



Dear Parents/Carers,

The atmosphere in the school has completely changed, as it does every year, with the onset of exam season for our Year 11s and Year 13s. The Year 11 celebration is a highlight to end the half term and marks the 'end of the beginning' for their exams: even though there are plenty left after half term, they've taken a good chunk out of the schedule. Keep pushing!

The Year 13 leavers' celebration was as emotional as ever and we wish them all well in their exams and their futures after BUCHS.

The Sixth Form block is taking shape, with work started on the roof and all sorts of details being finalised for the autumn term. It really will be a wonderful facility and I hope that as many of our Year 11s as possible will return to be part of this exciting new start for BUCHS.

With uncharacteristically fine weather forecast for the Bank Holiday and half term week, I wish you all a very enjoyable break.

Dr Richard Wilkin MA, EdD, Headteacher

Uniform Donations

The school would welcome donations of pre-loved uniform in good condition. Specifically we need skirts, jumpers, plain yellow blouses and blazers

Unfortunately, we are not able to accept the old style striped blouses or PE kit with a name/initials embroidered onto them.



Thank you in advance for your support.

Student Leadership Team 2026-27



Back row left to right:
Deputy Head Student, Aisling O'Leary
Outgoing Head Student, Tillie Fitzgerald
Deputy Head Student: Tilly Ruffles

Front row left to right:
Outgoing Deputy Head Student, Riya Jacob
Head Student, Hannah Osborn
Outgoing Deputy Head Student, Sienna Hungan

Student Leadership Team 2026-27 Cont.

Our new Student Leadership Team took part in their inauguration ceremony at the Mass celebrating our Foundation Day on Thursday 23rd April.

Our newly appointed Head Student, Hannah, gave a speech to the congregation:

My name is Hannah Osborn, and it is my greatest honour to introduce myself as the new Head Student of our school. I would like to firstly express my gratitude to the previous student leadership team, Tillie, Riya and Sienna, who have contributed to the incredible legacy of the Ursuline, and for their hard work and dedication to the ethos and wellbeing of our community. I aspire to continue this duty and privilege with my deputies, Tilly and Aisling.

I am delighted to stand before you on this most historic day for the Brentwood Ursuline: Our Foundation Day. On the 23rd of April, we mark the birth of an incredible legacy, pioneered by Mother Clare, who served as the school's headteacher for 15 years.

Our school has been able to stand for over 125 years due to its strong foundations: not just in its buildings, but in tradition, duty, community, and faith. But the true continuation of the legacy is alive because of us, the actions of students and staff, who strive to uphold the ethos and values of the uniqueness of Ursuline education. This made me think of the importance of building a strong foundation for ourselves.

I invite you to consider upon what values you are founded. As individuals, we rely on a sturdy support network, made up of teachers, friendships, family and faith. This school helps form the foundation of our teenage years, where we are nurtured to grow in personality, relationships, knowledge and skill, and where the Ursuline values become part of us. But these values are not designed to be applied only in a school setting. They are fundamental to our progression as students, as followers of God, and as people. Being an 'Ursuline' means continuing to act with integrity, grace, compassion, courage, leadership, and love, after our time within the school. St Angela Merici taught that education is a tool for a "happy life" and spiritual development. Through this we can understand the significance of using the opportunities presented to us here, to become the truest and best versions of ourselves: Could you join a new club? Could you volunteer to read in assembly? Could you recognise areas of subjects you need to improve on, and do a little extra work? Could you take up a responsibility? Could you show more kindness to others? We can choose how we use this valuable time.

Foundations are what we are made of, but a legacy is what we leave behind. How do you want to be remembered? We often look back to our patrons St Angela, St Ursula, and Mother Clare because they established a powerful legacy, and we remember the good that they did, which allows us to be together today. So, as well as how we reach our goals, why do we do it? Your answer to that question should give you ideas about the legacy you leave at the Ursuline, and the future you build after it.

For Year 11 and 13, this year is crucial. I wish you luck and strength throughout your exam series. Remember that exams are stepping stones. They help determine which path to take, and succeeding in them can open up more choices. Allow the exciting prospect of creating the best life for yourself, that you get to choose, be the biggest motivation to navigate this formative time.

And to everyone, I encourage you to think about the person that you want to become, and how you can utilise this year to take steps towards that. Our school is a place where you can start realising your potential.

Look to your future and how you can make positive change, then decide what you can do this year to start setting up those foundations.

Thank you, and happy Foundation Day!



We were so pleased to be joined by our Ursuline Sisters at the Foundation Day Masses; Sister Anne for our morning Mass, and Sister Philomena (pictured above) for the afternoon.

In addition to our celebration of Mass at the Cathedral on 23rd April, students were given the opportunity to wear a white carnation; Mother Clare's favourite flower, which were always presented to her by the students on Foundation Day. We also all enjoyed extended form time with a delicious slice of chocolate cake prepared by Mr Benson and his team.



2026-2027 Student Leadership and Prefects

Senior Student Leadership Team

Head Student	Hannah Osborn
Deputy Head Student	Aisling O'Leary
Deputy Head Student	Tilly Ruffles

House Prefects

Brescia	Ruby Stephens
Clare's	Inez Danielak
Ursula's	Mia Wheatley
Trinity	Isabella Livermore
John's	Harriet Yardy
Angela's	Praise Iyogun

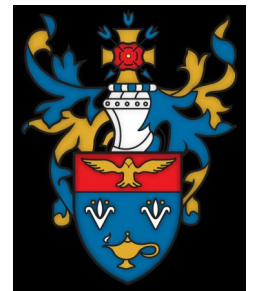
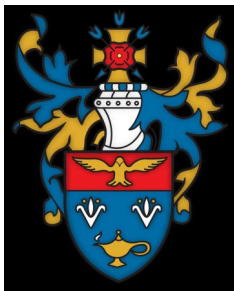
Prefects

Harry Coleman	Eleanor Christou
Aleeya Raji	Elleanor McNally
Mara Sotcan	Phoebe Smallwood
Beth Robertson	Ava Gambazza
Lindsay Isiko	Emma O'Gara
Jonathan Nash	Charlotte Kench
Maxine Dos Remedios	Lily Hawes
Maria Grigore	Nicole Blankson
Felicity Maspal	Ruth Thomas
Erin Lonergan	Fia Anya Amon
Lyla Rogers	

Year 13 Leavers' Celebrations

On Friday 8th May, we said goodbye and good luck to our wonderful Year 13s with a fantastic celebration in the main hall followed by the traditional exit through the school gates clapped and cheered by a guard of honour made up of Year 7 students.

