Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School

Founded 1900

Newsletter Autumn 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of a wonderfully busy first half term, this newsletter offers a glimpse of the energy, ambition and joy that make our school such a special community.

The pages that follow celebrate just some of the opportunities, experiences and achievements that have enriched school life over recent weeks. Meanwhile, there has been considerable activity behind the scenes, not least in our new Sixth Form Centre, where decorators and finishing teams have been hard at work preparing this wonderful new facility for our students. It is an exciting development for the school and a tangible expression of our ambition for its future.

As we mark the Feast of St Ursula this week, we are reminded of the values that have shaped our school for generations: courage, faith and a commitment to others. These remain at the heart of our community and give purpose to all that we seek to achieve.

My sincere thanks to our students for their enthusiasm and contribution to school life, to our staff for their dedication and generosity, and to you, our families, for your continued support and partnership.

I wish you all a happy, peaceful and restorative half-term break.



Miss F Scott BSc (Hons), PGCE (Cantab.), MEd (Cantab.)

Uniform Donations



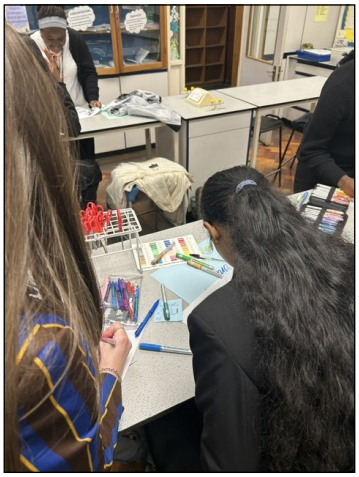
The school would welcome donations of pre-loved uniform in good condition. Specifically we need skirts, jumpers, plain yellow blouses and blazers

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.

Our school community celebrated the Feast Day of Saint Ursula on Wednesday 21st October.

We attended Mass at Brentwood Cathedral and also enjoyed special activities in extended form time including competitions to create display boards celebrating all forms of equality.



Above: 12.4 creating their form board

Parking on Eastfield Road: A Polite Reminder

We would like to remind all parents and carers that parking on Eastfield Road is not permitted during school drop-off and collection times. We greatly value our positive relationships with our neighbours and ask all families to be considerate of local residents by respecting these restrictions and parking responsibly. Thank you for your cooperation in helping us to be a courteous and respectful part of our local community.

Sixth Form Open Evening- Thursday 5th November 2026

We are delighted to remind students, parents and carers that our Sixth Form Open Evening will take place on Thursday 5th November, from 6:30pm to 8:30pm, with a Headteacher's talk at 6:30pm.

This is a fantastic opportunity to discover all that BUCHS Sixth Form has to offer. Visitors will be able to explore our wide range of academic courses, enrichment and super-curricular opportunities, as well as the support and guidance we provide to help students prepare for life beyond BUCHS.

Applications for Sixth Form will open on Friday 6th November, with further information about the application process shared with both students and parents.

It is an incredibly exciting time to join BUCHS Sixth Form. Following our excellent examination results this summer, which saw *63.4% of students achieve grades A–B**, and the opening of our brand-new Sixth Form block, we are looking forward to welcoming the next generation of Sixth Form students.

We hope to see as many of you as possible on Thursday 5th November and look forward to showcasing everything our Sixth Form has to offer.

Please note: There will be no parking available on site.

The Sixth Form Team



Where ambition meets tradition.

Sixth Form

Year 13 Results and Destinations – A Celebration of Success

On August 13th, 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 University of Cambridge, Durham University, the University of Bath, University College London, Kings College London and the University of Nottingham, among others. They are now pursuing a wide range of competitive and prestigious courses such as Medicine, Pharmacy, Physiotherapy, 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 Deloitte and Disney.

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!

