



Dear Parents/Carers,

I'm pleased to report that our students have got off to a very positive start this year. Uniform is generally very good and the vast majority of students are meeting and even exceeding our expectations in their behaviour and attitude. It is wonderful to see the resurgence of musical performance in assemblies and concerts, as well as the continuing popularity of activities such as reading and languages. Our sports results are excellent at the moment, with great success from a range of age groups, which is a tribute to the hard work of the teachers involved, as well as the students themselves.

October half term is always a welcome break, but I would like to remind our Year 11 parents that our **Sixth Form Open Evening is on the 6<sup>th</sup> November**, the week after half term.

I look forward to seeing you all there.

Have a peaceful break.

Dr Richard Wilkin MA, EdD, Headteacher



Please follow us on Instagram

@brentwood\_ursuline

## New Instagram Account for BUCHS

**We highly recommend following us on Instagram to stay in touch with news at BUCHS.**

Going forward, we will be using our new school Instagram account as the primary method of updating you on the latest news here at school, so don't miss out!

How to gain access to our account:

**The safety of students remains our priority, so please follow the process outlined below.**

### STEP 1:

New Year 7 and 12 parents/carers:

You will have received two emails from 'BUCHS' on Thursday 23/10/25; one giving instructions on how to join our private account, and the other containing a consent request. Please complete the consent request.

Years 8,9,10,11, existing Year 12 and 13 parents/carers:

You will have received two emails from 'BUCHS' on Monday 14/07/25; one giving instructions on how to join our private account, and the other containing a consent request. The consent form is still live, please complete this. Unfortunately, we cannot resend it.

### STEP 2:

All parents/carers:

Once you have completed and returned the consent form, please request to follow our Instagram account:

[@brentwood\\_ursuline](https://www.instagram.com/brentwood_ursuline)

Kindly note that we cannot request *you*. We will not approve requests until we have verified the accounts submitted on the forms.

Please do not use your child's Instagram username as the request will not be accepted.

We look forward to connecting with you on Instagram.

## Non Pupil Days Reminder

School will be closed to students on:

Friday 7th November  
Friday 13th March

## E-Scooters and the Law

Please take the time to read the leaflet attached with this newsletter before you consider buying an e-scooter.

# SIXTH FORM OPEN EVENING



**THURSDAY 6TH NOVEMBER  
6.30PM - 8.30PM**

**HEADTEACHER'S TALK AT 6.30PM**



**CO-EDUCATIONAL  
BRAND NEW FACILITIES 2026**

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

Sixth Form enquiries: [cfryer@buchs.co.uk](mailto:cfryer@buchs.co.uk)

## Co-Curricular Timetable

This term's timetable is available to view on the school website:

<https://www.brentwoodursuline.co.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1525&type=pdf>

## Admissions News

The closing date for Year 7 admissions 2026 is Friday 31st October 2025. Please do not assume that because you have a daughter already in the school that you will automatically receive a place for her sibling. Please complete a Supplementary Information Form which can be found on the school website:

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

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

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

If you have any queries, please contact Miss Lester: [clester@buchs.co.uk](mailto:clester@buchs.co.uk)

## House Cup Winners 2024-25



Congratulations to John's for winning the House Cup 2024-2025. Above: House Captain Temilade O accepting the cup with Miss Giannotti and Miss White.

## Sponsored Walk



Students in 8T at one of the checkpoints



Becca and Mary in Year 13

Do something  
Get moving



Year 11



## Sponsored walk 2025

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September, our students partook in the six-mile sponsored walk around Hartswood and Thorndon. This year, proceeds (via ParentPay) will go towards the development of our new Sixth Form Building. As always, it was an enjoyable day with lots of laughs!

Erin L, 12.1

## Year 9 Parent Forum



The Year 9 Parent Forum occurred on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2025, with presentations by the Head of Year and subject leads.

The event was held in our Chapel and was a welcome chance for Miss Newman, the Head of Year 9, to outline the expectations of pupils beginning Key Stage 4 studies to parents and carers. The school's mission is for the young people that we work with to grow in their personality and relationships, as well as their knowledge and skills across each subject. Parents were given an overview of how the curriculum works at the school and how pupils will be assessed, including the exam periods at the end of Year 10 and in Year 11. The heads of subject in English, Maths and Biology also provided updates and talked through the approaches taken in their subjects, as well as signposting parents towards useful resources for their children. Parents had the opportunity to ask questions and the evening was a positive start to the new academic year for Year 9.

Forums were also held for Year 11 and Year 12 parents/carers in the opening weeks of term, allowing the pastoral teams an opportunity to introduce these key years to parents, set out the expectations and answer questions. The school's commitment to supporting pupils and working with their parents and carers remains as strong as ever.

## Women4Women Careers Event

This fantastic event took place on the evening of Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October and was attended by over 230 people.

We were so grateful that approximately 30 employers gave up their time to speak to our students and their families about career options, in addition to representatives from St Mary's University, Anglia Ruskin University and Chelmsford College. Career fields included the police, nursing, apprentice solicitor, civil engineering, musician, actor, insurance, architect, commercial director, psychologist, teaching, senior broker and crime scene examiner.

A huge thank you to Mr Barber for arranging this event, and to all those who volunteered.



## Sixth Form



Year 12 recipients of the 'Eight Badge' with Dr Wilkin

### 'Eight Badge'

Well done to the following Year 12 students who were awarded their 'Eight Badge' by Dr Wilkin on Wednesday 8th October.

These students achieved a grade 7-9 in eight or more GCSE subjects in the summer exam series. Many congratulations to them all!

Lily H  
Phoebe S  
Eleanor C  
Maxine D R  
Faith K  
Hannah O  
Maria G  
Felicity M

Aisling O  
Beth R  
Ruby S  
Isabella W  
Beatrice O  
Charlotte K  
Harry C



a Cambridge University based programme

# Scriptural Reasoning

for Year 12 and 13 students

Discuss religious texts, contemporary ethical dilemmas, philosophical arguments and more.

All are welcome, particularly those considering Oxbridge applications.