We wish them, and our Year 11s taking their GCSEs every success in their exams this summer and in their journeys after BUCHS!



Good luck!

Sixth Form

The Brentwood Ursuline Sixth Form

Celebrating the Success of Our Year 13 Students

As we said goodbye to our Year 13 students this term, we reflected with great pride on all they have achieved during their time with us. We are delighted to share the exciting range of opportunities our students have secured as they prepare for the next stage of their journeys.

This year, students are holding offers from a number of highly regarded universities, including the University of Cambridge and Durham University, as well as prestigious London institutions such as London School of Economics and Political Science, King's College London and University College London, alongside many other highly ranked universities across the country.

Their chosen courses reflect an equally impressive breadth of ambition and talent, with students progressing to study subjects including Accounting and Finance, Biomedical Science, Engineering, Law, Medicine, Pharmacy, Politics and Psychology, to name just a few!

Alongside the many successes in securing university offers, we are very pleased that degree apprenticeships are also one of the exciting pathways our students pursue after Sixth Form, with one student securing an apprenticeship with Deloitte and Ulster University, Belfast. We are incredibly proud of the dedication, resilience and hard work shown by our Year 13 cohort throughout their studies. As they now begin their examination period, we wish every student the very best of luck and every success for the future.

Year 12 Students Begin Planning for Their Futures

Whilst we say goodbye to our Year 13 students, our Year 12 cohort have already begun their own journey towards securing their futures beyond BUCHS. Over recent weeks, students have taken part in a range of dedicated sessions designed to introduce and guide them through the UCAS application process.

As part of this preparation, all students attended the UCAS Discovery London at the ExCeL London, where they had the opportunity to explore a wide variety of universities, courses and career pathways. The event provided valuable insight into higher education options and helped students begin considering the many opportunities available to them after Sixth Form.

Students are now busy researching courses and attending university open days, allowing them to gain a better understanding of what life at different universities may be like and helping them make informed decisions about their future studies.

We were also delighted to welcome Year 12 parents to a recent information evening focused on the UCAS process. The event provided an opportunity to explain the application journey in more detail and outline the support and guidance available to every student throughout the process.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with both students and parents as our Year 12 students take these exciting next steps towards their future aspirations.



Where ambition meets tradition

Super Curricular Success

Super-curricular activities continue to play an important role in strengthening students' applications and developing their wider academic interests. We have been encouraged to see our Year 12 students actively engaging with the many opportunities available to them, and it has also been impressive to see a number of Year 11 students beginning to take part in activities shared with them in preparation for their future studies.

"The Brighton and Sussex Medical School online work experience course provided a valuable insight into the healthcare and medical field. Throughout the programme, I learned about the different roles within the NHS, such as surgery, general practice, elderly care etc. I also learned about the responsibilities of healthcare professionals, and the importance of communication, teamwork, and empathy when caring for patients. The course was quite insightful because it included realistic case studies, interactive activities, and presentations from medical professionals, which helped me understand the challenges and rewards of working in medicine. It also introduced key ethical issues and demonstrated how doctors make decisions in complex situations. Overall for me this opportunity was very insightful and was a good experience to have."

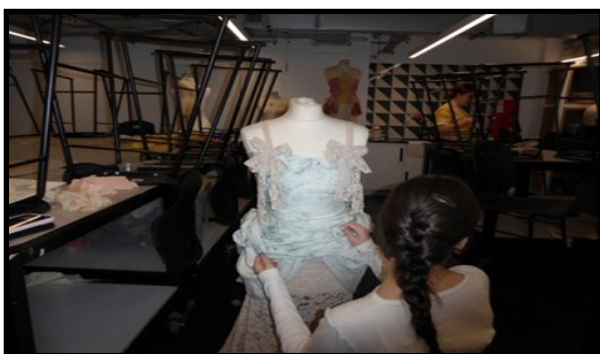
Maria G Yr 12



Sixth Form Continued

“As a part of the Fashion Retail Academy National Saturday Club, I am able to access industry level equipment and training. I am working on a final piece to be displayed at Somerset House in London as part of an exhibition from all the creative Saturday Clubs. Through this free course, we have been experimenting with garment making, attending exhibitions for research, taking part in workshops (eg with Manolo Blahnik) and developing an individual identity as designers and working in teams.”

Hannah O, Yr 12



“As someone who wants to go into medicine, I was really grateful for the opportunity to attend the ‘Mentor Verse’ meeting on how to get into this field. I learnt a lot about how to pave a clearer path for myself and the conference definitely cleared up any confusion I had about medicine and applications to university. I would definitely recommend the conference for anyone who's still unsure about doing medicine and for those who may want to learn more about the topic in general.”

MENTORVERSE

Grace A, Yr 11

“I participated in an online medicine conference and had the opportunity to ask questions to doctors about their own experiences. I found it insightful because we were given great information about the commitment required for a medical career and about how to move forward to get ahead in our UCAS applications.”

Annette O, Yr 11

“I visited Wylie Wellness Care Centre for Animals, where the team shared insights into the journey of becoming a veterinarian. They guided me on the university application process and what to expect during my studies. I had the opportunity to listen to a dog’s heartbeat using a stethoscope and locate his pulse. It was a valuable, hands-on experience! I also asked plenty of questions to clarify any doubts I had about the veterinary profession.”



able, hands-on experience! I also asked plenty of questions to clarify any doubts I had about the veterinary profession.”

