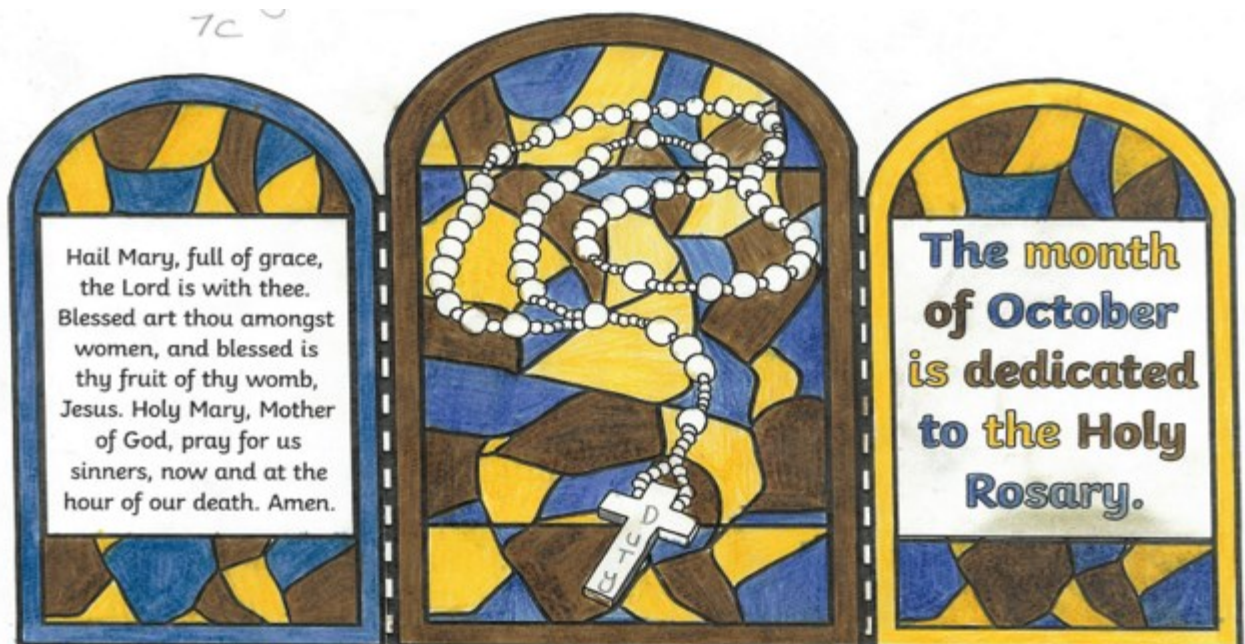
The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, one of the best known of all Catholic devotions. October is a very important month in the Liturgical calendar of the Catholic Church, as it is when we give special thanks and devotion to Mary, Mother of Jesus. This is traditionally done through praying the Rosary.

Our Year 7 & 8 students have been spending time learning about this important prayer and taking part in activities during form time.

They have enjoyed creating beautiful artwork based on the Rosary and writing their own prayers to Our Lady.

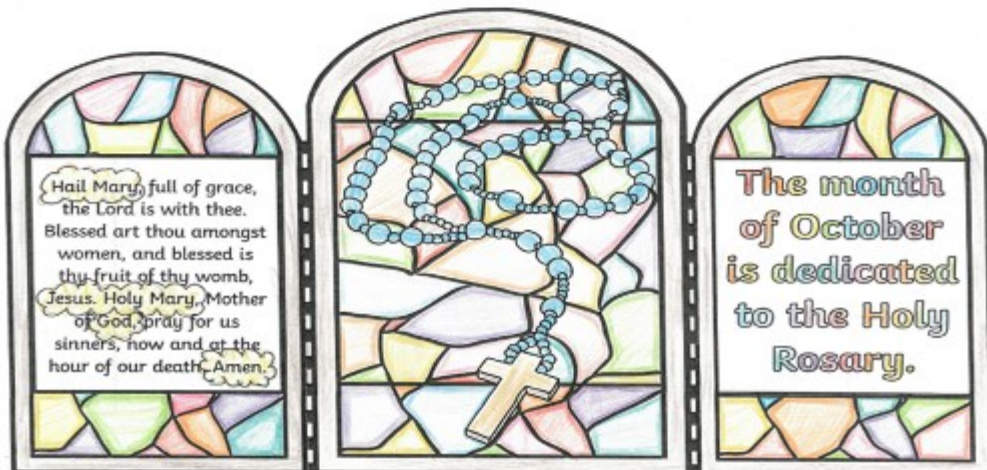
You can see some of the Year 7 & 8 students' wonderful work throughout this article.

