



Dear Parents/Carers,

Despite the grey and cold weather this half term, we have been able to provide a rich programme of activities for your children. I know I'm biased, but I take particular pleasure in seeing so many history activities taking place!

The Jubilee Year, with the theme Pilgrims of Hope, is of special significance for us as a Catholic school, as well as it being our 125th anniversary. We hope that all of our students will come to understand the significance of this year and feel that they are part of three very special communities: the local Ursuline community of Brentwood, the worldwide community of Ursulines, both of which are nested in the third community, the universal Catholic Church.

I would encourage you to find ways to support the Jubilee Year, as well as your child's broader education, perhaps by going on a trip yourselves to somewhere of religious significance; for example, a day trip to Lincoln (Lincoln castle holds one of the original copies of the Magna Carta) or Canterbury (St Thomas Becket): both are a chance to see two of England's greatest cathedrals and learn about the importance of these cities in medieval England. Pilgrimage is supposed to be enriching for the mind as well as the spirit.

Whatever you choose to do over the half term break, I wish you a peaceful and restful time.

Dr Richard Wilkin MA, EdD, Headteacher

HAVE YOU APPLIED TO OUR
SIXTH FORM?

*The Brentwood Ursuline Sixth Form,
Where ambition meets tradition.*

Oversubscribed: The Sixth Form is
oversubscribed for September 2025 entry.
The Sixth Form Team are currently
reviewing applications and will be in
contact in due course.

Sixth Form enquiries:
cfryer@buchs.co.uk



Student Leadership Team 2025-26



Above left to right: Outgoing Deputy Head Student Samuel Wright, outgoing Head Student Charlotte Hedley-Barnes, outgoing Deputy Head Student Abigail Cox, Deputy Head Student Sienna Hungan, Head Student Tillie Fitzgerald and Deputy Head Student Riya Jacob.



Our new Student Leadership Team took part in their inauguration ceremony at the mass celebrating the Feast of St. Angela on Monday 27th January. Our newly appointed Head Student, Tillie, gave a speech to the congregation.

Head Student Speech by Tillie Fitzgerald

My name is Tillie Fitzgerald, and I stand before you today with immense gratitude and excitement as I introduce myself as the new Head Student of our school. First and foremost, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to the previous leadership team, Charlotte, Sam and Abi, for their dedication, hard work, and the incredible legacy they have built. Their commitment to our school community has set a remarkable foundation for us to build upon, I feel privileged to follow in their footsteps along with our deputies; Riya and Sienna.

Over the past five years, I have been in your position, exactly where you are sitting now; and from Year 7 to the start of the Sixth Form, I remember being truly inspired by the role models before me, leading me to where I am today. This pathway has shaped my understanding of what it means to be a part of our Ursuline community. As Head Student, I see myself as a role model who embodies the values of compassion, respect and unity. I believe it is essential to foster a positive school environment where every student feels valued and heard. By working collaboratively with others, I aim to support you, as my fellow Ursuline sisters along your journey at BUCHS.

During the month of January, we embark on this chapter together entering the new year; a year of success, growth and resilience. It can be daunting and tireless, but I believe you all have the determination to overcome challenges along the way. With the help of our teachers, their outstanding guidance and generosity can lead us to a place of honour and pride. This is where, to Years 11 and 13, I wish you the best of luck. You are facing your exams this year; a crucial moment in your journey. I know every single one of you has the ability to succeed and, as said in Isaiah 41:10 "I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." We know that God is all-powerful, and he will offer us the strength we need.

2025 marks a significant milestone for the Ursuline—our 125th anniversary. I am thrilled to lead our school during this time. It is not just a celebration of our history, but an opportunity to develop and embrace our school community. When we reflect back to 1900, Mother Clare put trust in God to venture into a new beginning and believe in the upcoming generations. This is why it's important to focus on the little things, like being respectful in our corridors and classrooms and walking round the school with a disciplined attitude. Our school property is a piece of history that we should be proud of, so together as an Ursuline family, we can honour our past while looking forward to a future filled with promise and potential.

At the core of our school's ethos are values that resonate deeply within me: being faith-filled, hopeful, courageous, and resilient. These values guide us in our daily lives and inspire us to support one another. They remind us that, like St. Angela Merici, we are called to be a source of strength and encouragement to our peers, to serve our duty to the school and one another. St. Angela's legacy of compassion and unity is something I aspire to embody as we work together over the next year.

As we move forward, let us remember the words of St. Angela Merici: "Have faith and keep courage." These words serve as a reminder that with faith in ourselves and each other, we can overcome any challenges that come our way. Together, let's make this year one of growth, connection, and celebration.

I am very thankful for this opportunity and determined to fulfil my duty in the position of Head Student.



2025-2026 Prefects

Senior Student Leadership Team

Head Student	Tillie Fitzgerald
Deputy Head Student	Riya Jacob
Deputy Head Student	Sienna Hungan

House Prefects

Bresica	Matilda D
Clares	Chesna O
Ursulas	Aimee H
Trinity	Toffy E
Johns	Temilade O
Angelas	Jess S

Prefects

Florence H	Charlotte K
Rose H	Isabella H
Chanelle S	Charis A
Neve J	Nella-Ellen J
Hannah R	Katie S
Julia C	Caroline B
Louie P	Mya L
Lily O	Fiona L
Riona D	

Initial Duties for our new Student Leadership Team

It was very exciting for Riya, Sienna and I to begin our duties as the new student leadership team. We were able to go and talk to the Year 11s in their assembly and share our revision tips, as not too long ago we were in the same position as them. We discussed the importance of staying organised, taking breaks, and believing in their abilities to succeed. It was great to see the students engaged and hopefully feeling more confident about their upcoming exams!

Tillie F, Head Student



Holocaust Memorial

On 25th January, myself and a number of students in my history class were given the opportunity to attend an annual Holocaust memorial which was held at Brentwood County High School. It was not only extremely informative and widened my knowledge of the events, but it also served as an excellent opportunity to reflect on what really happened and how it affected so many people.

The impact of the Holocaust was encapsulated in the speeches of John Levy and Dr Alex Burghart (MP for Brentwood and Ongar), and being able to hear about the events from different viewpoints and perspectives was extremely intriguing and enriching.

Neve, 12.4



**For a Better Future is the
theme for Holocaust Me-
morial Day 2025**



Bank of England - Guest Speaker

On January 14th 2025, the Sixth Form Economics students had the privilege of attending an insightful presentation delivered by a distinguished representative from the Bank of England, Ben Cook. The speaker provided an engaging overview of a range of topics that not only directly correlated with the students' A-level curriculum, but also offered valuable insights into the practical applications of economics in real-world scenarios.

The session provided a clear overview of the Bank of England's role in the UK economy, focusing on its key responsibility for managing monetary policy and controlling inflation. The speaker also explained how the Bank's decisions affect different areas of the economy, highlighting how economic theory connects to real-life outcomes.

In addition to discussing the Bank of England's central functions, the presentation also included valuable career guidance, focusing on opportunities for students interested in pursuing a career in economics. The speaker elaborated on the Bank's apprenticeship programs, providing detailed information on how economics students could apply for future apprenticeships.

Overall, the session served as both an educational experience and an inspirational opportunity for the students, offering a deeper understanding of the real-world implications of their academic studies and potential career paths in the field of economics.

Becca E, Year 12





Year 12 Macro Economics

After the excellent visit from Ben from the Bank of England, the Year 12 Macro Economics class had the opportunity to meet as the Monetary Policy Committee. Each class member took on a role from the committee and prepared 'in character'. The 9 members met on Friday morning and had only 20 minutes to complete their research and develop their points to bring to the table.

Riya J chaired the meeting in her role as Governor and brought the meeting to order to begin the debate. The agenda was to decide upon which, if any, monetary policy instruments, were going to be used from Feb 8th and the possible impact on the current UK economy. Riya opened by talking about the current state of the economy, where inflation sits and the Bank Rate along with any other pertinent information (such as concerns over a trade war looming).