Jennifer J, Yr 11

“I spent two days at King’s College, Cambridge attending the ‘Calculating Women’ residential. It was an insightful and surreal experience as I was able to not only explore one of the best universities in the world, but be surrounded by like-minded students who were also very passionate about maths. We had to put our problem-solving skills to the test and we received talks about the wonders of STEM and how we can apply it in our daily lives. This residential inspired me to keep working towards my goals as in a few years Cambridge University could be my own reality.”

Cara O, Yr 11



“I attended the ‘Calculating Women’ residential at King's College Cambridge, which was based on women in STEM and a range of mathematical activities that really made you think out of the box! The talks by some of the alumni were so inspiring and I could see myself in their shoes one day! I got to socialise and meet so many young girls with similar interests to me and got to live in one of the top universities in the world! What more could you ask for?”

Navya J, Yr 11

A Regional Champion!

Every year the Speaker's Trust, in association with the Jack Petchey foundation, take Year 10 students and embolden them with the confidence to speak publicly. This year, Cienna B represented BUCHS at the West Essex regional finals. Cienna spoke with poise, precision and performance. These regional finals are always a pleasure to attend. Watching young people speak so eloquently on a range of topics is not only heart-warming, but gives hope for the future! Each person who spoke and represented their school outperformed at least 30 other people from their school in the workshop round and the assembly finals. These students were the best of the best in West Essex!



All the participants had spoken and performed their speech. The judges had totalled their scores. Third place was announced. Second place was announced. Finally, the host for the evening read out, 'and the regional champion is... Cienna B!' This is not only a monumental achievement for Cienna, but it is a first in BUCHS' recent history. From my research, I cannot find a time when a student from BUCHS has been crowned regional champion. This means that next year BUCHS will host the regional final for West Essex and will welcome 15 schools from across the area.

The journey does not stop here. Cienna is now automatically entered into the semi finals. A panel of judges will watch the clip of her speech and judge it against the other 37 regional champions. The top 15 speeches will then go forward to the live grand final at the Cambridge Theatre in July. We will find out in June if Cienna has made it through to the next round.



Winning and progressing is of course a wonderful thing, however I feel that the focus should be on the personal growth and success of one of our students. BUCHS' philosophy is all about the growth of the individual, and what I witnessed on this evening was that growth that we strive to nurture. A group of Year 10 students also came along to support her, and virtues and Ursuline ethos were very proudly on show. May we all pray for Cienna's continued success in this competition.

Mr Baxter, Teacher of English

Library News

Michael Rosen's 80th Birthday Competition

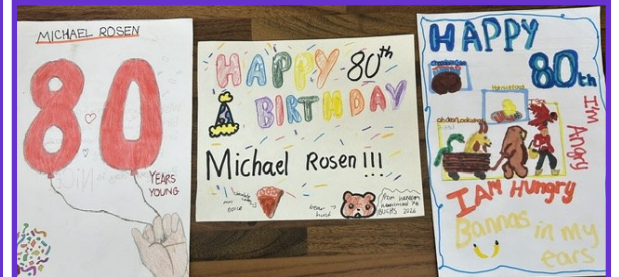
We invited our artistic Year 7 students to participate in a nationwide competition being run by Walker Books to design an 80th birthday card for author and poet, Michael Rosen.

We received lots of entries, some of which are pictured below. We were only allowed to submit the best ten, so these have been posted off to Walker Books. Good luck and well done to those who took part!



"Someone whispered in my ear that there's going to be a competition to make me birthday cards for my 80th birthday. Exciting! I am soooooo looking forward to seeing them. Thanks to all!"

— Michael Rosen 79,999999 years old



National Year of Reading 2026

We continue to celebrate the National Year of Reading this term with a BUCHS Lit(erary) Festival.

Students have been invited to come along to these lunchtime virtual author events. Biscuits are provided!

We hope to see lots of you there! We have a great line up of authors including award winners and a Children's Laureate! Hear them talk about the inspiration for their books, set challenges for you as writers, and share their tips for your own fantastic creative writing.

If you would still like to take part in the remaining events, please send a Teams message to Mrs Osborn.

BUCHS Lit Festival

VIRTUAL AUTHOR VISITS

FEMI FAUGBA* - MON 18TH MAY
HOLLY SMALE - TUE 2ND JUNE
ANTHONY HOROWITZ - TUE 16TH JUNE
MALORIE BLACKMAN - MON 6TH JULY

In the Library

BRING YOUR LUNCH - BISCUITS PROVIDED!

12:50-13:30

*Year 9 and above to see Femi #Go All In

CELEBRATING THE NATIONAL YEAR OF READING 2026

Speak to or message Mrs Osborn to put your name down. Maximum 30 per event.

Library News Continued

National Year of Reading 2026 Continued

In addition to the BUCHS Lit Festival, the library is running its own competition to celebrate the National Year of Reading. The deadline is Friday 5th June, so there is still time to take part. Perhaps use your free time over this Half Term holiday to get creative! Good Luck!



Open to all year groups

NATIONAL YEAR OF READING COMPETITION 2026

Design an A3 or A4 poster promoting reading for pleasure to teenagers.

It should convey why reading is fun/exciting/interesting/beneficial/a good use of your free time.
Entries will be put on display in school.

Goody bags to be won!

Closing date: Friday 05/06/26
Entries to Mrs Osborn

The poster is decorated with illustrations of books, flowers, and hands holding a goody bag.

Ursuline Values Reading Challenge

Well done to Naomi G-A in 8A who is the latest student to complete the National Year of Reading Ursuline Values Challenge. Naomi has read a book linked in theme to each of the ten Ursuline Values. She has been awarded a prize and achievement points. Congratulations and well done Naomi!

If you would like to complete the challenge too, please see Mrs Harbott or Mrs Osborn for a booklet.

Left: Naomi with her goody bag

Library News Continued

Message for school leavers in Years 11 and 13

If you are leaving school this summer, please ensure that you return all of your text books, revision guides and library books.

Each year, students leave without returning these books which means that future cohorts have fewer resources.

Books can be returned to reception, the library or the blue boxes in Jones Square during the exam series. Thank you.