Miss O'Grady , Head of Trinity House
Head of Year 8



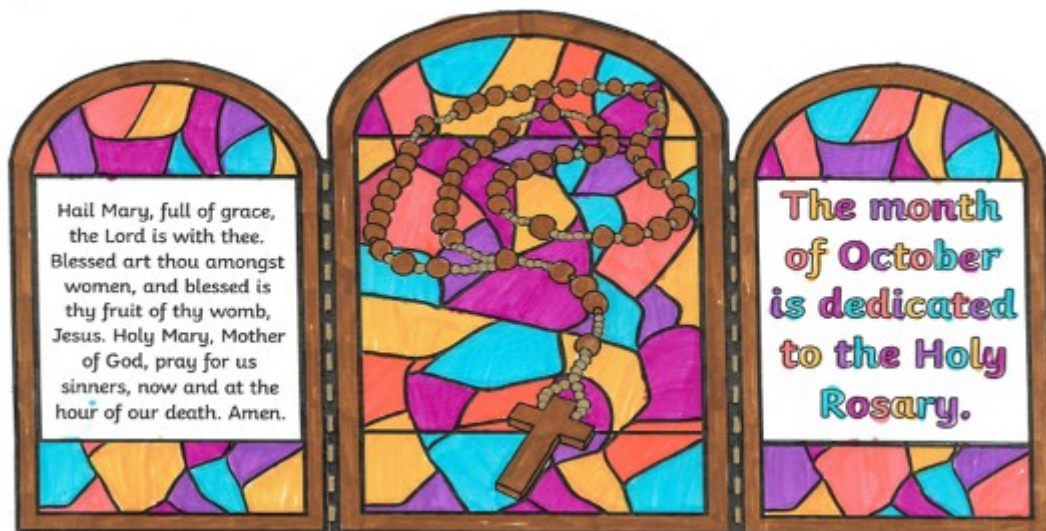


October, Month of the Holy Rosary
Year 7 & 8 Activities Continued





October, Month of the Holy Rosary
Year 7 & 8 Activities Continued



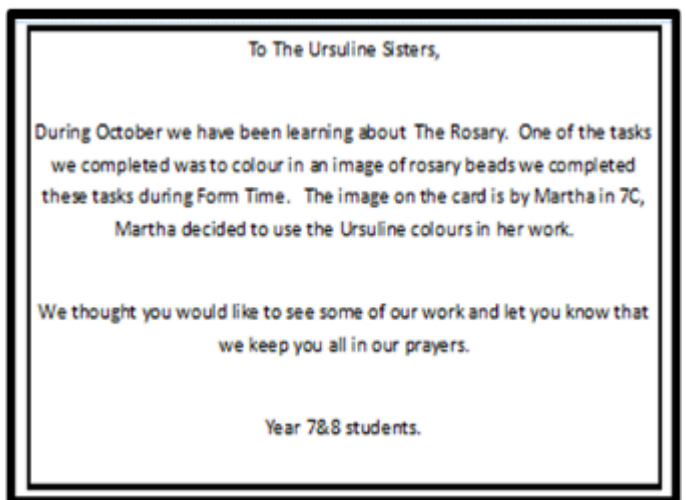
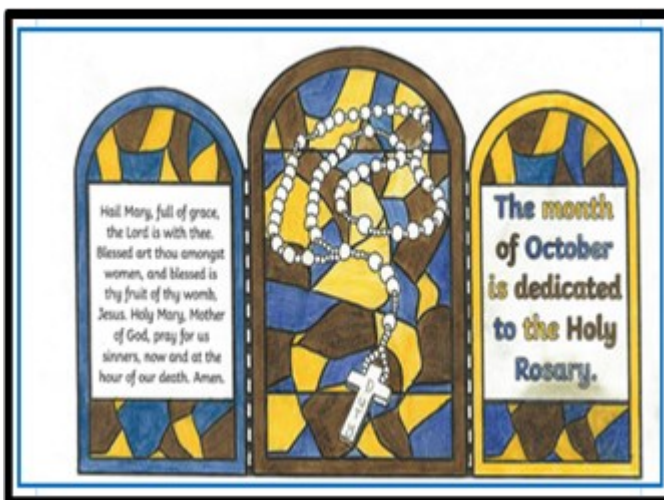


October, Month of the Holy Rosary Year 7 & 8 Activities Continued

Our card to The Ursuline Sisters

Below is an example of the card that we have sent to The Ursuline Sisters. Each form signed a card and wrote messages. During the last week of term, we visited The Sisters and presented them with their cards, some of our art work and some biscuits for them to enjoy.

As Key Stage 3, we value and look forward to maintaining our connection with The Sisters in The Grange. We love to hear their stories of what BUCHS was like when they taught here and also stories from Sr Margaret who was a student at BUCHS.





125th Anniversary



Calling all BUCHS Parents who were once Ursuline Pupils!

Do you remember your Ursuline days?
Did you take part in cookery lessons; now known as Food Technology?

We are planning to put on a display in the Food Tech area as part of our '125 Years' celebrations and are seeking your help.

If you still have, or still use a recipe from those Ursuline days, would you be kind enough to let us know and share a bit about it? The ingredients and method and even little snippets you remember about the lessons would be brilliant!

If you attended Brentwood Ursuline but did not have cookery lessons, we ask you to consider sharing a family recipe with us instead.

We look forward to hearing from you!

With kind regards,

The Food Technology Department

Please email Mrs Sullivan at ssullivan@buchs.co.uk



LAMDA Success

I want to share our latest LAMDA results from the July 2024 examinations:

1 Pass—Eabha in Year 13 in Grade 5 Acting

10 Merits

9 Distinctions—including a Grade 7 Distinction for Sahara K and a Grade 8 Distinction for Laura S, both in Musical Theatre.

Congratulations to these students on their excellent results!

Mrs Wortley, Teacher in Charge of Drama

LAMDA

London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art

Do you recognise these glasses?



Please speak to reception if you are missing your glasses and recognise any of the pairs in this photo.



BUCHS Bees

An update on our Beekeeping Club from Mr Foster:

New members from Year 7 getting involved with a winter preparation inspection.



Opening the super and loosening the frames:

Checking for honey stores:



The queen excluder removed so the colony can reach the honey stores:





PSHE Year 7 Road Safety

Starting secondary school is a time when many students begin travelling independently for the first time. On Wednesday 9th October, Year 7 students watched an informative road safety play, 'What Went Down...' by The Riot Act Performance in Education.



THE RIOT ACT

This was a powerful and engaging drama play demonstrating awareness for safe behaviour around roads to students at a critical age. The play highlighted the importance of recognising and understanding how peer influence affects our choices and behaviour. The show and workshop helped to educate students to recognise risks, make informed decisions and manage their personal safety.

