

The Convent Chronicle



Friday 24th November 2023

Inspiring Ambition,
Achieving Excellence

Dear Parents/Carers,

This Sunday is World Youth Sunday, which falls on the feast of Christ The King - the last Sunday before Advent. Unlike most earthly rulers, however, Jesus was not after the title "king." He never claimed it, and actually he seemed bent on concealing his royal dignity under the appearances of a life lived in poverty and obedience to family and religious authorities.

Both 'feasts' remind me of my role as Headteacher, a title that means so many things, but I hope more than just a 'title'. I cannot claim to be concealing royal dignity (although my Irish grandfather insisted we were from the blood line of the Royal House of Tara!), but I hope that underneath my title I show the joy and privilege I feel at working with and learning with young people. On the feast of Christ the King, the Church invites young people to be at the heart of our celebration and young people are at the heart of our community.

The theme this year is 'Rejoicing in Hope'. The Christian "hope" is not a wondering if something will happen, but the "confident anticipation" of what we know will surely come to pass. Our job as Christians is to do something about that hope for others - in fact it demands that we act. Our young people, sometimes I think without even realising it, act to be a beacon of hope for others in many ways: as mental health ambassadors, peer mentors, anti-bullying ambassadors, through the justice & peace group and in so many more areas of school life, and out of it. Our Christmas hampers are one area where we can offer hope - please contribute!!

It is often easy to become cynical and battle weary in education; and certainly we all feel battered and bruised on occasion, teachers and students alike. But listening to the Year 7 choir singing sublimely, or having Year 11 wave to me at my window when lining up for an exam, reminded me of the pure joy that can come unexpectedly during a wet and windy week as Winter advances, from being with young people every day.



Penny Johnson
Headteacher



MUSIC MARK
SCHOOL
2022 - 2023



Artsmark
Silver Award
Awarded by Arts
Council England

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



Working in partnership with:



Studybugs

Mrs Burrow

Christmas Hampers for Thurrock Food Bank



We are collecting items for the Thurrock Foodbank to support local people in need. The Foodbank has spent thousands of pounds on food to keep up with demand. We are always very grateful for your generosity. The items they are currently short of are:

Deserts: sponge pudding, custard, rice pudding, Angel Delight, jelly.

Tinned meat: such as: sausages and beans, spaghetti with sausages, ravioli with sausages

Rice, Tinned potato, packet mash

Christmas treats: Selection boxes, non-alcoholic Christmas cakes and Christmas puddings, biscuits and other Christmas treats. For further items to choose from please see www.thurrock.foodbank.org.uk.

We would be very grateful if you could please donate any of the above items and ask your daughter to bring them into school please by 14th December 2023 when they will be collected by the Foodbank. Thanking you in anticipation for your generosity. God bless you,



Miss Carson

ParentPay Accounts



ParentPay 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

Severe Weather Arrangements



We are not anticipating weather, severe enough to close schools, but as it is that time of year we feel it best to keep you informed of the procedure.

In the **very unlikely** event that the school is closed due to snow, Mrs Johnson will make the decision as soon as possible and inform BBC Essex and Essex FM of any school closure. Should we experience severe weather, you are advised to listen to these stations, which list schools that are closed. If we are **not** mentioned – **we are open!**

We will also post a message on the front page of our website, so keep an eye on that too.

BBC Essex

103.5 FM or 95.3 FM

Essex FM

102.6 FM or 96.3 FM

If Grays Convent are NOT mentioned on these radio stations, and there is NOT a message on the front page of the website GRAYS CONVENT SCHOOL IS OPEN!

Chloe at the British National Dance Championships....in Blackpool!

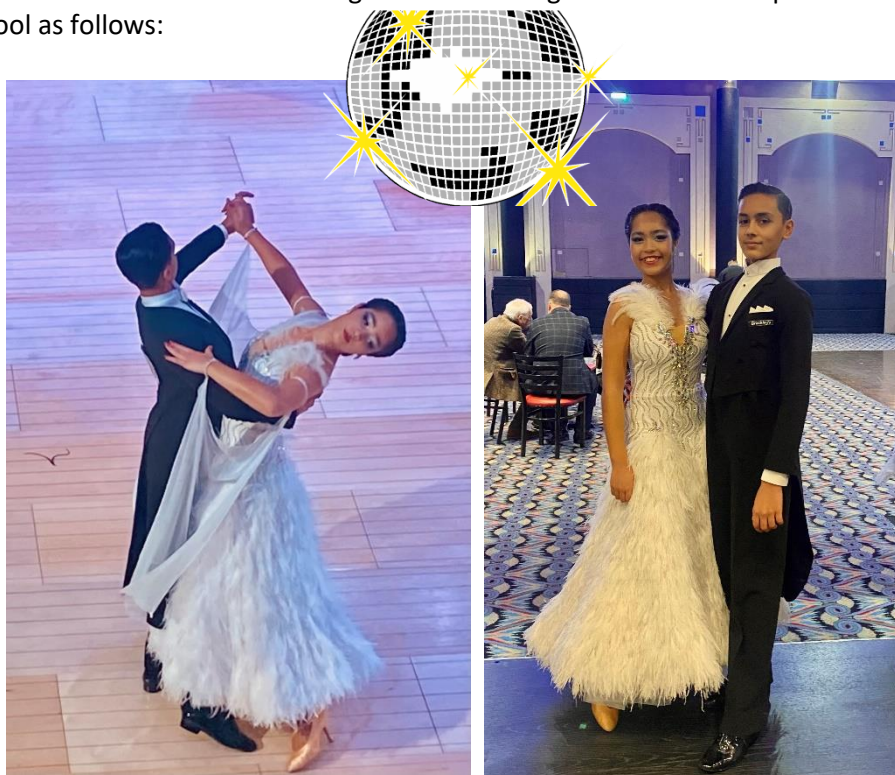
We were thrilled to hear from Chloe Winters' very proud grandmother that Chloe and her dance partner were to participate in the British National Dance Championships in Blackpool.