Tuesday Week B, 1:00pm, T34

Please see Felicity M's article on this programme on the next page

## Sixth Form Continued

## Year 13 Results and Destinations – A Celebration of Success

### Scriptural reasoning starts for the school year!

“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.” Aristotle, Nicomachean Ethics

On Tuesday 23rd September, the first Sixth Form ‘scriptural reasoning’ session was hosted, by Mrs. Brand in T34. Scriptural reasoning, inspired by a similar course run by the University of Cambridge, involves students discussing and sharing their opinions on ‘controversial’ matters such as ethical dilemmas, philosophical thought experiments, and the interpretation of religious scripture in our increasingly secular modern society. The session was a safe place for students to share their full and honest opinions, which allowed attendees to observe the beautiful diversity of thought in our community.

Wednesday’s session was focused on the issue of Animal Rights, particularly veganism and animal testing. Students were given an extract from a dialogue with philosopher Peter Singer, author of *Animal Liberation*, 1975.

“We should give the same respect to the lives of animals as we do to the lives of humans,” said Singer, who famously describes himself as a ‘flexible vegan.’ Singer believes all creatures are united in the experience of pleasure and pain, so utilitarians like him should consider non-human life whilst making moral decisions. As a result, animals should not be eaten or harmed; attendees of the session justified humans eating animals because animals eat other animals. Regardless of one’s personal opinion, it’s helpful and enlightening to consider other people’s thoughts on the same subject, which these sessions will facilitate over the academic year, aiding personal development and bolstering the CVs and university applications of all of the students involved!

Felicity M, 12.3

### Vacancies

#### Current Staffing Vacancies

Details of any current vacancies can be found on Essex School Jobs using the following link:

[BUCHS Current Staff Vacancies](#)

Please contact us if you are interested in applying for any of these vacancies.

On August 14th, our Year 13 students received their examination results and the exciting news confirming their university and apprenticeship placements.

We are incredibly proud to share that many of our students have secured places at top-ranking universities including the London School of Economics, Durham University, the University of Bath and the University of Exeter, among others. They are now pursuing a wide range of competitive and prestigious courses such as Medicine, Veterinary Science, Pharmacology, Economics, Engineering, Maths with Finance, History, Psychology, Law and Architecture.

In addition to university success, we are delighted that several students have been offered highly sought-after apprenticeships with leading organisations including KPMG, BAE Systems, Christie’s and Amazon.

We are immensely proud of all our Year 13 students and their impressive achievements. We wish them every success as they embark on this exciting next chapter of their journey!

### Year 12 Parent Forum – Looking Ahead

We were delighted to welcome Year 12 students and their parents to our recent Sixth Form Parent Forum. The event provided an opportunity to hear from the Sixth Form team about the wide range of exciting opportunities available at BUCHS, as well as the support we offer to help students prepare for life beyond school.

Our Year 12 students are already beginning to explore their future pathways by engaging in *super-curricular* activities. These experiences go beyond the classroom and play a vital role in strengthening university and apprenticeship applications, helping students stand out in a competitive landscape.

We look forward to supporting them throughout this important stage of their journey.

Mrs Udall, Post 18 Choices Coordinator

### Year 12 trip to Bath

At the end of July, to celebrate a very successful Year 12, our Sixth Form students went on a residential trip to Bath. We enjoyed a treasure hunt tour of the city, a visit to the Roman baths and stayed onsite at the University of Bath, where we enjoyed our end of year awards ceremony and a tour of the university campus.

This was a very enjoyable way to end the year, and we are already making plans for our new Year 12s to attend their residential in July 2026!

Mrs Yates, Head of Year 13

## Sixth Form Continued



### 'Teechers' – Sixth Form Performing Arts Trip!

On Tuesday 7th October, our Sixth Form BTEC Performing Arts students visited the Queen's Theatre in Hornchurch to watch a production of 'Teechers' by John Godber. This exciting trip provided a valuable insight into live performance and theatrical techniques, especially for our Year 13 students who are currently developing their own performance for Unit 2 based on Teechers.

The production featured a small cast of just three actors, who skilfully portrayed a wide range of characters and settings within the school education system. The simplicity of the set design was striking, with clever use of props to signal scene changes and transitions. This minimalist approach allowed the audience to focus on the actors' performances and the storytelling itself.

Students were particularly impressed by the cast's ability to switch between characters seamlessly. Through changes in posture, voice, and accent, each actor brought multiple roles to life with clarity and energy. These techniques offered our students practical examples of how to adapt characterisations and use vocal variation to distinguish roles—skills they can now apply to their own work.

Overall, the trip was both educational and inspiring, reinforcing key performance strategies and offering a fresh perspective on the play they are studying. It was a fantastic opportunity to see Teechers in action and to reflect on how professional actors bring a script to life on stage.

Aimee H B, 13.1



## PSHE

### Year 10's PSHE work this Autumn



This term, we have been looking at the topics of peer pressure, risky behaviour and unsafe social groups and two classes have produced excellent articles on these very important issues, including advice for teens and also explanations of these key terms.

'We looked at these topics through the eyes of Jay who, without realising, joined a gang. The story was significant in that it told us about the dangers of making the wrong choices and also how to help ourselves early on in the area of friendships.'

Peer Pressure: "Surrounding yourself with the right kind of people is crucial and can be the difference between good and bad outcomes. It's important to know what healthy and unhealthy relationships look like. The best kinds of friends are supportive, forgiving, honest, have shared values with you and offer help when you need it. Be with people who will uplift you and encourage you to be the best version of yourself. Peer pressure can also be positive. Friends can put pressure on you to revise and do homework. Others may inspire and motivate you to study as they do, to speak up, play sports, read more, revise for upcoming tests and exams, leading to higher grades. And this does happen, but of course we know that often it is negative. In the moment, you may not realise that you are being pressured, but when you look back, it does become clear.

Sometimes, you may not understand that you are even being influenced. Peer pressure can be another form of bullying and can cause you to feel trapped and afraid. Online, you can be exposed to influencers and content creators who endorse certain brands and you ask yourself 'Why am I not wearing this?' You start reaching for these items when you go shopping, wanting to fit in. Making a wrong choice is one thing, owning up and admitting it is another. It's best to consult a trusted adult—whether this be a guardian or a teacher, to help you find the right track again. It is better to get out of a bad friendship or bad situation before you dig yourself a deeper hole."

