

The Convent Chronicle



Friday 14th July 2023

Inspiring Ambition,
Achieving Excellence

Dear Parents/Carers,

With only 4 days to go, the newsletter this week is full of the exciting events that have been going on this week. Such joy can be seen, and I want to thank our fabulous staff who create such great opportunities for your daughter.

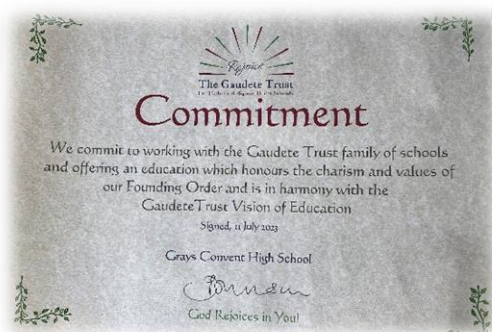
School ends on Thursday 20th July at 12:15pm following our end of term Mass.

Grays Convent was commissioned as part of the national Gaudete Trust this week.

The event marks the joining together of the La Sainte Union order and other religious orders across the UK, in a trust set up to protect their specific charisms.

The school was commissioned in Birmingham and joined the representatives of other religious orders in committing to excellence, spiritual and academic, in a special ceremony hosted at St Paul's Catholic girls school.

More information on the trust will follow in September.



Penny Johnson
Headteacher



The Eco Committee at the Eden Project

Mrs Grint organised a fabulous trip to the Eden Project in Cornwall for her Eco Committee. After a long coach drive the girls enjoyed some fun by the sea in Penzance, swimming in the sea and basking in the sun with an ice cream or two by the geo thermal swimming pool.

After a quiz and buying out the shop in the Youth hostel, the fun recommenced at the Eden project the next day; scaling the heights of the rainforest bio dome and being amazed by the tropical plants.

The conservation workshop encouraged us to be part of the solution to saving our planet for future generations - being eco doers, shoppers, learners and shouters. The girls sped off around the project, seeking eco solutions to put in place back home and at school, and interviewing the amazing staff there.

A fabulous opportunity and a fun time saving the world!





Mrs Johnson

Annual Awards Evening - Tuesday 11th July 2023

After 3 long years, we were thrilled to reinstate the Grays Convent High School Annual Awards Evening, where we celebrate success across Years 7 to 10.

A total of 61 awards were given out to 65 deserving students on the night, watched by a packed audience of parents, carers, honoured guests, student helpers and staff. We were honoured to welcome Fola Afelumo and her colleagues from the AOFAC, John Smith and Rajan Mohile from The Rotary Club of Grays Thurrock, both of whom kindly sponsor an award on the night. We were also thrilled to have Madam Mayor Cllr Sue Little – an ex-Convent girl herself – and her Consort, Brian Little, attend and Madam Mayor had some very kind words to say about our school at the end of the evening, and congratulated our girls, and even invited them to visit her chambers in the near future!

Our Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl, Amelie Soong and Poppy Padmore gave a fabulous welcome address, and closed the evening with a vote of thanks.

Our special guest speaker was also an ex-Convent girl, Grace Barlow, who attended with her parents, Rev and Mrs Barlow. Grace, who left Grays Convent High School in 2013, is now Director of Administration & Logistics at the Anglican Communion Office, and gave a very uplifting speech all about her life at the Convent and her journey post-Convent, and we were very grateful to her for giving her time to us that evening.

The whole evening was rounded off by tea and lots of cake served in the canteen by our Year 10 Food students who had, together with Mrs J Smith, spent the whole day before baking! They were delicious and very much appreciated!

We would very much like to thank the following, as without these people we could not run the event:

Madam Mayor Cllr Sue Little and her consort Brian Little; our guest speaker, Grace Barlow; Folake Afelumo, Cllr Tony Fish, Michelle Wadhams, Daniella Afelumo, Yoyinsola Baruwa and Irene Samuel of the AOFAC Foundation; John Smith, President Elect and Rajan Mohile of The Rotary Club of Grays Thurrock; our Governors; teaching and support staff, in particular Miss Coughlan and Mrs Albrow; our Head Girl Amelie Soong and our Deputy Head Girl Poppy Padmore; our Student Leadership Team and our Prefects; our Master of Ceremony, Ms Boller; our interlude performers and Mrs O'Donoghue and Mr White for their support; our IT Prefects and Mr Burr for all the technical support; Mrs Gray and her Catering Team; our team of Year 10 Food & Nutrition students and Miss Caruana and Mrs J Smith for their support; parents, carers, families and friends for your attendance and support.



...and here's our Award Winners...





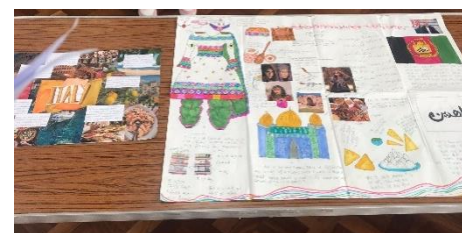
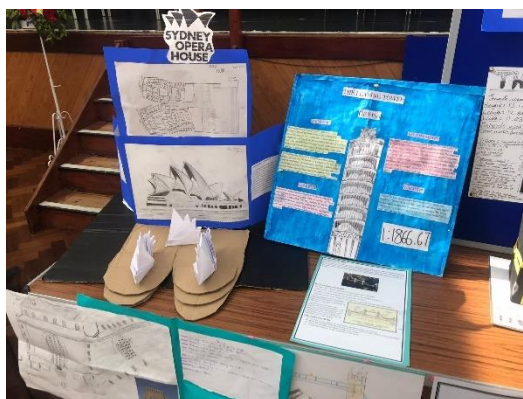