Sixth Form Continued

Brentwood School Speakers Programme

We were delighted to be invited to participate in the Sir Antony Browne Society (SABS) Guest Speaker Programme at Brentwood School this year.
The SABS programme is a 6th Form society that was formed with the purpose of broadening students' understanding of the wider world. The programme offers weekly talks on an array of subjects. Guest speakers share their experiences, insights, career paths and achievements, whilst students enjoy refreshments and a Q&A session at the end of the talk.
Year 12 have thoroughly enjoyed the sessions so far.



“One of the sessions I attended for the SABS programme featured Mary Morgan, a plastic and reconstructive surgeon who focused on breast reconstruction. I felt extremely lucky to be able to listen to such an inspiring figure. During the session, she handed out various medical tools, including different types of forceps and even a breast implant. She was incredibly informative and realistic about what her job consisted of, and helped open our eyes to aspects of plastic surgery we had never even considered before.“

Maya K

“The SABS programme has been a valuable addition to my education, offering opportunities to learn from inspiring speakers. I particularly enjoyed Katja Hoyer’s talk, which deepened my understanding of how Germany’s history continues to shape its modern political landscape. I found this fascinating as it built on my GCSE studies of Weimar and Nazi Germany and highlighted the continuing relevance of history to contemporary politics and society.”



Mahasin I

“Attending the SABS speaking programme and listening to Erin Young talk about her initiative in Kerala, India, was a truly inspiring experience for me. Hearing about her efforts to discover and connect with organisations across the state that support and empower women felt especially meaningful, as Kerala is where I am from. It helped me appreciate the important work being done within my home state and inspired me to learn more about the people and organisations making a positive difference in women's lives.“

Jennifer J

Sixth Form Continued



“I recently had the opportunity to attend an inspiring talk at Brentwood School by Simon White, an experienced and successful investor who gave some time to educate and advise young people. The talk provided valuable insights into investing as well as building crucial skills for our futures. As someone studying economics, it was a great opportunity to develop my understanding into the financial world from someone with direct experience in this field.”

Grace P



Black History Month

On Monday 19th October, Mrs Cooper ran three Black History Month events in the Main Hall attended by all year groups.

The students were treated to a performance by our Gospel Choir, a cultural dress ‘fashion show,’ some dancing style demonstrations and a talk on notable activists from history.

A huge thank you to Mrs Cooper, and all those who participated in this wonderful celebration of Black History and culture.

https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/black-history-month-2026/







Music

The Music Department has enjoyed an exceptionally successful first half of the autumn term, with students demonstrating outstanding musical talent, dedication and enthusiasm across a range of performances and events. Our assembly performances have been extremely successful, providing students with valuable opportunities to showcase their musical abilities and share their talents with the wider school community. We were also delighted to host an exceptional Chamber Concert evening, featuring 14 performers.



The concert was a wonderful celebration of our students' musicianship, commitment and confidence, and we are incredibly proud of everyone who took part. I would like to thank the families, friends and staff who supported the students. In addition, Mr. King for accompanying our students on the evening.
Music has also played an important role in our Black History Month celebrations. Both the Solace Choir and Gospel Choir delivered performances during the Black History Month assemblies, contributing to these important occasions through the power of music and song.

In addition, the Insieme Choir had the privilege of singing at the St Ursula's Mass at Brentwood Cathedral. This was a special opportunity for our students to contribute to the celebration through their choral singing and to represent the school in such a significant setting. Thanks again to Mr. King for accompanying our students at both of the Masses.

Finally, congratulations to Sebastian S in Year 13 who performed his mock A Level Music Recital to staff and Sixth Form students this week. Sebastian gave an exciting performance playing two pieces on his electric guitar and the third on vocals. Seb is pictured right on stage in the Main Hall.



We would like to congratulate all our students on their achievements this half term and thank them for their hard work, commitment and willingness to participate in the many musical opportunities available to them. We look forward to another exciting half term filled with music-making, performances and continued success.