Chloe's grandmother said *"this year Chloe made the decision to leave her medallist school and participate as an open competitor, and in only 10 months with lots of hard work, Chloe and her dance partner are really improving. So much so, that hopefully next year she will make the semi-final or the final!"* She went on to say *"Chloe's father was number one British dance champion, and fifth in the world top 10 in dance, so I guess it must be in the genes!"*

As a 'wannabe' Strictly dancer with 2 left feet, I was keen to hear directly from Chloe about her dancing adventures in the home of ballroom – Blackpool. Chloe wrote a letter to Mrs Johnson thanking her for allowing the time to take part in the British National Dance Championships in Blackpool as follows:

"Dear Mrs Johnson, thank you for allowing me to have the time off to follow my dancing passion. In this letter I will explain what is happening in the pictures. The white dress is covered in Swarovski crystals on the top layer and the skirt is ostrich feathers. I wear this dress to dance the Waltz, Tango, Foxtrot, Viennese Waltz and the Quick Step – all of which are known as ballroom dances, an elegant form of dance.

The blue dress is covered in stones and crystals as well as a huge layer of blue ostrich feathers. I wear this dress to dance the Cha-Cha, Rumba, Samba, Jive and Paso Doble – very sassy, feisty and happy dances, which are known as Latin dances.



In Blackpool my partner and I danced in different categories and age groups. In Latin, and the ballroom, we danced in the under 16's. It was very hard as my partner and I were one of the youngest of the group, however we tried our very hardest and because it was our first time in Blackpool we just enjoyed it – every single moment! Having family nearby to support us was the best thing ever, and whereas normally I would be very nervous, after all the training from all the teachers (including my dad), this boosted my confidence as well!"



I asked Chloe who her favourite was on the current Strictly show, and she said Ellie and Vito – happens to be my favourite too!!

We look forward to hearing of Chloe's future Ballroom and Latin dance successes, and who knows, one day we might be watching her on Strictly! Well done Chloe – we are so proud of you!

Mrs Albrow



We love hearing about our students and their extra-curricular activities – if you would like to tell us about things you take part in outside of school, please send us your pictures and a few words of explanation, and we'll put it in our weekly Convent Chronicle. Send your editorial to: admin@graysconvent.thurrock.sch.uk

Mrs Albrow

Lee Valley Athletics Semi-Finals

The Year 8 and 9 Athletics team were back in action on Wednesday night at Lee Valley, competing in the semi-finals after qualifying from last week's heats. There were 24 teams in total, all trying their best to secure a place in next week's final.

The evening started with Maja Baluka in the 60m hurdles who, despite clipping her first hurdle, managed to regain her composure and stride pattern to finish in a respectable third place in her heat and only just outside of her personal best, which she set last week. Next up was Eve Boateng in the 60m, who held her own against some very strong Year 9 athletes and finished just outside of her personal best, with a time of 9.05s.

Over in the field events Winna Koho clipped the high jump bar with her heels on her final jump, despite her soaring over the bar with the rest of her body. She still secured 4 points for the team total in a competition where every point counts. Millie Mansfield worked hard in the long jump competition after a foul jump in the first round. She kept her composure and utilised her experience to complete a best jump of 3.80m, which although was not close to her personal best, still added 14 points to the team. Her runs in both the 200m and 4 x 200m relay were a joy to watch later in the competition, where she flew around the track and demonstrated outstanding technique and speed.

As the evening went on the team continued to gather points. Ava Boucard ran an extremely tactical 800m race, shaving over 3 seconds off her personal best with her excellent pacing, finishing in 2m52.9s. Omotoyosi Odubanjo was back competing in the 300m and ran 50.1s, equalling her personal best that she set last week.

The standout performance of the evening came from Chidera Idika, who blew away the other competitors in the shotput, with a throw of 9.36m, winning the competition and adding a whopping 22 points to the team score.



At the end of the evening the girls finished in 9th position overall, earning their place in next week's B final, an outstanding achievement. With room to improve from this week's performances, they should be strong contenders.

Congratulations, to all involved.