Bookdrop

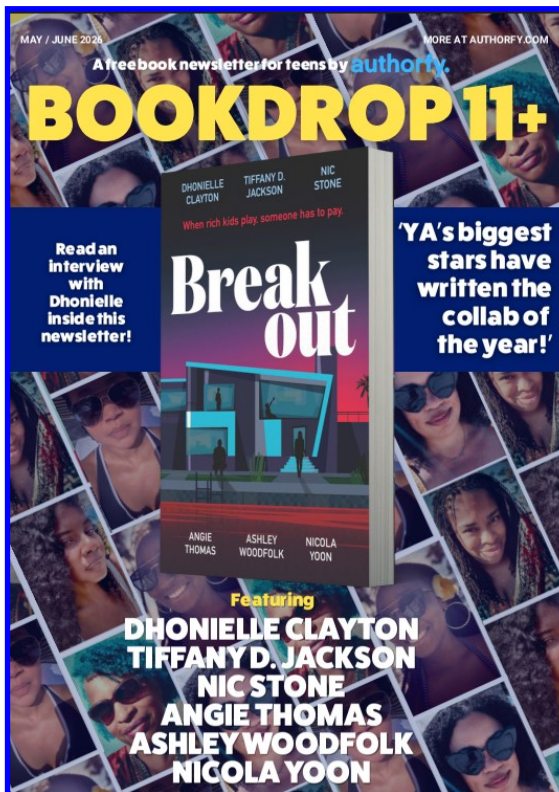
The Authorfy website have shared the latest issue of 'Bookdrop.' A fantastic free online magazine for young people aged 11 and over.

Paste this link into your web browser to read new book reviews, excerpts and author Q&As.

<https://authorfy.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/BOOKDROP-age-11-18-MayJune-2026.pdf>

If you have younger members in your family, there is also a Bookdrop for them:

<https://authorfy.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/BOOKDROP-age-5-11-MayJune-2026.pdf>



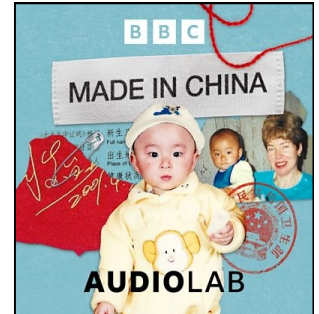
Donation

A huge thank you to BUCHS parent Mr Brookes who donated a beautiful set of The Oxford History of England books to the school library.

Mr Brookes is father to Lara and Eva who attended BUCHS until 2013 and 2018 respectively.

Mr Brookes tells us that Eva is currently working for the BBC and has written and presents a podcast, 'Made In China.' Congratulations to Eva on this incredible piece of work.

'All Eva Brookes knows about the beginning of her story is that she was found by the side of the road in China when she was three days old. Thirteen months later she was adopted by a white British couple and travelled to her new home in Essex.' BBC Sounds.



The Two Johns



On Thursday 7th May, the school had a visit from the '2 Johns,' two ex police officers who delivered a series of e-safety training presentations to students across the school day. They also hosted a virtual parent event that evening.

The Johns covered many aspects of child exploitation online in an age appropriate way covering sexual exploitation, gang membership, drug dealing, internet influencers and sexualisation of children. They explained how someone affected can get more information, report the issue and also seek help.

<https://esafetytraining.org/>

The student council said the following about the presentations:

"The sessions from the 2 Johns were really eye opening. We learned some staggering truths about misuse of the internet and how different age groups and genders are targeted. They provided reassurance that there is help available via Childline services if anything were to go wrong online. They also warned of the dangers that may have been unclear to us, so we were all prompted to take action to stay safer."

History

History Detectives- Holocaust Memorial Project

Over the course of the Spring Term, the History Detectives researched personal stories from the Holocaust as part of the 2026 Holocaust Memorial Day. The students then created a display showcasing their work, which was exhibited in the library for the whole school to view, helping others to better understand this significant event in modern world history. Below are a few of the stories that were researched by one of our detectives:



In my research I discovered Ernest Mayer- he was a part of the *Kindertransport* rescue program and made the painting called 'The Last Goodbye.' It is a colourful work of art which depicts a train station. He used bold colours like his teacher Ludwing Meinder would have. I also discovered the experience of Fanny Schwarz, who was a born deaf, young girl. She was sterilised by the Nazis when she was around 18. I also researched into a diary of an anonymous girl. She described the low amount of food she was allowed for two weeks and how only a small, extra spoonful was enough to be told off. It described how many ghettos had very little food. All of these stories were able to tell us just some of the many, personal experiences of those who lived through the terrible events of the Holocaust.

Iona M, 9A



History Continued

Voices of the Holocaust

On Thursday 26th March, 'Voices of the Holocaust' performed a heart-touching play called 'Kindness – A Legacy of the Holocaust' which was set in Hungary, where a Jewish family faced the reality of Nazi Germany. Ninety percent of the words said throughout the play came from a true Holocaust survivor. This made the play feel special and truly a once in a lifetime experience.

The play followed the story of Susan Pollack, who was confined at Auschwitz-Birkenau for 10 weeks before being sent to Germany to work in an armaments factory, and later, by death march, to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp where she was liberated by the British Army on 15 April 1945. Throughout the play, I felt as if I was there, reliving the experience of many of the Jews who were murdered during the Holocaust. Since the very beginning of the performance and long after, I had goosebumps on my skin and an urge to cry. The scenography, which included the props, costumes and lighting made the atmosphere vivid and made me feel as if I was travelling back in time to one of history's darkest chapters.

The part that struck me the most was how Susan's family and many Jews never lost hope and faith; despite the struggles and hardships they faced. This inspired me to never lose hope and to fight until I see the rainbow at the end of the storm, just as many Holocaust survivors did.

'Voices of the Holocaust' aims to raise awareness of those who went through that tragic event and to share the story of the Holocaust experience in order to promote tolerance and avoid antisemitism in the twenty-first century.



Photo credit: Igor Turin



Photo credit: Igor Turin

The incredible performance has taught me that no matter what faith you follow, no matter what ethnicity you come from, and no matter what your physical appearance, we should never treat anyone differently and accept uniqueness and diversity as a strength in our community.