Mr Maynard, Director of Music

Sport



Outstanding Sporting Achievements for Aisling O

We are delighted to celebrate the exceptional sporting achievements of Aisling, Year 13, who continues to excel in not one, but two sports at a highly competitive level.
Aisling has been selected to compete in the Under-19 European Netball Championships, taking place in November. This is a tremendous achievement and reflects the dedication, skill and commitment required to compete at international level.
Alongside her success in netball, Aisling is also an accomplished Gaelic football player. This Saturday, 24th October, she will represent her club, Thomas McCurtains, in the All Britain Gaelic Football Final in Birmingham, another significant milestone in her sporting career.
Competing at such a high level across two demanding sports, whilst balancing her academic studies and school commitments, is an impressive accomplishment and a testament to Aisling's determination, discipline and hard work.
We are enormously proud of Aisling and wish her every success in both forthcoming competitions.

The whole Brentwood Ursuline community will be cheering her on!



Sport Continued

Outstanding Golfing Success for Lily Hawes

We are immensely proud to celebrate the exceptional achievements of Year 13 student Lily Hawes, who continues to distinguish herself as one of the country's most talented young golfers.

On Tuesday 13th October, Lily competed in the Essex Schools County Championships at Orsett Golf Club, where she secured an impressive victory despite extremely challenging, windy conditions. Her outstanding performance saw her crowned 2026 Essex Schools County Champion, adding another prestigious title to an already remarkable year.

This latest success means that Lily now holds all three major England Schools titles for 2026:

- Essex Schools County Champion
- England Schools South East Champion
- England Schools Under-19 National Champion

Earlier this year, Lily also had the honour of captaining the England Schools National Team, further demonstrating her exceptional ability and leadership within the sport.
These achievements are a testament not only to Lily's considerable talent, but also to the dedication, discipline and determination required to compete at such an impressive level. We are delighted that Mr Crowder, Head of Year 13, was able to attend the County Championships to support Lily on behalf of the school.

The whole Brentwood Ursuline community is enormously proud of Lily and her achievements. We congratulate her warmly and look forward to following what promises to be a very exciting golfing future.



Geography

On Wednesday 7th October, Year 11 Geography GCSE students travelled to Chelmsford town centre by coach to carry out some compulsory field-work.









The geography trip to Chelmsford was amazing! Not only did we get to spend time with our core classes, we also explored Chelmsford on a wider level. We started off by going through our main question which was 'Did the regeneration of Bond Street have a positive impact on Chelmsford as a whole?' We then made our way around different parts of Chelmsford measuring the Environmental Quality Index of specific places and asking the general public about visiting Chelmsford. We also did pedestrian counts and recorded the variety of different shops in the area. Then, we got to go out and have lunch with our friends, it was so much fun.
The trip helped me feel more confident in asking questions to new people and overall it helped me learn more about local places that I didn't know before!

Bella E



Students from 11M braving the rain in Chelmsford High Street

Personally, I found the geography field trip to Chelmsford to be such a fun experience. Not only did I get to learn various ways you can compare how different streets (such as Bond street) have helped regenerate Chelmsford as a whole, but also learnt about what aspects can affect how physically appealing and popular streets are. We observed how much litter was on the floor, as well as looking at how much nature there was in the area and whether there was any graffiti on the walls. To collect data we got the chance to go off into groups and complete the worksheet booklet we were given, as well as getting to question random people in the area. Overall, this trip didn't just give me a chance to spend time with my friends but also built my confidence through speaking to new people and working as part of a team.

Etaney W



House Welcome!

This half term, we have been getting our Sixth Form students together with the Year 7 form groups to strengthen their sense of house spirit! The Year 13 House Captains and team have been designing and running activities to build a rapport and inspire the Year 7s to be a BUCHS prefect themselves in the future. These activities have included writing prayers and decorating carnation petals (Mother Clare's favourite flower.)



On 9th October, Year 12 and 13 students in Brescia and Ursula's Houses welcomed their new Year 7 students. Brescia students completed a 'people bingo' where they met other year groups, and learnt something about them. Ursula students wrote prayers to St. Ursula, ahead of their upcoming Feast Day, with the older students supporting the Year 7 students.

