



Dear Parents/Carers,

We have been spoilt with the weather recently and the students have been enjoying the chance to get outside for break and lunchtime. You will read in this edition about the additional facilities we have opened up for serving food. The plated option remains in the main servery for all year groups. but the new 'G servery' allows us to divide year groups up and get through the queues more quickly, particularly at lunchtime.

We are increasingly expected to play our part as a school in the government's ambition to recycle more materials. We are removing plastic water bottles from sale and making recycling easier, but frankly there are still many students whose biggest contribution to the environment would be to pick up their own rubbish and put it in the many bins provided. Too many regard this as 'someone else's job', so please support us in emphasising to your children how they can make a real difference by simply doing the right thing as a habit, including when no one is looking.

I hope you enjoy reading about the many and varied activities that have been going on. As always, please encourage your children to join in with extra-curricular activities: we still have too many students who do not, and so miss the many opportunities to enrich their own education and the life of the school community.

I wish you a restful and joyful Easter.

Dr Richard Wilkin MA, EdD, Headteacher

125th Anniversary

On 23rd April 2025, BUCHS celebrates 125 years since our school was founded by Mother Clare. This is a moment in our history we are proud to mark, with students invited to take part in different activities in their subjects, as well as in extra-curricular opportunities.

Over the past 125 years, we have survived two world wars, hosted a Belgian Princess, survived a global pandemic, as well as provided a high-quality education to thousands of young people, in line with the work of St. Angela Merici. As members of our Ursuline community, we would like to invite friends and family of our school to join our celebrations.

On Saturday 26th April, the school is open for you to explore our rich history and join our community celebrations. If you would like to join our event, we are asking you to purchase a ticket via the following link:

https://evolve.edufocus.co.uk/shop/shop_items_public.asp?site=brentwoodursulineconventvisits&estab=0&guest=&category=0

Tickets cost £5.00, with a welcome drink (adults) or party bag (children) included in the price. There will be refreshments available to purchase, as well as games and activities to keep you entertained. Please note, there is no parking available on the school site.

Any money raised will go towards our new Sixth Form block that will begin construction over the coming months. This will help us to continue to offer an outstanding education for young women and men for many more years.

We look forward to celebrating this important moment in our history with you all.





Music Scholarship & Places 2026

We will be holding musical aptitude assessments for Music Scholarship and Places in September 2025. 17 of the Year 7 places are offered on the basis of musical aptitude. These places are aimed at supporting talented musicians who will enrich the musical life of the school. Applicants for these places need not be from the priority areas or be Catholic, but would be expected to respect the Catholic ethos of the school and take an active part in its musical and liturgical life.



Parents wishing to apply should submit the Music Aptitude Assessment Form which can be found on the school website on the Music Scholarships page under Admissions.

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

All applicants will be invited to attend an aural assessment test. The aural test will consist of a set of recorded sounds and music focusing on musical features such as pitch, melody, texture and rhythm. Set gaps will allow candidates time to give their responses to each question. Successful applicants from this test will be invited to attend an individual musical aptitude assessment. For this assessment, candidates are asked to prepare two contrasting pieces on their main instrument or voice. As an alternative, they may choose to offer performances on two different instruments or voice, however, it should be noted that candidates are encouraged to perform at their highest level.

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS FRIDAY 18TH JULY 2025

Please note that this *only* applies to Music Scholarship/Places. There is no change to the procedure for parents wishing to apply for a general place at the school.



New Servery Opens For Business!

An additional servery has opened its doors to students this term. It caters for Years 8-10 at lunchtime and all year groups during morning break. Hot and cold snacks and drinks can be purchased in the usual way.



Every day we serve a homemade cake or cookie. We also have a selection of fresh fruit pots, jelly pots and homemade cheesecake. A selection of drinks including smoothies, water and fruit juices is always available.

Servery Menu

Morning Break

Pizza slice: either cheese or pepperoni

Sausage roll

Cinnamon swirl

Pain au chocolate

Filled rolls: ham, cheese or tuna mayonnaise

Selection of drinks: smoothies, water and fruit juices.

Lunch time

Monday: Beef burger with cheese, chicken chunks with potato wedges, pasta pot with a tomato-based sauce, plain pasta, pots of grated cheese, potato wedges.

Tuesday: Homemade cheese and tomato pizza, pasta pot with meat and tomato-based sauce, plain pasta, pots of grated cheese, halloumi fries with tzatziki, hash browns.

Wednesday: Marinated chicken thigh with wedges, pasta pot with a tomato-based sauce, plain pasta, pots of grated cheese, potato wedges.

Thursday: Chicken burger, mozzarella sticks with salsa, pasta pot with meat and tomato-based sauce, plain pasta, pots of grated cheese, hash browns.

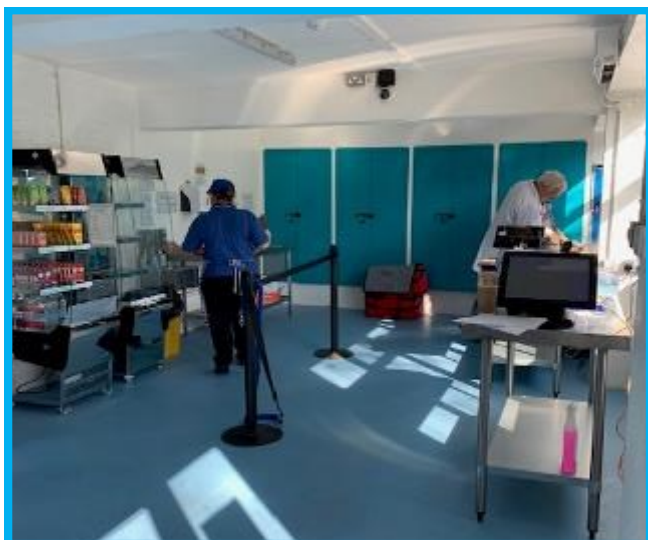
Friday: Hot & spicy chicken fillets with chips, fish fingers and chips or jumbo sausage and chips, potato wedges, pasta bake topped with cheese.