Andrea, 8C



Science

Chemistry Olympiad

Taking part in the UK Chemistry Olympiad was a valuable opportunity to challenge myself beyond the A-level curriculum. The competition introduced complex, unfamiliar problems that required critical thinking, logical reasoning, and applying knowledge in new ways, helping to strengthen both my problem-solving skills and confidence. Although many of the questions were difficult, the experience taught me resilience and how to approach challenges even when I wasn't sure where to begin.

It also allowed me to demonstrate my commitment to science and my willingness to push myself academically — something particularly beneficial for competitive STEM courses such as chemistry, medicine, and engineering. Overall, it was an enjoyable and rewarding experience that has further developed my skills and passion for chemistry.

Well done to everyone who took part, and especially to those who achieved a Bronze certificate!

Maria G, 12.3

Well Done, Chemistry Olympiad Participants!

The Chemistry Department would like to congratulate all of the students who took part in this year's UK Chemistry Olympiad. This year, the opportunity was extended to all Year 12 and 13 students, and it was fantastic to see such a strong level of participation.

The paper stretched well beyond the A-level syllabus, requiring high-level problem-solving, resilience, and creativity. It was great to see students engage so positively with such a demanding challenge.

We are delighted to celebrate 5 Bronze certificates and 19 Participation certificates — a truly fantastic achievement across the cohort.

Special congratulations go to our Bronze Award winners: Aisling O, Y12, Isabella W, Y12, Arthur B, Y13, Florence H, Y13 and Israel O, Y12.

A particular highlight is Florence H's accomplishment, who has now achieved Bronze certificates in both Year 12 and Year 13 — an outstanding accomplishment that reflects sustained excellence and commitment to chemistry.

Thank you to all of our students for representing BUCHS so brilliantly. We are incredibly proud of your effort, determination, and enthusiasm in this challenge.

Miss Mhindurwa, Head of Chemistry



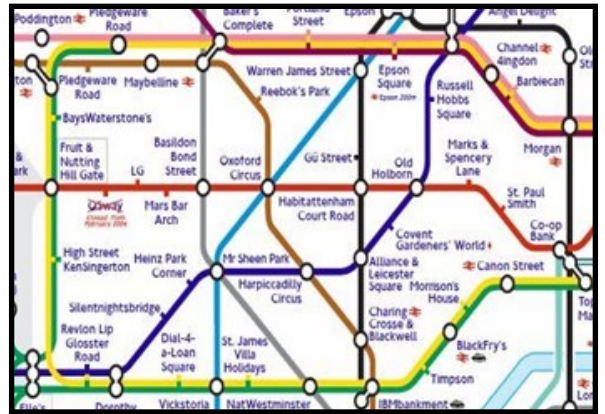
PSHE

Poetry from Years 9 and 10

Inspired by the poems we see on the London Underground, we decided to write our own and send them to TfL, in the hope that they might be displayed. Below is an example by the celebrated poet, Roger McGough which appeared on the tube, called 'The Leader.' It's quite topical, given the political climate in the world today.

The Leader, by Roger McGough.

I wanna be the leader
I wanna be the leader
Can I be the leader?
Can I? I can?
Promise? Promise?
Yippee I'm the leader
I'm the leader
OK what shall we do?



Our Year 9 topic was British Values. Here are poems written in response to our lessons on this theme.

Difference

Different faiths and ways to pray.
Different words we choose to say.
Some find truth in sacred light,
Some in stars which fill the night.
Different hearts, yet here we stand,
Sharing minds and sharing land,
With eyes that see,
Strength is found in diversity.
So let us listen, not divide,
Walk with respect, go side by side.
For every voice deserves its place,
Towards a world of kindness and grace.

By Millie and Harriet

Individual

You- me- us- them,
Maybe on the same train,
Same city, same day,
Going our own way.
For love, for freedom.

By Phoebe

PSHE Continued

Poetry from Years 9 and 10 Continued

The topic for Year 10 pupils was knife crime; a hard topic to read about and to discuss, but an important one and one which demanded and deserved our attention.

Someone

You may not know them.

That makes it right?

Using a knife? Taking a life?

Taking someone's someone.

Someone's daughter, someone's son,

Someone's mother, father, sister, brother.

Someone with a life to live.

Someone with a talent to give.

Someone with hope for tomorrow.

Because of you, it ended in sorrow

By Stephanie and Isabel

The Gap

One knife, one life.

Same trains, same stops, same eyes.

A phone that won't ring again.

A face that won't smile again.

'Mind the gap' will play again.

But who will mend the gap?

By Sanaa

Poem 3. My Friend.

That was my friend. I wish I'd made amends.

I crossed a line. It isn't fine.

It happened fast. This day was his last.

By Jesse

Violence

A mother, a sibling, a father, did you think?

A stealer of a breath, a soul, their person, their heart,
their world.

Did you think?

Who are you to take it?

Leave you feeling fine? No, you will regret it, until the
end of time.

By Nicoleta

The Last

I held him in my arms.

Tears welling in my eyes.

I thought I knew him best.

Those people knew him last.

By Cienna

And finally, from Year 11 about anti-Semitism:

We rise with voices, clear and strong,

To right the hate that's lived too long.

No whispered lies, no ancient blame,

Can stand against what we proclaim.

For every heart deserves its place,

No matter faith, no matter face.

And history's wounds, both deep and wide,

Call us to stand on justice's side.

We learn to speak, we choose what's right,

To turn the dark towards the light.

Not just in words, but what we do,

In how we treat each other too.

So hand in hand, let kindness lead.

In every thought, in every deed.

For hate will fade when we insist.

A world of care cannot coexist with this.

By Amelie

Future Fridays

The VI Form, Years 11 and 10 have been joined online on the last few Fridays by three ex-students who told them about their time at school and the careers they went on to pursue.



Angharad Rankin

Senior Recruitment Consultant - Protocol Education.

She spoke to us about how to begin building a successful career, emphasising the importance of hard work and networking. She also explained that attracting new business depends on the confidence you inspire in your clients and the quality of what you deliver for them.

