



Dear Parents/Carers,

As I write this, over half of our students are in Period 5, trying to digest their Christmas lunch! We have had two days of lunches, with both occasions being as festive and enjoyable as ever. Credit to our wonderful kitchen staff and the Year 12 helpers for running things so smoothly.

I have enjoyed reading about all of the enrichment that has taken place this half term, with particular mention going to the nativity play. This is an old BUCHS tradition that has been revived; it means that every single Year 7 student gets an experience of either appearing in a production or working behind the scenes: what a wonderful opportunity. It was a very special occasion that students and parents will treasure, and we aim to make this an annual event. Congratulations to Mrs Baird, Mrs Sanders, Mrs Wortley, Mr Maynard, Miss Gillespie, the Year 7 students and everyone else involved.

Our BTEC Business Studies Year 13s have worked hard to put on events for younger students as part of their course requirement this term. Each event has been well-received and, just as importantly, well-run. Congratulations to all involved. BTEC really can be a wonderful preparation for university or work and our students have shown in their outstanding results over the years the enthusiasm they bring to the course.

You can see from this Newsletter that there is plenty going on in the Sixth Form to develop each student's personality and relationships, as well as their knowledge and skills. School sixth forms like ours are ideally placed to take students from GCSE to 18. We nurture the student whilst also giving them the chance to gain new experiences, feel some independence and develop their aspirations for the future. Most importantly, we are experts in teaching our subjects and we know what it takes in the short two years after GCSEs to get our students to wherever they want to go next. If you are a Year 11 parent, your daughter may try to tell you that they know all about the BUCHS Sixth Form already, but they don't! Ask them if they have actually spoken to our Sixth Formers and to their subject teachers, and don't hesitate to get in touch with Miss Lake or Miss Scott if you want to find out for yourself what we offer.

Our regular reviews of departments most recently focused on English. It was a privilege to watch the intense engagement by our students in their lessons and their evident enjoyment of reading, as well as creative writing. I met with a cross-section of students to hear about their experience of English and I was bowled over by how eloquently they spoke about what they were learning; I was also delighted to hear so many positive things said by all of them about how much

they love being Ursulines. You can't go wrong if you give a good book as a present at Christmas!

Let's enjoy a restful and peaceful Christmas, with the lighter evenings and mornings to look forward to in the New Year. Thank you for your support in 2024 and I wish you and your families well for 2025.

Dr Richard Wilkin MA, EdD, Headteacher



### Christmas Reflection 2024

In the beginning was the Word. And the Word was with God. And the Word was God. And God walked and talked with us in the garden. He was all powerful, all present, and all knowing. But we did not understand.

And God gave us angels to deliver his Word, full of glory, and rejoicing. They were sent to guide us and protect us. But we did not understand.

And God spoke to us through the prophets, giving us instruction, giving telling us the Word. Leading us from the desert and teaching us how to live. But we did not understand.

And so, God sent down the Word, to become flesh and live among us. To experience human life completely, therefore knowing our faults and our failings utterly. He had authority over nature, over demons, over the dead. He was fully God and fully human. And he taught us how to love all, how to live fully, how to forgive wholeheartedly, and how to give all we have. And we finally understood. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word lives among us.





# CHRISTMAS TOY APPEAL 2024



**126 Toys and  
Books Donated!**

**Thank  
You**



In aid of  
**Little  
Havens**



**RAINBOW  
TRUST**  
CHILDREN'S CHARITY

**A massive thank you to everyone who donated toys, books or money.**

**We have been able to provide 126 books and toys to the Salvation Army, Little Havens Children's Hospice and the Children's Rainbow Trust Hospice.**



CELEBRATING

125

YEARS OF  
BRENTWOOD  
URSULINE

26 APRIL 2025

SAVE THE DATE!



## School Council 2024-2025

We are pleased to announce the School Council representatives for this year:

Head Student	Charlotte	13.4
Deputy Head Student	Abigail	13.3
Deputy Head Student	Samuel	13.1
Year 12	Chesna	12.1
Year 11	Abbie	11C
Year 10	Maya	10B
Year 9	Bella	9J
Year 8	Skylar	8T
Year 7	Andrea	7C

## Maths

### Senior Maths Challenge Success

The Maths Department are celebrating another successful year of Maths challenge results by our Sixth Form in the Senior Maths Challenge. The UKMT Maths Challenge is a national competition where students across the country aim to solve 25 challenging problems, with the best being awarded Gold, Silver or Bronze awards.

Our Sixth Form have gained an excellent set of results. Rose and Neve were the stand-out performers, both attaining a Silver award. Alongside these were eleven students attaining bronze awards.

We look forward to celebrating further success when Years 7 - 11 sit their challenge in the new year.



## Parking

Brentwood Council are reminding schools surrounding Brentwood Town Hall that the car park is **strictly Council staff only from Monday to Friday**. They kindly ask parents **NOT** to use the car park for drop off and collection of students. This is causing significant issues with Council staff being able to park. Those using the car park who are not Council staff and not displaying a permit or in a marked bay will be ticketed by parking enforcement.

Any queries should be address to Brentwood Borough Council.



## School Nativity

During the penultimate week of term, the whole of Year 7 took part in a Nativity play for students, families, staff, governors, pupils of St. Joseph The Worker School, the Ursuline Sisters and a representative from the Diocese of Brentwood Secondary Schools. Performances took place during the school day and on the evenings of Wednesday 10th and Thursday 11th December.

Everyone involved worked extremely hard all term to put the play together. Each of the six forms performed one part of the nativity story with acting and carol singing, and the finale saw the whole cast join in for 'We Wish You A Merry Christmas.' The actors were accompanied by Mr Maynard as conductor and his six musicians: Mary H, Nile M, Hannah O, Olivia K, Bethany R and Mary M. We also had a beautiful set, painted by a group of talented art students.

Additionally, the programme included a reading of a wonderful poem by Year 12, Toffy entitled 'Echoes of Ursuline High School in Wartime.'

Congratulations to all involved on a successful, entertaining and uplifting nativity play, and many thanks to the members of staff who put it together including Mrs Baird, Miss Sanders, Ms Gillespie and Mrs Wortley.





# Lourdes with BCYS

Article

## My experience at Lourdes

———— MARY-LOURDES

Going to Lourdes with BCYS provided an amazing opportunity for me to feel and grow closer to God with new friends around my age.



At Lourdes, we went to a variety of places and partook in activities that gave us the chance to open our hearts and silence our mind, being fully able to hear the voice of God and feel His presence near us.

We visited the Grotto where we attended a daily Mass service to start our day off. We also explored other parts of the Grotto including the Stations of The Cross and the Baths. Further, we were able to explore the main village of Lourdes and see the peaceful site of Gavarnie.

