



A New Pope

In his final address on Easter Sunday, Pope Francis told us to look for Jesus 'everywhere except the tomb.' The homily of his holiness Pope Francis was read by Cardinal Angelo Comastri the day before Pope Francis died. He said: "This is the message of Easter: we must look for him elsewhere. Christ is risen, he is alive! He is no longer a prisoner of death, he is no longer wrapped in the shroud... On the contrary, we must look for him... look for him in life, look for him in the faces of our brothers and sisters, look for him in everyday business, look for him everywhere except in the tomb."

Probably knowing this would be one of his last homilies, Pope Francis closed with hope; "Sisters, brothers, in the wonder of the Easter faith, carrying in our hearts every expectation of peace and liberation, we can say: with You, O Lord, everything is new. With you, everything begins again."

And so, the Catholic Church begins a new phase. Pope Francis asked us to look to the future of the Catholic Church, to use this time as a renewal of our faith and our commitment. And it seems that Pope Leo XIV, the 267th pontiff following an unbroken line from Saint Peter, is also asking us to seek a risen Jesus of new beginnings. In his opening address from the balcony above St Peter's Basilica on Thursday 8th May, Pope Leo asked us to share the "peace of the Risen Christ, ... to build bridges with dialogue, uniting us all to be one people, always in peace." While his papacy is very new, Pope Leo is continuing to encourage the church into action, into finding peace, into serving and walking side-by-side with the people of God, because Christ is not in the tomb, he is with us all.



Prayers for Our Exam Students

Please keep our Year 11 and Year 13 students in your prayers as they sit their public examinations. May they approach each paper with calm minds, courage, and confidence to do their very best.



Barcelona Trip 3-6th April

Over the Easter break, 25 Year 10 GCSE Spanish students enjoyed an unforgettable four day trip to Barcelona, led by Miss Rodríguez, Mrs Brand and Mr Giles. From 3rd to 6th April, the group soaked up the language, culture and sunshine —the perfect combination to bring their classroom learning to life. After an early start at Luton Airport, we touched down in Barcelona and headed straight to our hotel, Roma Reial, right in the heart of the city. That afternoon, we visited the Picasso Museum, where students explored the artist's early work and saw how his distinctive style evolved. We rounded off the day with a fun dinner at the Hard Rock Café — a lively end to our first evening. Friday kicked off with a trip to Poble Espanyol, a one-of-a-kind open-air museum showcasing architecture from across Spain. In the afternoon, we had a guided tour of the Olympic and Sports Museum, learning more about Barcelona's sporting legacy and its role in the 1992 Olympic Games. We also made a stop at the Sagrada Familia — an unmissable highlight — before heading to Restaurante Els Porxos for a well-deserved three-course dinner. Saturday started with a relaxing boat ride around the harbour with Las Golondrinas, giving us some great views of the city from the water. Next up was Park Güell, where students wandered among Gaudí's colourful mosaics and imaginative designs. That evening, we tucked into a delicious tapas meal at Restaurante Nervion — and there were definitely a few second helpings! On Sunday, we had some free time for shopping and a final stroll along Las Ramblas before heading back to the airport. It was a brilliant trip that gave students the chance to use their Spanish in real-life situations and experience the culture they've been learning about. I would like to thank Mrs Brand and Mr Giles for making this trip possible and for all their support throughout. I couldn't have asked for a better team. Last but by no means least, thank you to my wonderful Year 10 GCSE Spanish students, who were fantastic throughout the entire trip. It was a real pleasure to see them using their Spanish in real life situations and supporting one another as a group.

Miss Rodriguez, Teacher of Spanish

Here are some thoughts from our Year 10 Spanish students:

Bibire O:

"I enjoyed visiting the Barcelona Olympic Stadium and seeing all the different sports. I also loved visiting all the markets and shops, and even though there was a lot of walking, it was still a memorable trip and I would do it again."



Alessia C B:

"I really enjoyed the market and the shops. I also had so much fun learning about the history of sport during the tour of the Barcelona Olympic Stadium. I would definitely do it again."



Barcelona Trip 3-6th April Continued



Olufimihan A:

"I would say that as this is my first time travelling overseas, it gave me a chance to understand and experience the cultures in Barcelona, including the languages Catalan and Spanish. For me, I really enjoyed going to the stadium and learning about the history of the Olympics and the freedom you gave us to walk around Barcelona. I would absolutely love to go back to Spain/Barcelona again, especially as a class or with my family. Thank you so much, Miss, for allowing us to go to Spain! I will always remember this trip."

Elizabeth F:

"I really enjoyed my first school trip abroad. It was an unforgettable experience, made even more special by sharing it with my close friends. I believe trips like these are important in helping us become more independent and confident. One of the highlights for me was the boat trip, where we made so many great memories together. I'd love the chance to go on another trip before my time in high school comes to an end."



Sofia L:

"I really enjoyed it and I'll never forget this amazing experience! I loved visiting the stadium and I really liked the boat trip! It was a great way for all of us to see the life and culture in Spain. I really enjoyed spending time with my friends too and eating cultural food like tapas! Thank you Miss Rodriguez for this amazing experience!"



Vanessa P:

"Lovely views and amazing culture! I loved every bit of it and being accompanied by my friends. A truly wonderful and unforgettable experience. Best trip ever!"



Dance



We are delighted to invite you to our school production, 'Six the Musical: Teen Edition,' on the 16th and 17th June 2025. Performances will take place in the school hall commencing at 7pm and will last for approximately 75 minutes with no interval. Please use the following link to purchase your tickets. Tickets are only available through the link and not through ParentPay. Please be aware that we have a dual casting when purchasing your tickets. They cost £7.00 each or a group booking of 4 tickets for the same performance date is £20.00. As this is a seated event, all attendees must have a ticket. Tickets will be operated on a first come, first served basis.

https://evolve.edufocus.co.uk/shop/shop_item_public.asp?site=brentwoodursulineconventvisits&estab=0&id=4540

Mrs C Hilder, Teacher In Charge of Dance



STEM

Well Done Chemistry Olympiad Participants!

The Chemistry Department at BUCHS congratulates all students who took part in this year's UK Chemistry Olympiad. You tackled an exceptionally challenging paper with topics far beyond the A-level syllabus — and did so with enthusiasm and determination.

A special **congratulations** to those awarded Bronze certificates — a fantastic achievement! Abigail C Yr 13, Alexandra C Yr 13, Aiswayra B Yr 13, Edie N Yr 13, Chinwe A Yr 13, Faith M Yr 13, Florence H Yr 12.

Participation Certificates: Dominika K Yr 13, Sienna H Yr 12, Arthur B Yr 12, David M Yr 13, Tessa S Yr 12, Mya L Yr 12, Riona D Yr 12.

Thank you for representing BUCHS so brilliantly. We're proud of your hard work and passion for chemistry.

The Chemistry Department



ROYAL SOCIETY
OF CHEMISTRY



Geography

Human Geography Field Trip

On a very sunny Monday 31st March, our Year 10 Geography students set off for the day by coach to complete GCSE field work in Chelmsford town centre with the topic title: Has the regeneration of Bond Street had a positive impact on Chelmsford city centre?

They worked in groups to complete a booklet of activities which included asking questions of passers by about their reasons for visiting the centre, time spent there and what they thought of the re-development of the Bond St area. They also looked at the variety of shops in detail and noted the different offerings available, plus the general footfall across specific areas within the centre.

The tasks were repeated in different parts of the town (Bond Street, High Street, High Chelmer, The Meadows and Moulsham Street,) so they had basis for comparison.

One of the most popular parts of the day was the lunch break, where students were able to choose where they ate and enjoyed doing this with their friends! Thank you to Miss Lake for arranging this trip.





Geography Continued





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.



Sixth Form

Author Visit: Emma Marns

Emma Marns is an author who recently visited our school. She had a really interesting and engaging personality, with a wide range of knowledge around sport, journalism, the Irish language and history. During our time with her, Marns described the journey of writing her fiction book, 'The Walk,' as well as the publishing process. Though the process started in 2019, due to over-saturation in the publishing industry (largely due to people taking up writing during the pandemic,) it took until 2023 before she received a publishing deal.

She described the resilience needed from aspiring authors to handle rejections from publishing companies, the dedication needed to create a story and the various life experiences that inspired her to write the book.