Mrs Bailey

Macbeth Performance for Year 9

Grays Convent have arranged for a performance of Macbeth for all Year 9 on Tuesday 5th December 2023 costing £5.50. If you wish your daughter to watch the performance, this must be paid via ParentPay by latest Friday 1st December 2023.



Mrs Nyland

Lunch Money

If your daughter has loaned lunch money from the Finance Office could you please ensure it is paid back the following day.

We have a large amount of outstanding money owing and emails have been sent home. If you have received an email could you please ensure the money is returned as soon as possible.

This service is only available for emergencies and if the money is not returned on time it could lead to us being unable to loan money to another student.

Finance Office

Spelling Bee

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

3 Spelling Bee Competitions:

Year 7- Autumn Term

For Year 8 - Spring Term

For Year 9 – Summer Term

Get ready! – week 10



FOR YEAR 7	FOR YEAR 8	FOR YEAR 9
advice	ghastly	compunctious
advise	haunting	ecstasy
device	dehumanisation	incarnadine
devise	dehumanise	interim
licence	authority	nonpareil
license	glimmer	knell
practice	tenderness	warder
practise	compassion	rouse
prophecy	mockery	accursed
prophecy	contempt	pernicious



For Year 7:

In the pairs of words opposite, **nouns** end **–ce** and **verbs** end **–se**. **Advice** and **advise** provide a useful clue as the word **advise** (verb) is pronounced with a /z/ sound – which could not be spelt c.

For Year 8: Learn the words- they are all from War Poetry:

subtle - difficult to detect or grasp by the mind or analyze

ghastly - shockingly repellent; inspiring horror

haunting - having a deeply disquieting or disturbing effect

dehumanisation - the act of degrading people with respect to their best qualities

dehumanise - deprive of human qualities

authority - the power or right to give orders or make decisions

glimmer - a flash of light

tenderness - warm compassionate feelings

compassion - a deep awareness of and sympathy for another's suffering

mockery - showing your contempt by derision

contempt - lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike



For Year 9 – in detail. Learn these words - from Macbeth:

compunctious - showing remorse

ecstasy - a frenzy, an out-of-control state; or an overwhelming sense of happiness

incarnadine - crimson-coloured; or, to make something crimson-coloured

interim - the time between one event and another

nonpareil - unmatched, without equal

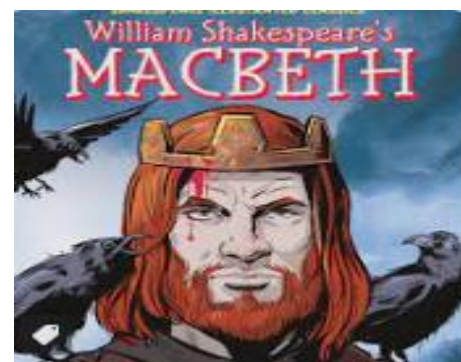
knell - the sound of a bell, typically solemn and marking a death

warder - a guard

rouse - to awaken, to stir (as in becoming conscious after sleep)

accursed - doomed, under a curse

pernicious - causing harm in a gradual, slow-building way



Learn them to improve your spelling!!!

Miss Petrova



Computing

Binary and Denary numbers

Convert 63 to binary (base 2):

01111110

00111111

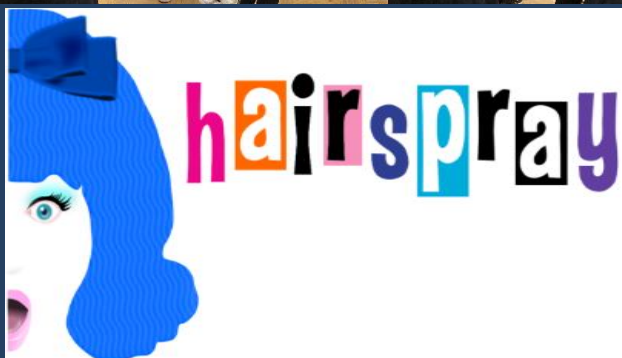
01011111

Answer: 00111111

Mr Burr

Drama

Hairspray rehearsals are coming along nicely. This week the chorus were invited along to learn the big dance number "Welcome to the 60s".



Mrs Grint

Maths



Maths Question of the Week

A group of students are asked how they travel to school.

- 55% say they walk to school.
- The remaining travel by car or by bus.
- The ratio of students who travel by car to those who travel by bus is 2 : 3
- 140 more students walk than travel by bus.

How many students travel by car?

Submit your answer to Mr Amenze in Room 21 at break time by Monday 27th November 2023

Mr Amenze

YOUR NEWSLETTER...



AND YOUR SUBJECT NEWS!

Send your subject news to

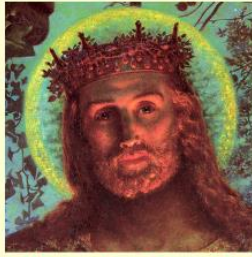
admin@graysconvent.thurrock.sch.uk

National Youth Sunday Feast of Christ the King

Feast of Christ the King

National Youth Sunday 26th November

Get involved
Welcomers
Singers
Musicians



Altar servers
Readers
Youth council
Children's liturgy

Your Church Needs You!