Here are some of 7J's thoughts about the play:

'I enjoyed learning about Road Safety and now have a better understanding'

'I learnt that distractions like listening to music while crossing the road can lead to serious consequences. The play helped me understand how to cross the road safely avoiding any distractions'



'I learnt that you should switch off your phone while crossing the road and not give in to peer pressure from friends'

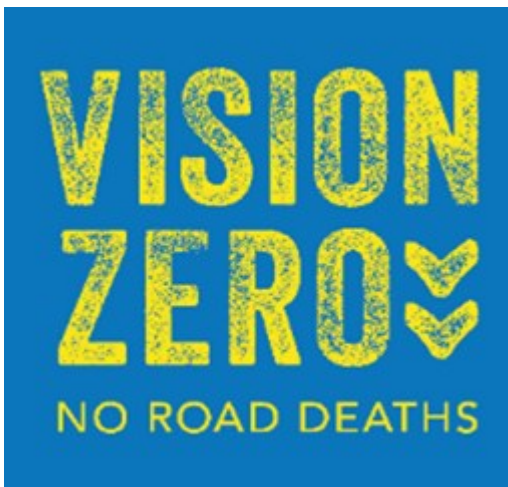


PSHE Year 7 Road Safety Continued

I learnt that if you're on your phone all the time you can be in danger'

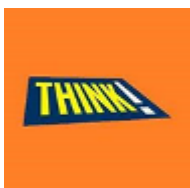
'I have learnt not to be on my phone while crossing the road'

'I really enjoyed the play because it showed ways to avoid fatal outcomes and how to say no to peer pressure from friends. I would like to thank the Riot Act for their very informative yet enjoyable play and workshop'



'I enjoyed the presentation very much and it was not only just enjoyable but something that could save my life'.

'The Riot Act were amazing. Their acting skills helped me learn more about the importance of road safety.'



For more information and support go to Think! Road Safety Campaign <https://www.think.gov.uk>



Dance



On 9th October, the Year 11 GCSE Dance class participated in a three hour workshop to fine-tune their performance skills ahead of their first practical GCSE examination. The class were tested on their physical, technical, expressive and mental skills and challenged to think about how placing emphasis on certain beats or allowing the expression to move through their torsos would impact the dances. This was an excellent opportunity for the class to enhance their performance quality and the class all worked extremely hard and looked very professional. We were very proud of them and wish them all the best in their forthcoming examinations.

Mrs Hilder & Miss Sanders, Teachers of Dance





Tudor Day

In the second half of the Summer Term this year, BUCHS had a Curriculum Extension Day. Usually, we learn about relationships, safety, Ursuline Virtues and more. However, in our most recent Curriculum Extension Day, we had a Tudor day.

To kick off the Tudor day, Year 7 was split up into groups and each group did a different masterclass. The masterclasses available were music, dance, textiles (clothing and makeup), food, and a Tudor escape room. I was put into the dance group. We started off by watching a video both demonstrating Tudor dance moves and explaining why they were so popular. Then we learnt our own routine. I thought this was extremely fun and when I asked my peers what they thought after the masterclass, it became apparent the feeling was mutual. Obviously, I did not get the opportunity to take part in the other masterclasses, but I spoke to my friends, and they all said they 'had fun and learnt new things.'

Then, in periods 3-4 my form and I studied Royal Heraldry. We learned about the connotations of different colours and symbols and went on to make our own badge for our family. I really enjoyed this because I had something new to represent my family and I.

After lunch, we learned about Tudor medicine, and I can report that it was extremely gruesome and I am incredibly grateful I live in the century I do when it comes to visiting the doctor!

Then, in the last 50 minutes of the day, we had the lesson we were all waiting for. We were told there would be a visit from 'Happening History' and frankly we were all extremely excited. We were greeted by a friendly man and woman who then talked us through what life would have been like in the Tudor ages. (Again, I am glad I was born when I was!) They invited volunteers to try on clothing from the grand gowns of the rich to the scraps of material worn by the poor. We were then split into two groups; one learnt more about medicine and the other could see and wear armour from the Tudor ages. I was in the armour group, and it really was fun.

Overall, it was a fun day and something the next Year 7s will thoroughly enjoy.

Charlotte, 7C





Tudor Day Continued





Bi**o**logy Week 7-11 October 2024

The Biology Department celebrated the Royal Society of Biology Week earlier this half term, with a range of activities across the week. It is an opportunity to celebrate the work of bioscientists, and broaden the knowledge of our students.

Year 7 and 8 students were challenged to extract DNA from kiwis, developing their practical skills, as well as linking different topic areas in Biology. This was supported by Year 13 students.

Year 9, 10 and 11 students investigated stomata on leaves, by analysing the cells under microscopes. This is linked to the GCSE Science course, and provided an excellent opportunity to further develop key skills.

Students from all year groups built 3D models of DNA, using origami. This enabled students to develop their fine motor skills; something that is essential if they wish to pursue a career in research science or medicine. Many of our students were then able to visualise DNA and the base pairs it is made up of.

In addition, form time quizzes were available to ensure all students had the opportunity to celebrate Biology Week. Do you know how many bones are in the human body? Do you know the difference between prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells?



Our Very Own French connection!

As we approach the 125 years celebrations at our school, we remember pupils from the past. Lisa Talma left BUCHS in the 1980s and moved to France after her degree was completed. She still lives there and teaches English in France! She remembers her school days very well and speaks of them with great fondness.

She even keeps her striped blazer in her classroom! It is of interest to French children as they don't wear a uniform.

Lisa has visited us here at BUCHS and plans to come back next year for our celebrations. We have a partnership with her school: Collège les Giraudes, L'Argentière la Bessée (in the Alps.)