Marilena Gant

Voice actor

Marilena spoke to us about her experience of attending university during the COVID pandemic and how her voice acting talents led to job offers from around the world. She also shared what it was like hearing her voice featured in popular games and films.



Matilda Diss

Business Development Executive - Private Banking

Matilda shared how she successfully transitioned from a back-office role to a front-office position in Private Banking. She explained how the values of hard work and perseverance, which she developed during her time at school, helped shape the confident and accomplished young woman she is today.

Music

Welcome back to our Summer 1 Music Department update here at BUCHS. Thank you very much for your continued support of our events and concerts throughout Summer 1. This half term, we have had great achievements in our most recent chamber concert, our continued assembly performances and the celebrations of Foundation Day and Ascension Day. I would like to wish you all a very restful May half term break and I look forward to sharing more updates from Music in Summer 2.

Assembly Performances

Throughout this half term, we have had excellent and reflective performances from our students at the beginning and end of assemblies. The students have been a huge credit to themselves and the school as they perform with confidence and maturity to their fellow students. I would like to especially highlight the excellent pupils who performed recently at our assemblies: Abigail D, Mireya H, Roxana S, Neve J-L, Alexandra P, Kristen O and Mary H. I would like to thank all of our students who have performed this half term and I hope they continue to make assemblies even more successful in Summer 2.

Foundation Day Masses

On Thursday 23rd April, we had the great pleasure and honour in celebrating 126 years of the Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School in two hugely successful Masses at Brentwood Cathedral. The Insieme choir sang with confidence and beauty as they amplified the messages of duty, service and charity. The students not only did themselves extremely proudly, but represented the school and Music Department with dignity and confidence. Special thanks go to Mr Stephen King who accompanied the students elegantly both on the piano and organ.

Chamber Concert

In May, we again hosted a very successful chamber concert where 14 pupils (pictured below) across all year groups performed with competence and effort, passion and magnitudes of sureness. The students pushed themselves to showcase their exciting repertoire and they should be extremely proud of their performances. The students who performed were: Amelia F, Elizabeth L, Quinn W, Betsy G-B, Davina J, Cecilia G, Mireya H, Hannah O, Emma O, Ella A, Ofelia B, Isabella C, Sebastian S, Joyshalom M and Eve O. Also, special thanks as always go to the families, friends and staff who attended the chamber concert to support our pupils, and to Stephen King who accompanied our students stylishly. Finally, also a message of thanks to our lovely Sixth Form prefects for welcoming, supporting and escorting our friends and families on the concert evening.



Ascension Day Mass

On Thursday 14th May, we celebrated the holy day of obligation, The Ascension of Jesus to Heaven. The Insieme Choir were again a huge part of the Mass and soloists Ella A and Felicity D sang with beauty and elegance. The choir represented the Music Department and school with a great sense of responsibility and supported the musical sections of the Mass with grace.

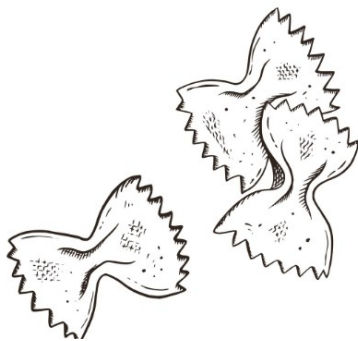
Mr Maynard, Director of Music

Food Tech



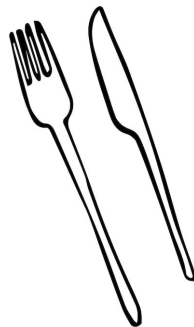
Year 7 Update

These are some of the last pasta salads of the year!