Our proud Site Team in front of the new servery that they converted from an old storage space.



New Servery Opens For Business Continued



Above: inside the servery, preparing for customers!

English

This term, the English Department at BUCHS has been filled with literary successes and exciting milestones for our students. Spring 2 started with an incredible achievement for members of the weekly Creative Writing Club. Congratulations to Annmaria G, Jane P, Mireya H, Aoife M (all 7B), and Diamond N (8C) for being published in an anthology that celebrates the amazing and diverse talents of young writers. This is a real achievement for all students involved, and we can't wait to read the wonderful works they will produce in the future!

Additionally, this term marked the celebration of World Book Day 2025. Both Year 7 and 8 students delved into the origins of this celebration, learning about the importance of reading for pleasure. As the World Book Day mission statement highlights: "Reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success – more than their family circumstances, their parents' educational background or their income. We want to see more children, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, with a life-long habit of reading for pleasure and the improved life chances this brings them." Students also participated in a creative book cover redesign activity and enjoyed a book-themed treasure hunt, further igniting their passion for reading. With such a fantastic term behind us, we are already looking forward to next year's celebrations!



Mireya H, Jane P and Aoife M (all 7B)



RE News

Year 8 have completed projects on the Stations of the Cross this half term which have been used to support other classes' participation in this prayer over the Lenten season. Each class produced three Stations, working collaboratively in groups to follow a brief. 8A had the additional task of writing a prayer for each one. Year 8 worked imaginatively and respectfully to produce these resources for other groups to reflect upon during this season.

Our RE display board for this half term also features work from Year 8, who reflected on the lives of Saint Maximilian Kolbe and Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross; saints of the Holocaust. Well done to Millie, Florence and other members of 8T who contributed. In addition, work on our Year 12 'Philosophy Scoop' is also featured, showcasing some thoughts on Kantian ethics by our Year 12 Religious Studies students.





Year 7 Students Visit St Joseph's Convent

On Wednesday 12th March, three Year 7 students: Isobel, Ann, and Ava along with Miss O'Grady and Mrs Grace, visited St Joseph's Convent in Brentwood. The convent used to be called 'The Grange' and was home to the Ursuline Sisters, many of whom taught at our school.

Now the Sisters of Mercy have moved in having arrived from Wanstead where they served their community for many years, particularly in schools. Sr Joan, who kindly invited us to visit, was once a primary school head teacher and worked in schools in Chadwell Heath, Essex, and in Burnley, Lancashire.



Isobel, Ann, and Ava, who are pictured, previously attended St Helen's School, which has a special connection to the Sisters of Mercy, as they once taught there. We wanted to give them a warm welcome, so we brought a card and some flowers. We had a lovely chat with the sisters about how they are settling in, and we also told them how much we are enjoying secondary school so far. We enjoyed a drink and some biscuits while we listened to their stories, which made the visit even more special.

We had a great time and can't wait to visit the sisters again soon!

Miss O'Grady, Head of Key Stage 3





Year 10 Speak Out Challenge

On Tuesday 18th March, a group of Year 10 students were lucky enough to participate in a one day workshop to build their public speaking skills. The day was run by a representative from the Jack Petchey Foundation and took place in the library.

The day consisted of a number of individual and group based games and activities culminating in all students presenting alone in front of the whole group without any notes as prompts.

More information about this challenge is available via the following link:

<https://www.jackpetcheyfoundation.org.uk/opportunities/partnership-programmes/speak-out-challenge/>

"Being invited to the Speak Out Workshop was truly an honour. As a person who isn't used to public speaking, I was both nervous and excited for the workshop. Our trainer was friendly and engaging, giving us advice on how to appear more confident while speaking, using our body language and voice. I found the games, activities and the final mission entertaining and educational, it definitely helped me, as well as other people, for job interviews in the future. Our trainer encouraged us to experiment with the learning style she uses. Although it wasn't for me, a lot of my friends loved the style and said it was something that they would adapt going forward. Overall, the workshop was a great experience and I would definitely recommend it to aspiring public speakers!"

Bernice M, 10T





Sixth Form

Life in the Sixth Form has continued to be busy this term!

Year 13 students have been receiving offers for a wide range of courses including medicine, veterinary science, psychological and behavioural science, economics, architecture, journalism, law, business management, mathematics, musical theatre, pharmacology and engineering at a diverse range of universities including the London School of Economics, Kings College London, Birmingham, Bristol, Exeter, Lancaster, Loughborough and many other highly ranked institutions. We have also had students interviewing for competitive apprenticeships at Goldman Sachs, BAE Systems, Amazon and KPMG. We continue to support all of Year 13 in their next steps after BUCHS.

Year 12 students were given valuable insights into the apprenticeship process during a special talk led by two Year 13 students, Tejas and Dara. Both speakers shared their personal experiences of apprenticeships, offering practical advice to students considering this route after school.

Tejas, who has successfully secured an apprenticeship, discussed the steps he took to land the position and the skills he learned during the application process. He emphasized the importance of research, networking, and perseverance in finding the right opportunity.

Dara, who is currently in the interview stage for apprenticeships with two different firms, provided a unique perspective on the challenges and rewards of the application process. She shared tips on how to stay motivated after receiving rejections and the benefits of apprenticeships, including gaining hands-on experience and earning a salary while continuing in education.

The talk gave the Year 12 students a real-world look at how apprenticeships can provide alternative pathways to success, highlighting the importance of determination and preparation in securing these opportunities.

Rebecca E, 12.4



UCAS

Our support programmes for students planning to apply for medicine, dentistry, veterinary science and Oxford and Cambridge Universities are underway, and they have attended lunchtime sessions exploring what they need to be doing to prepare for these early application courses.

After the Easter holidays, all of Year 12 will begin their UCAS research and applications. All students will be guided through the application process and will register with UCAS in May. We strongly encourage students to be attending open days during Year 12 and throughout the half term and summer holidays so that they can begin to have an idea of which setting they might like to apply for. Each university will advertise their open day dates on their website, but I've attached a website here that collates lots of the Open days taking place.