The debate was lively but respectful, with members arguing for a drop in interest rates, a rise and a freeze. All had sound economic reasoning for their decision. Quantitative easing was then brought to the table; a once temporary measure that has remained heavily used since the Banking Crash in 2008. Again, there were mixed feelings and some excellent arguments of economic growth versus inflation ensued. The cost-of-living crisis and the possibility of spiralling inflation were never far from the table.

In the end, the votes were to drop the bank rate to 4.25 % and invoke a small round of quantitative tightening. We are looking forward to seeing the decisions of the other MPC to rate our economic thinking and reasoning against theirs.

Well done to all involved, it was a real privilege to hear your reasoning and discussions and the debate, whilst lively, was very respectful. I for one am excited to see so many of our economics students looking to Lead for Justice and unafraid to challenge the system.

Well done!

Mrs Harbott, Teacher of Maths and Economics



125th Anniversary Food Tech Competition



Students were invited to bake 12 biscuits which should in some way represent 125 years of our school, or be decorated in a commemorative design or both.

They also had to contain some kind of fruit! Voting would take place on February 10th and judges would be looking for:

- ▶ Clever design and appearance
- ▶ A good crunch
- ▶ Flavour
- ▶ Fruit
- ▶ Good colour
- ▶ Good baking, no burnt edges!
- ▶ A biscuit celebrating 'being Ursuline!'

Results!

The winner of the competition is:

Pippa H in 8U

Runner up: Shayla T in 7C

Highly commended: Amelia F in 7A, Abi S in 7A, Aoife M in 7B and Martha R in 7C.

There were prizes for the winner and runners up and certificates for all who entered. Individuals also received feedback from the judges on their bakes.

Some of the fantastic entries can be seen on the next page.



125th Anniversary Food Tech Competition
Continued



Above: the winning entry by Pippa H, 8U





Dance Show



The 21st and 22nd January saw our slightly later than normal Dance Show. The theme of the show this year was 'feelings and emotions' and the students worked incredibly hard to challenge themselves and entertain with such a variety of dances. I would like to thank Miss Sanders, Miss Woodroof and Dance Prefect Bianca for all their hard work and dedication in helping to organise and run extra-curricular companies and helping me with the preparation for this show. Special thanks also to the caretakers for helping to set everything up, Mr Whitworth for filming the performance, Mrs Wortley, Miss Orritt, Mrs Baird, Miss Lake, Miss Strachan, Mrs Harbott, Mrs Hammond and Mrs Osborn for all their help backstage and during the interval. Lastly, thank you to our audience! Your support at events like these allow us to raise money to provide many wonderful opportunities and experiences for your children in the Dance Department. Your generous contributions provide the students with a variety of costumes, props and technical and visual effects. DVDs of the show will be available to purchase through ParentPay after Half Term.

Mrs Hilder, Teacher in Charge of Dance

Year of Jubilee 2025

This year is a Jubilee Year and Pope Francis has called this year 'Pilgrims of Hope.'

The word 'Jubilee' comes from the Hebrew word 'Yobel' meaning ram's horn as they are blown to signify the start of the year. During the year, the land would rest, slaves would be set free and any disagreements would be settled.

Now, Catholic Jubilees happen every 25 years and the pope gives each one a theme and focus to help the world in some way. This year, Pope Francis invites us on a journey of reflection, peace and hope. He wants us to put into action care for our common home and support our sisters and brothers throughout the world. We are asking our pupils to be Pilgrims of Hope by taking part in a range of activities throughout 2025, beginning with the Len-Tin Drive, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and supporting the Saint Vincent de Paul Lent campaign. Jesus said those who will be blessed by the Father are those who give food to the hungry, water to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, look after the sick, and visit those in prison (Matthew 25:34-36). As Pilgrims of Hope, we will work towards supporting the poor and outcast of our community this year. Look out for upcoming events.

Ms. V Gillespie, Lay Chaplain





Year 8 and 9 Retreats



Called to be Saints

Year 9 retreat days

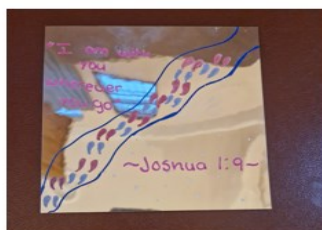
This half term, three more Year 9 Form groups explored how they are 'Called to be Saints.' Using a passage from the Letter of Saint Paul to Colossians (Col 3:12-14,) Year 9 explored what it means to be saints, which saints can inspire us, and how we can be 'clothed' in the Armour of God. A highlight is seeing how each one would 'dress' themselves in the Ursuline and Spiritual values, as well as finding out how many pupils do not turn off the tap while brushing their teeth! Our students learnt that God is always ready to forgive.

Year 8 have also begun their retreat days learning how they are 'Made in the Image of God.' They have explored what it means to treat each other with dignity, how to create a society using the Catholic Social Teachings as their foundation, and discovering what God says about them in the bible. In Genesis 1:27, we are told that God made mankind in his image, and throughout the day students learnt what that means for us and how we should be treating other people. Using mirror tiles, they reflected on why they are important in the eyes of God.

Made in the Image of God

Year 8 Retreat

Mirror tiles reflecting the beauty of each one of us





GCSE Drama

Performance of 'Pool no Water' by Mark Ravenhill

A new initiative in Drama GCSE this year; to produce an ensemble performance of this dramatic story of fake friendships and the rise of unrealistic societal ideals. Year 10 GCSE students took our challenge to produce a performance which requires all students to be on stage the whole time, and metaphorically ran with it. Ms Sanders and I directed, using techniques from our favourite theatre practitioner, Frantic Assembly. Students developed physical theatre movement sequences to communicate the subtext of struggles and fears, working collaboratively as a class to develop and refine the piece. Working in small groups to divide the text, students chose moments of choral speaking and repetition to vocally create impact for the audience, with complex lifts and balances communicating the elation and dependency of the characters on stage. We timed this well with the Dance Show set up in the main hall at the start of January, enabling us to perform to our peers in this formal setting during our usual lessons. The addition of lighting and the sense of occasion in this performance space adds to the overall experience for Year 10, with a focus on confidence and vocal projection in their story telling. Overall, this was a valuable performance experience where students learnt the importance of collaboration, of experimenting with practical work and with the commitment required to see a project through to realisation. We are very proud of their achievement and cannot wait to see how this will positively impact the next performance project.

Mrs Wortley, Teacher in charge of Drama





GCSE Drama Continued



Performing Arts

Year 13 BTEC Performing Arts students have now completed their Community Project and are heading towards their final submissions for the course. They are busy with auditions and interviews for future roles in Dance Therapy, Musical Theatre and Performance. The Unit 4 Community Project is always the highlight of the course; previously we have created the 'Masked Singer Competition,' 'The Invisible Killer' covid film and the more recent 'BUCHS Podcast.' This year, we focused on the school's 125 year celebrations and one particular ex student 'Audrey Conningham', a life saving WREN who is not only a role model to our young BUCHS students, but a hero worthy of the Oak Leaf Medal of Commendation during the Second World War. In the Fairview Chronicles and local news articles, Audrey speaks of her time here at BUCHS, and her swimming lessons, and how those life saving skills proved so valuable. Our performance entitled 'I promise' uses political influences from controversial theatre practitioner Joan Littlewood, whose film 'Oh what a lovely war' guided our style and structure, while Audrey's own well documented tale provided the inspirational focus. The verbatim 'dreams and struggles' of our very own lower school students gave us the language and genuinely relatable issues that our students are concerned with. During the epilogue, we ask the audience to make a promise to themselves and to listen to their inner voice as they navigate their way through school; relishing this time with friends and in lessons that will one day shape them and their future.

Audiences have celebrated the complex and unique performance, commenting that this deeply layered story is 'interesting and inspirational'. Told through Brecht's episodic structure and with song, dance and puppetry, we hope that this piece will long be enjoyed, even after the current Year 13 have moved on to their next exciting step.