Feast of Christ the King

National Youth Sunday 26th November

Jesus loves YOU young people.
He was once a teenager too!

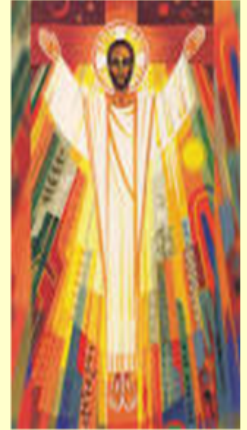


He calls you to be witnesses to the presence of Jesus in your lives and to share the Good News with others of what God has done for you personally. You are called to take an active part in your church, where we come together as God's family to worship Him. A Christian without a church is like a bee without a hive!

We give and draw strength from each other.

This is the **Last Sunday of the Church Year** which ends the whole story of our Redemption. On this feast we celebrate the **Kingship of Jesus**, who is crowned with honour and glory in heaven for his victory over sin and death.

Jesus, the Son of God was **born** to **die** for the forgiveness of our sins and to **rise** from death so that all who believe in him will have eternal life with him in Heaven.



After he came alive again, Jesus spent a lot of time with his disciples talking and eating with them. Thomas even had the opportunity to put his fingers in the holes made by the nails in Jesus' hands and feet and in his side pierced by the sword.

He fell at Jesus' feet and said

"My Lord and my God!"

Jesus said

"Do you believe because you see me?"

How happy are those who believe without seeing me!"

After 40 days **Jesus ascended** on a cloud to his glory in Heaven.

As the disciples stood looking up at the sky in amazement, two angels appeared and said:

"Jesus will return, as you saw him go."

This is the day which all Christians are waiting for, when Jesus will return in glory to judge the living and the dead. Jesus says no one will know the day or the hour but we need to **be ready**, by living each day as Jesus taught us, keeping God's commandments of love.



Saint John who was given a vision into Heaven said
"Day and night they never stop singing:

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was, who is, and is to come."

At every Mass we are united with the praise in Heaven, particularly as we join in this song of the angels, so let us join in their song of praise as we pray:

Prayer

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Amen.



You can follow Youth news and events with the
Brentwood Catholic Youth Service on www.bcys.net

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Equalities Act 2010

This week our guest speaker was Mrs Hector, who spoke to the group about the Equalities Act and the nine legally protected characteristics. The students discussed problems of racism in society and thought about solutions, how to put legal protections into practise and prevent discrimination in the work place e.g. by having a variety of people on interview panels. Regarding disability access for example they spoke about Hairdressing salons with limited access could offer a mobile hairdresser to go to their homes. The students enjoyed the session and were given plenty of food for thought.

Adetola Adegboye Year 10:

I gained knowledge about the 2010 Equality Act, its significance and effects on individuals, and its purpose of safeguarding us. We had very interesting discussions and activities that really make us think. It was very interesting and I really enjoyed it.

Aid to the Church in Need - Red Wednesday.

Aid to the Church In Need is a Catholic charity which helps persecuted Christians and also helps people of other faiths and none who are suffering persecution in war-torn areas of the world. The ACN Red Wednesday theme this year was **BREAK THE SILENCE** of Christian Persecution. On Red Wednesday, many churches and public buildings around the world were lit up in red.

At Grays Convent we had reflective Morning Prayers and the Justice and Peace Group had a Prayer Service to pray for freedom and peace for Christians and for all who are suffering persecution for their faith.

We would like to think that Christian persecution ended centuries ago in Biblical times, but more than 200 million Christians in over 50 countries of the world are persecuted for their faith today. In some countries it is illegal to have a Bible, and people are being shot, arrested, tortured for going to Mass. They would love to have the freedom we enjoy to be able to go to Church and worship in peace. Muslims, Jews and minority faith groups also suffer persecution. At different times in History different faith groups have been persecuted. In the last year there has been a 70% increase in Christian persecution in many countries.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

1. Prayer & Mass One of the ways we can support them is by our prayers and by going to one extra Mass in our local parish church, to offer it for a persecuted person or child who would love the freedom to go to Church.
2. Christmas Gifts & Cards on acn.org.uk.

We could have a Christmas Mass offered through Aid to the Church in Need as a gift for someone that God will bless them and make a small donation to A.C.N. or buy Christmas gifts and cards from A.C.N.

Thande Sholanke Year 10:

This Wednesday the Justice and Peace Group talked about Jesus' struggle, how he sweated droplets of blood in the Garden of Gethsemane, and how he feels for oppressed Christians around the world especially in countries in Africa, and for all who suffer persecution, because God made and loves us all. We prayed for people of violence to have a change of heart, for freedom of all who are persecuted for their faith and for everyone to live in peace.