The above comes from work by Marilyn, Aiseose, Ria, Angel, Gia, India, Molly C, Freya, Jesse, Nicoleta, Bethany, Lena, Ecclesia and Macie.

Risky Behaviour: "In the story of Jay, risky behaviour saw him leaving his friendship with his old friend, Mo and joining a gang. Risky behaviour can be a result of peer pressure. Youngsters in unsafe social groups tend to be more likely to end up in unsafe situations. Placing yourself in unknown environments can be the way it begins. In the story, Jay has a helpline, his friend Mo, but he fails to see this. Sometimes these situations arise because the person wants to look cool or impress others. Sometimes they are being manipulated and are not aware of it. If you are naïve, you could be at risk of ingesting unknown substances, which could pose a health risk. The best way to avoid this is to avoid these unfamiliar situations in the first place."

The above comes from work by Scholastica, Gloria, Keren, Mollie W, Ify, Tobi O, Alanna, Olivia and Amelie.

Unsafe Social Groups: "How do you know the group you have joined is a gang? Remember the phrase 'if it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck, it's probably a duck?' It should be fairly obvious but isn't always. Gangs can result from the two topics above. New friends may start to take the late bus, go out a lot more, invite you to meet yet more new people, take you to places you don't know. If you don't choose wisely when you make friends and you start to make bad choices, the path is not likely to be smooth. Exiting a gang is also problematic, but distancing yourself early on is key. Signs that the group is not a positive one include: irrational behaviour, acting against good morals and taking part in daring or illegal pursuits. Sometimes you know, purely just from a feeling in the pit of your stomach. There is always a way to get out of negative scenarios. Accept the hand of friendship and help when offered. Reach out to others. Claim back what you have lost. If these things are old friendships, then work hard to regain them. Sometimes gang members may seek out those who are lonely and vulnerable. If this is the case with you, re-ignite those connections with school friends and busy yourself with family. Online platforms offer advice and if you distance yourself early on from unsafe situations and friendships you can ensure your own safety."

The above comes from work by: Gloria, Scholastica, Chy, Michelle and Isabel.

Mrs Sullivan, Teacher of PSHE & Food Tech

## Maths

### Professor Jane Hutton (University of Warwick) Presentation

Professor Jane Hutton delivered an engaging and enlightening presentation to students in our Sixth Form on the applications of hypothesis testing in both medicine and law. Prof Hutton specialises in interdisciplinary statistics and often provides expert witness reports and collaborates in providing educational material for legal professionals. Her presentation entitled 'Lucy Letby – Serial Killer or Coincidence? Hypothesis Testing & The Legal System' gave a unique incite into the importance of different specialisms working together to deliver effective data analysis; an excellent example of how our school's 'Insieme' approach is evident in the world of work. Students were challenged to consider how data and evidence is interpreted and the importance of a mathematical approach in drawing conclusions to the evidence, rather than relying on a gut feeling. The talk was attended by students studying Maths and those with a keen interest in pursuing law as a profession. Norah, one of our Year 13 students, summarised what she learnt from the talk:

Recently I, a politics student, attended a webinar on hypothesis testing in the Lucy Letby case hosted by Professor Jane L Hutton from Warwick University. I wanted to learn more about the legal background of the Lucy Letby case. We briefly went over the key information in the case, discussing the unusual number of deaths in the Neonatal Unit at the Countess of Chester Hospital from January 2015 to July 2016. Professor Hutton was asked to conduct a statistical test to determine the probability of the deaths being linked to Lucy Letby, the accused. She and other professionals on the case identified issues with the approach of the CPS in presenting their evidence linking Letby to the increase in deaths and suggested that there were several confounding variables which caused the correlation between Letby's shifts and the babies' deaths.

During the meeting, I learnt that the prosecution asked the professors who were testing the probability of the deaths being due to chance to stop testing. Professor Hutton mentioned that this course of action by the CPS could be a miscarriage of justice according to the Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act 1996 (CPIA) and the Code of Conduct for Investigating. After the webinar, I decided to research the Code of conduct which requires investigators to be fair, objective, and thorough, pursuing all reasonable lines of inquiry without pre-judging guilt: and the CPIA, which states that investigators must pursue all reasonable lines of inquiry, regardless of whether they point toward or away from the accused. Knowing this, I concluded that the Letby case was likely to have fallen short of these standards, which made it much more complicated than the media suggested. As a result, I've been encouraged to research more into the case and how mathematics and law go hand in hand.

### Senior Maths Challenge

Students in Years 12 and 13 have recently competed in the Senior Maths Challenge, tackling 25 multiple choice questions that challenge their logic, problem solving and mathematical skills. We look forward to seeing the results of this challenge soon and sharing the news with you in the next newsletter.

### Sparx Maths

We have been pleased with how students have engaged with Sparx Maths at the start of the academic year. I would encourage all students to fully explore the platform beyond the compulsory homework as it offers an excellent variety of learning opportunities. The target section is a great source of questions tailored to the needs of each student and the 'independent learning' offers a depth of questions to revise for upcoming assessments or to act on feedback following an assessment. I would encourage you to speak to your daughter about how they are exploring these features. I would also like to congratulate the highest users this academic year so far in each year group:

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Lily P	Agatha S	Louise S	Keren S	Jaeda A
Blessing E	Andrea G	Madalina L	Osose I	Awura B
Ifeoluwa O	Celeste W	Sophie O	Alanna L	Olivia M

Mr S Moore, Head of Mathematics



## European Day of Languages

As part of our celebrations for the European Day of Languages on 26th September, our Year 7 students entered a competition with the Global School Alliance to design a poster showing the importance of languages. This year's theme was 'languages open hearts and minds.'

Here is a selection of entries from Jamilah, Rose and Eloghosa.

Tres bien!