Spirit of the Game – Determination - Sienna Creighton
 Spirit of the Game – Honesty - Semi Oladipupo-Smith
 Spirit of the Game – Passion - Efe Donkor
 Spirit of the Game – Respect - Sadie Allison
 Spirit of the Game - Self-Belief - Maeve Pitney
 Spirit of the Game - Team Work - Timi Oladimeji
 Team of the Year - Year 7 Indoor Athletics Team
 Arts Award – Drama - Mary Manu-Kobeah
 Arts Award - Fine Art - Saarah Chowdhury
 Art Award – Geography - Tiara Williams
 Art Award – History - Alyssa Gorte-Clarke
 Arts Award – Media - Tianna Palmer-Alexander
 Arts Award – French - Nuha Ahmed
 Arts Award – Spanish - Aukse Gusevaite
 Arts Award – Music - Isabelle Gardner
 Arts Award – Photography - Kamile Pecerskyte
 Arts Award – RE - Joanna Okello
 Arts Award – Textiles - Riya Mann
 Science Award – Biology - Benita Okwudili
 Science Award – Chemistry - Ruby Legg
 Science Award – Physics - Gabriele Celkyte
 Science Award - Computer Science - Mercy Adekoya
 Science Award - Design Technology - Themis Aw
 Science Award - Food & Nutrition - Saule Vizgaudyte
 Science Award - Year 7 - Precious Oboh
 Science Award - Year 8 - Tyler Vera
 Science Award - Year 9 - Grace Mitchell
 Year 7 Maths Award - Emma-Maria Taciū

Year 8 Maths Award - Renesha Lewin
 Year 9 Maths Award - Karina Strzepka
 Year 10 Maths Award - Nour Abdelrahman
 Year 7 Word Millionaire - Evie Kennard
 Year 8 Word Millionaire - Alice Dhannee
 Year 9 Word Millionaire - Emaan Humayun
 Librarian of the Year - Jessica Rout
 Year 7 Writer of the Year - Katie Hurrell
 Year 8 Writer of the Year - Jowina Selvin
 Year 9 Writer of the Year - Miruna Stanciu
 Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Winner - Amelie Soong
 Anthonia Afelumo Award - Rianna Huci
 The Rotary Club of Grays Thurrock, Frank Saunders Memorial Trophy for
 Service - The Eco Committee
 Sports Personality - Alannah Edward
 Governor's Award for Service - Veronica Thomson
 Arts & Culture Award - Poppy Padmore
 Philip Kyndt Award - Year 7 - Sara Rahman
 Philip Kyndt Award - Year 8 - Carys Walton
 Philip Kyndt Award - Year 9 - Arshjot Kaur & Bracken Shelley Carroll
 Philip Kyndt Award - Year 10 - Gabriele Celkyte
 Amie Miller Award - Mishri Patel
 Year 7 Headteacher's LSU Award for Service - Stavroula Kanarachos-Freese
 Year 8 Headteacher's LSU Award for Service - Demi-Leigh Simpson
 Year 9 Headteacher's LSU Award for Service - Jessica Godwin
 Year 10 Headteacher's LSU Award for Service - Alyssa Merrell

Mrs Albrow

A Celebration of Culture - Thursday 13th July



Mrs O'Donoghue

Celebration of Culture

On Thursday we had a Celebration of Culture organised by the Staff Arts Council.



In the Chapel we focused on Lourdes, a place of pilgrimage in France, where people of different nations gather from all over the world and celebrate Mass in their own native languages and in their own styles of music. The sick are the most important people in Lourdes and are given seats of honour at the front.

There may be an African Mass, followed by a French Mass, an Indian Mass, Italian, English etc. There is also an International Mass where all nations gather together a basilica.



At night they have a Torch-light Procession with candles as everyone gathers together to pray the Holy rosary in different languages.



A number of our Year 8 Students represented this in our Chapel dressed in their different cultural costumes and they prayed the rosary prayers in different languages: Lithuanian, Shona (Zimbabwe, German, Italian, Swahili (Kenya), Greek, Haitian Creole, Dhaka (Bangladesh), Yoruba (Nigeria), Telugu (India), Romanian and Japanese.

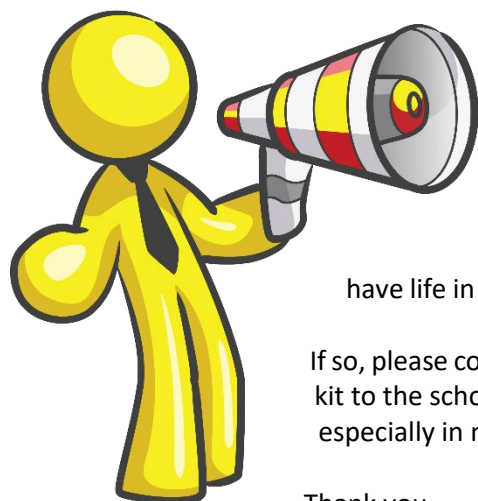


Amazing talent came to light as we discovered that Amara in Year 8 who is half Nigerian and half Jamaican can also speak Spanish, French, Chinese, Japanese and Turkish. She chose to represent Japan for us on this occasion and was fluent in Japanese.

We thank all the Year 8's who took part with great enthusiasm.
God bless you,

Miss Carson

Uniform recycling...



Calling all parents!

Has your daughter outgrown her school uniform? Does she have things that still have life in them but that she no longer has need for?

If so, please consider donating her old uniform and/or PE kit to the school so it can be given a new home. We are especially in need of blazers and skirts.

Thank you.

Mrs Burrow

Get the Studybugs App
the quick and easy way to report your daughter's absence



Please get the **free Studybugs app** for reporting your child's absence due to illness.

<https://studybugs.com>



Report sickness, receive guidance, help improve children's health
See what illnesses are going around
Secure system, all communications encrypted



Studybugs

Mrs Burrow

ParentPay Accounts



It is important that our Parents have a ParentPay Account, and that this account is activated. This enables parents to purchase equipment and not to miss out on school trips.