[Search the Opendays.com calendar of university and college open days - search for an open day](#)

If you are supporting a young person through the UCAS process for the first time, you may have lots of questions! Please find on the following page a link to UCAS and also some of the universities who offer general talks about lots of different topics including the application process, support available, accommodation and finance advice amongst others. There is also lots of information and guidance for parents on the social media sites of universities and UCAS.

If you have any questions about support available for UCAS or applying for apprenticeships, please do email me on hudall@buchs.co.uk

Mrs Udall, Teacher of Psychology and Post 18 Choices Coordinator



Sixth Form Continued

UCAS [Advice for parents, guardians and carers | Undergraduate, Conservatoires, Apprenticeships, 16-18 Choices | UCAS](#)

University of Exeter [Advice for parents and supporters | Undergraduate Study | University of Exeter](#)
University of Bath [Information for Parents](#)

Swansea University [Parents and Guardians Guide to University - Swansea University](#)

University of Nottingham [Guidance for parents - The University of Nottingham](#)

University of Essex [Information for parents and guardians | University of Essex](#)

[General chat | What I wish I knew about university](#)

Psychology

Beyond the Curriculum: Students Dive Deeper into Psychology

In the Psychology Department, students have recently been presented with an exciting challenge: to research and present on a psychological topic that extends beyond the classroom curriculum. This task provides students with the opportunity to select and explore areas of psychology not covered in their course, allowing them to broaden their understanding and delve deeper into the fascinating world of human behaviour.

Many students embraced this challenge by enrolling in free online courses offered by the Open University. The wide range of topics chosen by students reflects their diverse interests, with courses covering subjects such as cybercrime, political activism, children's mental health and resilience and the chemical basis of relationships. Students found these courses to be enriching and insightful.

Below are reviews from three students who participated in these online courses:

Katie S – Social Psychology and Politics

What I loved about the OpenLearn Social Psychology and Politics Course was discovering how intrinsically aligned psychology is with politics. Whether that is explaining how psychology can be utilised to analyse someone's personality to determine their voting choice or activism orientation, or how psychological approaches can be applied to political definitions of citizenship and social construction. I've learnt how psychology is fundamental to the UK's political landscape, as seen by how liberation psychologists can work with politicians to share their research on how societal justice and equality can be achieved, through working with marginalised and oppressed groups in society.

Tessa S – Child Psychology

The child psychology OpenLearn course I enrolled in focused on two influential child psychologists; Jean Piaget and Lev Vygotsky. I found Piaget's theory very interesting, because it suggests that every child, no matter where they live on the earth and no matter their living situations, all move through the same stages at relatively the same time. This shocked me as it suggests that despite the varied environments children grow up in, they all move through similar stages to develop as children. Vygotsky's theory of child development was rather different from Piaget's as he claimed that the intervention of adults or peers has a greater contribution to the developmental process of the child than the child's independent interactions with the world. He explained that the child's cognitive development occurs first through their immediate social interactions with adults and peers.

Overall, I really enjoyed the course because the theories emphasised how the role of the child's environment as well as their social interactions contribute to their development.



Psychology Continued

Toffy E - Health Sports Psychology

The Health Sports Psychology course on OpenLearn offered me insights into the psychological aspects of physical activity and its influence on overall health and wellbeing. I explored how concepts like motivation, stress management, and goal-setting play a role in both sports and daily life. This course helped me understand how these psychological strategies can enhance children's mental health and resilience, providing them with tools for managing challenges and building positive self-concepts.

Through this course, I learned how to:

1. Use Motivation Techniques: Finding ways to keep children active, which benefits both their mental and physical health.
2. Set Goals Effectively: Helping young people set achievable goals, fostering a sense of accomplishment and confidence.
3. Manage Stress and Anxiety: Teaching children how to cope with stressors, whether in performance or everyday situations.
4. Apply Sports Psychology Concepts: Using resilience, mental toughness, and positive reinforcement to support wellbeing.

We are excited to see which topics students will explore in their next super-curricular task in psychology and look forward to sharing their discoveries with you.

Mrs Wenden, Teacher in charge of Psychology

The Open University offers a treasure trove of free courses across a range of A-Level subjects, including biology, economics, geography, politics, history, physical education and English literature.

For those wanting to begin their journey in the study of psychology, courses such as *Starting with Psychology*, *Psychological Research and Ethics*, and *Critically Exploring Psychology* provide a solid foundation and are an excellent way for current Year 11 students to prepare for A-Level subjects during the summer holidays.

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/free-courses>



OpenLearn



The Open
University



Sixth Form Visit to Washington DC

During February half term, 39 Year 12 and 13 students accompanied by Mrs Cooper, Miss Orritt, Mrs Hughes and Mr Earle visited the USA's capital city for a tour of its historic and political sites.

On the first day, we had a guided tour of the National Mall and the many memorials to the fallen of 20th century wars including the 2 World Wars, Korea and Vietnam. We also visited the Lincoln Memorial and a particularly poignant moment came when we were able to stand on the spot where the Rev Dr Martin Luther King Jr gave his famous "I have a Dream" speech in August 1963.

On the second day, we visited the Capitol building for a tour and walked through the tunnel to the beautiful Library of Congress, the world's largest library with over 22 million volumes. In the afternoon, we paid our respects at the grave of President John F Kennedy in Arlington National Cemetery.

Unfortunately, President Trump was unable to grace us with his presence during our trip as he was golfing in Florida on both days.

A personal highlight for Mr Earle was seeing the original Bert and Ernie puppets from Sesame Street in the Museum of American History at the Smithsonian! Up to that point, he had always believed they were real people!





Sixth Form Visit to Washington DC Cont.

A Memorable Trip to Washington D.C.

In February 2025, I had the opportunity to join fellow Year 12 and 13 students on an unforgettable trip to Washington D.C. Over several days, we visited some of the most significant landmarks in the U.S., gaining invaluable insights into the country's history, government, and culture. The trip was an eye-opening experience, offering a deeper understanding of the American political system and its historical milestones.