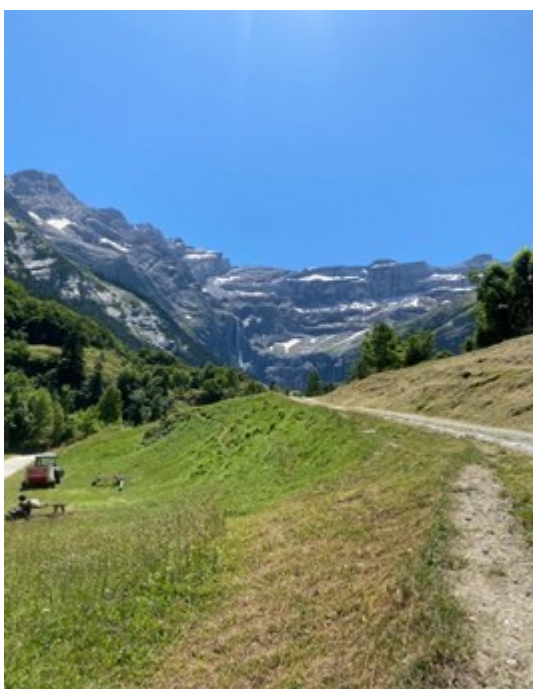
At Lourdes, there was always something fun to do. We participated in quiz nights and we had a day where we dressed up in a certain theme with our groups. We often spent a lot of time with our groups getting to know them better. We spent time in the Blessed Sacrament having quiet meditation and partook in group discussions relating to our preference of prayer and how to pray. We were able to meet Bishop Alan and ask him any questions we wanted to, which allowed us to deepen our understanding of faith and what it means to be a Catholic. Fr Pascal led praise and worship where we were able to close our eyes, block everything out and, without feeling embarrassed, worship God through singing together.



### Lourdes Trip Continued

We took part in the astounding candle night procession, reciting the rosary and singing "Ave Maria."

During my time, I enjoyed learning many interesting facts about Lourdes and ultimately learning new things about God and making new friends. I would definitely say that Lourdes changes you and makes you a better person.





## **Music**

### **Welcome**

Welcome back to our Autumn Term 2 Music Department update here at BUCHS. Thank you very much for your continued support of our events and concerts throughout the term. In Music this half term, we have had great success in our Chamber Concert in November, our nativity performances in December and our continued assembly performances. I would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and peaceful festive time and I look forward to seeing you all again at music events in 2025.

### **Remembrance Day Music**

On Remembrance Day here at BUCHS, all students gathered outside on the field to pay their respects to those who have gone before us in conflict. It was a very reflective time and it was amplified by Anna-Maria N in 8C who performed the Last Post to the whole school. Anna-Maria did a tremendous job in performing the Last Post and was a huge ambassador for music on this occasion. Thank you to Anna-Maria for sharing this performance with us and for heightening our reflection on Remembrance Day.

### **Chamber Concert in November**

We had the great pleasure of having nine students perform in our most recent Chamber Concert on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November in the school library. The following students shared their excellent performances; Beatrice S, Mary H, Gemma D, Bazile S, Ella A, Seren D, Emily O, Isabella C, and Mireya H. The students were a huge credit to themselves and the school. I would like to thank the students immensely for their hard work, Stephen King (accompanist) and the school for its support of the event too.



### **Nativity Performances in December**

In December, we had 2 wonderful evening performances of The Nativity from our very own Year 7s. They were incredible, and excellent ambassadors of the arts. They made the school very proud of their own individual performances. All Year 7 groups sang their carol beautifully and with festive cheer to light our audiences up on each night. Additionally, I would like to thank the ensemble who accompanied our Year 7 students: Mary M (violin), Nile M (piano), Bethany R (guitar), Hannah O (flute), Olivia K (trumpet) and Mary H (cello). We hope we are able to share many more musical moments like this throughout our 125<sup>th</sup> year.



## Music Continued

### Assembly Performances

Throughout this half term, we have had excellent and reflective performances from our very own students at the beginning, during or at the end of assemblies. Students have been a huge credit to themselves and the school as they perform with confidence and maturity to their fellow students. I would like to thank all of our students who have performed this half term and I hope they continue to perform in the new year for students at assemblies.

### Christmas Liturgy

Finally, I would like to say a massive thank you to all of our students and staff helping with our upcoming Christmas Liturgy on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December. We are celebrating the Christmas message with students and staff at this special occasion with music, liturgy and reflection. I would like to thank especially our hardworking musical ensembles, who will all be performing at this event; String Orchestra, Year 8 Choir, Gospel Choir, Chamber Choir and Wind Band.

## Year 10's '5 Days of Christmas' Initiative

Year 10 got themselves in the festive spirit this term with their '5 Days of Christmas.' Students were tasked with bringing in donations for the local food bank, writing thank you notes to their teachers and helping their form tutors with morning tasks and random acts of kindness. 10J were particularly generous, giving lots of items to be taken for those in need this Christmas. All forms showed gratefulness to their teachers. I hope this has helped spread **JOY** throughout our Year 10 community and reminded all students about the true meaning of Christmas. Thank you to our amazing form tutors for facilitating these activities in form time and well done Year 10 - enjoy your festive break!

Miss Sanders, Head of Year 10





## Visit to the school by Bishop Emeritus Tom Williams, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Liverpool

On Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> November, my great uncle Tom, the auxiliary Bishop of Liverpool, visited the school to say Mass with some Year 7 RE groups and a few of my friends. He then spoke to the whole of Year 11 and the VI Form.

Mr Barber and I gave him a tour of our school and he really enjoyed it and is hoping to return again next year to do the same as he has such a great time.

He felt very welcomed and particularly enjoyed the positivity and engagement during the Mass, especially the incredible singing.

Edie, 11B

Spending some of my day with a Bishop was an amazing and rewarding experience. We held Mass in the Chapel where I was lucky enough to be able to altar serve for him. The mass reflected upon our loved ones and the challenges they may be facing. This really allowed me to stop and reflect rather than continue with the busyness of life. Overall, I learned a lot about the role of a bishop and enjoyed having that time with him.

Aoife, 7B

I was very much 'at home' in your School, and was made to feel very welcome. It brought back special memories of my 8 years as School Chaplain to a Convent Grammar school in Liverpool from 1973 to 1981.

My lasting memory then was to help and inspire me for the rest of my life...and that was to respect and value the role and gifts of women in both society and the Church...also, to NEVER underestimate them!

All my love,

+Tom.