If you require another copy of your ParentPay Activation Letter then please email Mrs Wood on:

woodj@graysconvent.thurrock.sch.uk.

Finance Office

Is your daughter a musician, or a musician in the waiting?



Instrumental Lessons at Grays Convent have been very popular in the past, and we currently have a number of vacancies with our provider, Thurrock Music Services. I am pleased to be able to confirm that this year Thurrock Music Services are not increasing their prices for the coming school year. If your daughter/ward would like to undertake instrumental tuition at the School in September, we would relish the thought of arranging her tuition with a high-quality instrumental teacher.

Currently almost any instrument can be undertaken, but a sample of the most popular for students includes Flute, Clarinet, Saxophone, Trumpet, Horn, Trombone, Violin, Viola, Cello, Piano, Guitar (electric/acoustic/bass), Drum Kit, Percussion, Voice. If you can think of it, we can (hopefully) accommodate it for you. Please simply complete the form and we will do the rest.



If you would like to consider tuition for your daughter in the coming School term (September), please register your interest now using the form at the link (<https://tinyurl.com/gchsmus>) or scan the QR code, and we'll start get things set-up for you.

If you have any queries about instrumental music or any aspect of music provision at Grays Convent, please don't hesitate to contact Mr White, Head of Music on white@graysconvent.thurrock.sch.uk.

Mr White

KS3 Summer Reading Challenge

To take part, you simply need to log in to your Renaissance Learning account <https://ukhosted42.renlearn.co.uk/2237696/> and quiz on as many books as you can.

The students with the highest word counts in each year group will be awarded a £10.00 Amazon voucher. Word counts will be generated from quizzes taken between **21st July-1st September**.

For this **summer only**, we have secured access to a Renaissance Learning's **online library** and non-fiction materials.

Go to <https://www.myon.co.uk> and enter your login information:

1. School Name: Summer Reads
2. Username: GCHS
3. Password: GRC123!



Happy reading!

Mrs Nyland

Notice for Parents of Students in Years 9 & 10



Urgent! Applications for the Sacrament of Confirmation available from 24th June for Students who will be going into Years 10 & 11 in September.

If your daughter is currently in Year 9 & 10, you may wish to discuss the possibility of making their Sacrament of Confirmation. This is a free choice to confirm their faith in Jesus Christ and their commitment as His followers to participating in the life of the Church.

The application forms will be available to collect from the Catechist at the back of St Thomas's Church after all weekend Masses from the weekend of Saturday/Sunday 24th 25th June. You will be asked to choose a date for interview in July, and the Confirmation course will begin in September 2023 for students who will be in Year 10 & 11. If you or your daughter have any queries, please ask to speak to the Catechist at St Thomas of Canterbury Church.

(Students have been told about this in Forms and will also be informed in R.E. Classes.)

As always, I am also available for any queries, help or support at school.
God bless you,

Miss Carson

Water Bottles



Please check your daughter's water bottle is made of plastic – NOT GLASS. Unfortunately, we have had instances of broken glass bottles which have caused a hazard in the school.

Mr O'Hanlon

Lunch Money Loans

It is with increasing frequency that pupils are forgetting their dinner money and coming to the Finance Office to loan money.

Please note that this service is provided **ONLY** in the case of an emergency where parents are unable to bring packed lunches or lunch money to the school.

We only hold a very small amount of money in here for this purpose. If your daughter forgets their lunch money we ask that you bring her money or a packed lunch to Reception.

Finance Office

London Marathon 2024

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society has a number of Gold Bond Charity places for runners in the London Marathon taking place on Sunday 21st April 2024.

If you are an experienced runner or someone who would value the opportunity to participate in this renowned event please contact Damian Dillon for further details on 07912 308000 / ddillon@bccs.org.uk.

The closing date for completed applications is Friday 28th July and please note that there is a minimum sponsorship requirement of £1800 (excluding Gift Aid). If you have been lucky enough to secure your own running place through the ballot, we would invite you to join us and run for Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. The London Marathon is a unique opportunity to raise much needed funds for the Diocesan Children's Society and perhaps achieve a lifetime ambition at the same time.



Platinum Award

Huge congratulations to:

Winna Koho 8D

who has reached in excess of 800 achievement points this week. Winna is a popular student who is hardworking and involved in school life. Winna is a very deserving recipient of this prestigious school award.

Mrs Johnson presented Winna with the Platinum Award.

Silver Deputy Headteacher's Award

Further congratulations to the following Silver Award students who have reached in excess of 400 achievement points:

Stavroula Kanarachos-Freese 7L

Sara Rahman 7L

Larissa Atta 7M

Deborah Ladipo 7M

Meena Amery 8E

Evie Barton 8M

Mrs Collis presented the students with their Silver badges and certificates.

Many congratulations to all of this week's award winning students.

Gold Headteacher's Award

We have a bumper Gold week with 6 students achieving in excess of 600 achievement points. Many congratulations to:

Amelia Lancaster 7D

Katherine Shane 7E

Sara Visanu 7E

Elizabeth Kassim 8D

Jowina Selvin 8D

Arshjot Kaur 9.24

Mrs Johnson presented these Gold students with their award.

Bronze Assistant Headteacher's Award

Final congratulations to the following students who have reached in excess of 200 achievement points:

Tumelo Mwiya 8L

Sharon Akintola 9.26

Michie Orabuche 10.1

Timi Oladimeji 10.35

Amy Dhannie 10.5

The students received their Bronze badges and certificates in the Year assemblies.