The book itself follows two teen girls, Ailbe and Maire, in Ireland in the late 1970s who have fallen pregnant out of wedlock and are required to come to terms with the new environments they have been placed in, whilst navigating life after childbirth.

The book is classed as literary fiction, or historical fiction, as it reflects a period of time in Irish Catholic history where social norms surrounding pregnancy and wedlock differed heavily to today's. Marns' inspiration came from a close relative, who discovered much later in life that she was not her parents' biological child and had been adopted.

Marns' passion for writing is evident in the book. The tone is often macabre, and our two protagonists are retrospective and inquisitive, leading readers to resonate with the characters, plot and setting. Ailbe and Maire have intricate minds that are shaped by their experiences, and Marns carefully considers religious and historical contexts throughout the book.

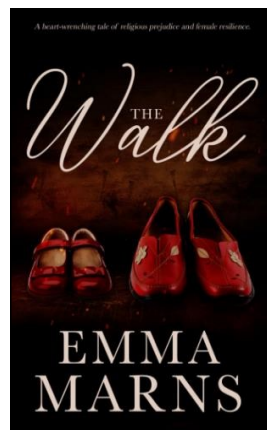
Grace R, 13.4

'The two girls sat in the back of the car, their destination unknown and their crimes worse than murder.'

In November 1979, Ailbe and Maire disappear from their rural village in Ireland, never to return. Pregnant out of wedlock, they are now outcasts from society.

Believing they will at least have each other, the girls are devastated when Ailbe is dumped at the gates of a place known only as 'Bessborough', whilst Maire is forced to continue on to Dublin, to be cared for by the relatives of her married lover.

What follows is an enduring tale of family, love, friendship, secrecy, self-sacrifice and the extraordinary endurance of women in the most appalling of circumstances.



Below: Emma presenting to our Sixth Form in the library





Sixth Form Continued

Year 12 Students Begin Their UCAS Journey

Students in Year 12 have taken the first official step towards their future in higher education by beginning the UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) process. As the academic year progresses, students have now signed up to the UCAS platform and have started completing the initial sections of their applications.

This early stage of the process focuses on personal information, educational history and the all-important personal statement — a key opportunity for students to reflect on their aspirations, achievements and motivations for applying to university. By starting now, students are giving themselves ample time to polish each section and seek feedback from teachers and advisers.

With the foundations in place, students will now begin the crucial task of researching potential courses and universities. This involves exploring subject areas, understanding course content, comparing entry requirements and considering factors such as location, campus facilities and student support services. Open days, virtual tours and university websites will play an essential role in helping students make informed decisions.

Starting the UCAS process early allows students to approach each stage thoughtfully and confidently. It also gives us as a school the chance to provide structured support, from writing strong personal statements to preparing for interviews and admissions tests where necessary.

This marks an exciting and important time in students' academic journeys, as they begin to shape their futures and explore the many opportunities higher education has to offer.

Mrs Udall

Good Luck to Year 13

Year 13's last formal day of lessons was Thursday 8th May.

Before being dismissed for the last time on that day, they gathered together in the Chapel with their teachers and members of the senior leadership team to reflect on what's to come. Miss Scott led them in the school prayer and told them how proud the school was of their achievements so far and that staff are there to support them through the coming weeks and months as they embark on their external examinations.

The year group will come back together again in June for a leavers' celebration and we look forward to celebrating the end of the exam season with them then.

Wishing all of our wonderful students the best of luck in their exams and every success in whichever path they choose to take.





Sixth Form Continued

Guest Speakers Inspire Sixth Form Students

Oxbridge

Jess and Naomi, both Oxford graduates, provided a fantastic outline of the Oxbridge experience! They gave a comprehensive overview of their personal application processes, and it was particularly interesting to hear the different ways in which their interviews were conducted. Whilst neither of their courses (Biology and Psychology) corresponded with the ones I would be interested in pursuing, they were still able to talk about the experiences of their friends who did those courses, which I found very useful!

They also explained the collegiate system, and what that means for your time at university in greater detail than can be found online. We learnt more about the events that individual colleges put on, the facilities in colleges and how colleges may differ.

For me, how friendly the atmosphere is at these universities is what I had more questions about, and both speakers gave fantastic responses which put my mind at ease. They also helped me to realise that the course is the most important aspect in deciding whether to attend Oxbridge.

They also gave us the insight that not attending these competitive universities is not severely detrimental to your future career, citing their own jobs where they work with many people who have graduated from other universities.

Overall, I felt this talk was very useful in helping me decide whether Oxford or Cambridge would be the right place for me, and I found it to be a greatly valuable experience! Naomi and Jess did an excellent job!

Louie P, 12.2

Medicine

On Monday 28th April, we had the opportunity to receive a presentation from a previous BUCHS student, Hannah, who is currently studying medicine at the university of Birmingham. Hannah provided us with an insight into her experience applying for medicine and how opportunities such as summer schools and work experience shadowing hospital consultants helped her to strengthen both her applications and her overall interest in medicine as a career.

Hannah also spoke in detail about what it is really like to be a medical student at a large medical school such as Birmingham and highlighted how skills such as writing research essays and presenting in front of an audience are developed in medical school through assignments, as they are crucial for a career in medicine. Because the University of Birmingham has a large medical school with between 400 and 450 students per year, there are numerous opportunities provided to students through various societies within 'Med Soc.' These focus on areas such as expedition medicine, surgery and paediatrics, allowing students to build networks and enhance their specific interests. This also enables students to stay motivated and keep sight of their end goal- to be a qualified doctor working within one of these specialties.





Sixth Form Continued

Alongside a focus on maintaining high academic standards, it is incredibly important to take steps to relax and build connections outside of the classroom. For Hannah, joining the medical school rugby team has given her the opportunity to travel, make new friends and gain various skills, which have aided her overall personal development and would not be possible if academic success was her only focus. Throughout her presentation, Hannah was honest about the sacrifices and consistent effort required to be successful on a demanding course such as medicine. However, we were assured that by working hard, taking advantage of support provided by the university, alongside extracurricular activities, medical school is an incredible experience. Many thanks to Hannah for taking time to speak to us.

Mya L, 12.1

Psychology

As Year 12 Psychology students, we were fortunate to have the opportunity to engage in an insightful talk on the process of conducting psychological research. As this area is also an essential part of our A-Level curriculum, it provided further detail on how the information we have learnt in class can be used in real-life psychology research. The talk was led by Naomi and Jess, psychology research assistants who currently work at the University of Oxford and University College London. They provided a comprehensive overview of how research in psychology is carried out - from the initial development of a research question to the final stages of data analysis and publication.

We began by learning how to come up with a meaningful and focused research question, which may involve the process of identifying gaps in existing research and refining broad topics into specific areas of investigation. It made me realise how much thought and preparation go into a study before actual data collection begins.

We also explored the practical steps of research: selecting an appropriate sample, choosing the right research design, conducting ethical data collection and analysing results. Ethics was discussed many times throughout the whole talk, highlighting the importance of protecting the well-being of participants and maintaining integrity in all stages of research. One point that the speakers emphasised was the cyclical nature of psychological research. Naomi and Jess explained how researchers often need to revise and adjust aspects of their research design to ensure that the results are valid and generalisable to the target sample.

We were also allowed to apply the knowledge we had gained from the talk by developing our research question within the area of cognitive neuroscience, giving us a taste of what real-world psychological research involves. This was an interesting and eye-opening experience for me, especially as someone who likes conducting and organising research studies.

What stood out to me the most was the vastness of the field of psychology. The talk highlighted the wide variety of topics that can be explored, from mental health to face recognition in crime scenes. It was exciting to hear how psychology can be applied in so many real-world settings. Overall, the talk provided an excellent introduction to what a future in psychology could look like, and it motivated me to think more deeply about the research aspect of the subject.

Riona D'S, 12.1





Sixth Form Continued

Psychology Experimenters!

In our A-Level Psychology class, we recently conducted a practical experiment to examine the effect of 'chunking' on short-term memory (STM) capacity. Our aim was to determine whether grouping letters into meaningful groups would increase capacity of the short term memory.

Our investigation tested a theory we learned in class known as the Multi-Store Model of Memory proposed by Atkinson and Shiffrin, which states that STM has a limited capacity of approximately 7 ± 2 items and has the duration of 30 seconds. It further suggests that capacity can be increased through organising information into meaningful groups.