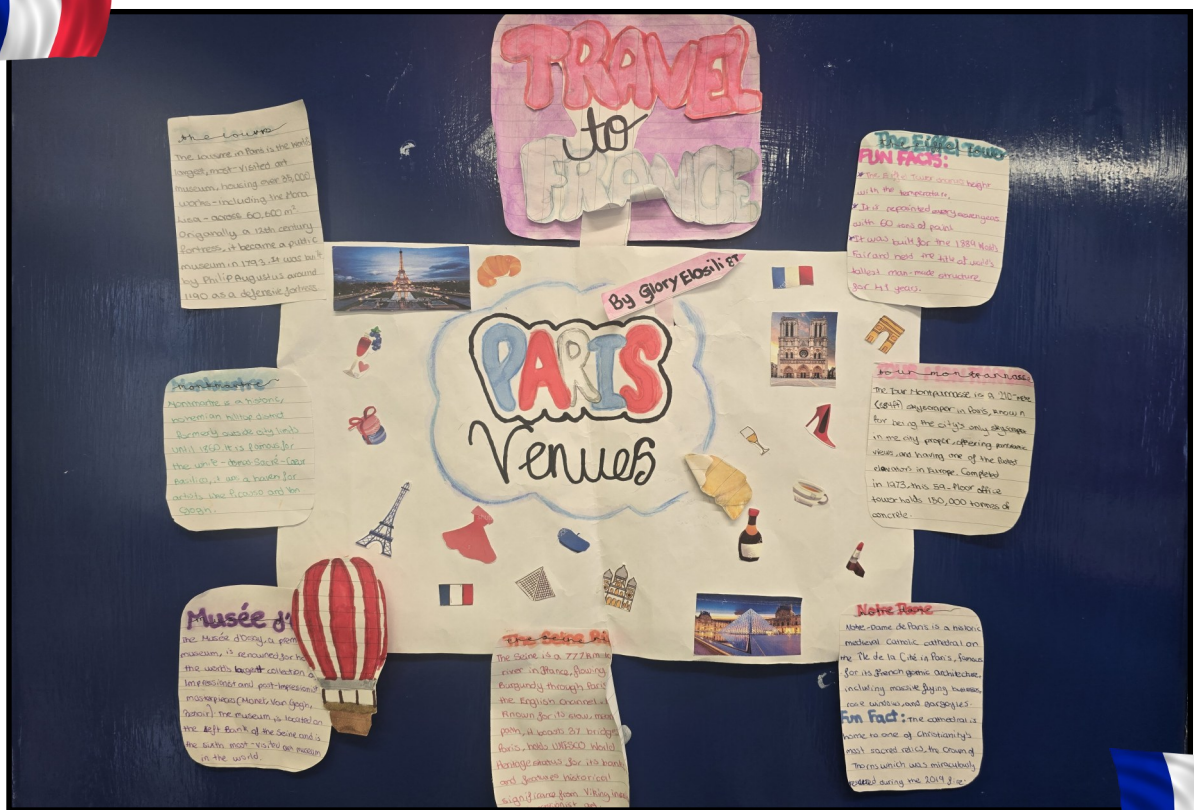
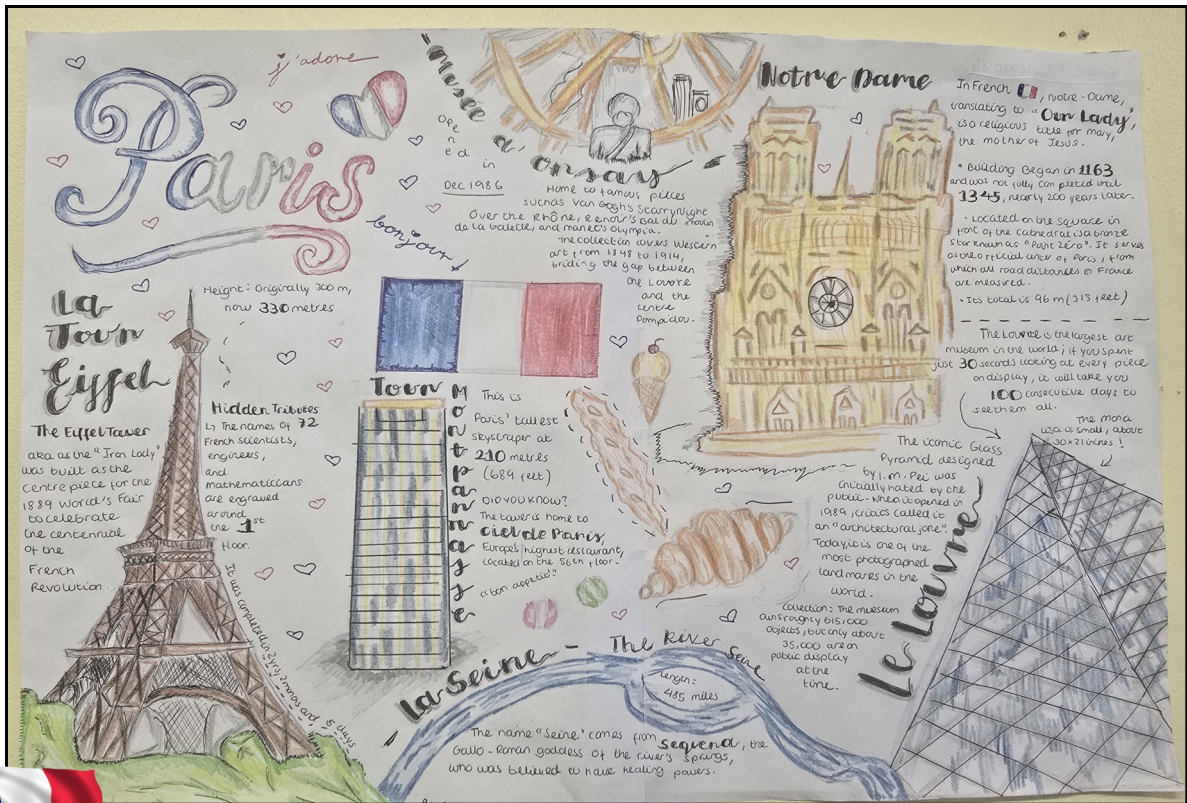
All were created by 7F1, Mrs Sullivan's Year 7 Food Tech group. Pupils included at least 3 salad vegetables and even made their own dressings at home from products such as Greek yoghurt, honey, lemon and black pepper. The results were amazing as you can see and this is such an easy way to adhere to the Eatwell Guide and to feed the body with fresh vegetables and a starchy pasta base. Brown pasta was used by some pupils and chicken, tuna and ham were the preferred choices for protein.

Why not try this salad this summer? Experiment too with your own type of homemade dressing.





Prior to our trip to Paris in May half term, Year 8 have produced some wonderful posters to show the landmarks that we will visit. The best posters were awarded a prize and have been displayed in Mrs Yates' classroom. Year 8 look forward to sharing an update from our trip in the next newsletter!






NOTRE DAME

Fun Facts

- The full name in French is "Notre-Dame de Paris" which means "Our Lady of Paris". The lady is Mary, Mother of Jesus. There are strange-looking stone creatures, called gargoyles, that sit on top of the cathedral, and they stop the weather damaging the cathedral's walls when it rains.
- There is a beehive on the roof of the cathedral.

The south tower uses the cathedral's biggest bell, which is called the Emmanuel. It's so heavy that visitors found it too heavy!



The NOTRE DAME is famous for its three rose-stained glass windows, which depict biblical scenes.

Visitors can climb the North Tower and there are 387 steps to get to the top!

WHAT IS THE NOTRE DAME?

The Notre-Dame is a cathedral in Paris. It was built on the site of an older church which had in turn been built on the site of a pagan temple. Building work began in 1163 and finished in 1345. Around 13 million people visit Notre-Dame de Paris each year, which is about 30,000 people each year!

Did you know?
Napoleon was crowned in this cathedral!


FIRE!
In Notre-Dame, a medieval Catholic cathedral in Paris, there was a fire in 2019 that destroyed the cathedral's spire and roof. It was re-opened on 7 December 2024 after 5 years of restoration work.

THE LOUVRE

LE MUSÉE DU LOUVRE

The Louvre is the world's largest art museum in Paris, and began as a 12th century fortress and royal palace, before opening as a public museum in 1793 during the French revolution. It has over 60,600 square meters of display space and holds about 380,000 objects. A remnant of its fortress days is visible in the underground levels.


The Louvre was first built in 1190 to defend Paris against enemy attacks. The pyramid was constructed to mark the 200th anniversary of the start of the French Revolution. The Museum is next to the River Seine. It is the most visited museum and art gallery in the world.