Mrs Bishop

World Youth Day in London

If you can't attend the main event, why not join **WYD in London** - a day celebration on **Saturday 5th August 2023** from 11am-5pm in the church by **Leicester Square**. Venue: Notre Dame de France, 5 Leicester Place, London WC2H 7BX. Donations only. **To register** a group or individually, fill in the form: [//bit.ly/wydlondon](https://bit.ly/wydlondon)

Year 7's Pilgrimage to Aylesford Priory



This week Year 7's went on pilgrimage to Aylesford Priory, where a group of Carmelite Friars from the Holy Land (Mount Carmel) set up a monastery in 1242. Mary the Mother of God appeared to one of the Friars Saint Simon Stock who was the Prior at the time, and promised protection for the Community and all who wore the brown scapular in a time of persecution. The Carmelite order survived and flourished to this day. Aylesford is a holy place

because it has been soaked in the prayers of pilgrims for many centuries. There is a wonderful sense of peace and calm in the many Chapels and beautiful grounds.

St Joseph's Chapel, Aylesford



Saint Joseph is the protector of the Holy Family and so we prayed that by God's grace he will protect our families too, through his powerful intercession.

We prayed for our families and for our School family, for the sick, the house-bound and those in care homes. Also for a new-born baby who is in need of our prayers.

We are very grateful to Fr Stephen and Deacon Matus who came to celebrate Mass for us in the beautiful St. Joseph's Chapel. Fr Stephen explained the Old and New Testament Bible stories that are depicted around the Chapel and the importance of art and images in conveying

the Good News, especially to those who could not read or write. We may take our free education for granted today, but in past times only the rich could afford to be educated, to own books and learn to read and write. Arts and images are important visual teaching aids. Fr Stephen explained the story of Elijah and the golden thread of justice that runs through the Old Testament which shows that God blesses those who listen, obey and do his will, rather than doing things our way.

Fr Stephen taught the girls a very joyful 'Alleluia' and had fun with them standing up and sitting down. Our Year 7's sang their best accompanied by Mr White at the Keyboard. They read beautifully and did a sketch to illustrate Jesus' instructions to his disciples to wait and pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit; and how they gathered in prayer with Mary the Mother of God and the Holy Spirit came upon them all on the day of Pentecost. In the same way, we are called to wait and pray to be empowered by the Holy Spirit, before we commence the work God has called each one of us to do.

We prayed particularly for our Grandparents in Saint Anne's Chapel



Saint Anne was the mother of Mary and maternal Grandmother of Jesus. One of the girls who knew so many different types of trees and plants said she learnt it all from her grandmother.

The girls enjoyed the beautiful grounds, including the Rosary Garden and Peace Garden, where the word Peace is written in all different languages of the world. They were very courteous and well-behaved and were a credit to our school and their families. We are very grateful to all the group leaders for



all their help and support without whom the day would not have been possible. Particular thanks to our First Aid Volunteers: Mrs Maunze, Mrs Goddard and Mrs Lloyd Dhesi.

God bless you,

Miss Carson

JackPetchey Foundation

Inspire • Motivate • Achieve

JANUARY 2023 - JULIA TAMOSIUNAITE - YEAR 11



Julia has been nominated for her eagerness and enthusiasm in taking charge of the many charity events which she organised to raise funds to help those effected by the war in Ukraine. She went above and beyond in order to ensure that students had an understanding of Ukrainian culture and how the funds raised would help. Her amazing organisational skills and commitment helped to raise over £2000 which is an amazing achievement. A true example of the expression of the 'unity' in our school mission statement.

Award grant – Art Textiles & Photography

APRIL 2023 - KAYLAN TEAGUE - YEAR 11



Kaylan is a hardworking student who, as well as preparing for her exams, has been helping peers and the Science department. She is always helpful and supportive to anyone who is struggling. She volunteers her free time during lunchbreak and after school to help organise the equipment, prepare the resources for lessons. She is an exemplary student and has inspired her fellow students to try their hardest to also achieve their best. She is an excellent role model and has earned many Achievement points from teacher for her positive actions.

Award grant – Science

FEBRUARY 2023 - REBECCA ALABEDE - YEAR 11



Rebecca consistently contributes her free time to the PE department and as a Sports Captain takes her responsibilities seriously. Alongside her voluntary role she has shown a great commitment to her development in her sports both physically and academically. She has demonstrated she is dependable, calm and focused especially during match days! She is a popular and hardworking student. She has received nominations for January and February.

Award grant – Art Textiles & Photography

MAY 2023 – POPPY ADAMS - YEAR 9



Poppy has made many achievements to her school community since starting Grays Convent in Year 7 both academically and in terms of confidence and building self-esteem. Poppy is leading the winners of the Thurrock Next Top Boss event into the borough finals with an infectious confidence and assertive attitude. Her resilience epitomises the spirit of Jack Petchey – "If you think you can, you can!" and Poppy would be a worthy recipient of the Achievement Award.

Award grant – Humanities & D&T

MARCH 2023 - GABRIELE JOMANTAITE - YEAR 11



Gabriele's nomination is a result of her continued dedicated contribution to the school Science department and the school community. She volunteers her free time during lunch, break and after school to help clean and organise the science equipment, prepare the resources for lessons and replenish them as well as help with the displays in and around the Science rooms. She is a positive, polite, hardworking and motivated student willing to go above and beyond to make positive and helpful contributions to her school community.

Award grant – Science

JUNE 2023 – POPPY PADMORE - YEAR 10



Poppy's list of achievements as a member of our school community are numerous and varied. As well as having been elected as Deputy Head Girl, she has achieved a number of qualifications already prior to GCSE's in Arts and Drama and Sports. She is hard working, good-humoured, determined, patient and kind. She embodies the qualities of leadership which she has demonstrated on many occasions throughout her four years at the Convent whilst participating in a variety of Arts and Drama projects. Poppy is a well-admired and exemplary member of this school community.

Award grant - Drama

Safeguarding our Children at Grays Convent

At Grays Convent our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) is Mrs Collis, and our Safeguarding Officers are Mrs Wells and Mrs Bishop. Students can contact any of our Safeguarding Team during the school day.

Worried about a child?

You can phone or write to The MASH about your concerns. Phone immediately if you believe it is urgent.