We sampled Year 11 students as participants, obtaining informed consent from both the Head of Year (Miss Fazakerley) and the individuals themselves. Participants were presented with sequences of 12 letters under two conditions. They were shown both conditions for 10 seconds and had 30 seconds to recall them. This was to prevent rehearsal of the letters which would have caused the letters to go into long term memory. In the first condition, 12 letters were presented in a random order unrelated to the participants and in the second condition the same 12 letters were organised into text abbreviations: HRU (how are you,) ICL (I can't lie,) NVM (never mind) and WYD (what you doing) which participants of that age would be able to relate to. Our overall results support the idea that chunking information into meaningful groups increases capacity of short term memory as, on average, students recalled more letters when they were chunked into meaningful groups (12 out of 12) than when they were randomly presented (9 out of 12.)

Chanelle S, 12.1

Art

Years 9 and 10

Art work from our GCSE Art students' first coursework project themed on 'Natural Forms' or 'Insects,' is on display. Students' studies from observation, produced in a variety of media and techniques, showcase their creativity and commitment to producing high quality work. **Well done to Year 9 and 10 Art students!**





Art Continued



Celebrating 125 Years of Brentwood Ursuline: A Special Art Display

To mark the 125th anniversary of BUCHS, the Art Department were delighted to present a special display created by our students from Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12, celebrating the school's rich history and tradition. This vibrant and thoughtful collection of work honours the school's heritage through the eyes of its current students, offering a unique perspective on the past and present of our Ursuline community.

Drawing inspiration from archive materials, including a historic letter to Reverend Mother Clare, our foundress, the display takes the form of a 'visual letter' in tribute to her, reflecting on the school's journey and identity over 125 years.





Art Continued

Designed to be read from left to right, beginning with the school's foundation in 1900 and culminating in 2025, the visual timeline is enriched with symbols drawn from the school's history and ethos. Both the original and current school crests appear, anchoring the work in tradition while acknowledging change and continuity. Drawing on powerful motifs linked to the school's identity, such as the white carnation and the Ursuline nuns' tradition of lace making; the students' artwork reflects a deep appreciation of the school's values, symbols and spirit.





Art Continued

Birds, created in shades of blue, feature throughout the display and are inspired by the school song lyric 'on life's road we fly,' symbolising movement, progress and the students' journey.

Circles are used as a recurring design element, representing unity, harmony, wholeness, community and infinity.

The inclusion of numerals, '1900', '2025' and '125' serve as clear visual anchors, alongside text elements such as 'Dearest Reverend Mother,' and the school song, which set the tone of reflection and tribute.

The colours of the school uniform weave through the pieces as a unifying thread, connecting past to present in a celebration of legacy, creativity and faith.

The Art Department are extremely proud of our students, their artwork and commitment to this very special project.

Proud to be Ursuline

A heartfelt thank you goes to both Mrs Strachan and Mrs Parikh for their creativity and dedication to the Art Department's contributions to the school's celebrations.

Mrs Strachan worked tirelessly with her students to produce the beautiful bunting that adorned the celebration space on Saturday 26th April. Vibrant, symbolic, and full of character, the bunting was a wonderful success and a lasting memento of the anniversary.

Mrs Parikh, alongside Miss McGoldrick, worked with our Year 9 and 10 Art students to create the stunning Art work for the display on the A3 corridor and also worked with Miss McGoldrick to install the display over the Easter holiday. Mrs Parikh's floristry and artistic talents saw her guide students in creating a striking array of paper carnations, which were formed around a golden '125' on a canvas display. These were featured not only as part of the school's visual celebrations on the Celebration Day, but also in the Foundation Day Mass and the Mass at Brentwood Cathedral on Saturday 26th April.



A huge well done and thank you to our wonderful students for their commitment and hard work in the creation of beautiful and thoughtful pieces, which fittingly honour the school's history and legacy.





Art Continued

Charity Art Competition

Our school has been approached by the Marillac Neurological Care Centre to take part in a charity Art Competition on the theme of 'Street Art.'

Students in various year groups have begun working on entries in lessons and will respond to the theme in any media, working to the specific size given.

Students will enjoy using their creativity and being in with a chance of winning a prize, whilst also raising money for a local charity.

We're looking forward to seeing exciting entries on the 5th June and wish our students the best of luck for the competition.



Proud to be Ursuline

CALLING ALL LOCAL SCHOOLS
JOIN OUR
CHARITY ART COMPETITION
STREET ART

- Age Categories: 5-7 | 7-11 | 11+
- Paper Size: 35x56cm
- Entry Fee: £2 per student
- Judged by: John Brandler
- Submission Deadline: Friday 6th June
- Winners Announced: Friday 13th June

WE'D LOVE YOUR SCHOOL TO GET INVOLVED!



- Entries must be 2D and the specified size of 35cm x 56 cm
- You can use any media you like – drawing, painting, collage, mixed media, photography, fabric etc. All is most welcome!
- You may consider the theme of 'street art' in its broadest definition – it is certainly NOT restricted to graffiti art.
- Finalist entries will be displayed at the Holiday Inn Brentwood during the week following the judging.
- The entries will be judged by **John Brandler**, a renowned local art dealer.
- Local businesses will be providing prizes to the winners.
- **Submission Deadline:** Friday, 6th June (after half term)
- **Judging & Winners Announced:** Friday, 13th June

The £2 entry fee for the competition can be donated through ParentPay. These monies will be transferred to the Marillac.



125th Anniversary Day

On the morning of Saturday 26th April, Brentwood Cathedral was packed with students, staff, families and friends of our school, old and new, for a wonderful Mass celebrating 125 years since Foundation Day. The congregation received a warm welcome from Fr John and our choir sang beautifully throughout.

We then moved over to the school grounds in the afternoon, where hundreds attended for an afternoon of sharing memories, school tours, playing games, delicious food and drinks, bouncy castles, displays, presentations, raffles, live music and glorious sunshine.

We couldn't have wished for a better celebration. Thank you to Mrs Baird and her team for arranging such a fantastic day, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

On the next few pages are some of the many photos from the celebration at school.



Families browsing through the archives in the library



Our students enjoying the music of the Brentwood Imperial Youth band

*insitme
together*



It was lovely to welcome back past students Olivia, Millie and Rhiannon to the event.



Left: We were treated to a varied programme of music by the Brentwood Imperial Youth Band; many of whom are past and present students at BUCHS. Thank you to JohnPaul Wyndham, Band Director, for allowing members to attend on this special occasion. They really did contribute to the fantastic atmosphere at the event.



125th Anniversary Day Continued



Our students working on the many fun stalls at the event. Money raised will be put towards the cost of our new Sixth Form block.