Mrs Yates, Head of MFL Department



## Student Leadership Follow Up Day

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> October, we had the opportunity to unite with all the Catholic schools in the Brentwood Diocese. As part of the school council, we work together to participate in several activities. We began by welcoming everyone - as we were hosting - with yummy pastries and refreshments. The morning officially started with prayer and then onto icebreakers to help us connect with other schools. We were able to share our successes and challenges whilst also listening to others' ideas. Following that, we were invited to discuss our ethos and our main priorities as the student body then present to the other students. Some of our intentions included using our school motto - Duty - to help those in need. After listening to everyone, we were inspired by their thoughts to carry out our legacy. Overall, it was an impactful and productive day.

Written by the BUCHS students who attended



## Year 7 Retreat

Two of our Year 7 form groups have enjoyed a meaningful retreat centred around the Ursuline virtue of *United in Harmony*. Their day offered opportunities for reflection, creativity, and community building, helping students strengthen both their friendships and their connection with God. They spent time in their form group participating in activities that encouraged teamwork, cooperation, and a sense of belonging. Gathering in the chapel provided moments of quiet reflection and meditation, allowing students to consider how they can live out this virtue in their daily lives and deepen their awareness of God's presence. A drama based on *The Good Samaritan* illustrated the importance of compassion, empathy, and helping others, while each form group created their own school shield, representing unity, shared values, and God's guidance. The day concluded with a reflective meditation, inspiring students to bring harmony to their school community and live out the Ursuline virtue of *United in Harmony* with kindness, cooperation, and a closer relationship with God.

Ms V Gillespie, Lay Chaplain



## Fortnightly Mass

We are delighted to share that our school community has begun celebrating fortnightly Mass, marking a meaningful addition to our spiritual life this year.

Over the past few weeks, students have gathered every second Monday to take part in the Eucharist. Priests from around the Brentwood Diocese have come into school to celebrate in the Main Chapel. These Masses have proven to be a valuable time for reflection, prayer, and coming together as a faith community.

As part of this initiative, each form class in Years 7, 8, and 9 will have the opportunity to celebrate Mass during the year. Classes have begun preparing and participating by leading readings and writing prayers — creating a more personal and engaging liturgical experience.

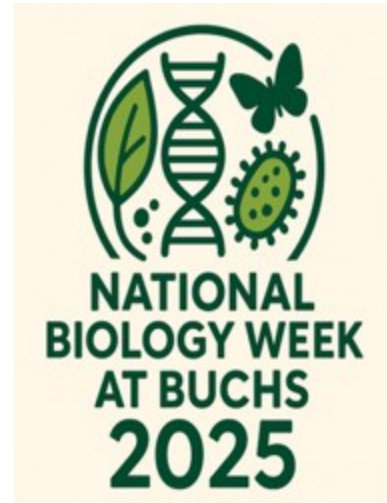
The introduction of fortnightly Mass has been warmly received, and we look forward to continuing this rhythm throughout the year.

*“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.” — Matthew 18:20*

Ms V Gillespie, Lay Chaplain

## Biology

### National Biology Week



Innovation in Biology will help us support all life on Earth now and in the coming decades and here at BUCHS we celebrated National Biology Week with a range of fun and exciting activities.

Some KS4 students participated in a webinar, titled “Immunology, biotechnology and deep-sea exploration” run by the Royal Society of Biology. We heard from highly regarded Professors from Middlesex University, Southampton University and The Royal Veterinary College. Students enjoyed hearing about the importance of mucus and the role it plays in our immune system from a very enthusiastic Professor Donald Palmer. The webinar was a wonderful opportunity to help to motivate our next generation of bioscientists.

## National Biology Week Continued

KS3 had the opportunity to enter the Inter House quiz, and we had an excellent turnout, especially from year 8. It was wonderful to see students become so eager and animated, using their science and general knowledge to help score their team points. 8B won scoring a massive 31 out of 38. Huge congratulations to them!

Mrs Habib and KS4 students were able to extract DNA from strawberries. A fantastic opportunity to put their practical skills into action and be able to consolidate their knowledge of genetics. It was incredible to see DNA in real life!

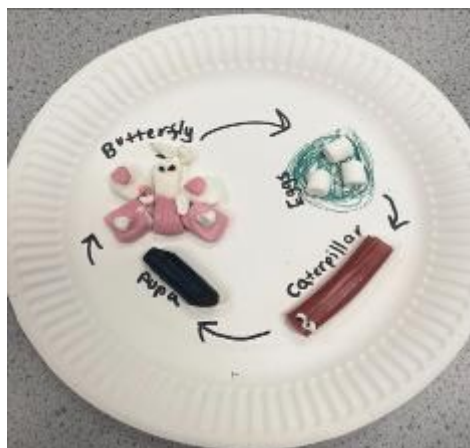
We had the opportunity to look at the lifecycle of a butterfly with KS3 and they did a brilliant job of creating their own edible life cycles, with the bonus of being able to eat the sweets after. Who knew that caterpillar eggs could be so tasty!

Our final activity was creating an articulated hand. We often take for granted how complex our own anatomy is and so it was wonderful for students to make their own models to appreciate how delicate yet complex our hands are. A fun activity for all students to complete at home over the half term break as well!

Thank you to all our students and staff who participated in National Biology Week, and I am already looking forward to next year. Stay tuned for National Science week in March!

Mrs Godfree, Head of Biology

Below: Life cycle of a butterfly



Below: Extracting DNA



# National Biology Week Continued



## Quiz Time!



Above: Students enjoying the biology week quiz

Below: The articulated hand activity



Thank you to the Biology Department for arranging a fantastic programme of activities for our students to learn more about biology.



# Geography Continued

## Young Geographer of the Year Continued

### Phillip Island

Phillip Island is the home to the largest fairy penguin colony in the world and 1500 colonies of gulls on the island.

Also known as the 'penguin parade', the fairy penguins come ashore in large groups and you are able to see them on walking boardwalks with a ticket which enables research and conservation of the habitats to wildlife on the island.

Although the penguins, the area also is home to nesting seabirds, eastern barred landbirds, east barrow gulls, short-tailed shearwaters which shows the diversity of the island.

As well as wildlife, the island also has a new to the 'leaf beetles' which you can see from 'the million centers' with 5000s of boardwalks which lead to an extensive shoreline which shows up the natural structures of the island.