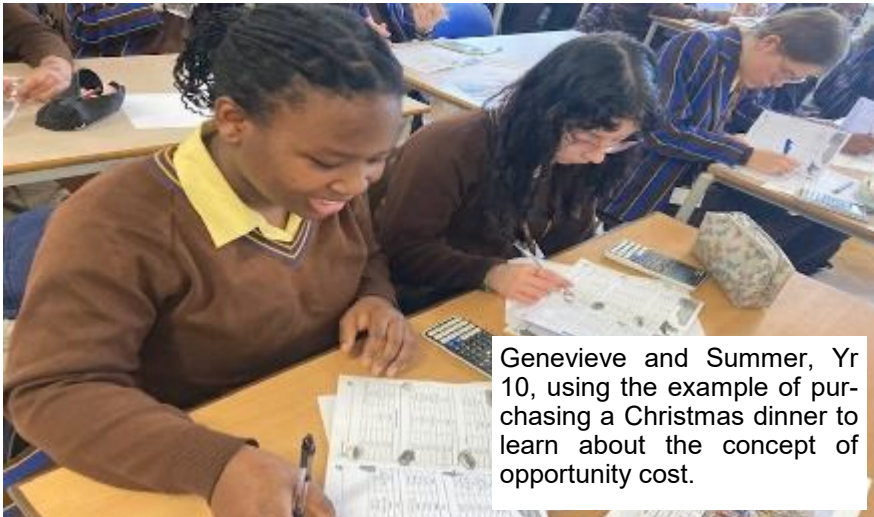




### Curriculum Extension Day

On Thursday 12th December, students in all year groups came off timetable to participate in a wide range of themed activities.

Year 7 performed their Nativity play to students in Years 8 and 12 as well as to students from the St Joseph the Worker Primary School. Additionally, Year 8 looked at their GCSE Options.

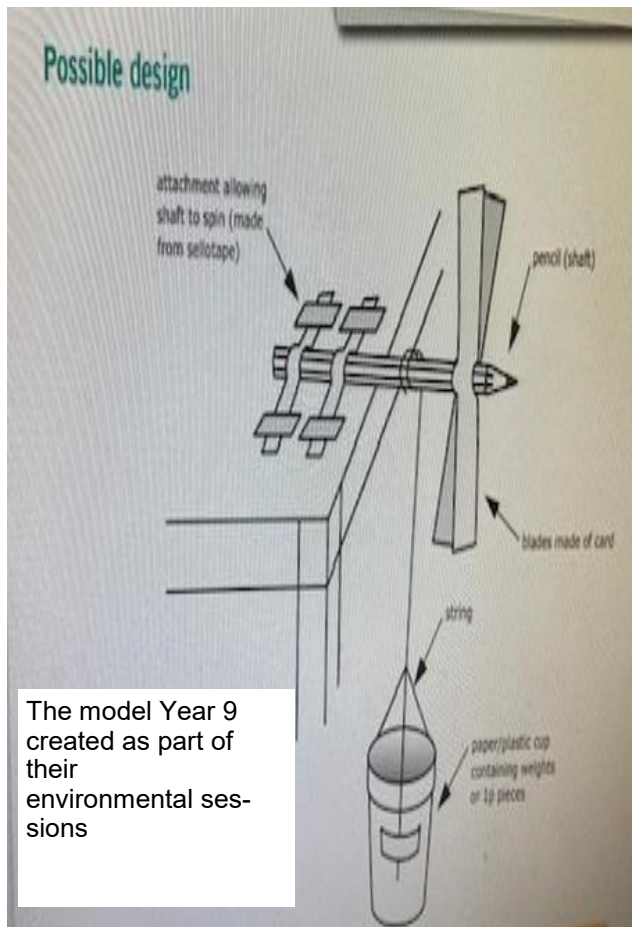


Genevieve and Summer, Yr 10, using the example of purchasing a Christmas dinner to learn about the concept of opportunity cost.

Year 9 enjoyed a STEM day focussed on environmental issues, and Year 10 activities involved a mixture of economics and maths with tasks including 'opportunity cost.'

Year 11 came in dressed formally and experienced a practice job interview with a professional for which they will receive structured feedback. They also learned about budgeting and were introduced to subject options that would be new to them at A Level in order for them to make an informed choice for Year 12.

Year 13 worked for some of their CED on creating a time capsule to mark the 125th anniversary of the school.



The model Year 9 created as part of their environmental sessions

All of the activities arranged for Curriculum Extension Day were centred around one or more of the Ursuline Values we aspire to model in our own behaviour and conduct at school.



Zino and Sky (9T) during one of their STEM activities



### Curriculum Extension Day Continued



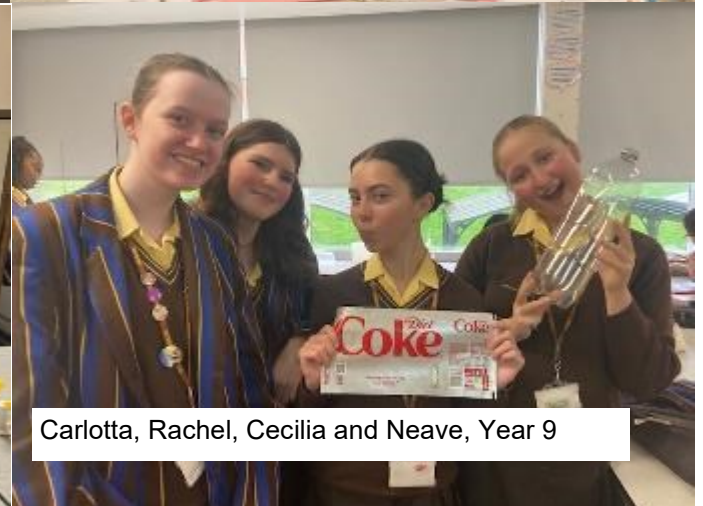
Robyn and Lucy, 9T



Caitlin and Sanaa, 9T



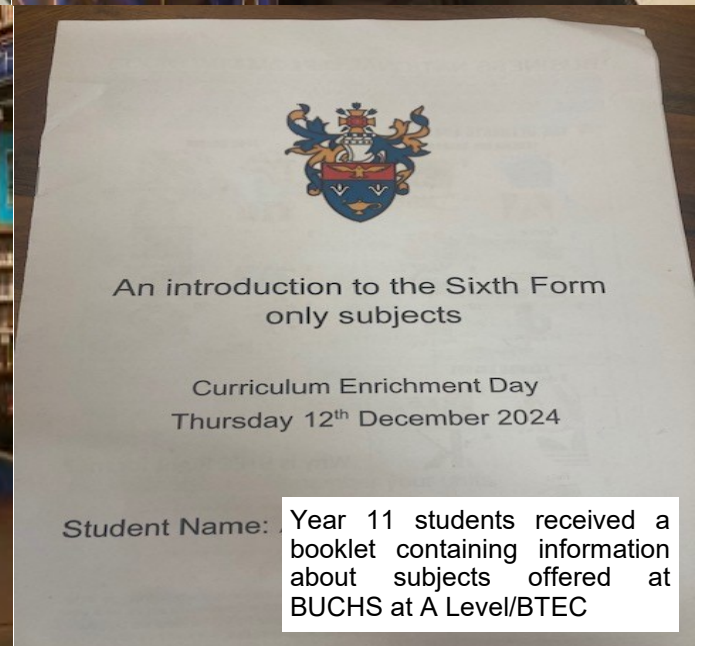
Elizabeth and Jessica, 9T



Carlotta, Rachel, Cecilia and Neave, Year 9



A Year 11 group taking part in a session about managing finances whilst at University



An introduction to the Sixth Form  
only subjects

Curriculum Enrichment Day  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December 2024

Student Name:

Year 11 students received a booklet containing information about subjects offered at BUCHS at A Level/BTEC



## Sport

### Netball

Well done to the U14 and U16 squad who earned places in the English Schools' Regional finals. These are the best schools in the East of England competing at an exceptional standard. The U14s battled relentlessly to win 3 matches and draw one match. Unfortunately, they missed out on the semi finals by 1 point. The girls played extremely well and should be very proud of themselves and were a credit to the Ursuline.