We send work and pen-pal letters to Lisa's pupils and she sends the same sort of packages back! It's always exciting for our pupils to see the letters written by the French youngsters. They write in English, we write in French. This has been going on for the past 3 years. Current Year 8 pupils are in the process of signing up for pen-friends and we will send a big package of letters before Christmas. If you are interested in knowing more about Lisa and her school, there is a display board on the RE 'T' corridor.

Their school is very different to ours, starting with the geography of the location, where they have a lot of snow in winter. Last year, they had to dig their way out of their houses to get to school. Skiing and snow boarding are commonplace and the pupils speak many different languages and all learn English too. More news on Lisa and her school to follow in future newsletters!

Mrs Sullivan, French Teacher





Staff House Teams 2024-25

Brescia	Clare's	Ursula's
James Barber	Jen Godfree / Marylyn Owusu	Emma Brady
Zaienab Habib Leighton Walker Mark Hortop Chris Evans Lauren Cooper Malcolm Foster Emma Bayliss Najma Khan Ellie Lake Carlie Gibbon Julie Mackenzie Lynn Hammond Suzanne Dixon Michele Lewis Carly Harris Steve Rider	Dominique Healy Harry Woolgar Helen Turner Gemma Wortley Grace Nsubuga <i>Rebekah Worthington</i> Jess Fazakerley Matthew Dempsey <i>Hannah Dixon</i> Jackie Grace Catherine Mitchell Gevany Hughes Suzanne Ring Kashpiya Rahman Sheila Hines Nancy Chan Chris Macrowan	Bego Rodriguez Shamila Parikh Andrew Bartlett Catherine Attiwell Darren Earle Ian Maynard Sara Sullivan <i>Sinthuka Ratnapalan</i> Miranda Freeman Amy Edwards Bernadette Guler Donna Mayo Sharon Kempton Pete Whitworth David Benson Jui Gonsalves

Trinity	John's	Angela's
Fiona O'Grady / Sally Harbott	Liana Giannotti	Claire Hilder / Chloe Brand
Alex Huddleston Christina Gavira Yvonne McGoldrick Rue Mhindurwa Christina Wenden Stephen Moore Mark Pexton Kerry Mackenzie Philip Goodfellow Claire Fryer Ranjit Bajwa Noreen Imran Ewa Abana Alex Richardson Tara Koppen Mark Wesson Kate Spencer	Celene Strachan Rachel White Rachel Perry Lawrencia Orighose Jason Addicott Helene Udall Frazer Hammons Lucy Newman Diana Lane Julie Purkis Sam Osborn Joe Duffield Nicola Booth Michelle Swan May Yin Lau Eduarda Elgar	Freddie Jackson Genevieve Enders-Lowe Esther McCall Ross Boshier Chloe Sanders Stuart Fink Angela Turner Sarah Woodroof Johanna Brown Catherine Lester Val Gilbert Caroline Blore Brian Quinn Laura Dargeviciute Helen McNeilly Scott Smith



Year 7 Food Tech

This term, Year 7 have been learning to make scrambled eggs on toast and pizza toast too, and for their first assessment, a layered pasta salad! Marks were awarded for appearance, variety of texture and colour and of course the healthy ingredients as well as the preparation. You can see from the pictures that each pupil had a very individual take on the task.

The Year 7 recipes range from salad to soup and allow learners to practise many new skills in the kitchen. The Eatwell Guide is always a focus for us and we discover each lesson what different foods do for our bodies and what we should and shouldn't be eating. Each pupil made their own salad dressing to avoid the chemicals and preservatives contained in shop bought products. It was very impressive.

Well done to all those chefs whose salads are presented here!
Look out for our 125 Years Biscuit Making Competition in the new year!

The Food Technology Department





Year 7 Food Tech Continued



Breanna



Felicity



Sienna



Poppy



Mia



Year 7 Food Tech Continued



Arabella



Grace



Eloise



Livy



Arabella



Walsingham House Placement

This summer, I finished my A-Level studies at BUCHS. Most of my friends decided to pursue a university degree, some started apprenticeships, some went into work. I chose something different - to take on a unique role living and working as a volunteer at Walsingham House, the youth retreat house of Brentwood Diocese.

There was something of a vocation about applying to be a volunteer here. I had attended World Youth Day in Portugal last year and had an incredible, unforgettable experience, being around likeminded Catholics who were of a similar age to me. I went with the Brentwood Catholic Youth Service and encountered what it was like to be on pilgrimage with them for the first time. Since then, I have seen my life change in a way that I never imagined. I have attended retreats at Walsingham House and gone on pilgrimage once again with the BCYS this summer to Lourdes during which I got to assist vulnerable members of our diocese and encountered God in service.



At time of writing, I have been at Walsingham House for four weeks, most of which has been a training period. I now have a qualification in First Aid, received Safeguarding training, and have already gained skills in youth ministry and public speaking. A highlight has been running our first residential retreat with a mixed group of Year 13s, which was so rewarding! My time here so far has been absolutely jam-packed with activity - each day looks different. The team and I have helped to host multiple events including student day retreats, Confirmation retreats and two Student Leadership days. We've already worked with so many young people throughout the Diocese, and I hope that the year continues as it has begun, with the spirit of friendship and community that is so characteristic of the house.

I highly encourage you to get involved with the BCYS - it is certainly changing my life and deepening my faith immeasurably. We have Youth Mass on the first Thursday of every month at Brentwood Cathedral, and lots of events throughout the year including the Flame Congress at Wembley Stadium and the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes in the summer! For more information about upcoming events, you can visit our website: bcys.net

If you are about to leave school and unsure about what the next year might hold, think about applying for our volunteer team! Please contact Claire via email (clairebailey@brcdt.org)

Elizabeth Bishop, Class of 2024 (left in picture opposite.)