- Thurrock MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding hub), Civic Offices, New Road, Grays, Essex, RM17 6SL, Tel: **01375 652802**.
- Emergency Duty Team (for out of hours) **01375 372468**.
- Police Child Abuse Investigation Team **01277 266822** or call **999** if you are concerned a child needs immediate protection.
- Childline **0800 11 11** www.childline.org.uk
- NSPCC **0808 800 5000** www.nspcc.org.uk; www.facebook.com/nspcc

Mrs Collis

Internet Safety Tip - Tik Tok



Blocking users on TikTok



You can also block a user so they won't be able to view your videos or interact with you through direct messages, comments, follows, or likes.

- Go to the profile of the account you want to report
- Tap the **settings** icon
- Tap **block** and follow the steps in the app

Users can also **bulk report**, delete or block up to 100 comments or accounts at once by long-pressing on a comment or tapping the pencil icon in the upper-left corner to open a window of further options.



Control your comment section

You have the power to decide whether you want to allow comments on videos from everyone, followers only, or restrict them altogether. Using profile settings, you can filter all comments to prevent certain keywords, or pre-approve any comment that appears on your video.

Mr Burr

Pope Francis - Tweet of the Week



Pope Francis 🌐 @Pontifex · 03/07/2023

Let us [#PrayTogether](#) that Catholics place at the centre of their lives the Eucharistic Celebration, which transforms human relationships and opens up an encounter with God and their brothers and sisters.

[#PrayerIntention](#) [#ClickToPray](#)



Key Dates and Events

Thursday 20 th July	Last Day of Summer Term School Finishes at 12:15	Whole School
Monday 24th July to Friday 1st September	Summer Holiday 🌞	Whole School
Thursday 24 th August	GCSE Results Day	Year 11
Monday 4th & Tuesday 5th September	Non-Pupil Days	Whole School
Wednesday 6th September	Students return at 8:25am	Years 7-11

Spelling Bee

Prepare for "*Excellent spelling!*" at **Spelling Tests, ASSESSMENTS** and *Spelling Bee!*

3 SPELLING BEE COMPETITIONS THIS YEAR

For Year 7- **Autumn Term**

For Year 8 - **Spring Term**

For Year 9 – **Summer Term**

Get ready! – Week 36

FOR YEAR 7	FOR YEAR 8	FOR YEAR 9
breakable	extenuate	ostentatious
disposable	waggish	condescending
enjoyable	interlude	belittle
enviable	bellows	arrogance
identifiable	device	conservative
manageable	lamentable	patriarchy
miserable	lofty	narcissistic
probable	extempore	rapacious
reliable	discretion	covetous
respectable	tawny	brazen

For Year 8: **A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM**

extenuate: lessen or to try to lessen the seriousness or degree of

waggish: witty or joking "And therefore is Love said to be a child. Because in choice he is so oft beguiled. As waggish boys in game themselves forswear, so the boy Love is perjured everywhere."

interlude: a brief show between the sections of a longer performance

"Here is the scroll of every man's name which is thought fit, through all Athens, to play in our interlude before the Duke"

device: something in an artistic work designed to achieve an effect

bellows: a mechanical device that blows a strong current of air "Enter Quince the carpenter, and Snug the joiner, and Bottom the weaver, and Flute the bellows -mender,"

lamentable: bad; unfortunate

lofty: of high moral or intellectual value

extempore: with little or no preparation or forethought "You may do it extempore, for it is nothing but roaring."

discretion: the trait of judging wisely and objectively

tawny: having the color of tanned leather



For Year 9: **AN INSPECTOR CALLS**

ostentatious: characterised by pretentious or showy display

condescending: having or demonstrating an attitude of patronizing superiority

belittle: dismiss(someone or something) as unimportant

arrogance: an exaggerated sense of one's own importance or abilities

conservative: averse to(against) change or innovation; holding traditional values

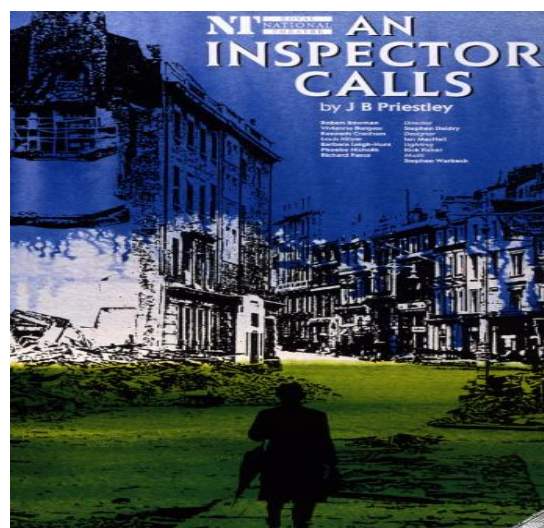
patriarchy: a system of society in which men hold the power and women are largely excluded from it

narcissistic: having an excessive interest or admiration of oneself

rapacious: aggressively greedy or grasping

covetous: having a desire to possess something belonging to someone else

brazen: bold and without shame



Learn them to improve your spelling!!!

Miss Petrova

Brentwood Diocesan Citizenship Awards

Congratulations to Ashlee Bitmeade Year 11, Folashade Collins and Tiara Williams Year 10, who were presented with the Citizenship Awards by Bishop Alan Williams at Brentwood Cathedral, last Friday.



Congratulations to these wonderful students.



All three of our students Ashlee, Folashade and Tiara have shown model citizenship by their outstanding resilience in overcoming great difficulties in recent years. Ashlee has fought and won a battle with a serious disease, Folashade continues to work hard and with a constant smile despite continuous disruptions to her health, due to serious illness and Tiara has not just been an excellent friend to Shade providing care and comfort but has overcome many personal difficulties and is currently a member of our Senior Student Leadership Group.