Well done to: Verity (9J), Neave (9B), Aiseose (9T), Osose (9T), Juliet, (7B), Mollie and Freya (8A), Ella (9C) and Grace (7C.)

In addition to this, the Year 7s, U14s and U16s are progressing extremely well in the Netball Essex Cup.



Congratulations to Aisling O in 11U who has been selected for the short squad for U17 Netball Ireland going forward for the European championships. Aisling recently represented Ireland at a training camp in Belfast. A remarkable achievement.

Well done Aisling!





### BUCHS Bees

An update from Mr Foster:

The students have continued with winter tasks involving the bees' wax.



Melting the old comb



Purified beeswax



Melted wax after casting into improvised candle



Filtering the melted wax



The finished products





### Christmas Karaoke



The Sixth Form organised a wonderful event for our Year 7s on Friday 13th December



Festive activities were laid on in the Main Hall over lunchtime



Students could choose a Christmas song to sing along to on stage, though a certain RE teacher couldn't help but join in too!



Lulu P joining in with the karaoke

There was also an area set up for decorating gingerbread men!  
Great fun was had by all!

Huge thanks to the staff, students and Sixth Formers who arranged and supported this event.





### Library News

#### BUCHS Bookworm Success!



We're really proud of Naomi in 7A, Pippa in 8U and Olivia in 7U who have all achieved their level one BUCHS Bookworm badges.

This means that they have read and completed a review of ten books and are now working towards their level two blue badge. Well done Naomi, Pippa and Olivia!



Naomi



Pippa



Olivia

#### Remembrance Day

In November, we remembered those who sacrificed their lives at war with this display of information and books.

If you are interested in books with a war time setting, or in history in general, we stock many books in these areas. Come in and ask for help to find them!



#### Book Fair Bookmark Competition

Students were invited to design a bookmark inspired by their favourite book. We've had some really creative entries, so well done to the many who took part.

The following five winners were all awarded a £5 voucher to spend at the half price Book Fair:

- Joann 7C
- Madalina 8A
- Jo Jo 7A
- Andrea 7C
- Izzy 7J



Please come and see Mrs Osborn if you would like your bookmark returned to you. Some of the fantastic entries we received can be seen on the next page.



Library News Continued





### Library News Continued

### Book Fair Bookmark Competition Continued



### Scholastic Book Fair



### Advent Reading Challenge



Are you taking part in the library's Advent Reading Challenge? If so, well done! Just make sure you:

- \* ask an adult to sign off on each daily activity
- \* write your name and form on the sheet
- \* hand the completed form to Mrs Osborn when you come back to school in January so you can be awarded achievement points!

Have fun and happy reading!



As ever, our December Book Fair was very popular with students; especially since all books were half price! Many were able to buy something for themselves or Christmas gifts for friends and family. They also enjoyed choosing stationery too.

Our bookmark prize winners shopped with their vouchers and one student managed to pick up seven books with her £5 voucher!

Thank you to all who supported this event and to the students in Years 10 and 12 who gave up their break and lunchtimes to help. We have earned some free books for the library so we will look forward to choosing those early in the new year.





### GCSE Geography Trip

On 25<sup>th</sup> November, GCSE Year 10 Geography students undertook their Physical Geography Fieldwork. Throughout the day, students had to measure the depth, width and velocity of Loughton Brook at the upper, middle and lower course of the river to see how the river characteristics change downstream. Students were also taught by members of the FSC about the theory and reasons for these changes downstream. Despite the cold and wet weather, students had a brilliant day with lots of learning!

Thank you to Miss Lake for organising the trip and to the staff at EFFC for their support and guidance.

Year 10 GCSE Geography Students





### GCSE Geography Trip Continued



### Calling all Ex BUCHS Students!

Did you once attend Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School?

As part of our ongoing 125th Anniversary celebrations, we are creating a display along the A3 corridor which focusses on different aspects of our history.

This term, we have looked at how wartime affected life at BUCHS and learned about its contributions to the war effort, growing food and how a student turned WRN gave up her life belt to a drowning man when her ship was torpedoed.

Next term, our theme relates to alumnae and a phrase said much around school: 'Once an Ursuline, always an Ursuline.'

In this light, we would like to hear from you if you attended the school (as a student or staff member,) the dates of attendance, and in particular, what you went on to do when you left. Perhaps there were some qualities or experiences you gained during your school years that helped you in your adult life. Any photos to accompany your stories would be gratefully received.

Please send any information and photos to: [sosborn@buchs.co.uk](mailto:sosborn@buchs.co.uk)

We very much look forward to hearing from you!



**Once an Ursuline,  
always an Ursuline.**



## Dance

### Tapathon 2024



On Sunday 17th November, the Tap Company participated in the Tapathon for Children in Need performing a set routine to 'Spice Up Your Life.' This is also a Guinness World Record attempt for the most people performing the same tap routine simultaneously in multiple venues. As a centre, we were able to raise an incredible £280 for this worthy cause and everyone involved should be very proud of themselves.

The results of the event were that 7,470 performers participated nationwide in Tapathon 2024! And overall, we were just 126 dancers short of breaking the record—how incredible is that? Tapathon 2025 will be held on Sunday, 23rd November 2025. Tap dancers, please save the date and let's see if we can break the record next year!

Well done everybody!

Mrs Hilder, Teacher in Charge of Dance



**RAISING MONEY  
FOR BBC CHILDREN IN NEED**





## Sixth Form

### Geography Seminar



On Wednesday 13th November, the Geography Department welcomed a past Ursuline student, Niamh Tucker. Niamh provided a helpful insight into what Geography looks like beyond school. She discussed topics including what to expect from a Geography degree, the skills you will gain and different career opportunities. Niamh detailed how she experienced many exciting field trips, including conservations in Croatia, and her dissertation in Cyprus. The A-Level students were able to ask questions about life at university in general, as well as specifically studying Geography further. Niamh is a true inspiration, and it was great to see an Ursuline student go on to be so successful!