Prayer: Lord we ask you to bless the work of Aid to the Church in Need and all other charities who help those who are persecuted for their faith. Please rescue all who are persecuted for their faith today. May your Holy Spirit comfort and protect them. Please give a change of heart to all people of violence as you changed Saul who became Saint Paul. Help all governments to encourage respect for people of all faiths as everyone is created and loved by God. May all people live as brothers and sisters and worship in freedom and peace. Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Miss Carson

Key Dates and Events

Friday 1 st December	Year 11 24 Hour Fast and Sleepover	Year 11
Wednesday 6 th December	Rise Above Day (students finish at 2:30pm)	Years 7-11
Thursday 7 th December	Christmas Jumper Day Parents Carol Service 6-7:30pm	Whole School
Friday 8 th December	PE CNAT Trip to Hadleigh	Year 10
Monday 11 th December	Christmas Concert in Hall – 7-9pm	Years 7-11
Tuesday 12 th December	Christmas Dinner – Canteen	Whole School
Thursday 14 th December	Christmas Cracker Event	Years 7-11
Wednesday 20 th December	School Carol Service	Years 7-11
Wednesday 20th December	Early closing for Christmas break Students dismissed at 11:45am	Whole School
Thursday 21st December - Wednesday 3rd January 2024	 Christmas Break 	Whole School
Thursday 4th January 2024	Spring Term commences Students to arrive for 8:25am start	Whole School

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

Pope Francis – Tweet of the Week



Pope Francis  @Pontifex · 19h

The Church is not a place for the perfect and the privileged. It is a community of disciples that bears witness to Jesus whom by grace they have come to know. We intercede for all, praying, loving and sacrificing ourselves for the world. [#GeneralAudience](#)

 376

 1.1K

 6K

 239K



Year 11 Mock Exam/NEA Timetable

Date	Period(s)	Subject	Paper	Duration	Venue/Extra timers max
2Mon 27th November Line up 8.20	P1-2 P3 P4	Food Prep& Nutrition Above late to class P3 Lunch P4 with Y7		105 mins	Hall extra timers 25 mins
Line up 12.40	P5-7	Maths P3 Calc H/F		90 mins	Hall extra timers 25 mins
2Tues 28th November Line up 8.20	P1-2 P3 P4	Music Pupil mop up DT due to clash with Art Lunch P4 with Y7	Mock Mock	90 mins 120 mins	Hall extra timers 25 mins Large Dormer
Line up 12.40	P5-7	Physics Triple Science Physics Combined	Mock	105 mins 75 mins	Hall extra timers 25 mins Hall extra timers 20 mins

Year 11 Intervention 2023-2024

WEEK 1					
	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
Lunch	Art-(KG rm16) Music		Photography (JL) History (LW)	Textiles (KP)	
After School	Science		Food (LC) Maths w/ Nilesh	Geography (DD, RM1)	

Week 2					
	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
Lunch	PE (Aiming higher)-KW PE (Making the grade)-SF		Math (SMA) D&T	Math (PM)	Computing
After School		MFL (DPD)	Maths w/Nilesh RE (POH, Jan-May 24)	Drama MFL (SLE)	Maths (MAS GA,MT)

Option J	Option K	Option L	Option M
Fine Art	Art Textiles	Art Textiles	Computing
Drama	Design Tech.	Drama	Food
Food	French	Food	French
French	Geography	Geography	Geography
History	History	History	Media
Media	Media	Media	Music
	PE	Photography	Photography

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about — SHARING PHOTOS ONLINE

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

School is often a time chock-full of milestones for your child, and you may well be eager to share their accomplishments with the world. In today's digital age, sharing images of such precious moments on social media is commonplace, and – while that's a lovely thing to do – it does come with some risks attached. Our guide can help parents and carers to consider the potential dangers and make informed choices about safely sharing photos of their children online.

INVASIONS OF PRIVACY

Even with the right settings in place, absolutely nothing online is 100% private. Anyone who can view your photos could take screenshots and potentially share them elsewhere. Privacy settings are still important, though, so it's always wise to ensure your social media accounts have them set up; just bear in mind that you can't completely control what happens to anything once it's gone online.

REVEALING PERSONAL DETAILS

Small details in photos can often reveal personal information. Backgrounds can give clues to where you live, for example, while school logos on uniforms, sports kits, or bags could help someone identify which school your child attends. With interactive maps and reverse image searches commonplace online, information like this could easily be misused by an individual with malicious intentions.

MISUSE OF IMAGES

Once something's been shared online, it's almost impossible to get it deleted. Photos can show up in search engine results and be downloaded, manipulated, and shared without consent. There's the potential for someone's images to be used for advertising purposes (which in many cases, isn't illegal) or even more inappropriate reasons, such as cyber-bullying or serious forms of exploitation.

ONLINE GROOMING

Pictures that convey details about your child's interests, activities, or daily routines could arm an online predator with the kind of information they can deploy to gain a child's trust. They might use this knowledge to pretend to be the same age as the child or to have a shared hobby. Essentially, the more a predator knows about a young person, the easier it is for them to invent some 'common ground'.

PRESSURE TO PLEASE

When their parents or carers share notable moments and accomplishments in a child's life on social media, some children may begin to feel an expectation to always meet certain standards, to achieve things, or to behave in ways that are "worth sharing". Knowing that other people (even friends and family) can see these posts on social media might also add to the pressure they're feeling internally.