**Sitting in the porch of the Mercy Door
before the Ceremony**



Lighting candles for their intentions



**Praying for private intentions, and for our School Family:
teachers, friends and relations.**



Tiara and Shade with their Citizenship Awards



Ashlee with her Citizenship Award



Ashlee outside Brentwood Cathedral



Ashlee and friend outside Brentwood Cathedral



Shade and Tiara outside Brentwood Cathedral



Shade and Tiara with Proud Mums!

Miss Carson

Awareness Raising Session for Parents and Carers to Increase Knowledge of Gangs and Child Criminal Exploitation

Thursday 14th September 2023

Thursday 7th December 2023

18.00 till 19.00

Via MS Teams

We are pleased to offer Parents and Carers the opportunity to attend a one hour awareness raising session with the aim of increasing knowledge of Gangs and Child Criminal Exploitation.

This session will identify the harms associated with gangs and county lines, and will look at practical advice on how to support a young person who you may be concerned about in relation to exploitation.

Complete this short application form, to book your place.

A week before the date of your session, you will be sent through a calendar invite and email containing the MS Teams link

DATA PROTECTION

In accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation 2018, the information provided on this form will be held for the purposes of training and development. This information will be stored securely in electronic format and any original hard copies disposed of as confidential waste. The information will be processed by members of the LSCP Business Team and will be kept in accordance with retention policies. It may be shared with other LSCP members for the purposes of audit and scrutiny.

Dates:

September 2023

December 2023

Hurray! Youth Gather returns!

**For students currently in
Years 8, 9 & 10.**

**BCYS Youth Gather, 21st-22nd October,
Essex Outdoors on Mersea Island**

**This is a very popular event with schools across the
Diocese, so book now to avoid disappointment.**

Youth Gather is back for 2023 and the BCYS are absolutely thrilled to be joined by the fantastic Adenike, semi-finalist on the voice, who many of you will have seen perform and heard from at Flame back in March.

Taking place at Essex Outdoors on Mersea Island, there is cabin accommodation and a brilliant range of outward bound activities, opportunities for climbing high ropes, archery, zip wires and much more to keep you challenged and entertained, plus performances, input and workshops from Adenike and the SVP! All meals are included, plus two Mersea activities, 2 BCYS workshops, accommodation and travel to and from Mersea Island – all of this for just £70!

The event is open to those who will be in school Year 9 and above next term including opportunities for young leaders (age 18 and above) in the Brentwood Diocese. Apply now at: www.bcys.net/events/yg23/

Miss Carson

The Den! An online engagement opportunity for 11-16 year olds with SEND

**CALLING ALL YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 11-16 - WE WANT
TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

The Den is an informal virtual hangout for young people aged 11-16 providing an opportunity for young people to share their experiences and work together to improve services for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, living or attending education in Thurrock.

Meeting via MS Teams from 5.30pm on the following dates:

Friday 29th September 2023

Tuesday 31st October 2023

Monday 13th November 2023

Wednesday 13th December 2023

You can join 'The Den' and participate in regular online meetings and share thoughts and feelings on our online pinboard. Parents and / or guardians must complete this online registration form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/xECdu8uE5A>

Thurrock Children's Services

COLOURSCAPE

AT HIGH HOUSE PRODUCTION PARK

"An extraordinary event for all ages!"

"An amazing labyrinth of colour and light."



£2.50 Adults
£1 Children and
Concessions

Saturday 8th and
Sunday 9th July 2023,
12pm to 5pm

High House Production Park,
Vellacott Close, Purfleet-on-Thames RM19 1AF



SCAN TO BOOK

COLOURSCAPE



A WALK-IN EXPERIENCE OF COLOUR, LIGHT AND MUSIC

Explore intense colour
and light and experience
music played on unusual
instruments in a unique
journey of the senses

Wander freely
through a largescale
inflated sculpture
of connected
chambers

Tickets
available by visiting
[https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/
colourscape-music-festival](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/colourscape-music-festival)

T100 SOUNDS

Also on Sunday
9th July at
High House
Production Park,
Thurrock's T100
Sounds Festival. Visit
[www.t100festival.
co.uk](http://www.t100festival.co.uk) for info.

Important information about Colourscape and how to book tickets

Advance booking
essential by visiting
[https://www.ticketsource.
co.uk/colourscape-
music-festival](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/colourscape-music-festival)

Adults £2.50. Children
and Concessions £1.

Tickets admit entry
to Colourscape
for 30 minutes.

Children under 18 must
be accompanied by an
adult. Children under
2 years enter for free
and do not require a ticket.

Booking fees apply: 30p
on transactions below £4
and 8% above £4.

Colourscape is
wheelchair accessible.

Stay in touch for updates on creative, cultural and arts events coming soon by contacting START Thurrock on info@st-art.org.uk

CREATIVE
ESTUARY

CREATIVE
PEOPLE
PLACES

LOTTERY FUNDED

Supported using public funding by
ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

High House
Production Park

thurrock.gov.uk

KINETIKA
DESIGN THAT MOVES

eyemusic
colourscape music festival

KIDS is working with the NHS in Essex to create an exciting new support service for young autistic people and their families. We'll be working hand-in-hand with young people, families, and community groups across Essex, Southend and Thurrock over the coming year to create a service that works for everyone.



Over the next 12 months we want to work with young people and families all over Essex to coproduce an engaging accessible website and support webinars created by and for people with lived experience and **we need your help!**

Want to join us or find out more?

Are you an autistic young person?
Or a family member or local organisation working with autistic young people or their families?
We would love for you to be involved.

Call us and leave a message on
01206 414 934

Text us on 07361 587 876
or visit

www.kids.org.uk/essexautism

And we will be in touch
with more details

Thurrock Family Hubs

Offering the services below and many more for children and families in Thurrock.