Abi C, Year 12

### Year 12 – Celebration Morning

The hot chocolate morning that Year 12 received as a thank you for all our help during the Year 7 morning tours was such a lovely gesture. It felt great to be recognised for our efforts, and hot chocolate was the perfect treat to brighten up our day. We had so much fun being able to spend the morning with our peers and reflect on the enjoyment we felt taking possible new year 7s around the school and it allowed us to think about what a rewarding experience it was. It felt amazing to share our knowledge and help the younger students feel more comfortable in a new environment. Guiding them through the school, answering their questions, and seeing their excitement made all the effort worthwhile. The hot chocolate morning was the perfect addition to such an enriching experience.



Aimee H-B, Year 12

### Brentwood Remembrance Service

Our three head students, Charlotte, Sam and Abigail attended the Brentwood Remembrance Service representing the school. They participated in the silence, reflection and prayers.





## Sixth Form Continued

### International Men's Day

This year's International Men's Day was made extra special thanks to the efforts of Mrs Fryer and Mrs Harbott who organised a fantastic breakfast for all the boys in the Sixth Form. It was a thoughtful and generous way to bring us together and recognise the importance of this day. The atmosphere was warm and welcoming, and it was a great opportunity to reflect on the values of kindness, respect, and positive masculinity. I want to personally thank these teachers for their hard work and support in making us feel appreciated—it's gestures like this that remind us how much Brentwood Ursuline cares about its students.

Tejas S, Year 13



### Future Friday External Speaker -UK Diplomat

Ex-student Rachel L delivered a 'Future Friday' presentation to our Year 12 and 13 students. She spoke about how she got to where she is now, what her job entails and answered some questions from our students.



### Virtual NHS Work Experience

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, I completed an Allied Healthcare Mentor Work Experience Session. It was online and it started at 9:00 and finished at 17:00. We had a few 15 minute breaks throughout the day with a 30 minute lunch at 12:30. To start the session off, we had a woman speak to us about her university and career journey. She also told us about her nurse paramedic course which you can take at university. It was very interesting and informative because she told us about what A-levels you needed in order to take the course. It takes 4 years, including a masters, and you learn how to be a nurse and paramedic at the same time! After the career's talk, the live simulation of a car accident started. This was where 'Tom' got hit by a car and sustained a leg and head injury.



## Sixth Form Continued

### Virtual NHS Work Experience Continued

We saw the paramedics arrive at the scene and what they did to 'Tom.' He was transported to hospital where the nurse, dietitian, speech and language therapist, pharmacist, reparatory physiotherapist, orthotics and occupational therapy all played a part. When all these medics 'played,' they explained what they were doing and why they were doing it. They talked about the qualities needed for each of these roles and the techniques used. This was very useful as even if you are not too sure about your chosen career, you get a full insight into lots of different healthcare careers which can help you decide. After Tom's incident, 'Jane's' incident was shown. She was a pregnant lady who took a fall onto her belly. Very similar careers were shown when helping Jane, where all actors explained what they were doing. Throughout the day, you could ask any questions you had about the jobs that they were showing or about universities in general and they were all answered quite quickly. I recommend this course to anyone interested in medicine or a career to do with healthcare in general because it is very useful to see what the professionals do and also how many different careers are needed for just one patient after an incident. I thoroughly enjoyed this session because it gave me an insight into many different jobs within healthcare and provided me with useful information about each job.

Fiona L, Year 12

## Year 12 Politics

### Politics Hustings

Year 12 Politics students were challenged to create their own political parties and manifestoes.

They presented them in class which was then followed by a 'Question Time' style debate where they challenged each other's policies quite vociferously.

When it came to voting, inducements in the form of biscuits and Dairy Milk were offered but the Electoral Commission (Mr Earle) was forced to point out that such brazen attempts at bribery and corruption were not befitting of UK elections.

The results showed the 'Korbynistas' coming in a disappointing fourth (out of four) with a victory for the Justice Yielding Party and their excellent t shirts.



### Year 13 Embrace the Spirit of Community on 'Insieme' Day

Last week, our Year 13 students took part in a wonderful 'Insieme' curriculum enrichment day, celebrating community, creativity, and our shared history as we prepare for Christmas. True to the spirit of 'Insieme', which means 'together', the day brought students, staff, and even family members together for a truly special experience.



The morning began with the *Insieme at Christmas* session, where we welcomed some students' families and friends into school. Together, we enjoyed a reflective liturgy, which included heartfelt readings from both students and a parent, alongside uplifting carols sung by our talented Sixth Formers. The festive spirit continued with a creative Christmas craft activity, filling the room with laughter and chatter.

The day then turned to the *Insieme at 125* session; a chance to reflect on the incredible 125-year history of our school. Students delved into old photographs, marvelling at the evolution of uniforms and traditions, and shared their thoughts about what being part of the Ursuline community means to them.



### Sixth Form Continued

Together, they created items for a time capsule, ensuring their memories and hopes for the future will be preserved for generations to come. The day ended on a relaxed note, with a Christmas film and festive snacks, bringing the year group together for their final Christmas at BUCHS.

It was a joy to witness the warmth, creativity, and community spirit of our Year 13s, who embraced the day with enthusiasm. A huge thank you to everyone who contributed to making this enrichment day such a success. Insieme truly showed us the power of coming together to celebrate our shared values and history.



A particularly popular stall showcased a vibrant display of famous Black artists and their work, all thoughtfully connected to our Ursuline virtues. From resilience to respect, these virtues were exemplified through the lives and achievements of key Black figures. The event not only celebrated Black history and culture but also fostered a deeper sense of unity and appreciation within our school. A huge thank you to the Sixth Form committee for their outstanding efforts in creating such a memorable and meaningful occasion!



### Celebrating Black History Month

At the end of October, we proudly celebrated Black History Month with a vibrant and educational event led by our incredible Sixth Form students. This event was a true testament to the diversity and richness of our Ursuline community and the creativity of our students.

The afternoon began with a stunning performance by our Gospel Choir, featuring over 40 students. Their reflective, moving, and uplifting music, including powerful solos and a live piano accompaniment by one of our talented students, set the tone for an inspiring celebration.

Students showcased examples of traditional clothing, shared heartfelt migration stories from their families, and performed self-written poems that captured their personal journeys and experiences. These contributions highlighted the importance of understanding and valuing the unique perspectives within our school.

Adding to the energy of the event were interactive stalls. One displayed items reflecting our students' diverse heritage, while another featured traditional clothing that offered a glimpse into different cultures.





**Celebrating Black History Month Continued**





## Art

### Art Department Christmas Card Competition

We were excited to run the annual Christmas postcard competition for Year 7 & 8 students to design Christmas cards which each form group throughout the school could send to the Ursuline Sisters.



Our competition asked the students to create a Christmas card design of their choice, in any media they wished, representing a Christmas theme.

We were delighted to receive so many entries—all with such thought, care and hard work put in by our super students. The ideas and creativity shown by the students was truly exceptional.