IMPACT ON DIGITAL FOOTPRINT

Every photo of a child posted online contributes to their digital footprint. Young people's lives have never been so closely and publicly documented as they are now, and this permanent online presence could affect a child's future opportunities or the choices they make as they grow up – in addition to influencing how they see themselves and, consequently, their emotional wellbeing.

Advice for Parents & Carers

REVIEW SETTINGS REGULARLY

Make sure your social media's secure in terms of who can view your content or see your location (only family and trusted friends, for example). Privacy settings aren't totally foolproof, but they do make it tougher for strangers to access your pics. Reviewing your settings regularly is also a good starting point for conversations with your child about managing their own social accounts when they're older.

CONSIDER OTHER CHILDREN

When taking a group photo, make sure you get parents' or carers' permission to share it on social media. There may be an important safeguarding reason for them not wanting their child's photo posted publicly online, or it might simply not tally with their personal beliefs or cultural background. A quick conversation in advance, just to make sure, is usually hugely appreciated.

Meet Our Expert

Gabriella Russo is a safeguarding consultant with more than 30 years' experience working with children, families, and adults in education, local authority, and mental health settings, both in the UK and internationally. She has developed online safety training for local authorities and foster care agencies across Britain and is the online safety expert for Foster Wiki.



CHECK YOUR PHOTOS

Photos of your child shouldn't provide any clues to where they live or go to school: even a house number, street name, or car number plate could be a giveaway. Cover up or blur out school logos, too. If you *really* want to share a particular pic, you could post a watermarked or low-res version, which can help to discourage misuse as those images are less appealing to download or reproduce.

THINK AHEAD

Try to consider the longer-term implications of what you post. Would you be happy with that photo being online in 10 years' time? Would your child still be OK with the image when they're older? Once your child is mature enough, you could ask for their consent before posting: it respects their privacy, fosters trust and understanding, and helps them to start thinking about their own online life.

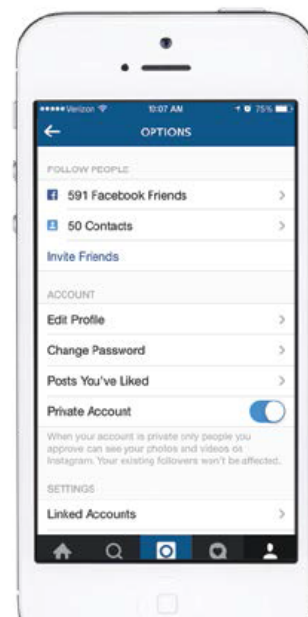


 **Instagram**

Privacy and Safety Checklist

Do you know if your account is private or public?

Instagram has a simple privacy setting: you either share your posts with anyone (a public account) or only share with people whom you have approved to follow you (a private account). We encourage people to think before they share, whether they have a private or public account.



Mr Burr

*The Staff and Students of Grays Convent High School
Invite you to join us for our Advent Service of Christmas Carols and Readings*



*At Grays Convent High School – Main Hall
On Thursday 7th December 2023 at 6:00pm*

**RSVP admin@graysconvent.thurrock.sch.uk
or telephone 01375 376173**



THURROCK
COUNCIL



YOUTH VOICE DROP-IN EVENT HOSTED BY THURROCK YOUTH CABINET

Are you 16-25 years old?

Would you like to have a say on life,
learning and living in Thurrock?

If so, Thurrock Youth Cabinet would
like to hear from you!

Do you identify as
neurodiverse,
additional needs,
special needs, SEND
(Special Educational
Needs and Disabilities) ?

Join a new Youth Voice group and turn your ideas into action.

To find out more come along to our drop-in event.

Wednesday 29th November 2023

drop in from 6.30pm-8pm

Inspire Youth Hub, 24-28 Orsett Road, Grays, RM17 5EB

(free parking at back of building)

- Meet Youth Cabinet members and staff
- Have your say on a debate topic
- Get a taster for the things we talk about and take action on
- Ask any questions
- Find out when the new group starts
- Parents/carers welcome to attend