Our visit included a tour of the Capitol Building, where we learned about the workings of the U.S. Congress and the legislative process. We were able to visit the Library of Congress through the tunnel connecting the 2 buildings. In the library, we saw the main reading room, Thomas Jefferson's original book collection and many other interesting exhibits held there. During our stay, we also visited Arlington National Cemetery, where we observed the solemn changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and viewed John F Kennedy's family grave. It was a moving experience that reminded us of the countless sacrifices made by those who have served the country.

One of the highlights of the trip was our time at the Smithsonian Institution, where we explored a variety of areas and artifacts that highlighted salient moments in U.S. history. We also visited the Lincoln Memorial, where we reflected on President Abraham Lincoln's legacy, and the nearby World War II Memorial, which provided a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made during the war.

To further understand the impact of war on the nation, we visited both the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Korean War Memorial. These both gave us the chance to reflect on the personal stories of those who served in these conflicts and the lasting impact of war on both individuals and society. We also visited the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, where we were reminded of the enduring legacy of Dr. King's fight for civil rights and equality, and how his leadership continues to inspire positive change today.

Overall, the trip to Washington, D.C. was an incredibly enriching experience that deepened my understanding of American history and culture. Visiting iconic landmarks like the Capitol Building, Arlington National Cemetery, and the war memorials gave me a greater appreciation for the sacrifices and struggles that have shaped the nation. The experience also highlighted the importance of remembering the past and its impact on the present.

Becca E, Year 12





Sixth Form Visit to Washington DC Cont.

An account from Matilda D and Hannah R in Year 12:

On February 16th, we had the amazing opportunity to visit Washington, D.C. The trip was an unforgettable experience, as we were able to see many of the nation's most famous sights.

One of the first things we did was a walking tour of downtown D.C. which included visiting sights like the White House, the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Martin Luther King Memorial and the war memorials. This allowed us to get a greater understanding of America's national history.

On the trip, we visited one of the Smithsonian Museums, where we explored a variety of exhibits showcasing American culture which captured all our interests. A visit to the Arlington National Cemetery was also included, where we paid our respects to those who had died during the wars and to President Kennedy and his family. We were even lucky enough to watch the changing of the guard for the unknown soldier.

One of the highlights of the trip was touring the Capitol Building. It was incredible to learn about the legislative process and the history behind the building. We also visited the Library of Congress, which had very beautiful interiors and was home to many historical documents and books.

This trip to Washington, D.C. was an enriching experience that allowed us to establish an understanding of the history, culture and politics of America.





Careers

Each Friday during form time, the Sixth Form join a Teams call with an ex-student to hear about their career journey. A big thank you to the following ex-students who joined us this term.



Felishia Elvin
Underwriting Assistant at Travelers



Caragh Lawlor
AST St Alban's Catholic Primary School



Sarah Giles
King Lear Music & Sound Music
Supervisor / Founding Partner



Abby Sinclair
General Manager at Barts Health NHS
Trust



Amy Gander
Head of Operations & Evaluation at
Coalition for Global Prosperity



Molly Arnone
Production & Sourcing Coordinator
Burberry





Music

Welcome back to our Spring 2 Music Department update here at the BUCHS. Thank you very much for your continued support of our students' musical endeavours this half term. In music this half term, we have had excellent assembly performances and rehearsals preparing for 125th Anniversary events and our musicians are preparing for our next chamber concert in May.

Continued Excellent Assembly Performances

Our students have been a huge credit to themselves performing in several assemblies throughout this half term. Students such as Katie D, Keira M, Jess D, Matilda L, Isabella C, Florence Y, Lina L, Aimee K and Isabella F have pushed themselves to create invigorating and creative performances for our students as they entered the assembly to hear about the message and theme of the week.

Celebrating 125 Years at the Ursuline through Music

Our Chamber Choir and Gospel Choir have been working endlessly practising the music for our Foundation Day and Anniversary masses which are happening in our first week back after the Easter holidays. Moreover, Anna-Maria N, Aimee K, Isabella C, Lina L, Gemma D, Kristen O, Ysabella R and Beatrix M have all been busy rehearsing performances for our Anniversary event after Easter. These students will be positioned in different areas of the school and will be showcasing their gifts and talents celebrating the wonderful musical experience at BUCHS.

Chamber Concert – Wednesday 14th May

Lastly, I would like to welcome you to our next Chamber Concert on Wednesday 14th May, 6-7pm in the school library. We will once again have a variety of different performers playing music from different genres and styles. Our music students (both scholars and places) are currently hard at work ready to showcase their next pieces and I look forward to hearing them at their very best in the coming weeks.

A Level Geography Trip

This year, we travelled to Nettlecombe, Somerset on the week before February half term for our A-level geography trip. This was to help us work towards our NEA, (non-examined assessment) which is an essay-based project that is 20% of our final grade. Despite the difficult journey, once we arrived at Nettlecombe it was a lovely experience – in our opinion it allowed us to grow closer together and support each other with our workload. On the Thursday, we had a choice of where we wanted to go depending on our NEA topic. We visited different areas: Minehead, Portlock Bay and Nettlecombe Court (the place where we stayed). In visiting these areas, it allowed us to not only develop our data gathering skills, but helped us to choose the title of our NEA with help from the mentors around us. Aside from the field work aspect of the trip, we were also able to enjoy the many amenities of Nettlecombe Court such as: the beautiful views (as many places we visited were areas of outstanding natural beauty), great cakes and many polite mentors that helped to assist us with our NEAs.

Emily P, 12.4





Castle Competition

The final of the Year Seven Castle Competition took place on Thursday 6th March 2025. The competitors were tasked with recreating a castle of their choice. They were asked to research their chosen castle to make sure that it was historically accurate. All of the castles were of a significantly high standard and Mr Hammons, Miss Orritt, Year 12 prefect Julia Constantino and I found it extremely challenging to pick just three. It was so interesting to see the different media that were used to create the castles; such as, paper, plaster of Paris and cardboard. Congratulations to Emily in 7J who achieved first place, Martha in 7C who came second, and Aoife in 7B who came third (all pictured below.) All of the finalists should be very proud of their efforts, well done!