Both houses provided a friendly, inviting welcome, sharing advice and memories from their House events.

On Friday the 9th October, we met up with the Sixth Form during form time for the first time.
When we arrived, we sat down and had a chat and played bingo. It meant we had to fill out the boxes and ask the Sixth Formers the questions. It was a race to see who could fill out the form the quickest! It was a very enjoyable way to spend form time. Afterwards, the Sixth Formers told us about their experiences at BUCHS and we had a laugh with them.
Happily, we achieved our beloved Brescia badges and wore them with pride!
The meet up was an enjoyable moment to remember.

Jessica H, 7B



House Welcome Continued

Clare's House Sixth Form and 7C meeting in the library on Friday 16th October for their session.



It has been lovely to see the different year groups chatting and socialising together across each House with the older students offering support and ideas to our newest members.

Well done to all involved!



Library News

Jigsaw Puzzle Club

The library is hosting a Jigsaw Puzzle Club every Friday lunchtime. The club is attended by students from a range of year groups and it is wonderful to see our newer students working together with older ones!

So far, we've been working on a 1,000 piece puzzle; with various approaches and techniques coming to the fore! It's a great opportunity to chat and develop connections and friendships from other areas of the school. Huge thanks to those who have donated puzzles to our club and to our fantastic site team who have built us some jigsaw boards so that we can safely save our progress each week.





Library News Continued

Black History Month



The library has been celebrating Black History Month. We have an enormous range of books written by black authors and stories that celebrate Black culture, history and experiences. Come to the library to have a browse if you haven't already!

HONOURING OUR COMMUNITIES

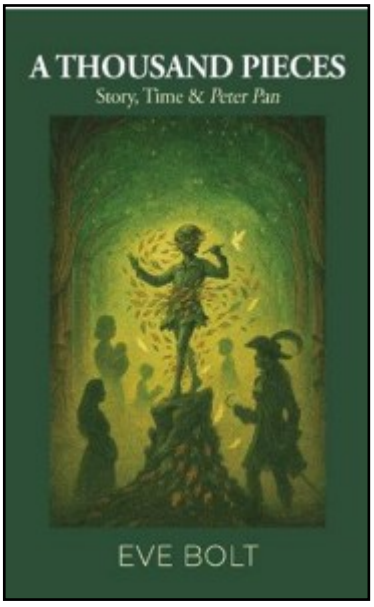
Author Visit



On Monday 12th October, the library welcomed author Eve Bolt for a fascinating talk to our Year 12 and 13 A Level English students.
Eve has written a work of academic non-fiction. Its central thesis is that stories that have the capacity to evolve are those that achieve immortality. Eve uses J.M. Barrie's body of work for *Peter Pan* as a case study which developed from her undergraduate dissertation. Eve discussed the central themes of Peter Pan and looked at links with other works of fiction being studied by our students. We are hugely grateful to Eve for sharing her time and knowledge with us.

I found Eve Bolt's talk about her new book on Peter Pan really interesting and engaging. I particularly enjoyed discussing the contextual ideas behind the book and how understanding the historical and cultural background can help us interpret the story in different ways. It was interesting to explore some of the deeper themes and ideas surrounding Peter Pan, and to think about how these relate to the book itself. The talk gave me a greater appreciation of the story and its wider significance, and it was fascinating to hear about the ideas behind Eve Bolt's work and her approach to the subject.
Tilly R, Year 13





'A Thousand Pieces - Story, Time & Peter Pan' is published by Greenwich Exchange: https://greenex.co.uk/home/p/a-thousand-pieces and is also available from the Chicken & Frog Bookshop in Brentwood, Amazon, Browns Books and Waterstones among others.

Mathematics

Celebrating Success in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge!