Many of the most famous works of art in the world are kept in the Louvre, including the Mona Lisa. By Leonardo Da Vinci. In 1911 it was stolen and eventually returned in 1959. It is now kept behind bulletproof glass.

Did you know?
It would take 100 days to see everything in the Louvre if you looked at each item for 30 seconds all day without a break!

cat noir



ladybugs





Paris

Notre Dame

The Notre Dame's origin lies in the French phrase "Our Lady", which refers to the Virgin Mary. The site was used for Celtic worship, a Roman Temple to Jupiter. The statue is a powerful symbol of Paris, French national identity and cultural heritage.

Seine river

The Seine remains central to French life, culture and identity. It is around 444 meters above sea level. The Seine flows through Burgundy, Champagne, and into the Ile-de-France region. It forms a loop before reaching its mouth in the English Channel.

Tour Montparnasse

Tour Montparnasse is a distinctive 210-meter office skyscraper in Paris. It is a beautiful, leafy neighbourhood filled with Parisians. It was proposed in 1969 as part of modernizing Paris and redeveloping the Montparnasse area, built in the site of former Gare Montparnasse train station.

- Landmarks -

Louvre

The Louvre is the world's largest and most visited art museum, home to iconic masterpieces like the Mona Lisa, Venus de Milo and more. It was involved in the 12th century in a grand royal Palace becoming a public museum in 1793. It has 380,000 objects with around 30,000 artworks on display.

Musée d'Orsay

The Musée d'Orsay showcases Western art from 1848 to 1914 including paintings, sculptures and decorative arts. The museum holds Impressionist and Post-Impressionist works by artists like Monet, Degas, Renoir, Cézanne and Van Gogh. It was erected in 1910 and burnt down in 1971 during the Paris Commune.

Montmartre

It's a historical, artistic neighbourhood on a large hill in Paris's 18th arrondissement. The street Rue de l'Abreuvoir is the most famous street. It is one of the best places to be and seen in Paris. There are panoramic views of the city.

Eiffel tower

The Eiffel Tower is 330 meters tall and was built in 1889 for the world's Fair and was intended to be dismantled after 20 years. The Eiffel Tower can either grow or shrink 6 inches depending on the temperature. The Eiffel Tower was completed on March 31st in 1889 and is now 134 years old and has become the most iconic landmark in the Parisian landscape.

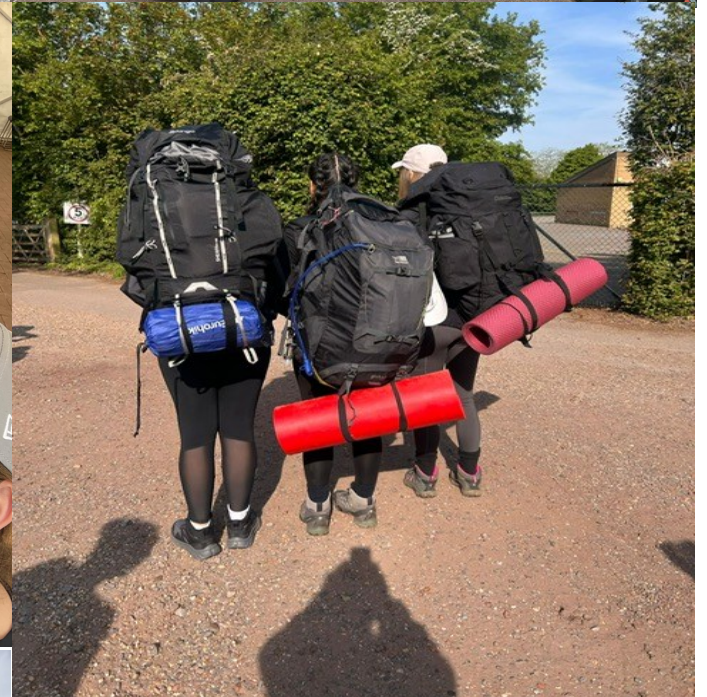


Duke of Edinburgh Award

Our Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh award students set off on 9th May to Danbury Outdoors to take part in their practise expedition, ahead of the assessed weekend at Skreens Park next month.

Their first day was spent in their teams planning for the walk the following day. The DofE staff team taught them essential first aid skills as well as how to cook outdoors and put up their tents!

The weather was kind to them; dry and not hot, though some will be wearing an extra pair of socks at night next time!



“On 9th—10th May, a group of Year 10 girls and I went on our DofE practice expedition to Danbury. Our first day was about teaching us skills and safety precautions which we could use on our real expedition. This included first aid training where we learnt how to: tie a sling, how to do CPR, signs and symptoms of hypo/hypothermia, and how to wrap bandages. My friends and I found this very interesting and thought that they were good skills to have.

Next, we learnt how to use cooking equipment with gas canisters. They were difficult to light at first, however we got the hang of it quickly and ended up making a meal from a packet of freeze dried Chili con carne!

Duke of Edinburgh Award Continued

Later on in the afternoon, we learned how to read and follow a map (with a compass) and all of its different symbols and road types. It took a while to understand it, but as a group we managed to work it out in the end.

In the evening, we put up our tents. This was much less complicated than I imagined and was quite fun to do. As groups we also cooked dinner together and made s'mores which was really fun. After a long day, everyone hung out on the field all together until it was time to go to bed.

The next day was when we would practise doing the walk. Our assessed expedition will be at a different site; Screens Park, but it still meant we got to practice using the map & compass. The walk was 15km and 6 hours long. It was a nice chance to talk with your friends and make memories together. The experience was very rewarding when you were told by a leader that what you were doing was correct and it has definitely boosted my group's confidence about doing it again with just each other.

Overall, it was a really enjoyable weekend and I am looking forward to doing it again next month."

Lucy O, 10T



BUCHS Safeguarding Team – 2025/2026



Dr R J Wilkin
Headteacher



Mr D Giles
DSL

DSL – Designated Safeguarding Lead
DDSL – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead



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

Raising funds for



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2026




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10:30AM To 4:00PM

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