Mrs L. Cooper, Head of History





Castle Competition Continued





Castle Competition Continued



Beyond the Classroom: Our Students Take on the Chemistry Olympiad

Each year, our students push their limits in the prestigious Chemistry Olympiad, tackling complex topics beyond the A-Level syllabus.

The Round One paper, set by the UKChO, featured questions on radioactive decay, epoxides, iodination of ketones, carbon nanotubes, and Raman spectroscopy. 'The Olympiad makes A-Level exams seem easy, boosting students' confidence.'



Renowned for its rigor, the Olympiad challenges students with unique questions. This year's paper included a playful reference: "While Charli XCX's Brat Summer of 2024 may be over, this summer will be Paddington's BrAt Bear Summer... due to the radioactive decay of astatine." Paddington Bear, the UKChO mascot, even attended last year's International Chemistry Olympiad in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Throughout the challenge, students gain problem-solving skills, resilience, and a deeper appreciation for chemistry; skills which also strengthen their university applications.

Certificates will be released soon, with some of our students earning Bronze—an outstanding achievement. Results will be shared in early April, with more updates to come.

Many participants are eager to compete again next year, aiming to improve their scores. We look forward to seeing their continued success!

For those who love a challenge, the Olympiad is a chance to explore chemistry beyond textbooks—an ever-evolving science shaping our world.



PE

Netball

On Thursday 27th March, Newhall School hosted the Essex Plate Cup Finals. Our Year 9 BUCHS team, accompanied by Miss Fazakerley and Mr Woolgar, had trained very hard to get to this point and were hopeful of a top place.

We are pleased to announce that the team were crowned runners up in the Under 14s Essex Plate. The PE Department are so proud of the students involved and hope they wear their medals with pride!



Basketball Success!

Our U12 Basketball Team are unbeaten this year; so far beating St. Martin's School, Shenfield School, Great Baddow School and St. John Payne.

We look forward to following their matches into the next term! Well done to the team!



Library News

BUCHS Book Swap

BUCHS celebrated World Book Day in a variety of fun ways during March.

On Tuesday 4th, the library hosted the Great BUCHS Book Swap for Year 7 and 8 students.

This was the most successful book swap event yet with 113 donated books taken home by their new owners. What a fantastic way to refresh your book shelf for free!

Thank you to all who took part, we hope you enjoyed it! Plus, a very big thank you to Mrs Harbott and our two Deputy Head Students, Riya and Sienna who helped out on the day.



Above: Madalina, 8A



Above: Quinn, 7C





Library News Continued

BUCHS Bookworm

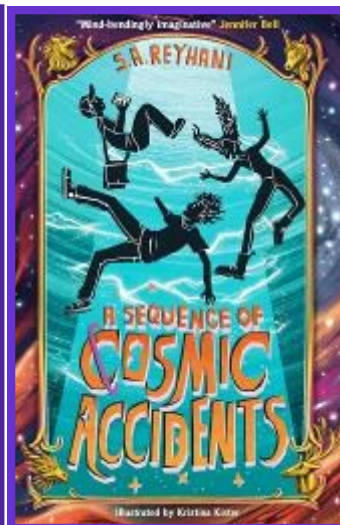
We have had more success with one of our reading initiatives this half term, with two students being awarded badges. Many congratulations to them both.

Naomi G A in 7A (pictured below) has been awarded her level 2 Blue BUCHS Bookworm Badge.



Summer Author Visit for Year 7

We are excited to announce that author S.A.Reyhani will be visiting BUCHS on 20th June during the school day to talk about her new book 'A Sequence of Cosmic Accidents,' a blend of science and fantasy. Further details to follow closer to the time.



Finishing your GCSE or A Level courses this summer?

Please consider donating your revision guides and workbooks to the school so that other students can benefit from them in the future. They can be handed in to the library at any time.

Thank you!



Amelia F, 7A, has earned her level 1 Brown BUCHS Bookworm badge!



Blue Peter Book Badge Update

Well done to those students who completed their Blue Peter Book Badge applications. They have now been sent to Blue Peter who advise we do need to be patient as it could take up to 12 weeks to send the badges to us!



World Book Day & International Women's Day

BTEC Business Students Team Up with Fatima Whitbread to Fundraise for Fatima's UK campaign!

On 6th March, we were honoured to welcome Fatima Whitbread MBE, a former Olympic javelin champion and world record holder, to our school. Fatima delivered an incredibly inspiring talk about her life, sharing her journey to becoming an Olympic champion and the many obstacles she overcame along the way.

During her visit, Fatima spoke about her books, focusing primarily on her children's book, *My Bright Shining Star*. This heart-warming story is inspired by Fatima's own experiences as a child in the care system, told through the eyes of a young girl named Little Fatima.

The book follows Little Fatima's journey as she searches for her forever home. As she navigates the challenges and uncertainties of being in care, she finds hope, love, and a sense of belonging. *My Bright Shining Star* is a beautifully written and illustrated tale that helps children understand the importance of finding safety and support, no matter the obstacles they face.

Through this book, Fatima aims to raise awareness of the emotional journey children in the care system often undergo, while delivering a message of hope and perseverance. It's an ideal read for young audiences, offering valuable lessons on resilience, kindness, and the power of love and family.

Fatima's commitment to helping children in similar situations is evident, and *My Bright Shining Star* stands as a testament to her dedication to making a positive impact on the lives of young people. All the proceeds from the book go to Fatima's UK Campaign.

As part of her visit, we were also treated to an amazing video montage showcasing the many milestones in Fatima's life. We watched footage of her world-record-breaking Olympic javelin throw, her daring jump out of an aeroplane on *I'm a Celebrity... Get Me Out of Here!* and the unforgettable moment when she met the late Queen Elizabeth II to collect her MBE. The montage not only highlighted Fatima's remarkable achievements, but also her fearless and adventurous spirit.