The 'leaf beetles' are home to Australia's largest per acre colony as well as a rare night-seeing spot for migrating whales.

Phillip Island is also the home to a huge bush conservation reserve in which forests were migrated to the island to protect them from a rapid outbreak of disease (Wattlebird). They then naturally grew in numbers and the island is now home to many healthy forests living in their natural habitat.

The car and other forest are also with trees from forests who work really hard to conserve the forests and their habitats.

As well as the environment, the island also has a famous race track used per month annually the Melbourne Cup (Australia's richest and the second a lot of horses to race, and in race season there is a rapid increase in income).

The track also means visitors on every day activities can be done such as going to the beach or taking a walk which adds beauty to the beauty of the island.

### K'gari Island

K'gari Island is a beautiful 160km north of Queensland's capital and is home to the Bushbuck people with just over 1000 people living there.

It is well known for the diverse landscapes and unique wildlife which is what attracts people to visit the island.

On the eastern side of the island, there is a 75 mile stretch of beach along with a natural highway which also attracts a growing number of visitors to the island. Along the stretch of beach, there are also many attractions which all contribute to tourism on the island.

A big attraction on the beach is 'D' Creek'. The creek sits with a million trees to clear protection every hour which is what makes this a big tourist destination in K'gari.

Another main attraction are the 'Changeroo Park' and boardwalk. These are naturally formed rock pools which are safe during low tides but during high tide waves crash against nearby rocks, sending rock to make sea landings.

The Wilsons Promontory is the main attraction on the beach as it is a great piece of Australian history. The 10 Wilsons Promontory was first seen during a storm in 1810 and is visited every day by tourists around the world.

Small bits of these islands show the natural processes that occur without human influence and how they can create such unique and beautiful landscapes.

Both islands also demonstrate how human activity can help better the islands to make them more unique while ensuring to maintain the natural habitats by wildlife amongst a world of technological advancement.

This **ANTI-BULLYING WEEK**  
we will use our Power for Good

# POWER FOR GOOD

#ANTIBULLYINGWEEK

From  
**MONDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> to FRIDAY 14<sup>TH</sup>**  
**NOVEMBER 2025**

If you're worried about bullying and/or want to be involved in Anti-Bullying Week this year, please contact

*Your child's Head of Year*

© National Children's Bureau. Registered charity no. 1089719. Registered office: 100, Strand, London WC2R 0LU. [www.powerforgood.org.uk](http://www.powerforgood.org.uk)

© National Children's Bureau. Registered charity no. 1089719. Registered office: 100, Strand, London WC2R 0LU. [www.powerforgood.org.uk](http://www.powerforgood.org.uk)

## Essex Fire Museum Halloween Open Day

2025

**26th and 28th Of October**

**10:30AM To 4:00PM**

**Fire Station, Hogg Lane, Grays  
RM17 5QS**

**Book Now**  
Free Entry

Museum@essex-fire.gov.uk

## Music



Performers in our chamber concert on Monday 6th October

I am very excited to be sharing all of the updates from the Music Department this year with you all. This half term, our students have been hard at work in preparation for the nativity, our St Ursula Feast Day Mass and have delivered successful performances in our most recent Chamber Concert. As always, thank you for supporting the department and musical life of the school.

### **Preparation for Nativity**

Year 7 have begun preparation for the special performance of the Nativity in December. They have been working extremely hard on each of their carols. Form groups will be performing the following carols: 7A – O Come O Come Emmanuel, 7T – While Shepherds Watched, 7U – We Three Kings, 7J – Away in a Manger, 7C – O Little town of Bethlehem and 7B – The Angel Gabriel. We look forward to sharing this special performance of music and scripture in December with you all.

### **Music rehearsals for music ensemble**

All of our music ensembles and groups have been very busy rehearsing for upcoming events and assemblies. Our Solace Choir has been rehearsing for the Christmas Liturgy in Autumn 2. Likewise, in String Orchestra, the students have been working exceptionally hard on rehearsing 'Ave Verum Corpus' by Mozart. The Chamber Choir and Gospel Choir have been preparing for the St Ursula Mass on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October. I am very much looking forward to directing the Insieme Choir on this occasion as we sing new hymns and old in celebrating St Ursula's Feast Day.

### **Excellent assembly performances**

Additionally, this half term our students have continued to provide excellent assembly performances for our students. The students have picked pieces that have been inspired by the themes of the week. It has been wonderful to see them grow in confidence and ambition in pushing their own musical limits and potential. I look forward to many more students performing in our Autumn 2 assemblies and seeing them inspire students with their music.

### **Recent success at our chamber concert on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

Finally, it was an absolute pleasure and privilege to lead our most recent successful chamber concert on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October in the school Library. The 12 students who performed on this evening showed courage and resilience in providing 12 excellent and expressive performances for our friends, families and staff of the school. I would like to thank Stephen King and Alisdair Hogarth who accompanied our students on this evening. I would also like to thank the families and staff who attended and supported our students.

Mr Maynard, Director of Music

## Harvest Festival

### A Generous Harvest: 61 Boxes Donated to Local Charities

On Wednesday 8th October, our school community came together in the true spirit of giving to celebrate our annual Harvest Collection — and what a fantastic effort it was!

Thanks to the incredible generosity of students, staff, and families, we collected an impressive 61 boxes filled with food items, toiletries, and craft supplies. These donations will make a real difference in the lives of those in need within our wider community.

This year, the donations will be distributed to four local charities:

- Brentwood Foodbank, supporting individuals and families facing food insecurity
- Little Havens Hospice, providing specialist care for children with life-limiting conditions
- St Francis Hospice, offering palliative care and support to patients and families
- Changing Pathways, helping those affected by domestic abuse.

We are proud to support the vital work of these organisations, and we thank everyone who contributed to this year's collection. Your kindness and compassion reflect the values we strive to live out every day at BUCHS.

A special thank you goes to the staff and student volunteers who helped sort and pack the donations. Together, we have shown what a strong and caring community we are.