125th Anniversary Day Continued





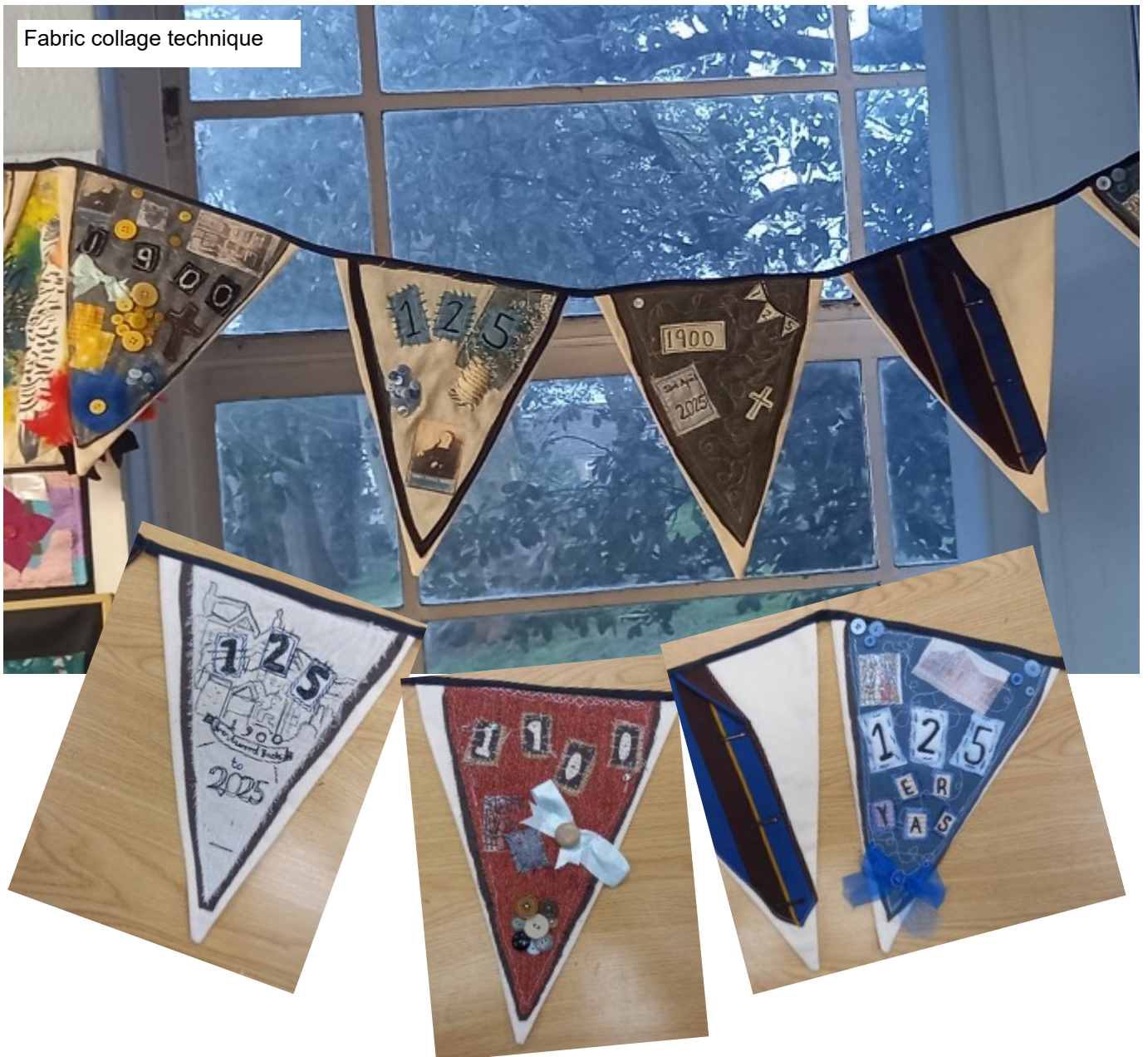
Textiles

Celebrating 125 Years

Since 1900, BUCHS has provided a first-class Catholic education. This long tradition gives our school a very special ethos and a strong reputation for educating young people; not only to a high academic standard, but also to be caring and responsible leaders in society. This year, we celebrated 125 years of Brentwood Ursuline on 23rd April, and the Year 9 Textiles group created bunting using different textile techniques of cyanotype and fabric collage. This was displayed during the celebration day.