One of the highlights of the visit was getting to see Fatima's Olympic medals up close. It was incredible to hold these symbols of her dedication, hard work, and success, and a reminder of what can be achieved through perseverance.



A selection of some of Fatima's medals

Below: Fatima with the Yr 12 BTEC Business class





World Book Day & International Women's Day Continued

Fatima also took the time to answer a variety of questions from students, offering valuable life lessons and motivation. Her insights were enormously inspiring, and we're grateful for the opportunity to learn from her. At the end of Fatima's talk, Eden in Year 8 presented Fatima with a bouquet of flowers and thanked her for giving up her time to talk to our students.



Left to right: Eden B, Year 8, Fatima Whitbread MBE and Mrs Hammond

As part of our BTEC Business course, students are currently studying the Events Management unit. We will be organising several fundraising events to support Fatima's UK Campaign which is dedicated to improving the lives of children within the care system. It was really moving to hear first-hand about the remarkable work Fatima's charity does, and we're excited to contribute to such a worthwhile cause.

Please support us in raising money for Fatima's campaign. Follow this link:
<https://www.fatimascampaign.com/donate>

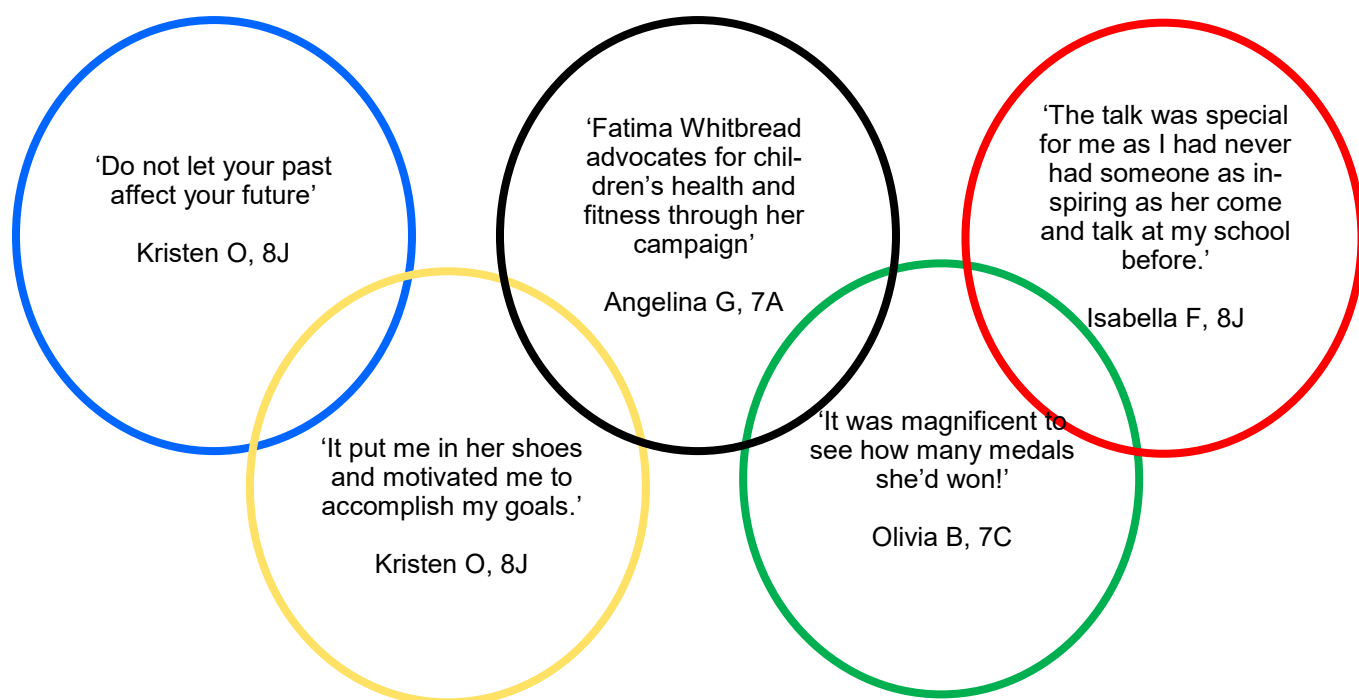
Miss O'Grady & the Year 12 BTEC Business Students





World Book Day & International Women's Day Continued

Some comments about Fatima's visit from our students:



BTEC Business Students & Year 12 Prefects Lead a Successful Event

Our Mother's Day Pop-Up Shop was a fantastic success, thanks to the hard work and dedication of our BTEC Business students and Year 12 prefects, who played a key role in organising and running the event. Their enthusiasm and teamwork ensured everything ran smoothly, allowing students to select thoughtful gifts for the special people in their lives.

During a special creative lunchtime session, students also had the chance to design heartfelt cards, adding a personal touch to their gifts. It was wonderful to see such kindness and appreciation in action.

We are thrilled to announce that the event raised over £250 for Fatima's UK Campaign, making a real difference to those in need. A huge thank you goes out to all the staff and their family members who donated, helping to make this event such a success. Your generosity and support truly embody the spirit of our school community.

Following the success of this event, we will be organising further events in the future and will communicate details via our usual channels.

You can see on the next page some of our students creating their cards and some of the gifts that we had for sale.

Well done to everyone involved, you've helped make this Mothering Sunday extra special!

Miss O'Grady, Head of Key Stage 3 & Teacher of BTEC Business



BTEC Business Students & Year 12 Prefects Lead a Successful Event Continued





Quantity Surveying Seminar

Visit from former BUCHS student Chidi Ansuem

Through attending the quantity surveying seminar held by a former BUCHS student, I was introduced to the diverse nature of quantity surveying - from building properties for tenants through the construction route, to the growing number of data centres that require accredited consultancy surveyors to manage and oversee these projects. The opportunity to attend this talk made me aware of the growing advocacy for women to join this field through career and opportunity prospects offered by RICS and the 'Yes, She Can' organisation which focus on empowering women in this male dominated field.