On Thursday 17th October, the Senior Student Team went to Walsingham House for a follow-up session to their Leadership Conference in the previous academic year. Alongside many other schools such as Campion, Sacred Heart and St. Angelas, topics such as the school's 125th Anniversary and an attempt for sustainability were discussed. And are hoping to be implemented and brought into action soon. The conference was a big success, and sparked new ideas for changes within our school.

Samuel, Deputy Head Student, 13.1





Message from Fr John J Harvey

CATHEDRAL PARISH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR & GRAND PRIZE DRAW SATURDAY 14th DECEMBER 2024 from 11.00 a.m. – 3.00 p.m

We are busy organising the parish Christmas Bazaar and do hope you and your family will be able to join us for the afternoon. We have just obtained a Lottery License enabling us to sell books of Grand Draw Tickets. These will be handed out in the Cathedral during the third week of November. For our Grand Christmas Prize Draw, we would like to request various prizes to be donated; all brand new items please: some ideas are a Colour Television Flat Screen, Wii, X BOX, iPods, any other new electrical goods. Also welcome would be Christmas hampers, a crate of wine, restaurant or theatre vouchers, hotel vouchers, National Trust Membership, spa vouchers, crystal glass sets, M&S vouchers, Fitbit watch, Beats Headphones, Fortnum & Mason hamper, large Christmas cake – the list is endless!

Of course, we need all sorts of other gifts and items for the Bazaar and the various stalls, anything that you think may sell would be welcomed. New and nearly new items are good. No clothes please (apart from new baby clothes!) A Bazaar is not a jumble sale, so please think carefully about what you're donating. Thanking you all in anticipation of your generosity. My experience of bazaars is that they are truly a wonderful, social occasion for the whole parish community. Lots of parishioners can get involved. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex of the Cathedral if you can help in any way the day before (Friday 13th December) in setting up, and Saturday 14th at the Bazaar itself, and afterwards in the grand clear up. We look forward to seeing you there!

Note: Donations for both the **BAZAAR & GRAND PRIZE DRAW** can be brought along and delivered to Clergy House or leave them in the box in the Narthex.



Chelmsford Science Festival

22 - 29 October 2024, 09:00

Go to <https://www.aru.ac.uk/events/chelmsford-science-festival> for more information



Harvest Festival

On Wednesday 16th October, we celebrated our Harvest Festival. Each student brought in a donation of food, toiletries or crafts to help support people who need them more within Brentwood Diocese. Form groups were tasked with decorating their boxes which saw a variety of house colours, tinsel, origami flowers from 9B, and even fairy lights from 12.1! With these donations we will be supporting The Brentwood Foodbank, The Little Edi Foundation, St Francis Hospice, The Little Haven's Children's Hospice, and Changing Pathways refuge. Thank you to everyone who supported our Harvest Collection, your donations will make a huge difference to people who need support at this time.

If you are in need of support during these difficult times then contact the Trussell Trust here: [Get emergency food | Trussell](#)



Form Retreats

Year 7 have begun their Form Group Retreats with the theme: United in Harmony. Each form class spends the day with our Chaplain, Ms Gillespie, and their form tutor exploring what it means to be Ursuline and part of our community. Through drama, prayer, art and games Year 7 take time to explore how they each bring something unique to Brentwood Ursuline while also knowing they always have things in common with each other. Each form will create a jigsaw to hang in their form room, as well as pledges to follow our Ursuline values in all they do and say. So far 7C and 7U have experienced their retreat, with the other Year 7 forms taking part before the Christmas holidays. They have learnt various things, like team work, why the Blessed Sacrament Chapel is so important for us, and the parable of the Good Samaritan. Many have said they are grateful for the prayer and reflection time and they enjoyed the drama and flower making activity most.





Art Department A-level Success

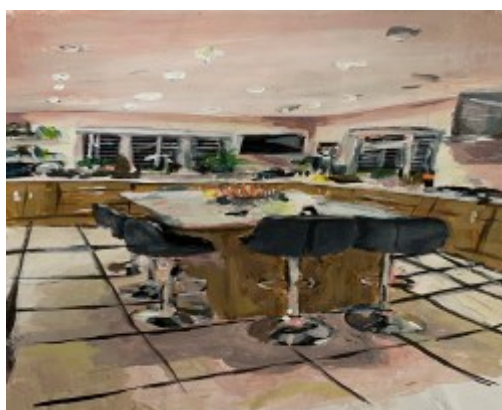
Our A-level Art students achieved highly again this summer. The Art Department are delighted to share with you our students' high quality work.

Students explored topics including 'Portraiture', 'The Landscape', 'Fish & Crustaceans', 'Architecture' and 'Insects' through drawing and painting, a range of printmaking techniques and mixed media. Exam question themes of 'An image of home', 'The art of walking' and 'Play' produced exciting and original ideas.

The work our students produced was exceptional and we are very proud of all they achieved. They were a pleasure to teach.

Students have successfully progressed onto their chosen universities and courses in Architecture, Interior Architecture & Design, Veterinary Physiotherapy, Marketing Communications with Advertising, Mathematics and English Literature and Linguistics.

We wish them every happiness and success in the future.