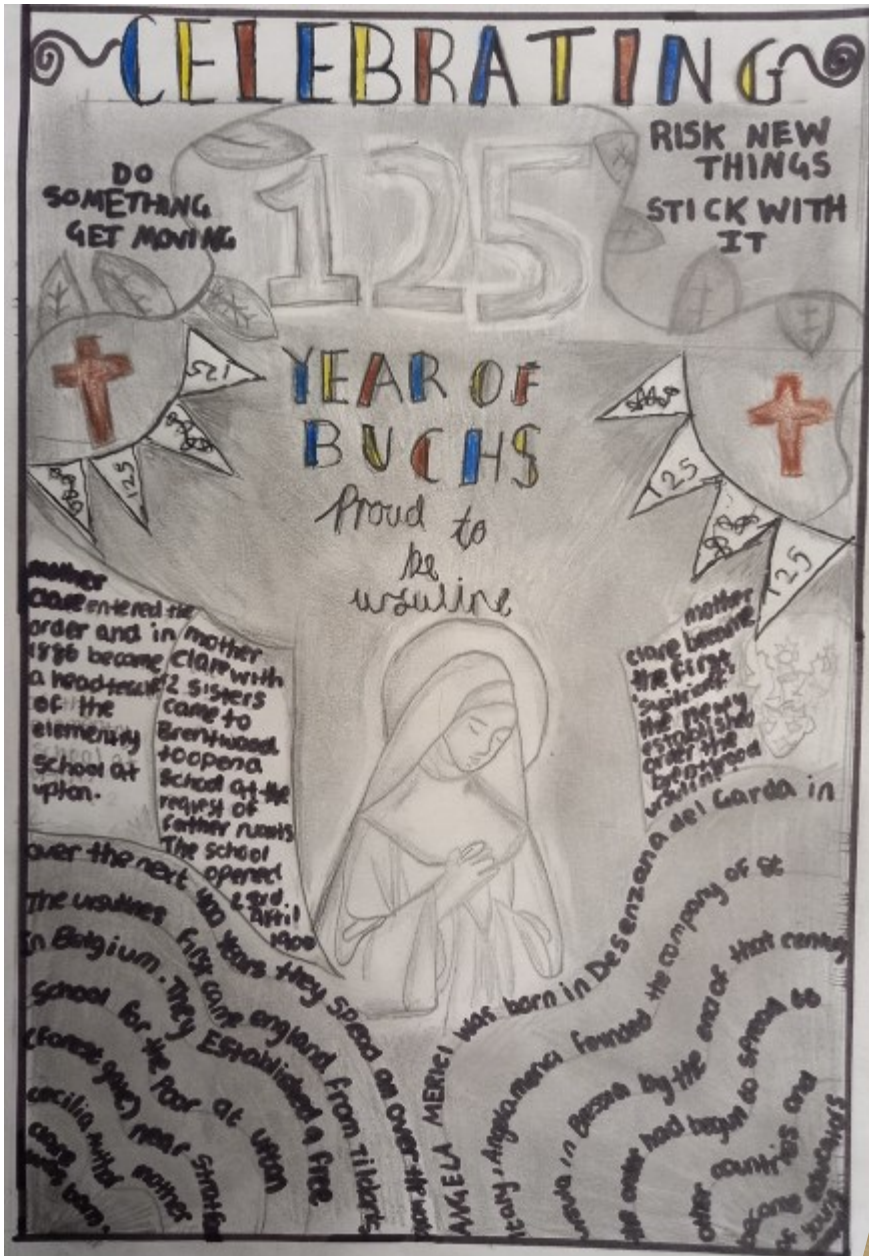
Fabric collage technique





Textiles Continued

Celebrating 125 Years



Left: Poster by Year 9 Textiles student Beryl





Textiles Continued

Celebrating 125 Years



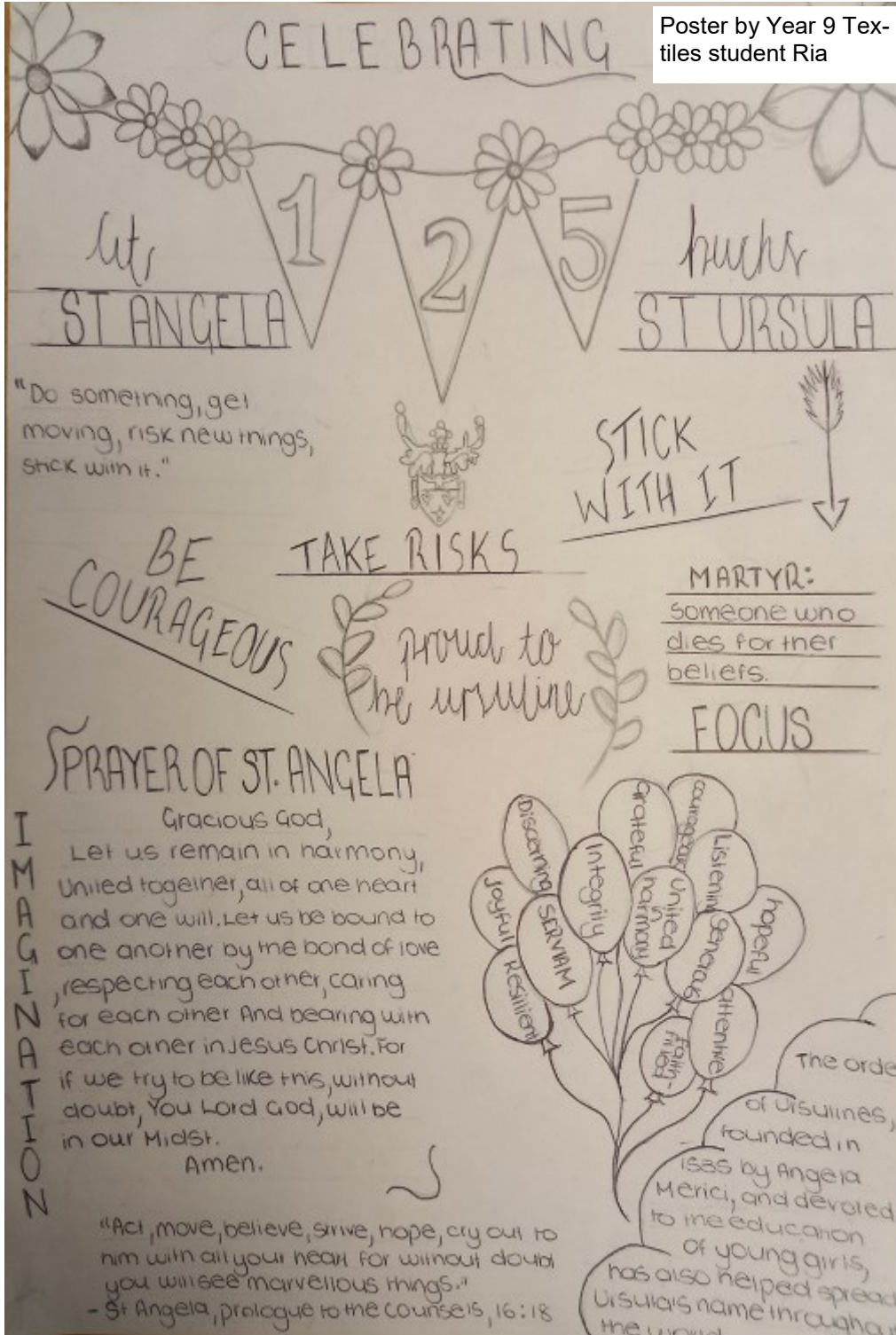
Cyanotype technique





Textiles Continued

Celebrating 125 Years



Ria, a Year 9 Textiles student, explains how St Angela has inspired her:

"St Angela and the school history have inspired me because it shows me that everyone should have an education as it opens up a world of job opportunities. I am proud to be an Ursuline and thankful to have the opportunities to aspire to do whatever I would like to do."

Ivy, a Year 9 Textiles student explains how St Angela has inspired her:

"St Angela had a vision from God to educate young women. This encourages me to be guided by God and aspire to be like St Angela Merici. Saint Angela's prayer is also a reminder that we should be '...respecting each other, caring for each other, and bearing with each other in Jesus Christ. For, if we try to be like this without doubt, You, Lord God will be in our midst.' This prayer helps us to stay in the right mindset and be positive. She is such an inspiration as she reminds me to be a kind, courageous and attentive young person."



History

History Detectives and the 125th Anniversary

In recent weeks, the KS3 History Detectives have been investigating the rich history of Brentwood Ursuline. As we are in our 125th anniversary year, the students have been sifting through the rich catalogue of resources left to us by staff and students of the past- in particular the Fairview Chronicles. These quarterly booklets tell us the fascinating stories of what life was like at BUCHS over the years. Many of the reports tell of the ins and outs of everyday life, with details on clubs and school productions. However, others offered a unique insight into other aspects of school life- such as the various farm animals that were kept at the school, or perhaps the trips to Kenya where staff and students helped to support other Ursuline schools.



The detectives took many of these stories and produced some brilliant posters to help show visitors to the school a snap-shot of our school's rich history.

Mr Hammons, Teacher of History





80th Anniversary of VE Day

Students marked the 80th anniversary of victory in Europe with special themed form time and assemblies.

Year 12 prefects were asked to put a slideshow together which was shared with all staff and students. Some of the slides can be seen on the next two pages.



What is VE Day?

VE Day, or Victory in Europe Day marks the formal end of World War II in Europe and celebrates the official surrender of Nazi Germany to the Allied forces, bringing an end to nearly 6 years of devastating conflict.

VE Day is representative of more than just military victory, it is a symbol of our national pride, relief, hope and a return to peace after an immense period of suffering and loss of life.

VE Day is celebrated every year on 8th May and often filled with jubilant celebrations and street parties, but it also carries a sense of solemnity and reflection for the millions who struggled and died.



80th Anniversary of VE Day Continued



The significance of the V sign

Often we may see people holding up the index and middle finger to create a V sign.

This is symbolic as it is shown by Winston Churchill on the balcony of the Ministry of Health building as he gave an unplanned, spontaneous speech to tens of thousands of people.

The V sign is representative of triumph over tyranny, and resilience in the face of adversity and continues to be used by many in the commemoration of those who have passed, and to honour the hard won peace and enduring spirit of those who lived through the war.

How can we celebrate and remember?

- On 5th May in central London, more than 1,300 members of the Armed Forces will march in a procession from Parliament Square to Buckingham Palace and the Red Arrows will perform a spectacular flypast over London.

The royal family will also host a tea party reception for around 50 veterans and a street party will later be held on HMS Belfast.

- On 6th May, 30,000 ceramic poppies will return to the Tower of London to mark the anniversary.
- On 8th May, King Charles and the Prince of Wales will lay a wreath and lead the nation in observing a two-minute silence.





Len-Tin Drive and Care 4 Calais

Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope

We have continued to live out the 'Jubilee 2025: Pilgrims of Hope' through a variety of activities. The Serviam Group have created a wonderful and eye-catching display that shows the activities we are focusing on this year. Inspired by the Gospel of Matthew, 25:35-40, our students are on a journey to 'feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, heal the sick, and visit the imprisoned'.

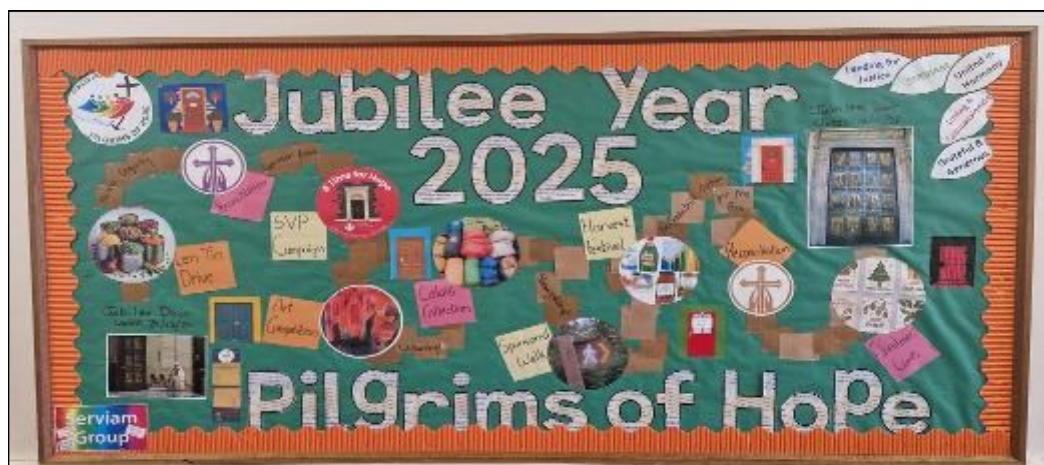
At the end of the Spring Term, our students 'fed the hungry' by donating 2,350 tins to Brentwood Foodbank and SVP Southend. The annual competition between houses to bring in the most tins for the Len-Tin drive was hotly contested with the lead changing several times. In the end, Trinity House won with the most tins, however the two charities are really the winners with over 1,000 tins each. The food will go to people who are struggling to support themselves during these difficult financial times.



Our latest campaign is working with the charity Care 4 Calais. They are a volunteer run charity delivering essential aid and support to refugees living in the UK, Northern France and Belgium. They believe in a fair and tolerant British society and advocate for a welcoming and inclusive attitude towards refugees. We want to help them provide warm clothing and bedding to people in desperate need.