It was lovely to then be able to add the most successful designs to the Christmas cards for each form group to sign messages in for the Ursuline Sisters.





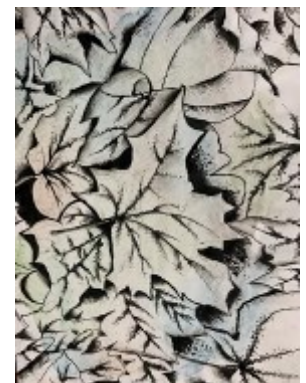
Art Continued



Year 9 Art  
**'Autumnal Forms'**  
*Celebrating colour and light in God's creation.*



We are delighted to share with you, some of the work of our talented Year 9 Art students who have been investigating colours and forms found in nature during the beautiful season of Autumn.





### Art Continued

#### The Nativity Set Design Production

A group of Year 9 Art students, together with some of our Year 12 and 13 A-level Art students, worked with incredible dedication to produce a superb set for the Year 7 production of The Nativity. Within two weeks, the students had created a wonderful backdrop for Year 7 actors and singers.

Thank you to all the students who gave so freely of their time and energy for this very special project.



Set Designers:  
Year 13: Marian J, Abigail R  
Year 12: Beatrice B, Sara D F, Neve J-L  
Year 9: Isabel A, Erin C, Diana G,  
Davina J, Alishya K, Nicole K, Angel  
Jada K



*inspire  
together*

Thank you also to Year 12 Art and GCSE Art students in 9T who helped out with the final touches to stage boxes.





### Art Continued

#### St Ursula's Day in Art

In Art lessons on St Ursula's Day, students talked about St Ursula and then created their own stained glass window design based on her.

The beautiful design featured here is from Seren in 7T.



*insistme  
together*

## ST. URSULA

Feast Day: October 21  
Patron of Young People  
and Educators

Glorious St. Ursula,  
instructor of the young and  
guardian of virtue, help us to  
heed your fine example.  
Assist us to follow in your  
footsteps. May we learn to  
love and serve our Lord and  
trust in His goodness.

We ask this through  
Christ our Lord, from Whom  
all blessings come.

*Amen.*

*"The guarding of virtue is the most  
important part of the education of  
youth."*



*"Act, move, believe, strive, hope, cry out to him with all your heart for  
without doubt you will see marvellous things."  
St Angelo, Prelogue to the Councils, 20-28*



## 80th Anniversary of the liberation of Roosendaal

On Thursday 31st October, members of the Brentwood Imperial Youth Band travelled to Roosendaal, Netherlands to help the residents celebrate the 80th Anniversary of the Liberation of Roosendaal. The BIYB wear the Polar Bear (the divisional emblem worn by the 49th Infantry Division) on their tunics.

Friday started with a visit to the Cultuurhuis- a venue in Roosendaal that hosts a variety of events. Our first audience were predominantly elderly residents, so we played songs that many of them may have heard in their youth. They seemed to really enjoy our performance. Later that afternoon, we played in a magnificent church (Onze Lieve Vrouwechurch), where we played 'songs that won the war.' Watching the elderly members of the audience sing along to our music created a moving atmosphere, which undoubtedly touched everyone in the church. It was made even more special as BIYB brought the original banner that the people of Roosendaal had donated to the Polar Bears at the time in honour of their liberation.

The following morning, we started with a memorial service in Wouw. Similar to Brentwood's Remembrance Parade, we performed at a memorial monument, dedicated to all the brave men and women who lost their lives during the war. People from all over came to watch. The BIYB then had an opportunity to explore the city and learn more about its fascinating history.



After lunch, we participated in a parade (which included a military convoy led by an original tank from the war) entertaining residents who came out especially for this momentous day. At the Polar Bear Monument, the mayor and a few other citizens read speeches and poems about the wars and gave their thanks to those who liberated the town 80 years ago. Shortly following, wreaths were laid as war planes flew over which created a mesmerising display for those below. The service ended and we made our way to the party tent. It was a tight squeeze, but it was definitely an epic celebration atmosphere. As we played, those watching us danced and had the time of their lives. Although none of us knew each other, it felt like we had known each other forever. During our final piece, 'songs that won the wars,' it turned into a massive conga line with everlasting happiness and laughter. A great way to end a truly memorable experience. It is one we will never forget.

Libby A and Zoe B 9C

## Visit to the Band of the Irish Guards

Also during the October Half Term, the band were invited to Wellington Barracks in London by the Band of the Irish Guards.

The day included observing a marching display, rehearsals in their practice room under the direction of the Bandmaster and a presentation on British Army music. After lunch, they received constructive training on the parade square and many passers by stopped to watch.

"It was an honour to perform at the Irish Guards' parade square; the engagement from onlookers made us all feel incredibly proud. The band of the Irish Guards were really accommodating and the passion they conveyed through their hospitality and music was admirable. As a result of our visit, more connections with the Irish Guards Band were formed as well as skills learned due to the expertise of their conductor which we can apply to our own rehearsals."

Hannah O, 11T





### Visit to the Band of the Irish Guards Continued

Several of our students across different year groups plus many BUCHS alumnae are members of the Brentwood Imperial Youth Band.

Photos of the Wellington Barracks visit are below.