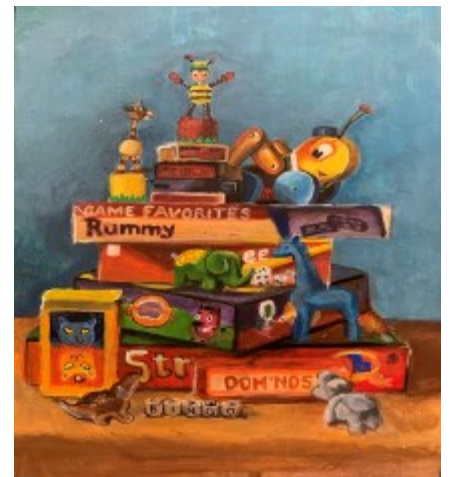


Art Department A-level Success Continued





Art Department A-level Success Continued





GCSE Students' High Quality Work

Our GCSE students also created excellent and impressive work, investigating coursework chosen topics including 'Natural Form', 'Food', 'Landscape', 'Cityscape', 'Cultures', 'Animals', 'Objects', 'Mark Making' and 'Portraits' to name a few. Exam themes such as 'Places & Spaces', 'Integrate', 'Curved & Straight', 'Fragments' and 'Celebration' produced exciting responses.

We are thrilled to have several of our Year 11 Art students join our successful BUCHS Sixth Form A-level Art group again this year.

We look forward to seeing their creativity blossom even further at A-level.



EXCELLENCE

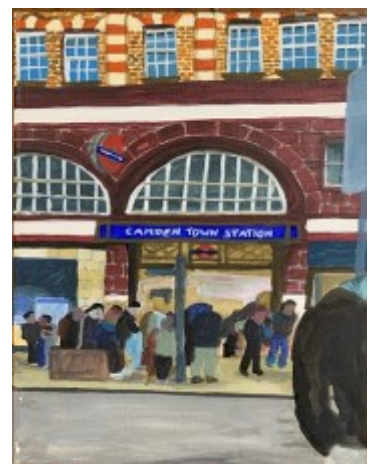
No barriers to
ACHIEVEMENT

Proud to be Ursuline





GCSE Students' High Quality Work Continued





GCSE Students' High Quality Work Continued



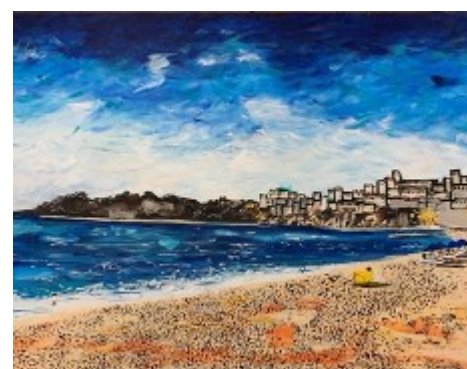
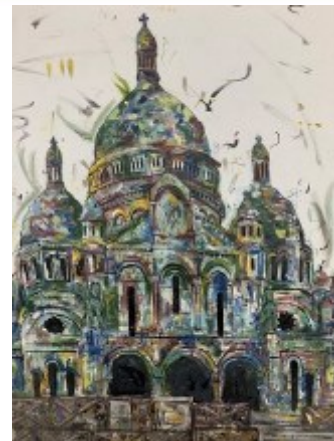


GCSE Students' High Quality Work Continued



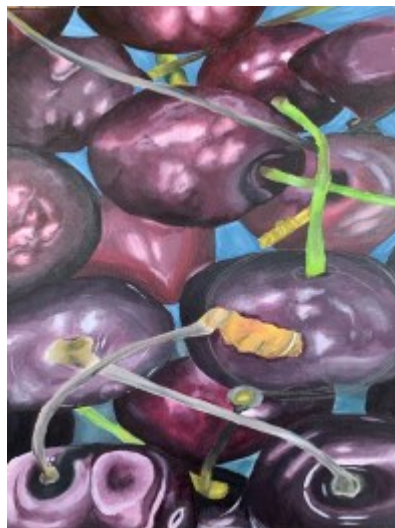


GCSE Students' High Quality Work Continued



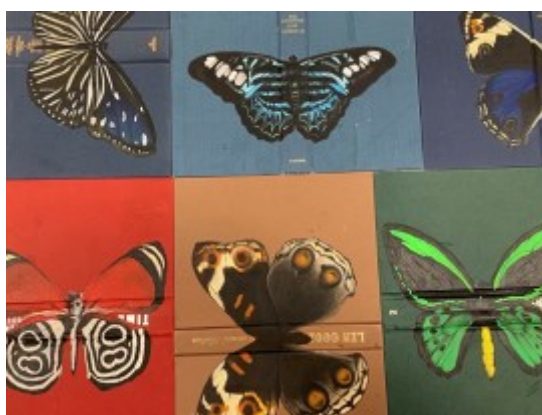


GCSE Students' High Quality Work Continued





GCSE Students' High Quality Work Continued





GCSE Students' High Quality Work Continued





GCSE Students' High Quality Work Continued





Ursuline Virtues Explored in Art Lessons



As a school community, in April 2025, we celebrate 125 years of Brentwood Ursuline.

In the Art Department, Year 7 & 8 students began this year looking at the Ursuline Education Community Tree and the Virtues.

The students created their own studies of the tree and considered how they would develop the virtue of 'Courageous & Resilient', our focus this term, in Art.

Students will continue their project experimenting with and exploring different media and techniques, whilst gaining knowledge and skills in drawing, printing, colour theory, painting and 3D.