Alex G, 12.2



RICS



<https://www.rics.org/>

<https://yes-shecan.com/>



Art

Art students celebrating our 125th Anniversary

Year 9 & 10 Art students have been working on a very special project alongside their coursework studies; to develop display artwork celebrating the school's 125th anniversary.

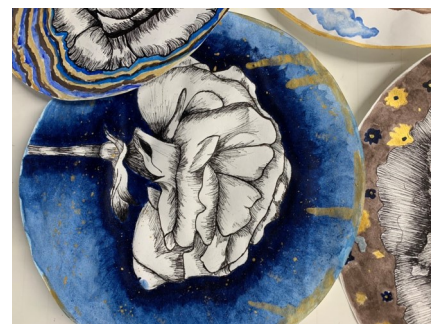
The students have produced beautiful pieces inspired by the white carnation, a flower linked to our school's history. Below is a small sample of work prior to its installation.



*inspire
together*



**Well done to
our Year 9
and 10 Art
students!**





Art Continued



Proud to be Ursuline



We look forward to creating a new display featuring these special artworks.



Art Continued

Year 12 Art students have also been working hard to contribute to the display. Inspired by the school's archive material, they have created canvas based pieces and backdrops to our Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 artworks. Well done Year 12 Art!

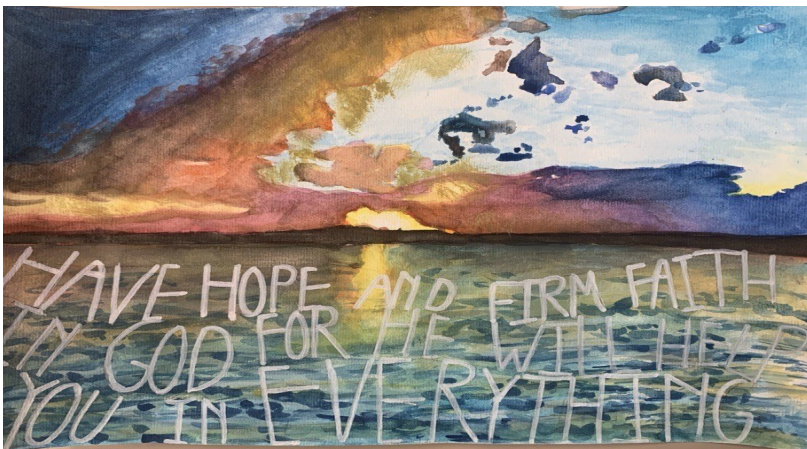


*inspire
together*





Art Continued



St Angela was born on 21st March 1474 in Desenzano del Garda, a town in the province of Brescia, Lombardy, Italy, on the southwestern shore of Lake Garda.

Year 8 students have explored watercolour techniques in the creation of landscape pieces. This project, linked to our school's unique ethos and history, looked at scenes of the beautiful region of Italy that St Angela was from.

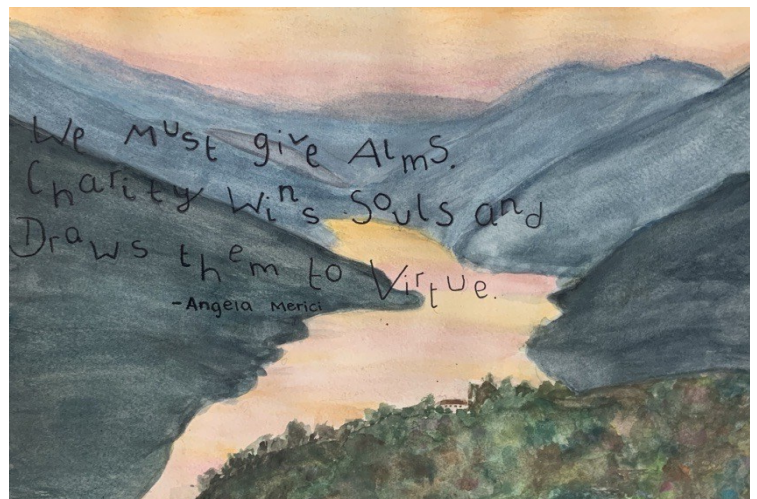
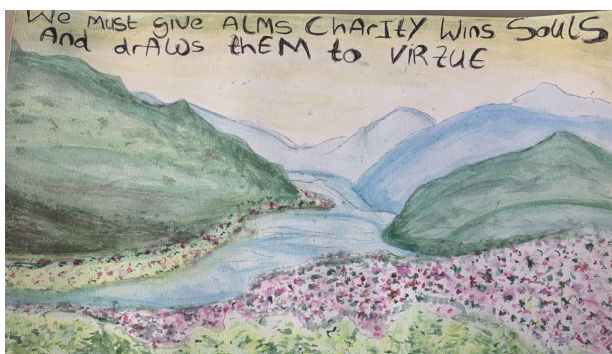
Students chose words from St Angela to weave into their landscape paintings, to add a further layer of meaning.

We are delighted with the students' work and look forward to sharing them with the school community when the pieces are put on display.

Well done Year 8 Artists!



Our faith calls us to care about our world and to love, protect and celebrate God's amazing creation.





Can You Serve for a Day?

Ursuline Links are looking for volunteers to help with the Summer Service Project: 'Fan the Flame of Hope.' Could you give a day, two or maybe more to support the students in the Summer Service Projects?

Week One: Monday 21st – Friday 25th July

Week Two: Monday 28th July – Friday 1st August



For more information, scan the QR Code, fill out the enquiry form: <https://forms.office.com/e/CjWfXKWBDL> or email James Ryan at linksdirector@ursulines-ru.uk

**VOLUNTEER
WITH
URSULINE LINKS**

CAN YOU SERVE FOR A DAY?

Do you feel called to serve this summer? Would you support your students in the community for a day or a week? Scan the QR Code for further information.