For information visit:
askthurrock.org.uk

Already registered with us?
Join our Facebook group to stay up to date with our latest activity:
facebook.com/groups/thurrockfamilyhubs



thurrock.gov.uk

Thurrock Children's Centres are changing and will be known as Brighter Futures Family Hubs.

Don't worry though – you can access all of the same services and support groups – plus lots more!

Brighter Futures Family Hub Locations

West locality	East locality	Central locality
Purfleet-on-Thames Brighter Futures Family Hub	Tilbury Brighter Futures Family Hub	Stifford Brighter Futures Family Hub – opening summer 2023
Ockendon Brighter Futures Family Hub	Chadwell Brighter Futures Family Hub	Thameside Brighter Futures Family Hub
Aveley Brighter Futures Family Hub	Stanford Brighter Futures Family Hub	

Services will be delivered from partner locations that are part of the Brighter Futures Family Hub Network including: East Tilbury Village Hall, The Sunshine Centre, Inspire Youth Hub Grays, Brennon Road Youth Hub and Corringham Integrated Medical and Wellbeing Centre.

Brighter Futures thurrock.gov.uk

Services at Brighter Futures

Family Hubs

Our Family Hubs are welcoming places for families with children aged 0 to 18, or 25 if they have a disability, to access information and support.

Services will include:

- Support for expectant and new parents (called our Start for Life offer)
- Midwifery and antenatal clinics
- Health visitor clinics
- Baby and child play sessions
- Parenting support
- Mental health support for children and parents
- Help with infant feeding
- Children's speech, language and early learning
- Support for children with special educational needs (SEND)
- Help with managing your child's behaviour
- Domestic abuse support
- Job, debt and welfare advice
- Drug and alcohol support
- Support for separating couples

For more information visit www.askthurrock.org.uk.



Thameside Family Hub

Manor Road, Grays, RM17 6EF
Email: thamesidecc@thurrock.gov.uk Phone: 01375 387 894



thurrock.gov.uk

What's on in July 2023

Mondays

Start	End	Activity	Age groups	How to join in
8.30am	12.00pm	Housing Advice for Council Tenants		Book in advance 01375 413820
9.00am	11.00am	Local Area Co-Ordinator – Helen Catterick		Book in advance 07710950318
9.15am	10.15am	Bring a Story to Life 3rd – Owl Babies 17th – Super Worm	24 to 60 months	All welcome
9.30am	10.30am	Stay and Play	24 to 60 months	All welcome
10.00am	12.30pm	Job Club – Supported Families Employment Adviser	Parents/Carers	Book in advance 07776245301
11.00am	12.00pm	Baby Massage	0 to 12 months	Book in advance
11.00am	12.00pm	Bookstart Toddler	12 to 24 months	Book in advance
1.30pm	2.30pm	Fun, Food and Fitness	24 to 60 months	Book in Advance
2.00pm	3.00pm	Stay and Play	24 to 60 months	All Welcome

Tuesdays

9.30am	10.30am	Stay and Play 4th, 18th and 25th July	12 to 24 months	All Welcome
10.00am	11.15am	Ready Steady Learn	36 to 60 months	Book in advance
11.00am	12.00pm	Stay and Play 4th, 18th and 25th July	12 to 24 months	All Welcome
1.00pm	4.30pm	Domestic abuse and violence support Call 07494167408		Book in advance
1.30pm	2.30pm	Let's Talk to your Toddler	12 to 24 months	Book in advance
2.00pm	3.00pm	Messy Play 4th, 18th and 25th July	24 to 60 months	All Welcome

Wednesdays

9.00am	4.00pm	Midwife	Ante Natal	Book in advance
9.30am	11.30am	Paediatric First Aid Awareness Course code – 8031C2233 5th July	Parents/Carers	Book in advance on 01375 372476 quoting the course code
10.30am	11.30am	SEND – Just For You	0 to 60 months	All welcome
11.00am	12.00pm	Stay and Play 12th and 19th July	0 to 12 months	All welcome
11.00am	12.00pm	Stay and Play Warren Primary School Gilbert Road, Chafford Hundred, Grays, RM16 8NB 5th, 12th and 19th July	24 to 60 months	All welcome
1.30pm	2.30pm	Let's Talk to your Toddler	12 to 24 months	Book in advance
1.30pm	2.30pm	Brighter Future Babies	0 to 12 months	Book in advance
4.00pm	5.30pm	Young Carers Group	4 to 8 years	Referral only

Thursdays

9.00am	4.00pm	Midwife	Ante Natal	Book in advance
9.30am	11.00am	Chatterbox	24 to 36 months	Referral only
9.30am	11.00am	Parental Outreach advice session 27th July	Parents/Carers	Book in advance 01375 387894
1.30pm	2.30pm	Play and Learn	24 to 60 months	Book in advance
1.30pm	2.45pm	Well Baby Clinic – Drop In	0 to 60 months	All Welcome
2.45pm	3.45pm	Baby Massage Acorns Community Centre, Headon Hall, Crawford Avenue, Stifford Clays, RM16 2AS	0 to 12 months	Book in advance

Fridays

9.00am	1.00pm	Early Interaction Advice Sessions	24 to 60 months	Referral Only
9.30am	10.30am	Baby Massage	0 to 12 months	Book in advance
9.30am	10.15am	Garden Group 14th, 21st and 28th July	24 to 60 months	All welcome
11.00am	12.00pm	Baby Massage	0 to 12 months	Book in advance
11.15am	12.15pm	Let's Talk to Baby	0 to 12 months	Book in advance
1.30pm	2.30pm	Stay and Play	0 to 12 months	All welcome
1.30pm	2.30pm	Let's Talk to your Toddler	12 to 24 months	Book in advance

Brighter Futures – Family Hub Offer

Please use this link to see the Family Hub's offer and activity details –

www.thurrock.gov.uk/childrens-centre-activities

Please see the Thurrock website for details of each Family Hub and what is on offer each month and Face Book for information:

www.facebook.com/groups/thurrockchildrenscentres www.facebook.com/thurrockcouncil

Are you registered with the Family Hub? If not, you can do this online.