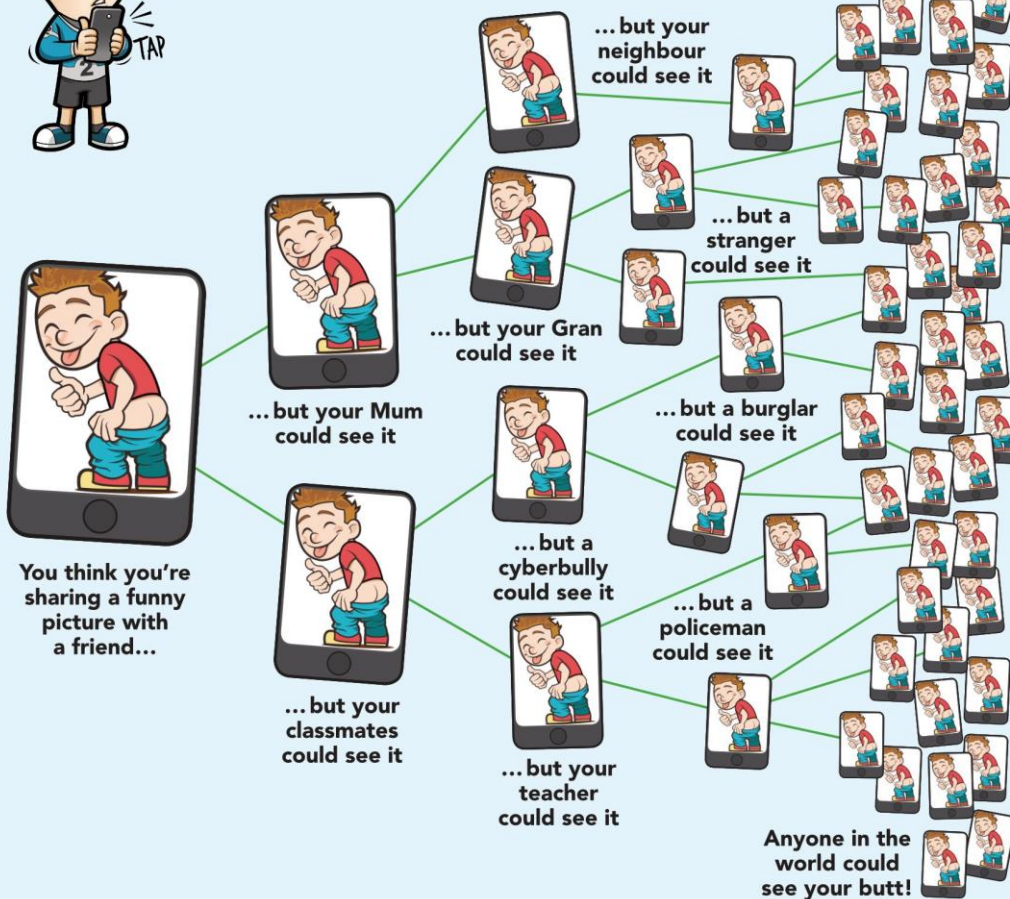


**Register your interest at
youthvoice@thurrock.gov.uk**

Parent Guides to Online Safety



THINK before you send!



scan the QR code with your phone's camera for Parent Guides on how to help keep your children safe online



If you share it, you are involved

If you have, or forward an indecent image of someone under 18, it is a criminal offence. It can affect your future.

Online safety is when young people know who they can tell if they feel upset by something that has happened online.

Parents please contact your school to enquire attending their next e-safety workshop or have any concerns.

Working with Home Office 'PREVENT', The Police and Crime Commissioner and Children's Safeguarding Partnerships to help keep children safe online.

Skips Educational Email: info@skipsed.com Tel: +44 121 227 1941

Developed in partnership with





An 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

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

To book your place visit www.thurrocklscp.org.uk

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 date:

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



What's on in November 2023

Mondays

Start	End	Activity	Age groups	How to join in
8.30am	12.00pm	Housing Advice for council Tenants		Book in advance 01375 413 820
9.30am	10.30am	Stay and Play	12 to 24 Months	All welcome

Tuesdays

9.30am	11.30am	Triple P Baby Parenting Programme	Ante-natal or parents with a child aged 0-12 months	
11.00am	12.00pm	WellComm – Lets talk together	24 to 48 Months	Referral only
1.00pm	4.30pm	Domestic abuse and violence support		Book in advance
1.30pm	2.30pm	Stay and Play	0 to 12 Months	All welcome

Wednesdays

9.00am	12.00am	Local Area Co-Ordinator Donna Burnett 29 th		Book in advance 07584 345 551
10.00am	12.00pm	EPEC - Living With a Teenager Parenting Group	Parents/Carers	Book in advance 01375 652 653
10.00am	12.30pm	Job club – Supported Families Employment Advisor	Parents/Carers	Book in advance 07776 245 301
1.30pm	2.30pm	Stay and Play - 1 st , 15 th , 22 nd and 29 th	24 to 60 Months	All welcome

Thursdays

10.00am	11.00am	Childminder Support Group - 23 rd		Referral only
1.00pm	2.30pm	Parent/Carer Panel - 10 th		Referral only

Fridays

9.30am	10.30am	Lets Talk Dental - 24 th	24 to 60 Months	Book in advance
10.00am	11.30am	Baby Weighing Clinic	0 to 60 Months	All Welcome
11.00am	12.00pm	Let's Talk to your Toddler	12 to 24 Months	Book in advance
1.30pm	2.30pm	Lets Talk to Your Toddler	12 to 24 Months	Book in advance