The photos on the next page depict not only the performance but also our Year 8 students re-enacting their favourite moments!



Performing Arts Continued



Mrs G Wortley, Teacher in charge of Drama

Sixth Form

January has been a very busy month in the Sixth Form!

UCAS

All eighty-two Year 13 UCAS applications were sent off by the deadline and we are delighted to see so many exciting offers being received. From accountancy and finance through to veterinary medicine, there has been a huge and varied range of courses applied for. We wish all our students the very best of luck.

Next year sees some changes to the UCAS application process, with the equal consideration date moving to earlier in January and a new format for personal statements. Year 12 will be starting to work on their applications in the next few months.

Apprenticeships

We are also very pleased that some students have been successful at securing highly competitive degree apprenticeships. They have shown independence, resilience and motivation in researching and applying for these and for making it through a gruelling selection process. Well done!

An increasingly popular route, Year 12 have had information regarding apprenticeships and links to events taking place during National Apprenticeship Week (10th-14th Feb 2025,) and we continue to support those that are interested in these opportunities.

Some useful websites:

[Find an apprenticeship - GOV.UK](#)

[Apprenticeships | Learn About Apprenticeships And Find The Right One For You](#)

UCAS

Mrs Udall, UCAS Coordinator and Teacher of Psychology



Bletchley Park Trip



On Tuesday 21st January, 39 students from Years 10 and 12 participated in a joint Computer Science and History trip to Bletchley Park. Below is a summary of their reflections on the experience.

Perspective of a Computer Science student by Riona D, Year 12

As an A-Level Computer Science student, I found the trip to Bletchley Park to be both informative and inspiring. During the visit, we explored various areas where the people at Bletchley Park used to work and learned fascinating stories about notable figures, such as Alan Turing. It was enlightening to discover the significant contributions made by individuals at Bletchley Park in protecting the country through code interpretation, production, and communication. I was especially inspired by the roles of women, as I learned that the majority of the workforce consisted of female workers.

Women played a crucial role in operating the computers used for code-breaking, including the Bombe machines. Additionally, we were given a talk on encryption and its history. From this experience, we gained insights into how encryption works, its evolution since the Second World War, and its importance in determining the necessary level of encryption today, particularly as quantum computers become increasingly advanced and powerful. Overall, this trip provided me with a deeper understanding of the rapid and transformative development of technology over the years.





Bletchley Park Trip Continued

Perspective of a History Student by Louie P and Rose H, Year 12:

On Tuesday 21st January, we departed on a journey to Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire in order to discover the vast complexities of its history. Before the war, Bletchley Park was owned by the wealthy Leon family and was a stately home, with 581 acres and a ballroom. However, in 1938, the property was purchased by admiral Hugh Sinclair, head of the Secret Intelligence Service (SIS). He saw potential for Bletchley Park to be used by the SIS due to its advantageous position, being equidistant from Oxford and Cambridge, and easily reached from London. It was expected that London would come under air attack in the event of war, therefore this mansion was safely out of the way.

By September 4th 1939, one day after the war began, around 180 people were working at Bletchley Park, including newly recruited mathematicians Gordon Welchman and Alan Turing, whose office we were able to enter during the trip. Whilst the emphasis on Bletchley Park's staff often focuses on the codebreakers, it is important to remember the many other people who worked there performing tasks such as cooking, cleaning and operating transport vehicles. Our class had the opportunity to look around the mansion's garage, featuring a wartime ambulance.

Regarding the work itself, the 'Enigma' machine is quite likely the most well-known WW2 cypher to date. One of the main tasks of the codebreakers was to deduce the enigma's daily settings, thus providing a way in to read the messages. The bombe machine was created by Alan Turing and Gordon Welchman in 1940 to speed up the process, but a great deal of deduction was required both before and after the machine was run. This breakthrough was monumental in speeding up the codebreaking process. Following its creation, there were 211 Bombe machines based in the UK helping the codebreakers to break over 20,000 daily key settings over the course of the war.

Recruits at Bletchley came through personal connections with those already working there, others were selected after completing basic training in armed services. We must also note that most of the codebreakers were women; from March 1941, members of the Women's Royal Naval Service were responsible for running the bombe machines. This also included members of the Women's Auxiliary Force and the Auxiliary Territorial Service whose roles ranged from teleprinter operator, translators or dispatch riders. One of the most famous women codebreakers was 19 year old Mavis Batey, who played a leading role in breaking both the Italian and Abwehr Enigma machines.

By January 1945, almost 9,000 people worked at Bletchley Park and its outstations; 75% of which were women. The eclectic mix of people; civilians and service personnel together with the great sense of the importance of the work there made for a unique experience. Without them, enemy codes would have taken much longer to decipher, slowing down the war effort and potentially creating a different outcome. They were truly instrumental in Britain's success.





Maths



UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge

Below are the certificate winners of the latest Intermediate Maths Challenge. Well done to all of these students!

Year group	First name	Total	Certificate	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 10	Annamaria	82	GoldBiS	Pink Kangaroo*
England, Wales and Overseas Year 9	Alishya	78	GoldBiY	Grey Kangaroo*
England, Wales and Overseas Year 11	Eleanor	78	GoldBiY	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 11	Aisling	76	Gold	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 10	Jennifer	72	Gold	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 10	Navya	68	Silver	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 10	Natasha	68	Silver	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 11	Gemma	68	Silver	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 11	Felicity	66	Silver	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 10	Bernice	65	Silver	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 10	Maria	63	Silver	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 9	Samuella	62	Silver	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 10	Kaitlin	61	Silver	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 9	Stephanie	54	Silver	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 10	Annette	53	Silver	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 9	Catherine	52	Silver	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 9	Michelle	52	Silver	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 10	Frances	52	Silver	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 11	Favour	51	Bronze	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 11	Sophia	51	Bronze	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 10	Ufuoma	50	Bronze	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 9	Bethany	48	Bronze	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 10	Adelina	48	Bronze	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 10	Pippa	46	Bronze	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 10	Kimberly	45	Bronze	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 9	Neema	44	Bronze	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 11	Amy	44	Bronze	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 10	Cara	43	Bronze	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 9	Ivy-Rose	42	Bronze	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 10	Violet	41	Bronze	

* Qualified for a further round



Maths Continued

UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge

Year group	First name	Total	Certificate	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 10	Alexia	41	Bronze	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 9	Osose	40	Bronze	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 9	Gloria	39	Bronze	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 10	Katie	39	Bronze	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 9	Ria	38	Bronze	
England, Wales and Overseas Year 10	Jo	37	Bronze	



Gold Certificate Winners

Len-Tin Drive 2025

We are collecting tins between February 24th and Easter.

Last year, you helped us donate 1,727 tins to the Brentwood Foodbank and the St Vincent's Centre in South-end-on-Sea. This year, we want even more!

In the Year 2023/24, 3.1 million food parcels were given out in the UK and 3% of the total UK population used a food bank in 2023. We want to help all we can, and your donations are essential.

Please give what you can. Tins need to have a use by date longer than June 2025, must have a label and must not be dented. The closing date is Wednesday 2nd April, but tins can be brought in throughout the half term.

Ms. V Gillespie, Lay Chaplain



Len-Tin Drive 2025

Closing Date Wednesday 2nd April

Collecting all tinned food!



St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action





Music

Welcome – Spring 1

Welcome back to our Spring 1 Music Department update here at BUCHS. Thank you very much for your continued support of our events and concerts. This half term, we have had great success and celebration in our Chamber Concert in February, our Insieme Choir's performance at the St Angela's Feast Day Mass and our continued assembly performances throughout the Spring 1 half term.

Chamber Concert

We had the great pleasure of having 12 students perform in our Chamber Concert on Wednesday 5th February in the school library. The following students delivered outstanding performances for our audience of friends and families; Grace A, Matilda L, Gemma D, Ella A, Emily O, Isabella C, Quinn W, Genevieve U, Stephanie P and Mireya H. I would like to thank all of the students for their hard work, Stephen King (our accompanist) and the school for its support of the event. Additionally, thank you to all our lovely teachers and members of staff who supported our concert.