Students at Brentwood Ursuline Convent High School have achieved fantastic results in the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge, demonstrating their mathematical skill, logical thinking and problem-solving abilities.
The Senior Maths Challenge, organised by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust (UKMT), is a national competition designed to stretch and challenge students beyond the standard mathematics curriculum. Students tackle 25 multiple-choice questions that test their ability to think creatively, apply mathematical reasoning and solve unfamiliar problems, often requiring ingenuity rather than straightforward calculations.
We are delighted to congratulate Felicity and Anna, who were awarded Silver certificates, and our Bronze certificate winners: Eleanor, Adelina, Ronni, Katlin, Erin, Lexi, Abigail, Chiamanda and Moriah.
These achievements reflect the students' enthusiasm for mathematics, their perseverance when faced with challenging problems and their willingness to push themselves beyond the classroom curriculum.

We are incredibly proud of all our participants and congratulate every award winner on their success.

Well done to everyone involved!

UK Maths Trust

Year 7 Road Safety Event

On Tuesday 20th October, our Year 7 students assembled in the Main Hall to experience an interactive production from a company called The Riot Act. Titled 'What Went Down', the focus was on keeping ourselves safe when crossing the road and not being influenced by peers, or allowing distractions to put us in danger.
The Riot Act believe that 'through live performance and discussion, students build the awareness and confidence to make safer choices.'



THE RIOT ACT

Knit and Crochet Club

This term, Knit and Crochet club have started by knitting and crocheting poppies to be displayed in our Chapel for Remembrance Day. We have followed the British Legion patterns and would be delighted if you would like to send some in to add to our collection. We would love for our whole Ursuline family to take part. We will be assembling at least one wreath if not more the first week back after half term.



It has been a delight to run this club so far with amazing assistance from those who can crochet helping out as well as doing their own work. I am looking forward already to our next project of Christmas Puddings!

Gardening Club

Gardening Club has kicked off the year harvesting tomatoes, apples, a carrot and more! We have been busy sowing winter crops and our pea shoots have really taken off – the students took their own seed pots home and have been busy looking after their own pea shoot plants ready to add them to a delicious salad, stir fry or pasta dish (or something else!).

We have spring bulbs in pots and troughs and winter onions in; two rows so far with more to follow. It is fantastic growing our own produce to eat across the seasons and we are looking forward to hosting a plant sale later in the year.



Our winter salad growing in the green house.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

As we approach November, the month in which the Church remembers those who have gone before us, we hold in our prayers all members of our Ursuline community who have experienced loss or are facing difficult times. May they find comfort in faith, strength in the love of those around them, and peace in the knowledge that they are remembered.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. Amen.

Biology



Above: our biology quiz winners—9A

Biology Week Inter-House

It was wonderful to run our annual Quiz to celebrate National Biology week and it was really encouraging to see so many teams enter from Years 7 to 9.

1st place - 9A - 41 points
2nd place - 9B - 40 points
3rd place - 9C and 9J - 39 points

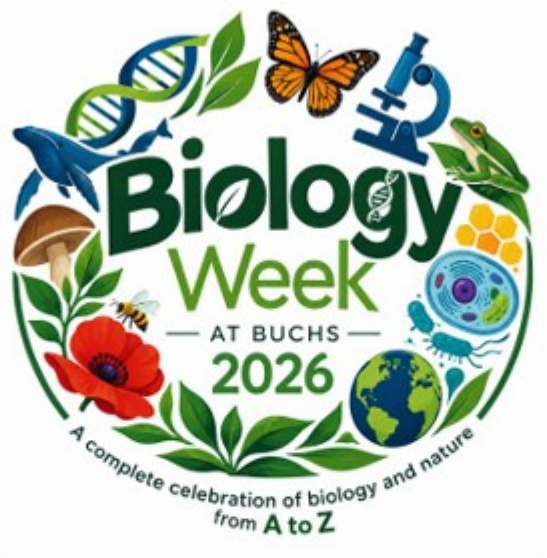
The theme for Biology Week 2026 is "A complete celebration of biology and nature from A to Z" and our quiz was based on that this year.