Visit: www.thurrock.gov.uk/family-hubs

GET CREATIVE
SATURDAY

FREE CREATIVE WORKSHOPS

MINDFUL MONO-PRINTING WORKSHOP

9am – 11am @ the Thameside Complex Foyer

FAMILY CRAFTS WITH AMANDA

10am – 12pm @ Costa Coffee – Grays

STORYTELLING ACTIVITY

Grays Library, suitable for 0-6yrs

10:30am – 12:30pm @ Grays Central Library

DJ SKILLS WITH EAZEE LEARNING

* BOOKING REQUIRED * Email Arts Outburst to book a space!

11am – 1pm @ Eazee Learning's Studio

BOLLYWOOD DANCE WORKSHOP

12pm – 2pm @ Grays Town Park

WATERCOLOUR PAINTING WORKSHOP

* LIMITED NUMBERS*

12pm – 2pm @ the Lightship Cafe – Grays Beach

STREET DANCE WORKSHOP

1pm – 2pm @ Arts Outburst, Studio 3

#AOBGETCREATIVE

Arts Outburst

01375 386247 hello@artsoutburst.co.uk



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GET CREATIVE
SATURDAY

FREE CREATIVE WORKSHOPS

SPOKEN WORD AND RAP WORKSHOP

1pm – 3pm @ the Thameside Complex Foyer
(14 years +)

DANCE MEETS VIRTUAL REALITY WORKSHOP

1:00pm – 2:45pm @ Arts Outburst, Studio 1

INTERACTIVE ART WORKSHOP

1:00pm – 3pm @ Riverside Community Hub
(13 years +)

MANDALA WORKSHOP

1:30pm – 3:30pm @ The Community House

FAMILY ZUMBA® SESSION

2pm – 2:45pm @ Arts Outburst, Studio 3
All ages, this can even be done from a chair!

DJ SKILLS WITH EAZEE LEARNING

* BOOKING REQUIRED * Email Arts Outburst to book a space!

2pm – 4pm @ Eazee Learning's Studio

SEA SHANTIES AHOY!

3pm – 4pm Lightship Cafe – Grays Beach

#AOBGETCREATIVE

Arts Outburst

01375 386247 hello@artsoutburst.co.uk



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ESSEX AUTISM PROJECT

Upcoming Events

KIDS is excited to invite you to some events we are holding in person for the Essex Autism Project. This is a chance to:

- Find out more about the new online service
- Ask questions about what we are offering
- Tell us what matters to you
- Share what you would like the service to include
- Learn more about how you can be part of creating the service
- Meet other parents/carers or young people

Your event leaders will be:



Antoinette Oakley-Smith



Adam Holt

How do I sign up?

Choose an event on the reverse of this leaflet. Click on the link. Fill out the RSVP form.

Will there be refreshments?

Of course! Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements or allergies.

What if I can't attend?

Please be assured, there are still plenty of opportunities to have your say! Click on the link to RSVP, tell us you can't attend and we will be in touch with alternative arrangements.

I am feeling nervous about coming.

Our events are being held in safe spaces. They are invitation only. When we know which event you'd like to come to, we will send you information about the hall we are using and what the session will be like. We will have a quiet area in the hall that you can go to if you need some space. You can also have a chat with us before you come to discuss your needs.

Contact us at autismessex@kids.org.uk
if you have any questions or feedback.

Events for parents and carers

Colchester

YMCA - Colchester Hall,
159 Magdalen St,
Colchester,
CO1 2JX

Monday 19th June
10:00 - 12:00

Basildon

Basildon Library,
The Basildon Centre,
St. Martins Square,
Basildon, SS14 1EE

Wednesday 28th June
10:00 - 12:00

Harlow

New Hall,
Moot House Social Club,
The Stow,
Harlow, CM20 3AG

Monday 3rd July
9:30 - 11:30

Please RSVP here: [LINK TO FORM](#)

Events for young people (12-25 years)

Colchester

YMCA - Colchester Hall,
159 Magdalen St,
Colchester,
CO1 2JX

Tuesday 20th June
16:00 - 18:00

Basildon

Basildon Library,
The Basildon Centre,
St. Martins Square,
Basildon, SS14 1EE

Saturday 24th June
14:00 - 16:00

Harlow

New Hall,
Moot House Social Club,
The Stow,
Harlow, CM20 3AG

Friday 30th June
16:00 - 18:00

Please RSVP here: [LINK TO FORM](#)



allaboutautism.kids.org.uk/
kids.org.uk



Fusion Netball Club

We want you!

Our netball team is on the
hunt for talented, new players!

You have been identified by
your PE/Sports teacher as a talented player
who we would like to see at our club trials.

Teams aged 5-senior
Regional U14/16 Netball
Internal Performance Pathway
Qualified and Passionate coaching
Division 1 Junior Winners 2022

Thursday 29th June
Year 3-5 @ 4-5:15
Year 6-8 @ 5:30-6:45
Year 9-10 @ 6:15-7:30

Contact Chloe Baker
fusionnetball15@gmail.com

visit us at
fusionnetballclub.co.uk
or on social media

Thames Chase

Children's Art and Sculpture Competition 2023

Enter and have your art work displayed in the Forest centre
Winners will receive an art bundle worth £20

This years theme is 'Feel good in the Forest'

How to Enter

- Bring your art work to the forest centre with your name, age, parent or guardians phone number and email written on the back
- Tell us in a few sentences how the forest makes you feel
- Our art exhibitors will vote for the winners on the 1st of September
- Entries will be judged in 3 categories: Ages 4-6, 7-10, 11-16 years
- All entries will then be displayed in the Forest Centre from the 2nd-10th of September
- Closing date 29th August