Assembly Performances

Throughout this half term, we have had some very good and impressive performances from our very own students at the beginning of assemblies. The students played with respect and professionalism for their teachers and fellow students. I would like to, once again, thank all of our students who have performed this half term and I hope they continue to perform in the Spring 2 assemblies.

St Angela's Feast Day Mass

Finally, I would like to say a massive thank you to all of our students and staff who helped with our successful and respectful St Angela's Feast Day Mass. Our Insieme Choir worked very hard in learning the music for the Mass and amplified the message of St Angela throughout.

Mr I Maynard, Director of Music



Summer Exam Series

The Summer 2024 Exam Series for GCSE/A Level/BTEC written examinations will run from Thursday 8th May to Friday 20th June 2025. The Exam Timetable is available to view in the Exams area of the school website. Students will receive their individual candidate timetables in due course.

Contingency sessions for June 2025 Exam Series

In the event of a national or significant local disruption to examinations in the United Kingdom, all candidates are required to be available for the following contingency sessions:

- 11th June 2025 PM
- 25th June 2025 AM & PM

In preparation for their exams, candidates are required to read the following Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) Information for Candidates documents:

- Information for candidates - written exams 2024 – 2025
- Information for candidates - non-examination assessments 2024 – 2025
- Information for candidates - coursework 2024 - 2025
- Preparing to sit exams Information for candidates - social media 2024
- BUCHS Examination Handbook - Guidance for students & parents/carers

These documents are available in the Exams area of the school website: [Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School - Examinations & Performance](#)

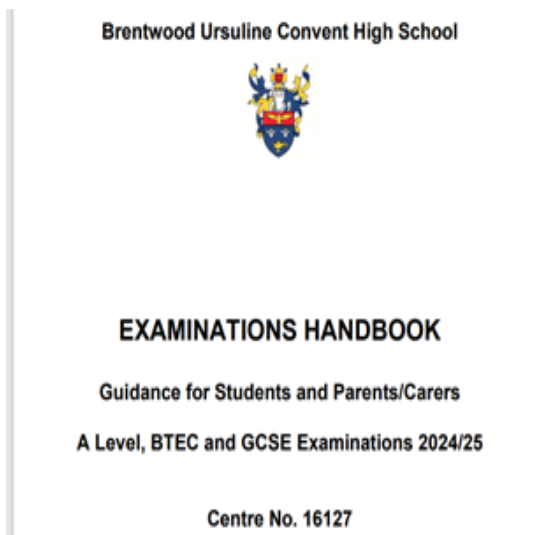
JCQ Exam Regulations for pencil cases/water bottles/prohibited items

Pencil cases taken into the exam room must be see-through (no writing). We ask that candidates remove any unnecessary items such as glue sticks, scissors etc from their pencil case. A maximum of 2 highlighters, 2/3 black ink pens, 2 pencils, a clean rubber and a ruler is sufficient. Maths sets cannot be in tins.

Drink bottles must be transparent with all labels removed which would include transparent, reusable plastic bottles (no writing), be under 750ml and contain water only.

Candidates must not be in possession of the following items:

AirPods, earphones/earbuds iPods, mobile phones, MP3/4 players or similar devices, watches, smart glasses and any other smart devices.



**NO MOBILE PHONES
NO WATCHES**

NO POTENTIAL TECHNOLOGICAL/WEB
ENABLED SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Possession of unauthorised items, such as a mobile phone or any watch, is a serious offence and could result in

DISQUALIFICATION

from your examination and your overall qualification.

This poster must be displayed in a prominent place outside each examination room.

©JCQTM 2022 - Effective from 1 September 2022



Summer Exam Series Continued



On your exam day

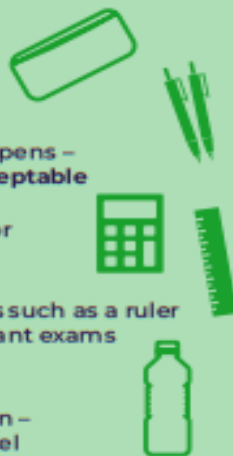
This checklist will help you to be as prepared as possible for your exams so that you can focus on doing your best on the day.

Before sitting your exams, ensure you know:

- the date, time and location of each of your exams. You might find it helpful to write this information in a calendar or planner.
- who to contact at school or college in case there's an emergency that makes you late or unable to sit your exam.

What you will need:

- a clear pencil case
- at least two black ink pens – blue pens are **not acceptable**
- an approved calculator for relevant exams
- appropriate apparatus such as a ruler or protractor for relevant exams
- a clear water bottle if you wish to take one in – it **must not** have a label



What you cannot take into exams:

- any type of phone
- revision notes
- any type of watch (this includes analogue, digital and smart watches)



Other important information:

- Listen carefully to the invigilator's instructions which will be specific to your exam. If you are unsure of anything, please raise your hand and wait for the invigilator to respond.
- Fill in your details on the front of your answer booklet.
- If you need additional answer sheets, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator who will provide you with one. Remember to add your details to this booklet.
- If you need to use the toilet or feel unwell, raise your hand and wait for an invigilator who will escort you from the exam room.
- Remember to stay silent – talking to a fellow candidate could result in disqualification from all your exams.

Contingency sessions:

- There are contingency sessions within the Summer 2025 exam timetable – the afternoon of 11 June 2025 and the morning and afternoon of 25 June 2025. Make sure you are available on all three dates even if you do not have an exam.

If you have any questions about your exams, please ask your teacher or exams officer.



You can also find useful information about preparing for exams at www.jcq.org.uk/exams-office/information-for-candidates-documents



Summer Exam Series Continued

Warning to candidates



1

You **must** be on time for all your examinations.

2

Possession of a mobile phone or other unauthorised material **is not allowed** even if you do not intend to use it. You will be subject to penalty and possible disqualification from the exam/qualification.

3

You **must not** talk to, attempt to communicate with or disturb other candidates once you have entered the examination room.

4

You **must** follow the instructions of the invigilator.

5

You **must not** sit an examination in the name of another candidate.

6

You **must not** become involved in any unfair or dishonest practice in any part of the examination.

7

If you are confused about anything, only speak to an invigilator.

The **Warning to candidates** must be displayed in a prominent place outside each examination room. This may be a hard copy A3 paper version or an image of the poster projected onto a wall or screen for all candidates to see.

JCQ Joint Council for
Qualifications

Information for candidates

Written examinations

With effect from 1 September 2024

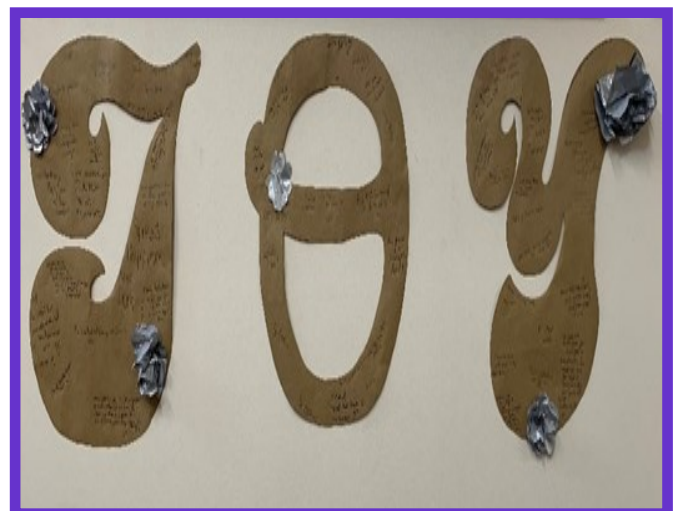
Produced on behalf of:



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'Joy' in the Sixth Form

On the lead up to Christmas holidays, I created this 'joy' display for the Sixth Form area in order to assemble an array of ideas from different A-Level students on what brings them joy. This was a great opportunity for students to reflect on the things that bring them joy and to appreciate the things and people they love.