Saturdays

10.00am	1.30pm	Dads and Partners Antenatal Group	info@parents1st.org.uk	Book in advance 01268 525 758 info@parents1st.org.uk
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What's on in November 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
9:30am	10:30am	Baby Rhyme Time	0 to 12 Months	All welcome
9:30am	10:30am	Bring a Story to Life Three Little Pigs - 6 th Billy Goats Gruff - 13 th Cwl Babies - 20 th Goldilocks - 27 th	24 to 60 Months	All welcome
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	Lets Talk to Your Baby	0 to 12 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	12 to 24 Months	All Welcome
11:00am	12:00pm	Fun with Mark Making – 7 th Fun with Painting – 14 th Fun with Gluing and Sticking – 21 st Fun with Instruments – 28 th	12 to 60 Months	All Welcome
1:00pm	4:30pm	Domestic abuse and violence support Call 07494167408		Book in advance
2:00pm	3:00pm	Messy Play	24 to 60 Months	All Welcome

Wednesdays

9:00am	4:00pm	Midwife	Ante Natal	Book in advance
10:30am	11:30am	SEND - Just For You 1st, 15 th Specialist Health visitor, 22 nd , 29 th	0 to 60 Months	All welcome
11:00am	12:00pm	Stay and Play 1st, 15 th , 22 nd , 29 th	0 to 12 Months	All welcome
1.30pm	2.30pm	Let's Talk to your Toddler	12 to 24 Months	Book in advance
1:30pm	2:30pm	Fussy Eating Information and Advice 22 nd	24 to 60 Months	Book in advance
4.00pm	5.30pm	Young Carers		Referral only

Thursdays

9:00am	4:00pm	Midwife	Ante Natal	Book in advance
9:30am	11:00am	Chatterbox	24 to 60 Months	Referral only
9:30am	11:00am	Parental Outreach advice session 30 th	Parents/Carers	Book in advance 01375 387894
1.30pm	2.45pm	Baby Weighing Clinic-- Drop In	0 to 60 Months	All Welcome
1.30pm	2.30pm	Play and Learn	24 to 60 Months	Book in advance
2:45pm	3:45pm	Baby Massage Acoms Community Centre, Headon Hall, Crawford Avenue, Stifford Clays, RM16 2AS	0 to 12 Months	Book in advance

Fridays

9.30am	10.15am	Garden Group 17 th and 24 th	24 to 60 Months	All welcome
9.00am	1.00pm	Speech and Language Drop-In 6 th		Referral Only
9:00am	1:00pm	Early Interaction Advice Sessions	24 to 60 Months	Referral Only
10:00am	12:30pm	Job Club – Supported Families Employment Adviser		Book in advance 07776245301
11.15am	12.15pm	Let's Talk to your Baby	0 to 12 Months	Book in advance
1.30pm	2.30pm	Stay and Play 17 th and 24 th	0 to 12 Months	All welcome

Brighter Futures – Family Hub Offer

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

www.thurrock.gov.uk/family-hub-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

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

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

GRANGEWATERS

OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTRE



FESTIVE FUN DAY

Saturday 2 December 2023 10am to 3pm

Kick off the festive season
with outdoor fun for all ages.



Activities include:

**Archery, Campfire, Sailing, Crafts,
High Ropes and lots more!**



**Early bird offer,
book by Friday 24 November**

Under 6	free
Age 6 to 17 years	£11
Age 18+	£15
Family ticket	£45
(2 adults and 2 under 18s)	


**From Saturday 25 November
prices will be**

Under 6	free
Age 6 to 17 years	£14
Age 18+	£18
Family ticket	£55
(2 adults and 2 under 18s)	

**Cost of entry includes unlimited
access to all available activities.**

Web: thurrock.gov.uk/grangewaters

Email: grangewaters@thurrock.gov.uk

 @Grangewaters

**To book your tickets call:
01708 855 228**

INSPIRE YOUTH HUB
YOUR FUTURE

 thurrock.gov.uk

MAKE YOUR MARK TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Make
Your Mark



Youth Parliament
MAKING OUR MARK

2024

Involving Thurrock schools, colleges and youth groups

Running since 2011, Make Your Mark has reached millions of young people. It gives young people aged 11-18 the opportunity to vote on topics they feel are the most important issues facing young people locally and across the UK.

Make Your Mark voting period will run from Monday 29 January – Friday 1 March 2024. During this time we want Thurrock schools, colleges and youth groups to encourage as many young people to vote. Every vote matters!

Get involved! Here's what you need to do.

Now - 22 Dec 2023



REGISTER

For Thurrock schools, colleges or youth groups to take part in the 2024 Make your Mark consultation you need to register with Thurrock Youth Cabinet.

Register your school, college or youth group now by dropping us an email at

youthcabinet@thurrock.gov.uk

Registration closes on Fri 22 Dec.

From 15 Jan 2024



PRE-VOTING

From 15 Jan 2024 we will send you the resources you need to support the vote in your school, college or youth group. This will include printable tally sheets and explainer videos.

29 Jan - 1 Mar 2024



VOTING PERIOD

Voting is live across the UK! During this time use the tally sheet to capture students / young peoples vote.

By 1 March 2024



SUBMIT RESULTS

The deadline to return completed tally sheets is Friday 1 March by 5pm.

Please scan in and send all completed tally sheets to

youthcabinet@thurrock.gov.uk

22 March 2024



MAKE YOUR MARK RESULTS ANNOUNCED

We'll let you know the outcome so you can announce the results in your school, college or youth group.