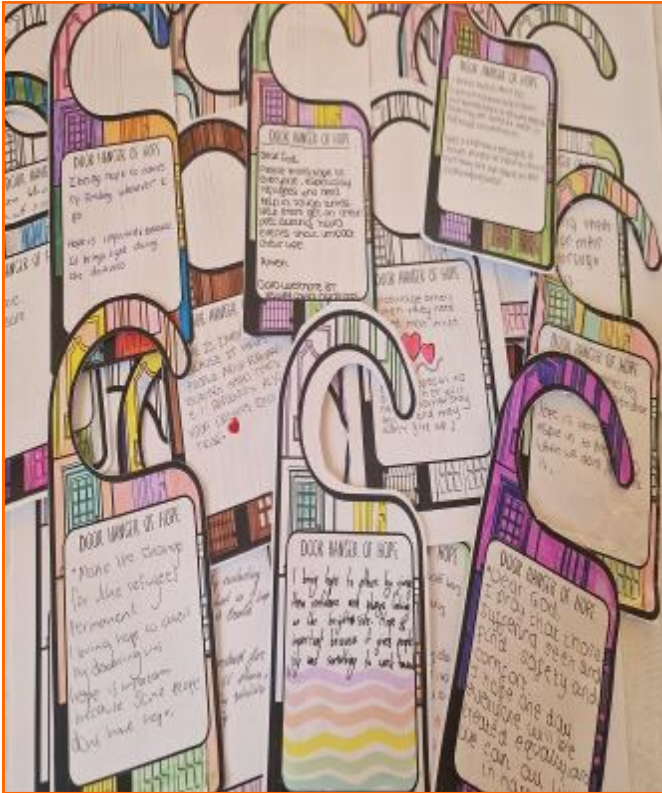
We are asking you to donate a variety of items to help support their work: men's hoodies, men's t-shirts, men's coats and jackets, hats and gloves, new men's socks and underwear (small and medium sizes), tents, sleeping bags, blankets, backpacks, tarpaulins, and power-banks. All items must be clean and in good condition. If your family members are having a spring clean during half term, you are upgrading your camping equipment, or you love a good charity shop or car boot sale, we want these items!

The deadline is Friday 13th June. A drop off location is available within school.





Len-Tin Drive and Care 4 Calais Continued



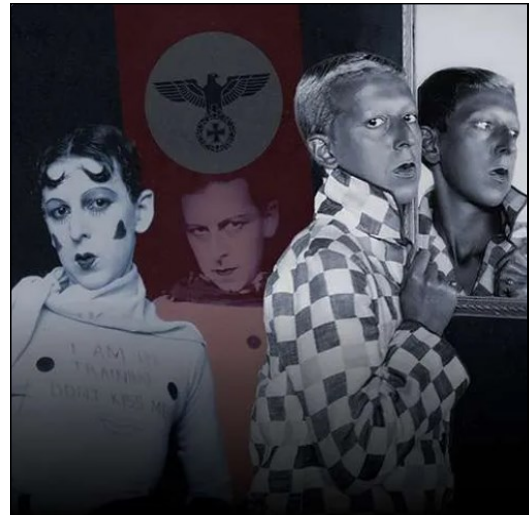
The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) Lent Campaign: 'A Time For Hope,' encouraged students across the country to contact their MP and raise awareness of the difficulties refugees have in the UK. When Pope Francis launched the Jubilee year, he said 'signs of hope should also be present for migrants who leave their homelands behind in search of a better life for themselves and for their families.' After learning about the process of claiming asylum and receiving refugee status, our girls used the SVP templates to write letters to our local MP, Alex Burghart, and the Minister for Border Security and Asylum, Dame Angela Eagle DBE, encouraging them to change the temporary policy of allowing refugees 56 days to find their own accommodation. They also created door hangers of hope to share with prayers and examples of how we have brought hope to people in our community this year.

Ms. Gillespie, Lay Chaplain

Brentwood Theatre Trip

Year 12 History and Performing Arts students enjoyed an afternoon at the Brentwood Theatre in May, exploring the fascinating story of Claude Cahun. They participated in a workshop with the cast and writer Rowland Hill, ahead of the upcoming Southwark Playhouse

production *Who is Claude Cahun?*, which is currently in its final stages of rehearsal. Students had the opportunity to explore scenes and gained insight into the creative process behind the performance. With a cast of five, the production features moving images, projection, surreal masks, and stylised movement.



The play tells the remarkable true story of Cahun and Moore, artists and writers who were part of the surrealist movement in Paris before relocating to Jersey. During the Nazi occupation of the island in 1940, the pair became involved in acts of creative resistance, using art and subversion to challenge the occupying forces.

Thank you to the students who took time away from their studies to explore the work of Cahun and Moore and to reflect on this moment in history, especially as we mark 80 years since VE Day.

Mrs Cooper and Mrs Wortley





Music

Welcome back to our Summer 1 Music Department update here at BUCHS. Thank you very much for your continued support of our students' musical endeavours this half term. We have had excellent performances in assemblies, from musicians at our senior prize giving, in our May chamber concert and commitment at our 125th anniversary mass and family event at school.

Continued Excellence in Assembly Performances

In assemblies, our students have made themselves and the school proud throughout this half term. Katie D, Keira M, Jess D, Isabella C, Herrick A, Lina L, Frances U and Abigail D have all pushed themselves to create exciting performances which have inspired our students as they come into assembly to hear about the theme of the week.

Celebrating 125 Years at the Ursuline through Music

Our Chamber and Gospel Choir students were a huge credit to the Music Department and school with their participation in our 125th Anniversary Foundation Day Masses; both in the school day and on Saturday 26th April. Our students sang beautifully and to a very high standard in all aspects of the masses. A special thanks goes to; Ysabella R, Beatrix M, Tessa D, Eabha B, Felicity M, Mary M, Anna-Maria N, Beatrix M, Ysabella R, Gemma D, Lina L, Isabella C, Aimee K and Billie C.

In addition, I would like to thank our teachers who sang with us, and Stephen King who accompanied us.





Music Continued

Chamber Concert – Wednesday 14th May

Our students proudly presented their musical performances at our most recent chamber concert. The students all picked pieces which they have been practicing over the last couple of months and pieces of music which have inspired them. I would like to thank the following students who performed: Beatrice S, Quinn W, Emily O, Mireya H, Isabella C, Ella A, Aoife M, Jane P, Rachel L, Beatrix M, Annamaria R-N, Hannah T and Genevieve U-N. I would like to also especially thank our teachers and families who attended the concert in support of our students. Additionally, thank you to Stephen King who accompanied the musicians.

Music performances at Senior Prize Giving

We once again gathered for our annual Senior Prize Giving on Wednesday 30th April at Brentwood Cathedral. It was an evening of celebration and reflection for all of our excellent, hardworking students. Several of our students performed to a very high standard and reflected the school's beliefs and ethos in their performances. I would like to thank the following students for their performances; Mary H, Jess D, Rebecca E, Macey S-C and Annamaria R-N. I would like to thank Stephen King once again for accompanying our students and Mr. Alisdair Hogarth for accompanying Mary.

Music in Summer 2

Looking ahead to our last half term of the academic year, we are very pleased to announce more live musical performances for you to come and watch. On 7th July, we will be hosting another chamber concert in the school library. Moreover, we are delighted to announce a performance of 'Six the Musical' on Monday 16th June and Tuesday 17th June at 7pm on both evenings in the Main Hall. Thank you for supporting these musical events.



Flame 2025—Unstoppable



In March, 20 Year 11-13s travelled to OVO Arena Wembley to take part in CYMFed's Flame 2025 - Unstoppable. Joining over 9,000 young people from around England and Wales our girls explored what 'Unstoppable' means to them in the context of 'Pilgrims of Hope,' the focus for the Jubilee. The day was co-hosted by Brentwood Diocese's very own Fr Michael Barwick and featured speakers from CAFOD, SVP, the app 'Hallow,' keynote speaker Bear Grylls launching his new book 'The Greatest Story Ever Told', and former Greenwich Ursuline girl Adenike Adewale who was a highlight for most of our students.

Reflecting on their day, our girls said; 'It was an amazing experience which I would recommend to anyone trying to strengthen their faith.' It was 'an event that can make you feel like a community and loved in the house of the Lord.' 'It's so fun... You get to connect with people your age from all around; uniting under God.' Flame 2027 takes place on Saturday 6th March, get it in your diaries!





History

A visit from Mr Frank Thompson

The History Department was visited by Mr Frank Thompson, grandfather of Ava in 8J, for an excellent and most interesting talk on their family's history in both World Wars.

Frank brought in medals, photographs and ephemera to tell the stories of ancestors who served in both World War 1 and World War 2.

Some of the stories Frank told involved relatives who had -

- Lied about their age to join the army- one joined at age 11 when the minimum was 14.