Sara DF, 12.4



Library News

This half term, the library has been looking at fairy tales; traditional, 'fractured' and retellings. Modern 'twists' on these loved, traditional stories have been really popular in the past few years and the library has many young adult versions in stock. Come and have a look!



Advent Reading Challenge

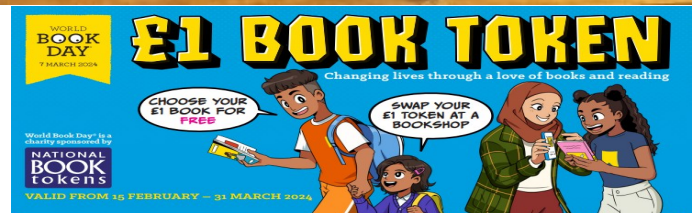
Well done to those students who took part in the library's Advent Reading Challenge. Students who handed their signed forms in all received achievement points.



World Book Day

All students have received a £1 World Book Day token which entitles them to £1 off a book at participating booksellers between 13th February and 23rd March 2025. Older students may wish to put these towards a revision guide or workbook.

<https://www.worldbookday.com/>



To celebrate World Book Day, the library is hosting a Great BUCHS Book Swap event during lunchtime on Tuesday 4th March. All Year 7 and 8 students are welcome. Here's what you have to do to take part:

- Bring in unwanted books from home. (These must be in good condition and suitable for secondary school age students.)
- Hand the book(s) to your form tutor any time up to 4th March and they will give you a ticket for each one donated.
- Bring your ticket(s) to the event and you can choose books that are new to you to take away and keep.

This is a fantastic way to stock up on 'new' reading books whilst also helping the environment by reducing book waste.





Library News Continued

BUCHS Bookworm

Christianah in 8T has now achieved her blue level 2 BUCHS Bookworm Badge. She has read 20 books and completed 20 BUCHS Bookworm review forms to accomplish this. Very well done Christianah for your hard work. We hope you enjoyed all the titles you read. Wear your badge with pride!



Aoife M in 7B has achieved her brown level 1 BUCHS Bookworm Badge this month. This is a fantastic achievement given Aoife has only been with us since September! Very well done Aoife! Keep enjoying your books and we look forward to awarding you your blue badge soon!

Holocaust Memorial Day



Holocaust Memorial Day falls on 27th January each year and marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp. 2025 is the 80th anniversary of the liberation.

The library commemorated this day with a display of information and a range of fiction and non fiction books. At the front, we placed a candle to support 'Light The Darkness.' Across the UK at 8pm on 27th January, people are encouraged to light a candle and place it in their window to remember those who suffered and died during the Holocaust and to stand against prejudice and hatred today.

Buildings and landmarks also light up in purple during this powerful national moment of commemoration and solidarity.





Library News Continued

Below are some great ideas for half term reading from the World Book Day team:

Take a break and explore the fun of reading this half-term with our simple wellbeing challenges!

[Find the assets here](#)



WORLD
BOOK
DAY

📖 Find a book you love and dedicate time each day to reading it. Even 10 minutes of reading can make a difference to your mood!

📖 Discover a podcast or audiobook to enjoy while walking, tidying, or relaxing. Try our FREE World of Stories audiobooks!

<https://www.worldbookday.com/world-of-stories/>

📖 Try linking reading time to another daily habit - such as eating breakfast, or winding down before bed

📖 Talk about books with friends and family - ask what they're reading, how they're enjoying it - you might even find your next read!

📖 Try reading for your mood! How do you want to feel? Happy? Relaxed? Ask a friend for a book recommendation to suit your mood, or check out our brilliant book lists: <https://www.worldbookday.com/reading-recommendations/>

📖 Get inspired by our £1/€1.50 authors as they share their recommendations and reading tips on YouTube and Authorfy <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQQAGnEAE784xIU2muBw4Jg>

Discover the fun of reading this half term!

For more inspiration, visit our website: <https://www.worldbookday.com/>

Changing lives through a love of books and reading

World Book Day® is a registered charity sponsored by National Book Tokens
Registered charity number 1079257 (England and Wales) | Registered company number 03783095 (UK).



Trip to Gambia

Hi everyone! On 28th February, I am travelling to Gambia, West Africa for a week. During this week I will be volunteering at a Lisa Kent Trust school where the pupils range from ages 4 to 20. I will be supporting the children along with a group of people from all over the UK. For this cause I need to fundraise £1,000 for the charity. I have also been informed that they want us to bring some clothing for the children, so I will be saving up for this. Please let me know if you have any questions about this amazing opportunity and how you can do something similar. If you would like to get involved with the fundraising, please message me on Teams or see me in form 11U.

Polly B, 11U



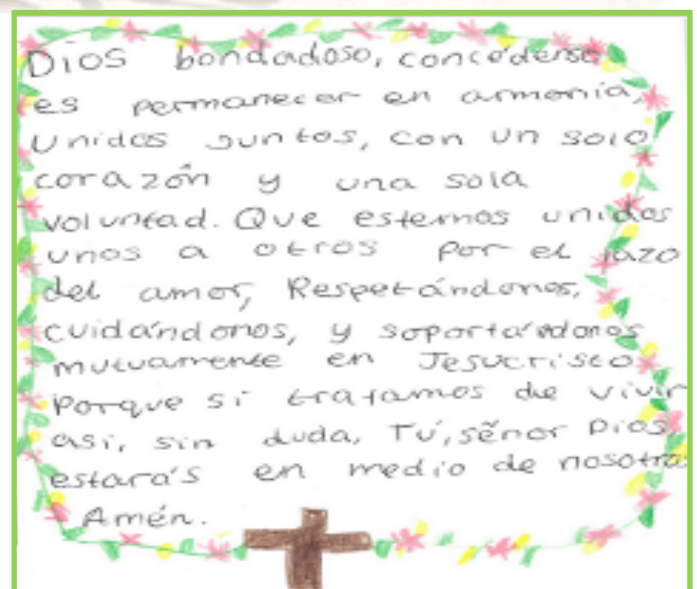
MFL

Celebrating Creativity in Spanish

Last half-term, Year 7 Spanish students took part in a competition to beautifully decorate St Angela's Prayer in Spanish. Congratulations to our three winners: Olivia (7C), Myrto (7C), and Isabella (7J), who impressed us all with their outstanding designs!

A big well done to all the pupils who took part for their creativity and effort, including Siena (7J), Lulu (7J), Anabel (7J), Florence (7J), Tiffany (7C), Amalia (7J), Shayla (7C), and Michelle (7C).

Some of the fantastic entries can be seen to the right and on the next page.





Celebrating Creativity in Spanish Continued

Dios bondadoso, concédeme es permanecer en armonía,
Unidos juntos, con un solo corazón y una sola voluntad.
Que estemos unidos unos a otros por el lazo de amor,
Respetándonos, cuidándonos, y soportándonos mutuamente
en Jesucristo.

Porque si tratamos de vivir así, sin duda,
Tú, Señor Dios, estarás en medio de nosotros.

Amén



¡Hola!

Dios bondadoso, concédeme es permanecer en armonía, Unidos juntos, con un solo corazón y una sola voluntad. Que estemos unidos unos a otros por el lazo del amor, Respetándonos, cuidándonos, y soportándonos mutuamente en Jesucristo. Porque si tratamos de vivir así, sin duda, Tú, Señor Dios, estarás en medio de nosotros.

Amén

Español

SAINT ANGELA
merici

St Angela Merici prayer
Spanish

Dios bondadoso, concédeme es permanecer en armonía, Unidos juntos, con un solo corazón y una sola voluntad. Que estemos unidos unos a otros por el lazo del amor, Respetándonos, cuidándonos, y soportándonos mutuamente en Jesucristo. Porque si tratamos de vivir así, sin duda, Tú, Señor Dios, estarás en medio de nosotros.