*"Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed."* — Proverbs 19:17

## Food Tech

### Year 7 are cooking!

Once again the time has come for Year 7 to experiment with colour, texture and a variety of vitamins and carbohydrates in their quest to create the most delicious pasta salads in their fortnightly Food Technology lessons.

Today 7F3 proved that pasta can be exciting and versatile and they added a range of vegetables and cooked meats and each pupil made their own salad dressing at home, using ingredients like Greek yoghurt, honey, fresh and dried herbs, garlic, red wine vinegar and olive oil. Each dressing was unique and the results were superb.

This is one of six healthy recipes offered to Year 7 as they enjoy their term of learning to cook. Next lesson is vegetable soup; another family favourite and a recipe for life!

Mrs S Sullivan, Food Technology Department.



# Art

## BUCHS Art Students Raise Funds for The Marillac Neurological Care Centre

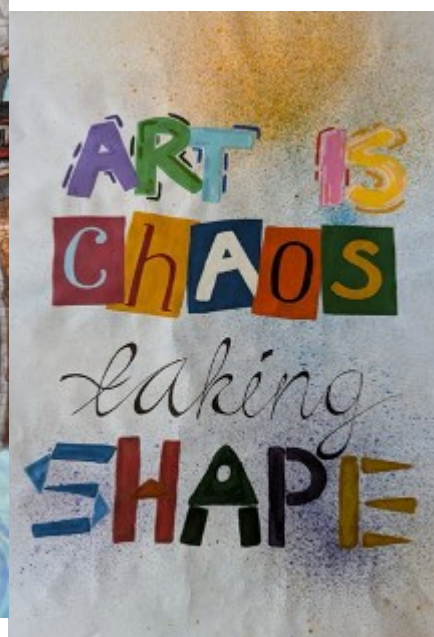
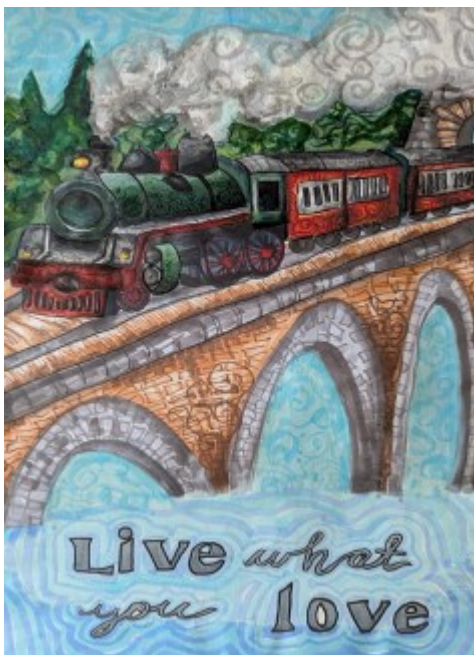
We are delighted to share that our talented Art students from Years 7–12 took part in a special charity art competition last term to raise money for The Marillac Neurological Care Centre; a vital local organisation providing care and support for those affected by complex neurological conditions or brain injuries.

The theme of the competition was 'Street Art' and students were encouraged to respond to this in any media of their choice, working within a specific size format.

Entries from local schools were judged by local art gallery owner and art dealer, John Brandler.



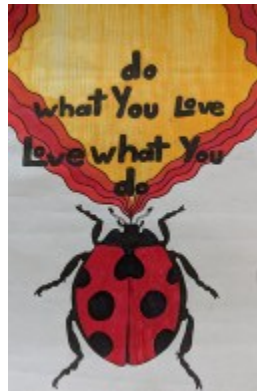
We were thrilled to learn that Zara in 8B was chosen as a winner receiving a prize of an Amazon voucher, and several more students' artworks have been chosen to be printed and put on permanent display at the Holiday Inn, Brentwood.



A huge well done and thank you to our students who engaged fully with the competition and helped to raise over £250 for The Marillac.

Winning entry from Zara in 8B

Art Continued



inspire together

Students whose work has been selected by the Holiday Inn for permanent display at the hotel include:



## Art Continued

### A Level Success

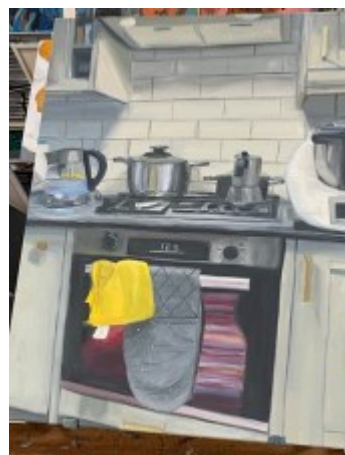
Our A-level Art students achieved highly again this summer. The Art Department are delighted to share with you our students' high quality work.

Students explored topics including 'Portraiture', 'Atmospheric Landscape', 'Cityscape' and 'Insects' through drawing and painting, a range of printmaking techniques and mixed media. Exam question themes of 'Domestic Life', 'Breakfast', 'Collections' and 'Art and Literature' produced exciting and original ideas.

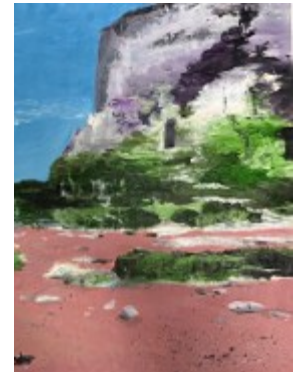
The work our students produced was exceptional and we are very proud of all they achieved. They were a pleasure to teach.

Students have successfully progressed onto their chosen universities and courses in Architecture; Interior Design; English literature and business to name a few.

We wish them every happiness and success in the future.



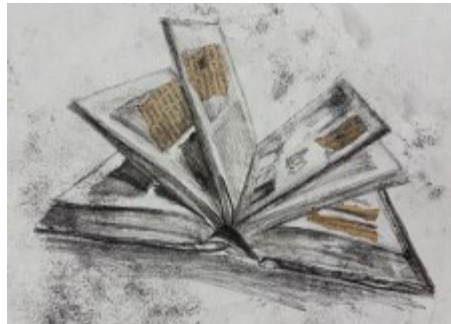
Art Continued



Art Continued



Art Continued



*Proud to be Ursuline*



## Art Continued

### GCSE Students' High Quality Work

Our GCSE students also created excellent and impressive work, investigating coursework chosen topics including 'Natural Form', 'Food', 'Landscape', 'Cityscape', 'Animals', 'Objects', and 'Portraits' to name a few. Exam themes, such as 'Remnants', 'Flora and Fauna', 'Narrative', 'Human Being' and 'Landmarks' produced exciting responses.