- Worked with horses on the Western Front and had been forced to shoot one when it got stuck in the mud.

- Been wounded by shrapnel and gassed while in the trenches in World War 1.

- Served in the RAF during World War 2 leaving his sweetheart at home. When he subsequently returned home, he found she had left him for another man and he remained a bachelor for the rest of his life

- Been tragically killed at the age of 31 in 1943 while serving in the Mediterranean and was buried in a Greek war cemetery.

The students were particularly moved by the silk postcards that the soldiers had sent back to their families with loving messages and lots of kisses.

Needless to say that 2 classes of Year 8 and Year 10 students listened raptly to Frank's stories and really appreciated the chance to talk to him and view and handle the objects he had brought in to show them.

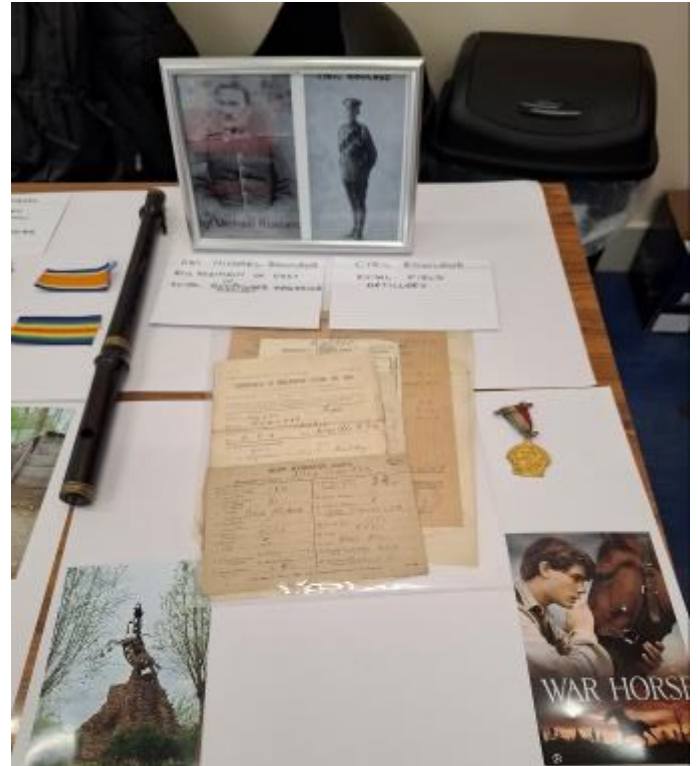
Mr Earle, Teacher of History





History Continued

A visit from Mr Frank Thompson





STEM Club

Some thoughts from our students on attending this club.



Deciding to participate in STEM Club has enhanced my knowledge of architectural design and planning. Getting an opportunity to build our own strawberry planter has definitely improved my skills in mechanics eg sawing, drilling, putting in screws etc. For me, it is a very enjoyable experience and something to look forward to every Tuesday.

Bernice M, 10T

Our club has worked hard to bring our skills in STEM to life by exploring ways to successfully grow food in small spaces eg our strawberry tower project and using our imagination and creativity skills to engineer festival games to entertain and challenge players during the 125 years of BUCHS celebrations.

Elizabeth F, 10J



STEM Club Continued



I love Stem Club. There's definitely setbacks and difficulties as we try things we have never done before, but my friends and I still enjoy it a lot. This year, we made carnival games in small groups for the school's 125 years celebration. There were multiple different styles of games and they turned out to be a huge success! My group made Connect 4 and all the other groups made awesome games too! Whether it was self-play or a competition for a prize, all of them were so much fun. I loved seeing our models and calculations come to life in our projects!

Cassy C, 10T

For the 125 Foundation Day celebration, we constructed funfair games in groups. The games ranged from things like photo booths to Connect 4, and I had so much fun building and painting the games with my friends. It was fun because we developed our skills in DT, so it differed from our normal school routine and it was so cool to see our ideas come to life.

Annamaria R-N, 10B

In STEM Club this year, we made carnival games for the 125 years celebration of the school. This was a really fun experience and I enjoyed it a lot.

Holly H, 8B

Prayer Portal at BUCHS

We are excited to launch our Parent Prayer Portal!

At BUCHS, we believe in the power of prayer and the strength of our community. We have created a space for parents and guardians to submit prayer intentions for yourself, your family, or others in need. Whether you are seeking peace, healing, guidance, or thanksgiving, your request will be held in prayer by our staff during their weekly prayer group. Please know that all submissions are treated with care and confidentiality. You may choose to remain anonymous, or include your name if you wish. Please use the link below to submit your prayer requests.

<https://forms.office.com/e/XcZd7izUje>

Ms. Gillespie, Lay Chaplain



Library News

More BUCHS Bookworm Success!



We are so proud of Christianah A in 8T (above) and Naomi G A in 7B (above right) who have worked hard to achieve their Gold BUCHS Bookworm Badges.

To attain the badge, they have read 30 fiction novels and completed 30 Bookworm review forms. Christianah's favourite authors have been Robert Muchamore and Sophie McKenzie, whilst Naomi enjoys mystery novels, especially those by Robin Stevens.

Dr Wilkin presented both students with their level 3 badges.

Huge congratulations to Christianah and Naomi. We're sure you will inspire other students to attain their next level badges too. Keep reading!

Congratulations too to Aoife M in 7B (below) who has been awarded her Level 2 Blue BUCHS Bookworm badge; an incredible achievement for a Year 7. Keep going Aoife; we hope to award you with your gold badge one day!

Pictured below is Mireya H, also in 7B, who has earned her Level 1 Brown BUCHS Bookworm badge. Really well done to Mireya, we hope you wear your badge with pride!





Library News Continued

Finishing your GCSE or A Level courses this summer?

Please ensure you return all books supplied to you by your subject departments or borrowed from the school library.

Also, please do consider donating your revision guides and workbooks to the school so that other students can benefit from them in the future.

Boxes will be available in Jones Square during the exam season in which to drop books off. Students who do not return school books will be sent an invoice and asked to pay for the cost of a replacement.

Wishing all our leavers every success in their future paths.

Thank you!

125th Anniversary

Pictured below is a tapestry created by textiles student Angel Nduka who left BUCHS in July 2024. This wonderful piece of work now hangs in the library as a permanent reminder of our 125th anniversary celebrations. Thank you Angel, for allowing us to keep your beautiful work.



S A Reyhani Visit

Author S A Reyhani is visiting Year 7 on 20th June. We're looking forward to hearing her talk about her journey to becoming an author and asking her questions about her latest book 'A Sequence of Cosmic Accidents' which is a blend of sci-fi and adventure!

Reyhani will be signing books purchased through the school.

If you would like to purchase a book for your daughter, they are available on ParentPay.

BUCHS would like to thank The Chicken & Frog Bookshop in Brentwood for making this visit possible.



John Agard Visit!

We are so excited to confirm a visit to BUCHS of non other than award winning poet, John Agard!

John's poem, 'Checking Out Me History' appears in the 'Power and Conflict' anthology within the GCSE English Literature paper. Students in our current Year 9 cohort onwards will be studying this version of the anthology.

John will be visiting us on the afternoon of Wednesday 9th July and speaking to Years 8 and 9. We will be treated to a reading of his poetry, a talk about his life and work, and he will be taking questions at the end.

This really is a rare and valuable opportunity for our future GCSE students to hear from a poet whose work they will be studying in so much depth.



If you're in Year 8 or 9, have a think about a question you could ask John over Half Term



THE GREAT EXHIBITION ROAD FESTIVAL

This free exhibition, led by Imperial College London, celebrates science and the arts and takes place between 7-8th June. Please follow this link for more details:

<https://www.greatexhibitionroadfestival.co.uk/>

ABOUT THE FESTIVAL

The Great Exhibition Road Festival is a free annual celebration of science and the arts each summer in South Kensington. Join us on 7-8 June 2025 for a weekend of free science and arts events for all ages.

Enjoy hands-on workshops, fascinating talks, performances and installations from iconic museums, research and culture organisations, including Imperial College London, the Natural History Museum, Science Museum, V&A and many more.

Plus, you can indulge in food from all over the world and enjoy eclectic performances from the Royal College of Music and Royal Albert Hall.



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Premier League
Disability Football

WHAT TO EXPECT?