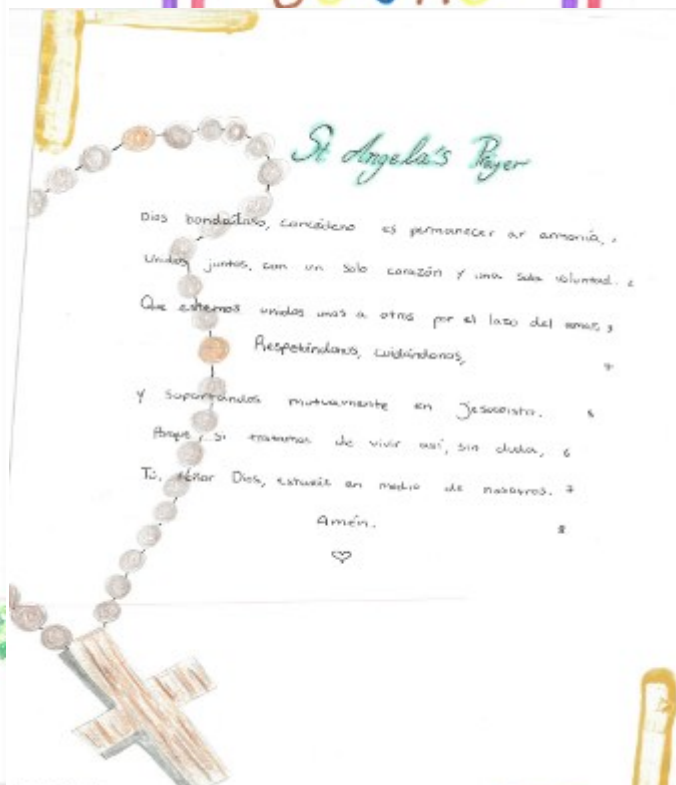
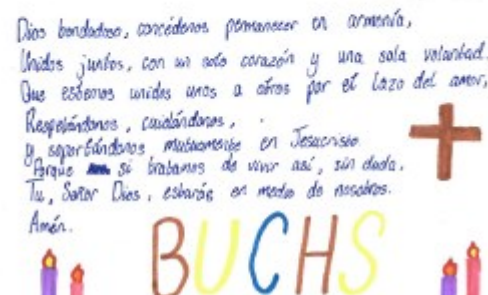
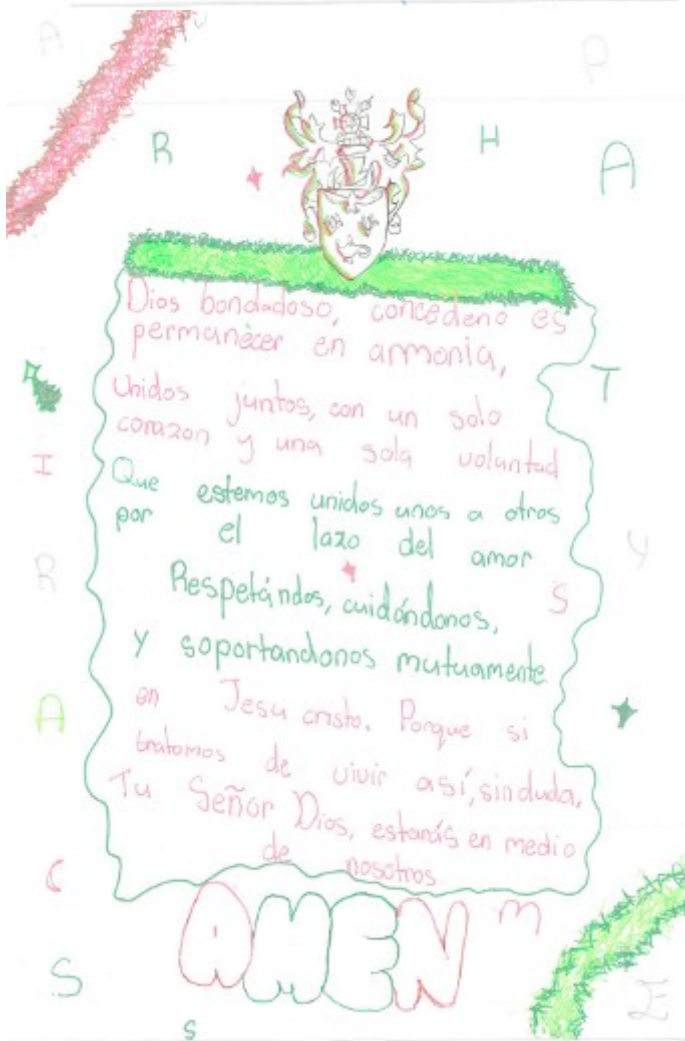
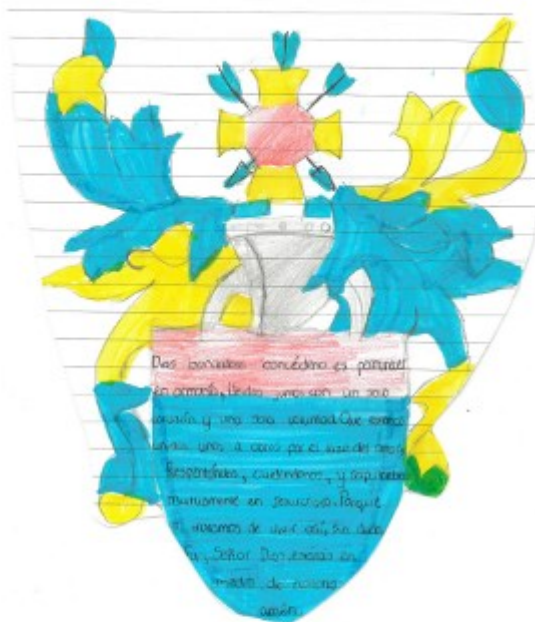
Amén



St. Angela
Merici



Celebrating Creativity in Spanish Continued





Celebrating Creativity in French!

We also held the same competition in the French Department. Below is the winning entry from Charlotte H in 8C.



Our Own French Connection!



Our partnership with a school in the French Alps continues. Before Christmas, the pupils at Lisa's school sent us little paper chain strips; each one decorated with a Christmas message. These were joined together by the form groups in Year 8 here at BUCHS to form paper chains and are visible on form noticeboards. They symbolise the 'links' we have with this school, as Lisa is a former Ursuline student, who now lives and teaches in France. To reciprocate, we are sending back New Year cards to the children there, who kindly posted us these paper chains. Over 100 Year 8 pupils also received a letter from a hopeful pen-pal and those continuing on with French for GCSE should aim to keep this link going. What an amazing chance this is to have a real person to write to in a French speaking country!

Where Lisa lives in the Hautes-Alpes, there is heavy snow right now. They are used to it and rarely have 'snow days!' They just get up, dig themselves out of their home and make their way, sometimes on sledges and skis to school! It's hard for us to imagine here in Brentwood. They are also not far from Turin, home to the Turin Shroud. Lisa plans to visit us again this year and is looking forward to joining us for the 125 Years of Ursuline celebrations.

We look forward to our ongoing contact with Lisa and her pupils, the link now being in its 3rd year!

Mrs S Sullivan, French Department



Above: Lisa—an ex BUCHS student who now teaches at a school in the French Alps.



History

Tudor History Lessons

Class 901 History researched some topics on Tudor England as an extra project connected to their GCSE studies.

There were excellent presentations on Black Tudors, women's costume, food and the famous courtier, Sir Walter Raleigh.

As part of their presentations, Ziva and Candiece made traditional Tudor pies and Cienna made a very tasty loaf of Manchet bread. Gloria and Scholastica dressed themselves as Tudor women to show the differences in fashion between the rich and poor.