*insist
me
together*



"Strive to be faithful to that which God has called you."
St Angela Merici



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**Six Week Course
Mon - Fri**

**1st session 9:30 - 11:30am
2nd session 12:30 - 2:30pm
3rd session 4 - 4:30pm
(optional session for
reflection and support if needed)**

Available In the following levels:

Level 1:	CACHE Level 1 Award in Preparing to Work in Schools
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	Level 1 Occupational Studies for the Workplace
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	CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Challenging Behaviours
Level 3:	Level 3 Certificate in the Principles of Special Educational Needs

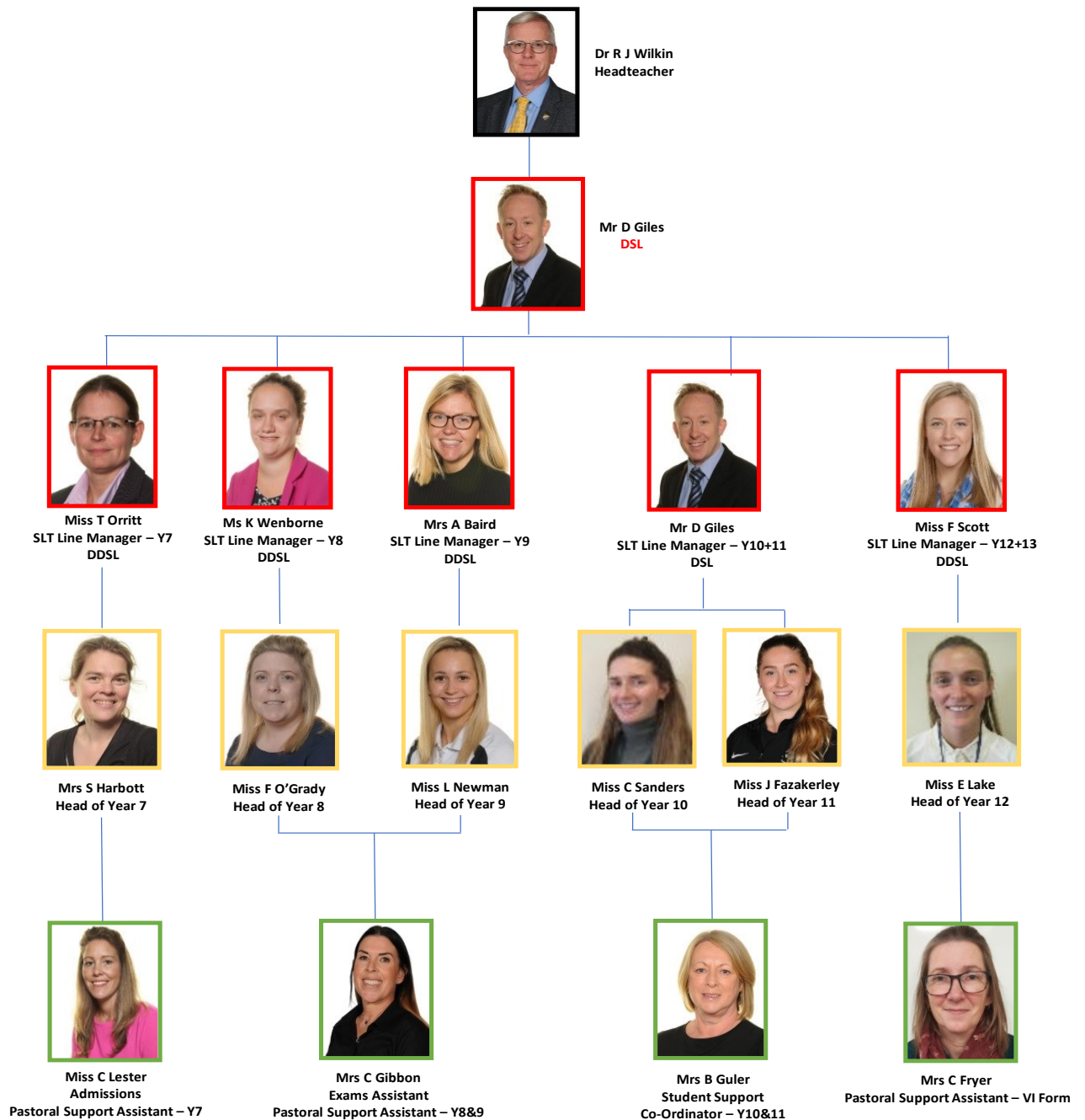
www.studysmartuk.online

Please go to our website address above, for more information.

*Please take note of the online live webinar sessions that **MUST** be attended to complete this full time 6 week course, and the ESFA's (Education Skills Funding Agency) eligibility criteria.



BUCHS Safeguarding Team – 2024/2025



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 further 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 and look under About Us/Policies. The above mentioned 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.



Charles Dickens
A Christmas Carol

ENTER
our
Art Competition
and
WIN

Hutton Players
tickets to see our magical
Christmas Show at Brentwood Theatre
– a special treat in early December!

Juniors up to 12 years
Seniors 13-17
See details overleaf

Brentwood arts

A Christmas Carol **30**
YEARS

by Charles Dickens
4 - 7 Dec 2024
7.30pm nightly plus Sat 2.30pm

brentwood-theatre.co.uk/whats-on/a-christmas-carol-2024-12-04

A Christmas Carol - Art Competition for children!

Win free tickets to see this magical Christmas Show at Brentwood Theatre – a brilliant treat in early December. Have fun drawing or painting a picture ... perhaps your favourite character? Is it Mr Scrooge, or the Ghost of Christmas Present - or Tiny Tim? You could win a set of tickets to see this exciting show!

How to enter: It's super easy

1. Draw or paint a picture about the story - perhaps your favourite character
2. Send a photograph of your picture to us at: Bah-humbug24@outlook.com
3. Don't forget to give us your name, age, and the title of your picture!

Painting a picture is a great activity for half term!