- » **Expert Coaching:** sessions will be led by our FA qualified coaches, who are experienced in working with SEND players.
- » **Skills Development:** enhance your skills through fun football drills, including passing, dribbling, shooting and much more.
- » **Special Guests:** meet Colchester United players and club mascot Eddie the Eagle!
- » **Exciting Rewards:** every participant will receive a Colchester United themed prize, with additional medals and trophies available to be won.

WHO? Young people aged 5-16 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
WHEN? Tuesday 27th May & Wednesday 28th May, 10am-2pm
WHERE? Shrub End Community and Sports Centre, CO2 9BG
COST? Earlybird price is £30 for both days or £18.50 for one day.



HOW DO I BOOK ONTO A HALF TERM CLUB WITH ESSEX ACTIVATE?



1 You will not receive or book on with your HolidayActivities voucher code

2 Head over to the Find Your Active Activity Finder

3 Select 'Programmes' and click 'Essex ActivAte half term', then pop in your location

4 Find a local club and book directly using the booking link, email, or contact number

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

If you have any questions about a local club, please contact the club directly using the details provided





Essex Fire Museum Open Days

2025



Sunday 25th & Tuesday 27th May

10:30AM To 4:00PM

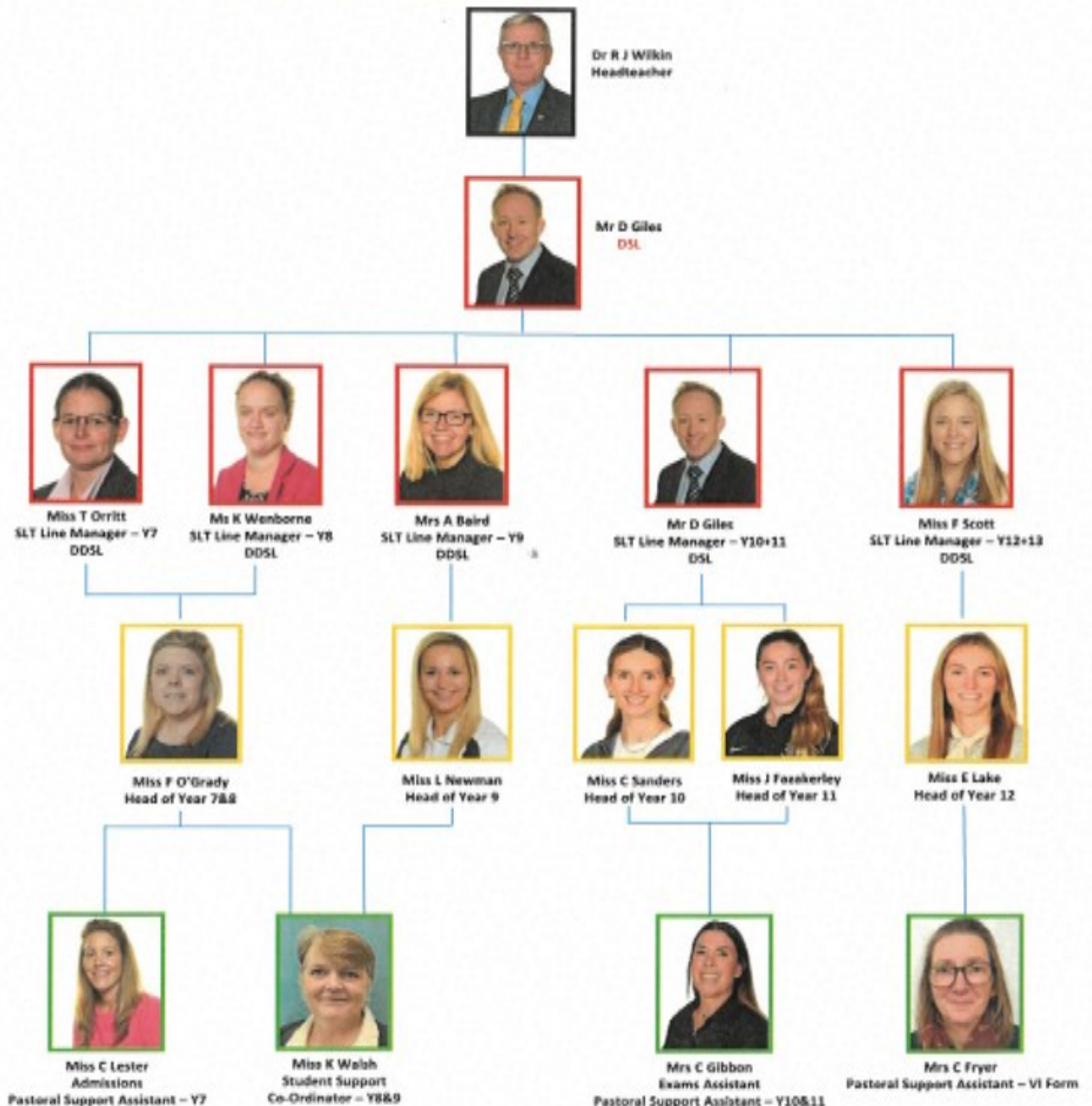
Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays
RM17 5QS

Book Now





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 Summer Term 2025

	Activity	Week	Time	Year Group	Location / Meeting Point	Staff Member
Monday	BUCHS Chamber Choir	A and B	Lunch	7 - 12	C32 - Music	Mr Maynard
	Six Rehearsals (cast only)	A and B	Lunch	Cast	Dance Studio	Miss Hilder
	Creative Writing club	A and B	Lunch	7 - 8	T25	Miss White
	Art Catch Up	A	Lunch	9 - 10	C12	Miss McGoldrick
	Athletics	A and B	Lunch	7 - 8	Old Gym	PE Department
	Athletics	A and B	Lunch	9 - 10	Merici Hall	PE Department
	Learning Support Lunch Club	A and B	Lunch	7 - 11	Learning Support Department	Miss Orritt
Tuesday	Creative Writing club	B	Lunch	7 - 11	T25	Miss White
	Junior Dance Company	A and B	Lunch	7 - 8	Dance Studio	Mrs Hilder
	Bee Keeping	A and B	After School	7 -13	A12	Mr Foster
	Athletics	A and B	Lunch & Afterschool	7 - 8	Old Gym	PE Department
	Athletics	A and B	Lunch & Afterschool	9 - 10	Merici Hall	PE Department
	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 -12	C32 - Music	Mr Maynard
	Senior Dance Company	A and B	Lunch	9 - 12	Dance Studio	Mrs Hilder
	Dungeons & Dragons Sixth Form (D&D)	A and B	Afterschool	12 - 13	A34	Mr Pexton
	Athletics	A and B	Lunch & Afterschool	7 - 8	Old Gym	PE Department
	Athletics	A and B	Lunch & Afterschool	9 - 10	Merici Hall	PE Department
	Art Catch Up	A and B	Afterschool	9 - 10	C12	Miss McGoldrick
	Learning Support Lunch Club	A and B	Lunch	7 - 11	Learning Support Department	Miss Orritt



Co-Curricular Timetable for the Summer Term 2025 Continued

	Activity	Week	Time	Year Group	Location / Meeting Point	Staff Member
Thursday	BUCHS Year 8 Choir	A and B	Lunch	8	C32 - Music	Mr Maynard
	Ballet Company	A and B	Lunch	7 - 12	Dance Studio	Mrs Hilder
	Athletics	A and B	Lunch	7 - 8	Old Gym	PE Department
	Athletics	A and B	Lunch	9 - 10	Merici Hall	PE Department
	Dungeons & Dragons (D&D)	A and B	Afterschool	7 - 11	A34	Mr Pexton
	Art Catch Up	B	Lunch	9 - 10	C12	Miss McGoldrick
	Learning Support Lunch Club	A and B	Lunch	7 - 11	Learning Support Department	Miss Orritt
Friday	Serviam Group	A and B	Lunch	7 - 13	Next to T31	Miss Gillespie
	Tap Company	A and B	Lunch	7 - 12	Dance Studio	Mrs Hilder
	Art Catch Up	A	Lunch	9 - 10	C12	Miss McGoldrick
	Athletics	A and B	Lunch	7 - 8	Old Gym	PE Department
	Athletics	A and B	Lunch	9 - 10	Merici Hall	PE Department
	Learning Support Lunch Club	A and B	Lunch	7 - 11	Learning Support Department	Miss Orritt