Mr Earle, Teacher of History and Government & Politics



Tudor Pies



Manchet Bread



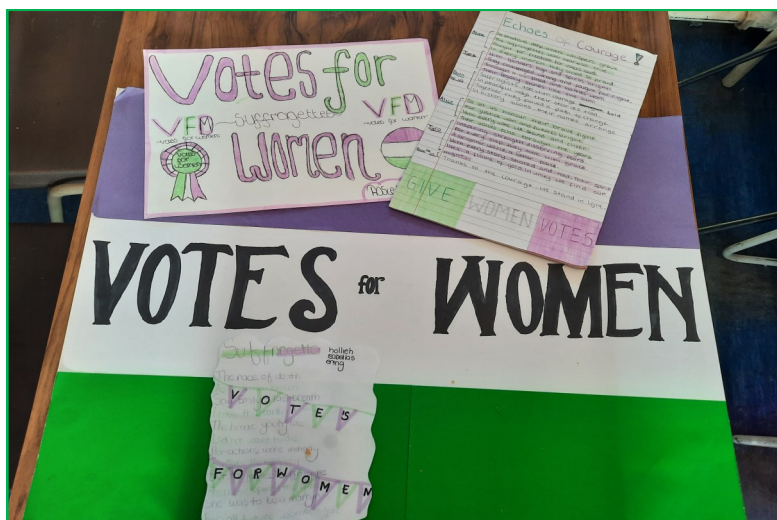
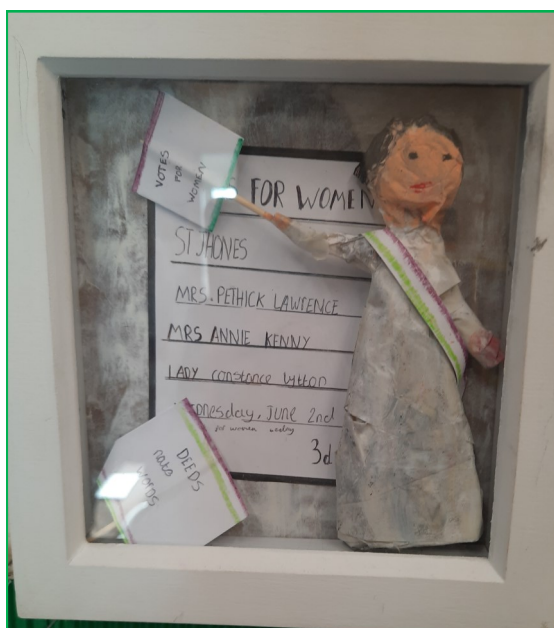
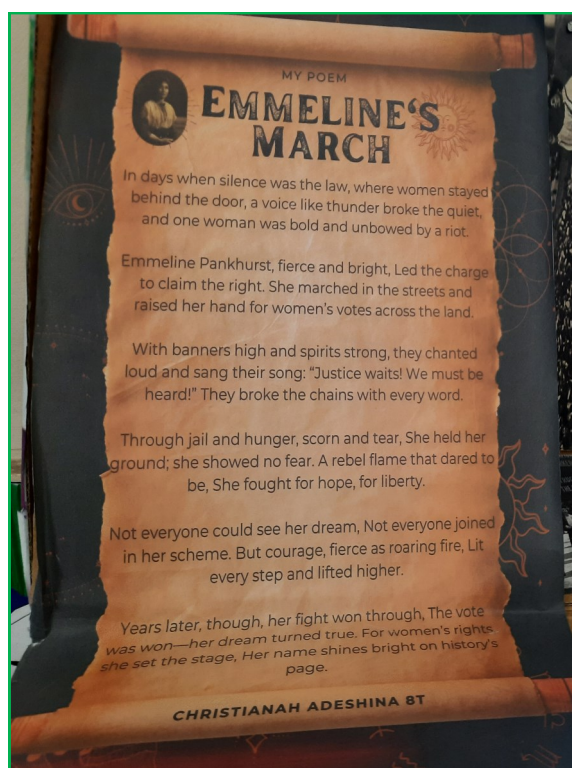


History Continued

Year 8 Historians

On Monday 9th December, Year 8 historians took part in a Suffragette Campaign Competition. As part of our curriculum, they have been learning about women over 30 gaining the right to vote in 1918 and those over 21 being granted the vote in 1928. They have been studying the significance of the women's movements – the NUWSS - the Suffragists and the WSPU - the Suffragettes and the role of the First World War. Their learning inspired them to write poems, raps and make models. All students voted for the finalists from their form group and they presented their entries in the Year 8 Assembly. There were some amazing performances. Students showed their work and spoke confidently about what they had learned. The History Team were so proud of their enthusiasm and hard work. The winning form was 8J with students: Ava, Daniella, Kristen, Anjelia, Indigo, Eden, Faith, Taibah, Rosie and Isla leading and organising the presentation. 8A came in second place and 8U in third. Very well done to all of the finalists! They were awarded achievement points and 'Votes for Women' badges to wear with pride!

Mrs L. Cooper,
Head of History





Essex Fire Museum Open Days



Tuesday 18 and
Sunday 23 February
2025

10:30AM
To
4:00PM

Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays
RM17 5QS

Book Now 

Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk

Neurodiversity Outdoor Camp

Wilderness Foundation will be running a Neurodiversity Outdoor Camp on Friday 21st February from 10am-3pm for young people aged between 9-14 at £80 per participant.

The Neurodiversity Outdoor Camp is for young people experiencing challenges with mental health, behaviour and neurodiversity needs. Many young people can present with all these challenges together and we are increasingly aware that we need to support those with neurodiversity in a more dedicated and focused way. We have traditionally organised holiday camps and, recognising increasing needs for families and young people, we are running a specialist camp for those with neurodivergent needs.

The camp aims to develop personal skills, resilience, communication, social skills and a lot more. We cook on an open fire, are creative, adventurous and accepting. There will be a range of outdoor activities and skills including cooking, art, bushcraft, nature walks, and crafts. We will also encourage positive social engagement and group skills, using a strength-based approach which helps participants become more aware of what they do well.

It will be a small group with not more than 8 participants and advance bookings are required.

For more information and a booking form, please visit <https://wildernessfoundation.org.uk/neurodiversity-holiday-camps/>

Jodie Burnett | Project Administrator



FREE HALF TERM ACTIVITY 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. Contact one of our clubs to book a space!

Jack Of All Sports (4-12 years)

Bentley St Pauls C of E - Pilgrims Hatch, CM15 9SE
jackofallsports@btinternet.com / [07919888093](tel:07919888093)
17th - 21st Feb (9am-3pm)

HCL Activity Camps (4-11yrs)

Hutton Community Centre, Harrison Close, Hutton. CM13 1LP
info@hollowaycoaching.co.uk / [0777874029](tel:0777874029)
18th, 19th and 20th Feb (9am-3:15pm)

SportsCool (4-11 years)

Holly Trees Primary School, Vaughan Williams Way, Brentwood, CM14 5RY
westessex@sportscool.org / [07935535292](tel:07935535292)
19th - 21st Feb (9am-1pm)

SportsCool SEND Level 1-2 (4-11 years)

Holly Trees Primary School, Vaughan Williams Way, Brentwood, CM14 5RY
westessex@sportscool.org / [07935535292](tel:07935535292)
19th - 21st Feb (9am-1pm)

Kazen Kai AEF Outreach (11-16 years)

The Martial Arts Centre, Bannister Drive, Hutton, CM13 1YX
juliemc@kazenkai.com / [01277262800](tel:01277262800)
Tuesday 18th Feb (10 - 3pm)