Deadline: email us a photograph of your entry by **5 November 2024**. We will display the entries on our Facebook page and the winners will be announced on 12 November. We hope to display some of the artworks at Brentwood Library - see our Facebook page for news updates
www.facebook.com/TheHuttonPlayers

Rules:

- * The competition will be split into two sections - junior and senior.
 - The junior age range is up to and including 12 years
 - The senior age range is from 13 up to and including 17 years
- * The first prize for each section is a set of tickets for a family of four.
- * Entries limited to one per child/young person

The show is suitable for adults, secondary school students & primary aged 6+
*special group booking rate available – please contact the Brentwood Theatre box office directly for information.

The well loved-Magical Midwinter Ghost Story!
Book your Christmas Treat now!

BRENTWOOD THEATRE
Box office:
01277 200305
brentwood-theatre.co.uk

Brentwood Theatre is supported by



<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/brentwoodtheatre/a-christmas-carol/e-plkvvm>



Co-Curricular Timetable—Autumn Term

Day	Activity	Week	Time	Year Group	Staff Member
Monday	Handball - Merici Hall	A and B	Lunch	9 - 10	Mr Boshier
	GCSE THEORY INTERVENTION - Classroom	A and B	Lunch	11	Miss Newman, Miss Giannotti
	Chamber Choir	A and B	Lunch	7 - 13	Mr Maynard
	Eco Club	A and B	After School	7 - 13	Mr Huddleston
	Dungeons and Dragons	A and B	After School	9 - 13	Mr Pexton
	Tap Company	A and B	Lunch	7 - 13	Miss Woodroof
	Wind Band	A and B	Lunch	7 - 13	Mrs Brady, Mrs Harbott
	Creative Writing Club - T24	A and B	Lunch	7 - 9	Mr Hortop
	Globbusters (KS3 Geography Club)	B	Lunch	7 - 8	Miss E Lake
	A-Level RS intervention	A	Lunch	13	Mr Evans
	Sparx Maths Support	A and B	Lunch	7 - 11	Department rotation
	Debate Club	A	Lunch	7 - 8 & 12 - 13	Mr Earle
	Learning Support Lunch Club	A and B	Lunch	7 - 11	Learning Support Department

Tuesday	Netball - Courts/Merici Hall	A and B	After School	7	Mr Woolgar, Miss Giannotti
	Netball - Merici Hall	A and B	Lunch	7	Miss Giannotti
	Bee keeping	A and B	After School	7 - 13	Mr Foster
	String Orchestra	A and B	Lunch	7 - 13	Mr Maynard
	KS4 STEM Club	A and B	After School	9 - 11	Mr Huddleston
	Year 11 French intervention	A and B	After School	11	Mrs Healey
	KS3 Listening Space (after October half term)	A	Lunch	7 - 9	Mrs Wortley
	KS4 Listening Space (after October half term)	B	Lunch	10 - 13	Mrs Wortley
	Junior Dance Company	A and B	Lunch	7 - 8	Miss Woodroof
	KS4 Art - C12	A and B	After School	10 - 11	Miss McGoldrick
	Textiles Intervention	A and B	Lunch and After School	11 & 13	Mrs Strachan
	Learning Support Lunch Club	A and B	Lunch	7 - 11	Learning Support Department

Wednesday	Football - Fields	A and B	After School	8 - 11	Mr Boshier, Miss Owusu
	Indoor Football (TEAM ONLY) - Merici Hall	A and B	Lunch	8 - 9	Mr Boshier
	Gospel Choir	A and B	Lunch	7 - 13	Mr Maynard
	KS3 STEM Club	A and B	After School	7 - 8	Mr Huddleston
	Ballet Company	A and B	Lunch	7 - 13	Miss Sanders
	Geography Intervention - U22	A and B	Lunch	11	Miss E Lake
	KS4 Art - C12	A and B	Lunch	10 - 11	Miss McGoldrick
	Learning Support Lunch Club	A and B	Lunch	7 - 11	Learning Support Department



Co-Curricular Timetable Autumn Term Continued

Thursday	Netball U14 (year 8/9), U16 (year 10/11)	A and B	After School	8 - 11	Miss Newman, Miss Fazakerley, Miss Owusu
	Netball U14 (TEAM ONLY) - Merici Hall	A and B	Lunch	8 - 9	Miss Owusu
	History Detectives	B	Lunch	7 - 8	Mr Hammons
	Year 8 Choir	A and B	Lunch	8	Mr Maynard
	GCSE RE	A and B	Lunch	11	Mr Walker
	Small group English mentoring - T23	A and B	After School	11	Miss Nsubuga
	Senior Dance Company	A and B	Lunch	9 - 13	Miss Sanders
	The poetry department - T25	A	Lunch	7 - 11	Miss White
	KS4 Art - C12	A and B	After School	10 - 11	Miss McGoldrick
	Textiles Intervention	A and B	Lunch and After School	11 & 13	Mrs Strachan
	Learning Support Lunch Club	A and B	Lunch	7 - 11	Learning Support Department

Friday	KS4 Art - C12	A and B	Lunch	10 - 11	Miss McGoldrick
	PICKLEBALL - Merici Hall	A and B	Lunch	7 - 13	Mr Woolgar, Miss Owusu
	Year 7 Choir	A and B	Lunch	7	Mr Maynard
	RE in Film	A and B	Lunch	7 - 8	Mr Walker
	LAMDA (after October half term)	A and B	Lunch	7 - 13	Mrs Wortley
	Learning Support Lunch Club	A and B	Lunch	7 - 11	Learning Support Department

Year 11 Interventions

	Lunch	After School
Monday	Chemistry drop in session	
Tuesday	Maths – 11Ma/5 Textiles – All welcome History – Invite only	Physics – Drop in session French – All welcome Textiles – All welcome
Wednesday	History – Invite only Drama – Invite only Geography – All welcome History – Invite only	Maths - All
Thursday	Textiles – All welcome RE – All welcome	English – Invite only Textiles – All welcome
Friday		