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

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



**EXCELLENCE**

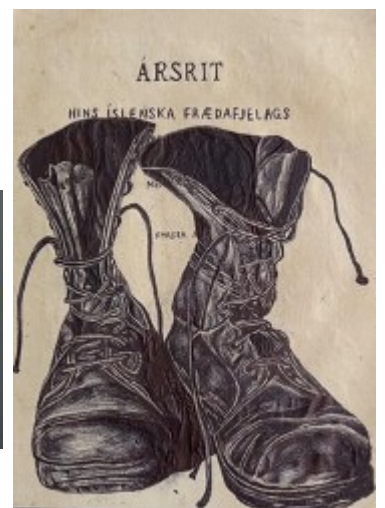
No barriers to  
**ACHIEVEMENT**

*Proud to be Ursuline*



Art Continued

GCSE Students' High Quality Work



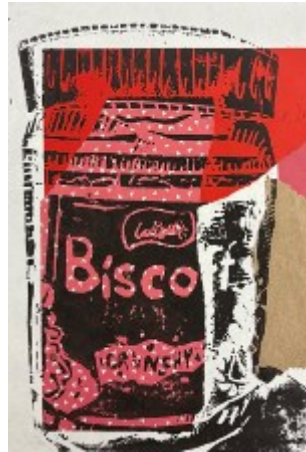
# Art Continued

## GCSE Students' High Quality Work



# Art Continued

## GCSE Students' High Quality Work



## Art Continued

### GCSE Students' High Quality Work



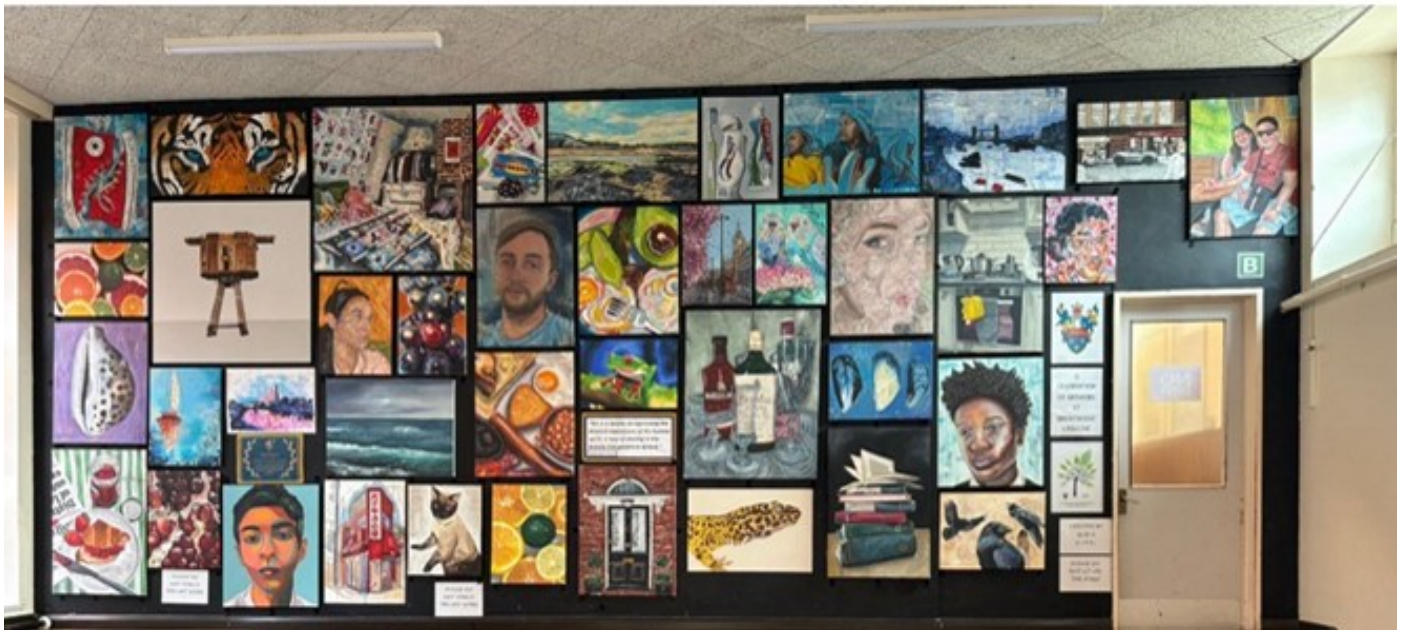
**EXCELLENCE**

No barriers to  
**ACHIEVEMENT**

*Proud to be Ursuline*



### New Display of A-level and GCSE Art



A huge thank you to Mr Macrowan from the Site Team and Miss O'Grady for working so hard in taking the previous display down and helping Miss McGoldrick to put up the new display – all within 24 hours, ready for the Year 6 Open Evening. Also to the Year 12 Business students who transported work from the Art Department to the Main Dining Hall. Without their support and commitment, the fast turnaround would not have been possible—thank you!

## Art Continued



### Year 12 Art Students to produce Artwork for The Marillac

We were delighted to be approached by The Marillac Neurological Care Centre to work on an exciting project to produce large scale painted canvases for their residents' dayroom.

Year 12 Art students will respond to the theme requested by staff at The Marillac, 'Bringing the Outside In'.

The students are full of ideas and enthusiasm for this very special creative opportunity and cannot wait to get started!

Students have met to discuss ideas and can be seen here holding a creative team meeting!

Mrs Parikh and Miss McGoldrick look forward to seeing what the students produce!



*inside together*



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

## **Sport**

It has been a busy first half term back in the PE Department with pupils competing at cross country, football and netball. It has been a successful start to the year and we hope this continues into November & December.