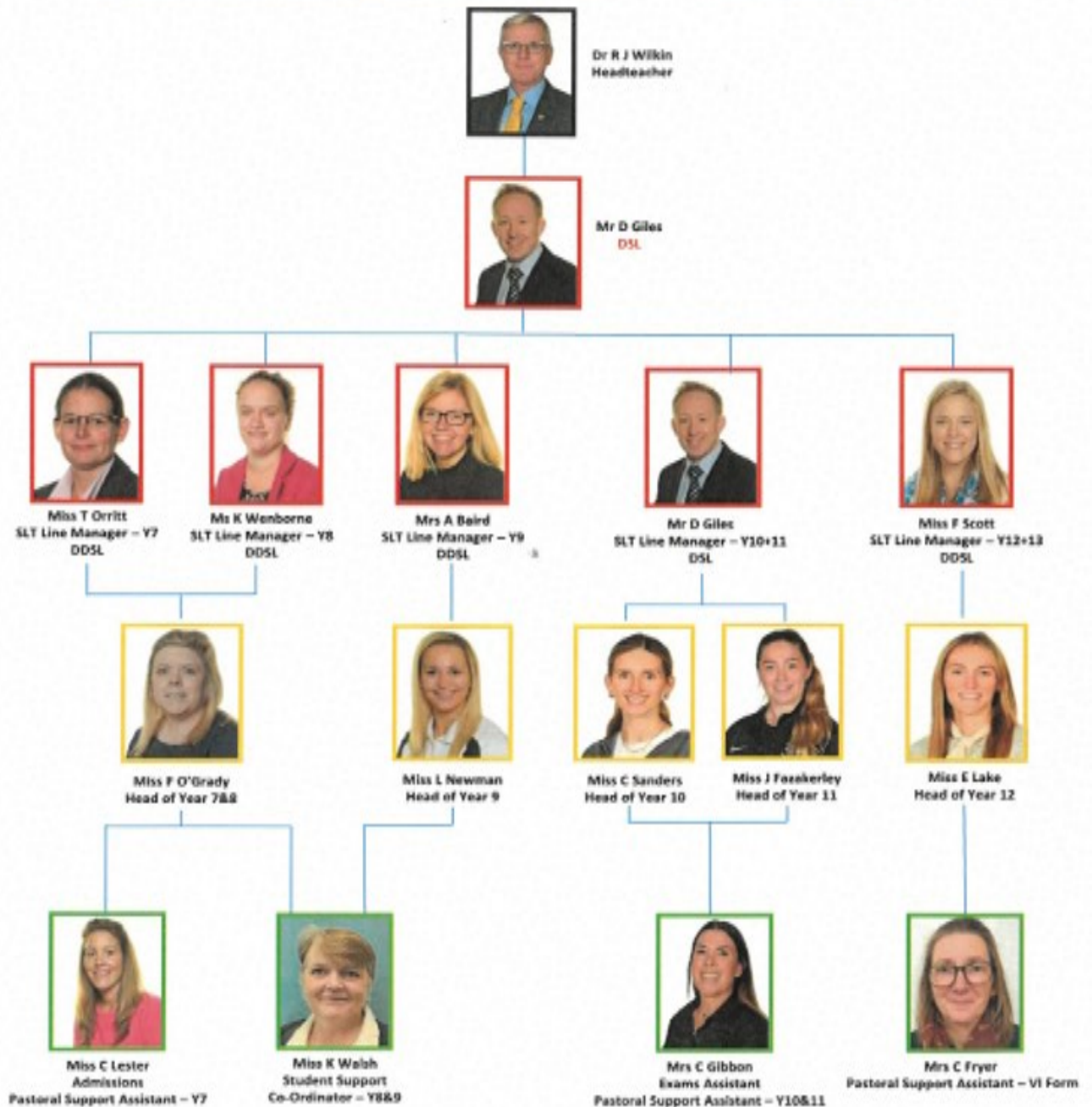
Brentwood Boxing Club AEF (11+ years)

Doddinghurst Road, Pilgrims Hatch, CM15 9NN Email to book
brentwoodcentral21@gmail.com / [07930903442](tel:07930903442)
Tue 18th and Wed 19th Feb (10am-12pm)

Find out more: activeessex.org



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.



Co-Curricular Timetable for the Spring Term 2025

	Activity	Week	Time	Year Group	Location / Meeting Point	Staff Member
Monday	BUCHS Chamber Choir	A and B	Lunch	7 -13	C32 - Music	Mr Maynard
	A-Level RS Study	A and B	Lunch	13	T33	Mr Evans
	Handball	A and B	Lunch	9 - 11	Merici Hall	Mr Boshier
	GCSE Dance Support	A and B	Lunch	10 - 11	Dance Studio / classroom	Mrs Hilder
	ECO-Club	A and B	After school	7 - 13	A25	Mr Huddleston
	Dungeons & Dragons (D&D)	A and B	After school	9 - 11	A34	Mr Pexlon
	Learning Support Lunch Club	A and B	Lunch	7 - 11	Learning Support Department	Miss Orritt
Tuesday	KS5 Biology Intervention	A and B	Lunch	12 - 13	A12	Mr Foster
	BUCHS String Orchestra	A and B	Lunch	7 -13	C31 - Music	Mr Maynard
	Creative Writing club	B	Lunch	7 - 11	T25	Miss White
	Junior Dance Company	A and B	Lunch	7 - 8	Dance Studio	Mrs Hilder
	Netball	A and B	Lunch	7	Merici Hall	Miss Giannotti and Mr Woolgar
	Bee Club	A and B	After School	7 -13	A12	Mr Foster
	KS4 STEM Club	A and B	After School	9 - 11	A25	Mr Huddleston
	French Intervention	A and B	After School	11	J22	Mrs Healey
	Netball	A and B	After School	7	Merici Hall	Miss Giannotti and Mr Woolgar
	Learning Support Lunch Club	A and B	Lunch	7 - 11	Learning Support Department	Miss Orritt
Wednesday	Spanish Speaking Club (Invitation only)	A and B	Lunch	10	T42	Miss Rodriguez
	BUCHS Gospel Choir	A and B	Lunch	7 -13	C32 - Music	Mr Maynard
	Maths Challenge Club	A and B	Lunch	7	A41	Ms Attiwell
	Geography Application	A and B	Lunch	11	U22	Miss Lake
	Senior Dance Company	A and B	Lunch	9 - 13	Dance Studio	Mrs Hilder
	Basketball	A and B	Lunch	8 - 9	Merici Hall	Mr Boshier
	KS3 STEM Club	A and B	After school	7 - 8	A25	Mr Huddleston
	Dungeons & Dragons sixth form (D&D)	A and B	After school	12 - 13	A34	Mr Pexlon
	Learning Support Lunch Club	A and B	Lunch	7 - 11	Learning Support Department	Miss Orritt
Thursday	BUCHS Year 8 Choir	A and B	Lunch	8	C32 - Music	Mr Maynard
	BUCHS Wind Band	A and B	Lunch	7 - 13	C31 - Music	Mrs Harbott, Mrs Brady and Mr Maynard
	History Detectives	B	Lunch	7 - 8	J32	Mr Hammons
	The Poetry Department	A	Lunch	9 - 11	T25	Miss White
	Wind Band	A and B	Lunch	7 - 13	C31	Mrs Brady and Mrs Harbott
	Ballet Company	A and B	Lunch	7 - 13	Dance Studio	Mrs Hilder
	Wind Band	A and B	Lunch	7 - 13	C32	Mrs Harbott and Mrs Brady
	GCSE RE Drop in Study	A	Lunch	11	T34	Mr Walker and Mrs Brand
	GCSE RE Intervention (Invitation Only)	A and B	Lunch	11	T32	Mr Walker and Mrs Brand
	Netball	A and B	Lunch	8 - 9	Merici Hall	Mr Woolgar
	Learning Support Lunch Club	A and B	Lunch	7 - 11	Learning Support Department	Miss Orritt



Co-Curricular Timetable for the Spring Term 2025 Continued

Friday	Serviam Group	A and B	Lunch	7 - 13	A43	Miss Gillespie
	Tap Company	A and B	Lunch	13	Dance Studio	Mrs Hilder
	French Speaking	B	Lunch	13	J22	Mrs Healey
	Basketball	A and B	Lunch	7	Merici Hall	Miss Giannotti and Mr Woolgar
	Learning Support Lunch Club	A and B	Lunch	7 - 11	Learning Support Department	Miss Orritt