Did you know an Octopus has three hearts and a trichologist specialises in hair and scalp care?

It was a very close competition and it gives me great pleasure to share that the team from 9A are this year's winners, very closely followed by last year's winners from 9B. Well done to our teams from Years 7 and 8; we look forward to welcoming you again next year!

We also warmly invite students across all year groups to take part in our second Inter-House challenge which is to create an original artefact that celebrates biology and/or nature from A to Z, incorporating all 26 letters in a creative and scientifically accurate way. Details on the next page.

Entries can be submitted to Mrs Godfree by Tuesday 3rd November via Teams or taken to A24.



"Biology A–Z: Create, Celebrate, Inspire"

Inter-House Competition:
To create an original artefact that celebrates **biology and/or nature from A to Z**, incorporating all 26 letters in a creative and scientifically accurate way.

The artefact could be **physical, artistic, digital or interactive**.

Examples of what you could create?

- 🎨 **A–Z Biology artwork** — a large, illustrated A–Z poster, with each letter representing something biological.
- 📖 **A–Z Biology book** — their own illustrated or designed biology book.
- 🧩 **Interactive A–Z display** — lift-the-flaps, QR codes, puzzles, models or hidden facts.
- 🧱 **3D A–Z model** — perhaps a model ecosystem, cell, DNA structure or "tree of life" incorporating the alphabet.
- 🎬 **Digital A–Z** — animation, video, digital artwork or interactive presentation.
- 🌿 **Nature A–Z** — examples from the local environment, with students photographing/drawing organisms from A–Z.
- 🧪 **A–Z of Biology through experiments** — 26 phenomena, investigations or scientific concepts represented creatively.

Competition Deadline

Tuesday 3rd November to Mrs. Godfree in A24 or via Teams.

Competition title ideas:

- Biology A–Z: 26 Letters, Infinite Life
- The Great Biology A–Z Challenge
- A–Z of Life
- Biology from A to Z
- 26 Letters of Life
- The Living Alphabet
- A–Z: The Wonder of Biology
- Life in 26 Letters
- Biology A–Z: Create the Extraordinary

House Points and prizes will be awarded. Good luck!

Saturday 7th November

Fireworks Night 2026

snap, bang, crackle

Wrap up warm and bring the family for a night of dazzling fireworks, fairground fun, delicious food, and drinks!

Doors open at 4:45pm, with fireworks starting at 6:15pm

Book tickets now at eventbrentwood.co.uk

OCTOBER CRASH COURSE

JOIN OUR EXCLUSIVE OCTOBER HOLIDAY SWIMMING CRASH COURSE AT GREAT BADDOW HIGH SCHOOL (CM2 9RZ) OR BLACKMORE (CM4 0LA)

5 DAYS, MONDAY 26TH - FRIDAY 30TH

1:2:1 PRIVATE LESSONS TAILORED TO YOUR CHILD'S NEEDS, WHETHER THAT BE LEARNING TO SWIM, HOW TO DIVE OR IMPROVING YOUR TECHNIQUES WE ARE ABLE TO HELP WITH ALL

DESIGNED TO BUILD WATER CONFIDENCE, INCREASE STRENGTH AND DEVELOP SWIMMING SKILLS

FUN, ENGAGING SESSIONS FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES





Whether you're a beginner or looking to refine your strokes, our certified instructors offer tailored lessons that make swimming enjoyable and effective.

Big Swim Little Swim™

EMAIL: LIZ@BIGSWIMLITTLESWIM.CO.UK FOR MORE DETAILS AND TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT

Autumn & Christmas fun

at Epping Ongar Railway



Whether you are an avid enthusiast or just looking for a fantastic family day out, we hold a number of exciting special events from October to the end of the year.

Oct
Fright Week
Halloween

Nov–Dec
Santa Specials
Selling out fast!

Nov–Jan
Lights Party
Express

Scan here to see more details about our upcoming events

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