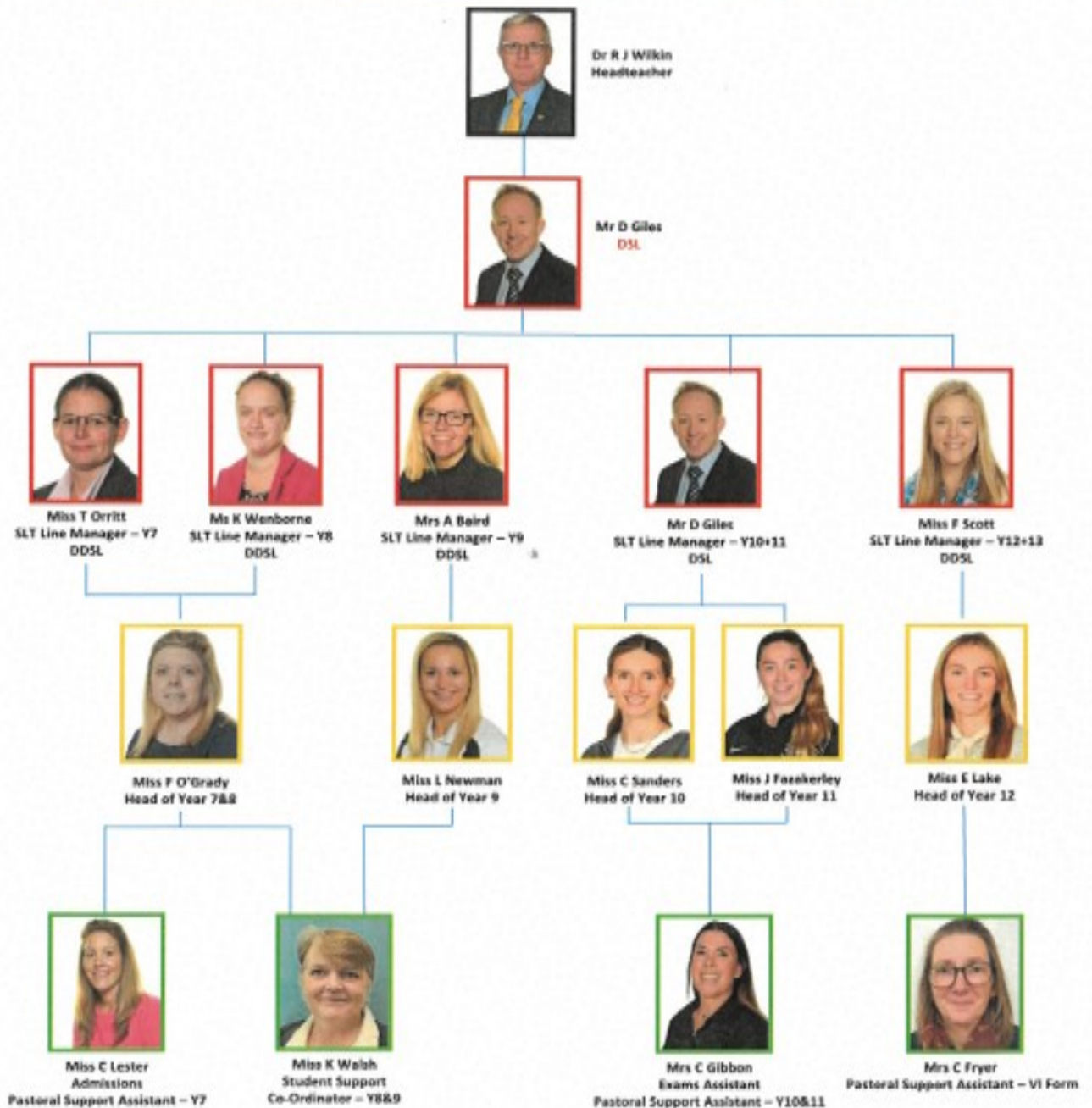
### Retreats

As Year 7 finished their retreats, Year 9 began theirs this half term. Their theme; 'Called To Be Saints' explores how each one of us can work for the betterment of others. Through ice-breakers, games, crafts and meditation, our girls considered what it means to be saints today, and what we can do to support others and the environment. They learnt about the lives of some well known and lesser known saints and reflected on how the saints' lives could inspire them. Saint Teresa of Kolkata inspires us to be courageous, resilient and to help others, Saint Paul teaches us that we can all change to become a better person, and that even though we might feel small, we can still influence big changes like Saint Terese of Lisieux. Below are some of our students dressing in the 'Armour of God.'





## 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](http://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.



UK Health  
Security  
Agency



Essex County Council

12 November 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians,

### Measles in Essex

Measles is circulating in Essex. Most cases of measles have been in school children and preschool children not protected by a full course of the MMR vaccine.

Measles is very infectious and spreads easily amongst people who are unvaccinated. It can be a very serious illness and can sometimes lead to hospitalisation – and in rare cases, can cause death.

If you or your child have symptoms of measles, seek medical attention. Be sure to phone ahead before you visit your GP surgery or other healthcare setting. This allows arrangements to be made to prevent others from being infected. Do not send a child with these symptoms to school unless they have been medically assessed and told they can go to school.

### Measles signs and symptoms

- cold-like symptoms (runny nose, sneezing or coughing)
- sore, red eyes
- a high temperature (fever)
- A few days later, a red-brown blotchy rash will appear. This usually starts on the head or upper neck, before spreading outwards to the rest of the body.

### Protection against measles

The best way to protect yourself, family, and friends, is the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination. MMR is a highly effective and safe vaccine and protects against measles, mumps and rubella. Anyone who has missed a dose of MMR should contact their GP surgery to get vaccinated. 2 doses of the MMR vaccine gives long-term protection.

If you are not sure if your child has missed an MMR dose (or any other vaccination) you can contact the Essex Children's Immunisation and Vaccination team on 0300 790 0597. You can also ring this number to have your child vaccinated in a community vaccination clinic.

### Vaccination clinics:

**All clinics listed below are from 10am – 3pm.**

Saturday, 16 November 2024 at Sydney House Clacton

Saturday, 16 November 2024 at Timberlog Youth Centre, SS14 1UX (Walk-ins available for flu vaccine)



UK Health  
Security  
Agency

Saturday, 16 November 2024 at St Margaret's Hospital, Epping, Maple Lodge, CM16 6TN  
(Walk-ins available for flu vaccine)

Saturday, 23 November 2024 at Fryatt Hospital, Harwich

Saturday, 23 November 2024 at Leigh PCC, SS9 3NG (Walk-ins available for flu vaccine)

Saturday, 23 November 2024 at Livewell Hub Braintree, CM7 3HP

Saturday, 23 November 2024 at Fryatt Hospital, Harwich, CO12 4EX

Saturday, 23 November 2024 at Crouch Vale Medical Centre, CM3 5QP

Saturday, 30 November 2024 at Thameside House, Thurrock Hospital RM16 2PX

Saturday, 30 November 2024 at The Lodge, Wickford, SS11 7XX

Saturday, 7 December 2024 at Leigh PCC, SS9 3NG (Walk-ins available for flu vaccine)

Saturday, 7 December 2024 at Timberlog YC, SS14 1UX (Walk-ins available for flu vaccine)

Saturday, 7 December 2024 at St Margaret's Hospital, Epping, Orchard Day room, CM16 6TN  
(Walk-ins available for flu vaccine)

Saturday, 14 December 2024 at Hermit YC, CM15 8AG

Saturday, 14 December 2024 at Livewell Hub, Braintree, CM7 3HP

Saturday, 14 December 2024 at Clough Road, Colchester, CO4 9QS

**Parents should Call 0300 790 0597 to book MMR appointments.**

For further information about measles, please visit

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles/>

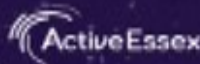
Information about the MMR vaccine can be found here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/>

Kind regards,

**Dr Smita Kapadia, Consultant in Communicable Disease Control,**  
UK Health Security Agency

**Dr Danny Showell, Consultant in Public Health,**  
Essex County Council



## FREE WINTER HOLIDAY CLUBS IN BRENTWOOD!

Essex ActivAte helps to support eligible children and families during the school holidays and half term breaks, through free engaging and fun activities. Book a space using your emailed HolidayActivities voucher code or contact one of our clubs to book a space!