CONTACT US
linksdirector@ursulines-ru.uk





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£10.00 Duathlon Juniors (aged 6-14) 1k Run >>> 5k Bike on Field >>> 1k Run on Field

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Brentwood Ursuline
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[AEF Brentwood Central Boxing Club \(11-16 yrs\)](#)

Doddinghurst Rd, Pilgrims Hatch,
CM15 9NN
brentwoodcentral21@gmail.com
07930 903442

[HCL Activity Camps \(4-11 years\)](#)

Hutton Community Centre,
Harrison Cl, Hutton. CM13 1LP
info@hollowaycoaching.co.uk
07778 874029

[Schools Out Activities \(4-16 years\)](#)

Shenfield High School, Alexander Ln,
Shenfield, CM15 8RY
info@schoolsoutactivities.co.uk &
01473 942990

[Super Star Sports OEL \(4-12yrs\)](#)

Ingatestone & Fryerning CoE
Junior School, CM4 0AL
info@superstarsport-oel.org
07854 874490

[Butterflies SEND \(8-16yrs\)](#)

The Knights Way Centre, CM13 3DX
bookings@butterflies.co.uk & 07493 290932

[AEF Kazen Kai \(11-16 years\)](#)

Bannister Dr, Hutton, CM13 1YX
simon@kazenkai.com
0800 1830383

[Jack Of All Sports Pilgrims Hatch \(4-12 years\)](#)

Bentley St Paul's Primary School,
Ashwells Rd, Pilgrims Hatch,
CM15 9SE
jackofallsports@btinternet.com
07919 888093

[SportsCool \(4-12yrs\)](#)

Holly Trees Primary School, Vaughan
Williams Way, CM14 5RY
westessex@sportscool.org
07935 535292

[Football Fun Factory \(5-12yrs\)](#)

St Helen's Primary School, Sawyers Hall
Lane, CM15 9BY
kieranwren@thefootballfunfactory.co.uk
07712 427838

[Golf in the Community \(6-16yrs\)](#)

Warley Golf Club, Magpie Lane,
CM13 3DX
annvictoriaselby@hotmail.co.uk
07956 318016


Find out more: activeessex.org




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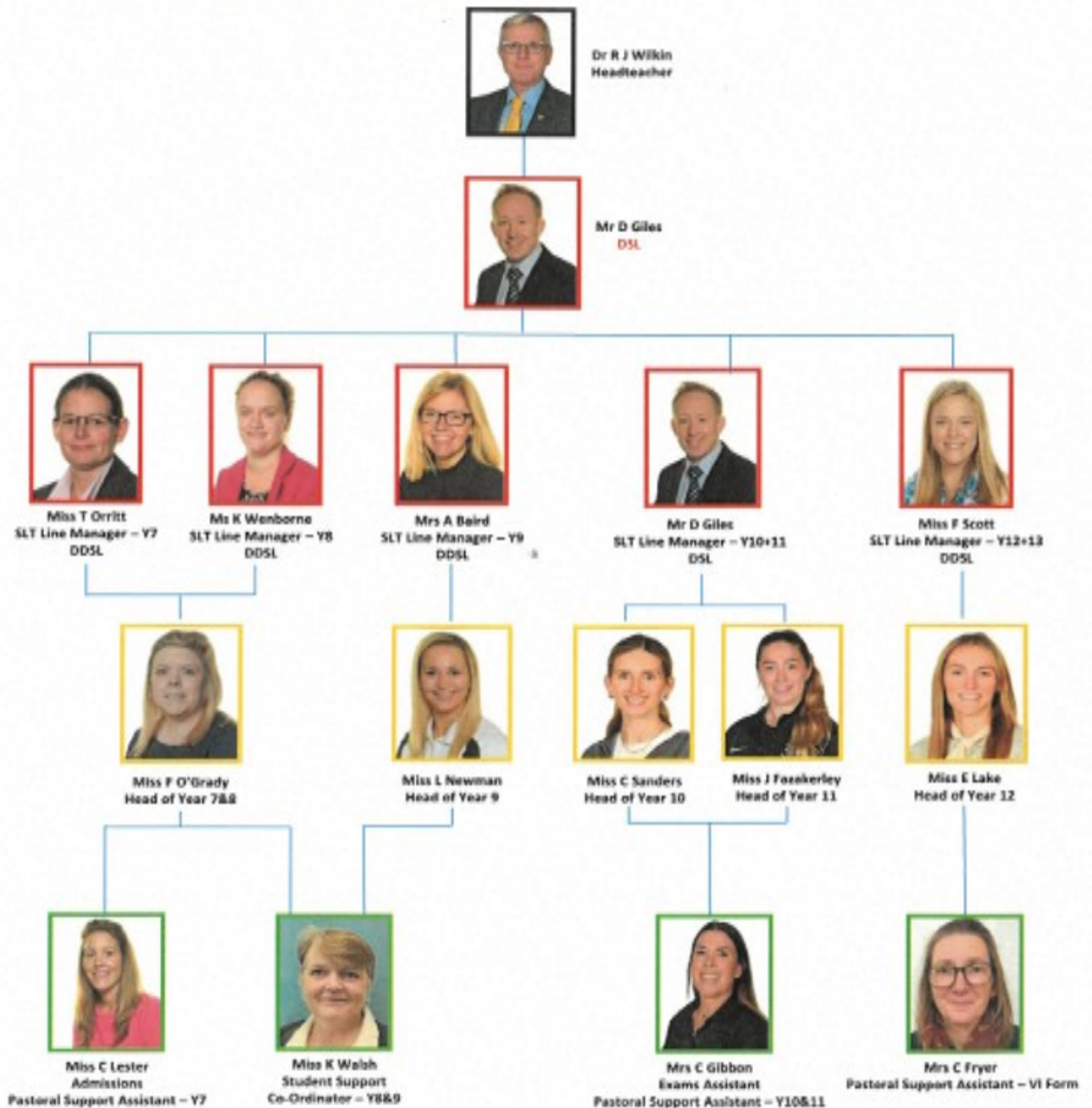
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BUCHS Safeguarding Team – 2024/2025



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 |