### **Cross Country – Mr Boshier**

In early October on a very warm day, the cross country team competed in it's first event of the year. Despite being up against some incredibly tough opposition, the students gave a good account of themselves with Year 7 finishing in 6<sup>th</sup> place, Year 8 in 4<sup>th</sup>, Year 9 finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> and the senior team (Years 10-13) finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> as well. This meant we achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> place overall. Well done to all of those who took part.

### **Football – Mr Boshier**

Both school football teams are currently unbeaten as it stands going into half term. The Under 15 team have only had one match due to another school needing to rearrange, but in what was a very exciting end to end game they gained a very credible 3-3 draw against Boswells School who are one of the stronger schools in the league.

The Under 13 team have won both matches played so far, which is even more impressive considering they were both away. They followed up a 4-2 win over Boswells School with an 11-0 rout over Ormiston Rivers Academy.

Well done to all the girls that have played so far. Both teams are in a good position to win their respective leagues.

### **Netball – Miss Newman**

There has been lots of netball this half term with the pupils competing in a variety of competitions.

### **Year 7 Netball Teams – First Competitive Matches**

The Year 7 A, B, and C teams have made a promising start to their competitive journey. In their opening fixtures against Becket Keys School, all teams played with enthusiasm and determination, despite narrow losses. They then faced Mayflower School, showing noticeable improvement in teamwork, positioning, and confidence, although the results didn't go their way. These early matches have been excellent learning opportunities, and the players have shown great potential, spirit, and sportsmanship. A bright future ahead for this developing group.

### **U14 Netball Team – National Schools Competition (5th Place)**

The U14 team represented the school brilliantly at the National Schools Competition, finishing 5th overall in a highly competitive tournament. The players showed great determination, adaptability, and teamwork across all their matches. Against some of

the strongest teams in the region, they held their own and demonstrated excellent netball throughout the day.

### **U14 Netball Team – Win vs. Beaulieu Park (21–15)**

The U14 netball team secured a brilliant 21–15 victory over Beaulieu Park School in a fast-paced and competitive match. The team worked cohesively, with stand-out performances in both attack and defence. Their ability to maintain composure under pressure and adapt their tactics mid-game made the difference. It was a true team effort and an excellent result that reflects their growing confidence and skill.

### **Year 10 Netball Team – Joint District Champions**

The Year 10 netball team have become joint district champions. The team displayed impressive consistency, teamwork, and resilience throughout the tournament, with strong performances across all matches. Their communication on court, tactical awareness, and sharp shooting were key factors in their success. A well-earned title for a hardworking and talented group!

### **U16 Netball Team – National Schools Competition**

Despite being without five regular players due to unforeseen circumstances, the U16 team put on an inspiring performance at the National Schools Netball Competition, finishing in 5th place overall. The players stepped up with incredible spirit, adapting quickly to new positions and showing great unity on court. Their ability to stay competitive at such a high level under pressure is a testament to their skill and team cohesion. A great achievement in challenging circumstances.

### **U16 Netball Team – Win vs. Plume Academy (40–1)**

The U16 team delivered a dominant performance in their fixture against Plume Academy, securing an emphatic 40–1 victory. From the first whistle, the team showcased excellent defensive pressure, quick transitions, and clinical finishing in the shooting circle. Every player gave 100%, and the match highlighted their depth and strength across the court. A confident and composed display that sets a strong tone for the rest of the season.

The team have remained unbeaten since beating St John Payne School, receiving a 'home walkover' from Hylands Park, then beating Sweyne Park School & Sandon School in their Essex Cup group matches.

## Maintaining Our High Standards & Keeping Students Safe

As we begin the second half of the term, we would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone of our school non-negotiables, which underpin everything we do:

- Punctual and Prepared
- Positive and Respectful

### Focused on Learning

These expectations help all our students to flourish both in and out of the classroom. We greatly appreciate your continued support in reinforcing them at home.

Over the past few weeks, some students have needed reminders about aspects of our expectations, particularly regarding hair and lanyards. While the majority of students present themselves exemplarily and take pride in their appearance, a small number are not meeting these standards.

Please remember:

- Hair longer than shoulder length must be tied back at all times.
- Lanyards should be worn visibly throughout the school day.

These expectations are in place to ensure safety, promote a sense of belonging, and uphold the high standards of our school community. We ask that parents ensure their child leaves home each morning meeting the school's uniform and appearance requirements.

We would also like to raise a concern about students' safety while travelling to and from school. There have been reports of some students running across roads in front of cars, causing drivers to brake suddenly or sound their horns. After school, others have been using mobile phones or wearing large headphones whilst making their journey home, reducing their awareness of traffic.

Please take a moment to speak with your child about road safety and awareness. We want every student to arrive at and leave school safely each day.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us maintain a safe, respectful, and focused school community.

Miss O'Grady, Head of Year 7

## BUCHS Safeguarding Team – 2025/2026



Dr R J Wilkin  
Headteacher

DSL – Designated Safeguarding Lead  
DDSL – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



Mr D Giles  
DSL



Miss T Orritt  
SLT Line Manager  
Y7  
DDSL



Mrs A Baird  
SLT Line Manager  
Y8  
DDSL



Mr D Giles  
SLT Line Manager  
Y9  
DSL



Ms K Wenborne  
SLT Line Manager  
Y10+11  
DDSL



Mrs K Mackenzie  
SLT Line Manager  
Y11  
DDSL



Miss F Scott  
SLT Line Manager  
Y12+13  
DDSL

# WILDERNESS

## FOUNDATION UK



Wilderness Foundation will be running a Neurodiversity Outdoor Camp on Friday 31st October, from 10am-3pm for young people age between 9-14 at £80 per participant per day.

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

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

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

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

## HOLIDAY COURSES

### Bikeability Level 1 & 2 and Learn to ride courses.

Venues: Witham, Harlow & Chelmsford

To book, please visit link

[essex.cycleready.co.uk/publicbooking](https://essex.cycleready.co.uk/publicbooking)

There is a £15 non-refundable booking fee

**SAFER  
GREENER  
HEALTHIER**



  
Essex County Council