### AEF Brentwood Boxing Club (11-16 yrs)

Doddinghurst Rd, Pilgrims Hatch, CM15 9NN  
brentwoodcentral21@gmail.com & 07930 903442  
23rd, 27th and 30th December, 10-1pm

### AEF Get Golfing Up to SEND L2 (7-16 yrs)

Warley Park Golf Club, Magpie Lane, Warley CM13 3DX  
ann@getgolfing.org & 07956318016  
23rd December 10am-1pm | 2nd January 10am-1pm

### AEF Kaizen Kai (11-16 years)

Bannister Dr, Hutton, Brentwood CM13 1YX  
simon@kazenkai.com & 08001830383  
23rd December, 10am-1pm

### Camp 4 Champs (4-10 years)

St Peter's Church of England Primary School, Wigley Bush Ln, CM14 5QN  
bookings@camp4champs.co.uk & 020 8103 0101  
23rd and 24th December 9am-4pm | 2nd and 3rd January 9am-4pm

### HCL Activity Camps (4-11 years)

Hutton Community Centre, Harrison Cl, Hutton, CM13 1LP  
info@hollowaycoaching.co.uk & 07778 874029  
20th December Winter Party, 4:30pm-6:30pm | 23rd December  
9am-3:15pm | 2nd and 3rd January 9am-3:15pm

Find out more: [activeessex.org](https://activeessex.org)





## FREE WINTER HOLIDAY CLUBS IN BRENTWOOD!

Jack Of All Sports Pilgrims Hatch (4-12 years)

Bentley St Pauls Primary School, Ashwells Rd, Pilgrims Hatch, CM15 9SE

jackofallsports@btinternet.com & 07919 888093

23rd and 30th December 9am-3pm | 2nd and 3rd January 9am-3pm

Schools Out Activities (4-16 years)

Shenfield High School, Alexander Ln, Shenfield, Brentwood CM15 8RY

info@schoolsoutactivities.co.uk & 01473 942990

2nd and 3rd January, 9am-5pm

Sports Cool Theatre Experience Up to SEND L2 (4-12 yrs)

Brentwood Theatre, 15 Shenfield Rd, Brentwood CM15 8AG

westessex@sportscool.org & 07935535293

23rd December 5:30pm-7pm

SportsCool Up to SEND L3 (4-12yrs)

Holly Trees Primary School, Vaughan Williams Way, Brentwood, CM14 5RY

westessex@sportscool.org & 07935535292

30th and 31st December 9am-3pm | 2nd and 3rd January 9am-3pm



SCAN  
ME



Scan the QR code  
to find out more!



# Flu Vaccine Catch up Clinics

## Has your child missed their school vaccinations?

**We are running local flu catch up clinics this winter, your nearest clinic is:**

**Thameside House, Thurrock Hospital, RM16 2PX**

10am to 3pm

- Friday 1 November (Half term)
- Saturday 30 November 10am – 2pm
- Monday 23 December (walk in clinic only)

**The Hermit Youth Centre, Brentwood, CM15 8AG**

10am to 2pm

- Saturday 19 October
- Wednesday 31 October (half term) 10am – 3pm
- Saturday 9 November
- Saturday 14 December 10am – 3pm

**Tilbury Children's Centre, RM18 8EY**

10am to 3pm

- Monday 30 December (Christmas Holidays)

**It's easy to catch up, book your nearest clinic NOW on 0300 790 0597.**

For information on school aged vaccinations please visit our website:  
[eput.nhs.uk/childrensvaccines](http://eput.nhs.uk/childrensvaccines)

**#GetWinterStrong**





**STUDY  
SMART**  
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**ncfe. | cache**



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1, 2 & 3**

**\*Please go to our website  
for more detailed  
information.**



**6 Week  
Course  
Mon - Fri**

**Daily sessions**

**1st session 9:30 - 11:30am**

**2nd session 12:30 - 2pm**

**[www.studysmartuk.online](http://www.studysmartuk.online)**

**Available in the following levels:**

Level 1:	CACHE Level 1 Award in Preparing to Work in Schools
	CACHE Level 1 Award in Safeguarding in a Learning Environment
	CACHE Level 1 Certificate in Wellbeing
	Level 1 Occupational Studies for the Workplace
Level 2:	CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Safeguarding & Prevent
	CACHE Level 2 Certificate in Understanding Challenging Behaviours
Level 3:	Level 3 Certificate in the Principles of Special Educational Needs

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.



### **e-Scooters**

Please read the information from The Safer Essex Road Partnership about e-scooters. (Sent as an accompanying attachment to this newsletter.) It may surprise many of you to know that it is not legal to use a privately-owned e-scooter. People do not realise this because e-scooters are commonly seen speeding around our neighbourhoods, sometimes driven by young lads who, unsurprisingly, don't want their faces to be seen.

As drivers, we know how dangerous e-scooters are, both from the point of view of stability and visibility. I regularly see parents riding e-scooters with their primary-aged child riding on the front: I wonder if they realise how irresponsible and illegal this is?

The woman in the pictures seems to be enjoying herself on her rented e-scooter, but despite the cycle helmet she is wearing, she has no other protective clothing and a bag thrown over her shoulder. If she were to lose balance and come off, the resulting damage to her clothing, 'road rash' on her skin and damage to her hands would potentially be very serious, given that e-scooters can travel faster than bicycles with minimal effort. Just look at any crash in a cycle race if you want proof. The same is true, incidentally, of e-bikes: they may be more stable, better equipped and more visible to other road users, than e-scooters, but the speeds they achieve with no effort are more akin to a moped than a bicycle, so the damage that can incur from a spill is potentially very serious. If you want to know how an unprotected human head reacts to hitting the road at 30mph, drop a melon from head height onto hard ground and see what happens.

### **Year 11 GCSE Intervention Sessions**

	<b>Lunch</b>	<b>After School</b>
<b>Monday</b>	Chemistry—Drop in	Biology
<b>Tuesday</b>	Maths –11Ma/5 Textiles—All welcome History—Invite only	Physics—Drop in French—All welcome Textiles—All Welcome
<b>Wednesday</b>	History—Invite only Drama—Invite only Geography—All welcome	Maths—All
<b>Thursday</b>	Textiles—All welcome RE—All welcome	Physics English—Invite only Textiles—All



# Better Housing Better Health

The Warmth & Wellbeing Service

## HOME ENERGY ADVICE

Better Housing Better Health (BHBH) is a service working locally to improve your domestic warmth & wellbeing. In a preventative approach, our free helpline provides you with a single point of contact for advice and support in order to help improve the energy efficiency of your property and lower your bills.

### FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Our team of experts can work with households to apply for grants and funding to help with your home energy. Schemes like the Warm Home Discount can take £150 off your bills and ECO Funding can replace heating systems as well as install insulation. Call us to see if you're eligible and start the process.



## WE ARE HERE.

GET IN TOUCH

**0800 107 0044**

**WWW.BHBH.ORG.UK**

