The Convent Chronicle



Friday 9th February 2024

Inspiring Ambition, Achieving Excellence

Dear Parents/Carers,

Wowee, what a blockbuster you are in for! The Hairspray cast has finished their final rehearsals and I've had the opportunity to witness it several times this week in different guises. I hope you have booked your tickets for this year's fabulous musical. It's brilliant!

Year 11 are working hard and the final revision and PPE guide has gone out to them and you and is also on the website. (Click here to view your daughter's PPE guide). The timetable for PPEs is in there and in addition, the provisional GCSE timetable was included. The girls will have their PPE assembly on the Monday we return after Half Term and will also be given their provisional GCSE timetables to get into your calendar.

Lent begins next week with Ash Wednesday on Valentine's Day. We will have an Ash Wednesday service here at school to sign up for. Lent is a time of reflection, a time in the 'wilderness' to consider how we can become closer to Him. We are called to do three things at this time; to fast, to show mercy by helping others and to pray; to use these not as an end in themselves but to help us to come closer to God, more open to the life of the Spirit. These are of course part of our mission statement as a Catholic school and of course as an LSU school. Each classroom will have a Lenten calendar, asking them to do something a little special for others each day.

Happy Chinese New Year for tomorrow, and also for Valentines day on the 14th – a busy week ahead!!

Penny Johnson Headteacher



















Year 11 Attendance



It is extremely important that Year 11 attend school regularly, as this a very important time with the lead up to the GCSE examinations. Lots of important information will be given to students, for example revision information, exam information, intervention etc. Please ensure that your daughter attends regularly at this crucial time in her education journey.

Attendance Office

Important Messages

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!**

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



Mrs Burrow

Jack Petchey Awards Evening - 7 February 2024

On Wednesday evening, we attended the Jack Petchey Awards Evening held at the Civic Hall and attended by Sue Little, Mayor of Thurrock.

Celebrating young people is at the heart of the Jack Petchey Foundation's mission. Each year they recognise 12,000 inspirational young achievers and host up to 90 Achievement Award events across London and Essex.

The outstanding highlights of the night were from Treetops School showcasing their talented version of The Lion King and Harriet Medlock's solo performances, and of course the fantastic 2023 Achievement Award winners from Grays Convent celebrated for their incredible achievements.

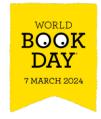
The GCHS Award winners were Julia Tamosiunaite, Rebecca Alabede, Gabriele Jomantaite, Kaylan Teague, Poppy Adams, Poppy Padmore, Tianna Alexander Palmer, Tiara Williams and Lori Akinruntan Bile – well done!



From left to right back row to front row Rebecca Alabede, Gabriele Jomantaite, Poppy Padmore, Mayor Sue Little Kaylan Teague, Tianna Alexander Palmer, Tiara Williams, Lori Akinruntan Bile and Julia Tamosiunaite

Mrs Brown

World Book Day!



World Book Day takes place on Thursday 7th March and we hope you'll encourage your daughters to be a reader and to love books!

To add to the fun, students and staff can dress up as their favourite character from literature for a donation of £1 to be paid via ParentPay. Monies raised will be split between a donation to the Readathon and providing new books for the Library and English Department.

A letter giving full details of the event and the day, will be going out shortly via email.

So heads up and start planning your outfits!!

Mrs Nyland

ParentPay Accounts



Can we stress how important it is for you to have activated your daughter's ParentPay account. It allows you to purchase equipment for your daughter when needed, and pay for trips and events — if you do not activate your ParentPay account, your daughter could miss out on taking part in these trips and events, as we can only take payment for trips and events via ParentPay.

With regards to trips, we always give a deadline for payment, and these deadlines must be met otherwise your daughter will not be able to go on the trip.

If you do not have a copy of your ParentPay activation letter then please contact Mrs Wood at:

woodj@graysconvent.thurrock.sch.uk

Finance Office

U15 Indoor Cricket

On Thursday 8th February the Grays Convent U15 indoor Cricket team played in the U15 Tier 1 Essex Cricket tournament, which was held at Bancrofts School. The winners of the competition would progress onto the County Final, where they have a chance to progress onto the Regional Finals at Cambridge in April. Teams were made up of 8 players and matches consisted on one innings per team, with 6 overs of 5 balls. Players were required to bat, bowl and field so it was a fantastic chance for everyone to develop their skills across the game.

In our first match we were drawn against Brampton Manor Academy and we lost the toss so were first up to bat. Sophie, Winna and Adenika were our best batters in this game, all scoring 3 runs each but the skilful bowling of the Brampton Manor team meant that we were not able to capitalise on too many runs. At the end of our innings we had scored a total of 20 runs. In the field we showed some excellent skills, with Goda taking a wicket in her second over! Unfortunately, due to a few loose balls and some good batting, Brampton scored a total of 50 runs to win the match.

Our final match was against Bancrofts School, all of whom belong to local cricket clubs as well as having two pupils who play Cricket for Essex, so we knew that it would be a high quality game. Having won the toss, we starting out fielding and Goda was once again consistent in her bowling, helping to keep the number of runs to a minimum. The Grays convent girls were much sharper on their fielding skills in this game and gave much less away when the batters did connect with the ball. Unfortunately, nerves seemed to have got to some of our bowlers who were not as confident in this game and by the end of the overs Bancrofts had scored a total of 70 runs. First up to bat was Sophie, who managed to stay in throughout the match and clock up an amazing 19 runs, including hitting a 6! Omotoyosi also worked hard to stay in as a batter and her quick decision making and reactions



meant that she scored a further 5 runs for the team. At the end of the match the score was 70-43 to Bancrofts, which is very respectable considering the experience level of their players to the Convent girls.

At the end of the competition Bancrofts were declared the winners, with Brampton Manor 2nd and Grays Convent 3rd place. Well done for playing your best and for your excellent behaviour throughout the day, you were a credit to the school.



Mrs Bailey

Assistant Headteacher's Bronze Award

Many congratulations to the following students who have reached in excess of 200 achievement points this week. Year 7s again have taken top place this week for the highest number of students receiving this award.



The students were presented with their Bronze badge and certificate in the Year Assembly by the Head of Year.

We now have over 100 students who have received the Bronze Award which is fantastic! A huge well done to the students.

Mrs Bishop



Follow our PE Instagram page for daily updates and information on subject news and results

Year 8 Netball v Harris Academy Chafford Hundred

Well done to the Year 8 Netball team who played their league match against Harris Academy Chafford Hundred on a wet Wednesday afternoon this week.

The girls started off 2-0 down after the first quarter but worked well together throughout the second quarter to increase their possession of the ball and brought the score closer with new shooter Ava Bouchard and Dara Ade-Oduwale scoring, leaving it 2-3 to Harris at half time.

A huge defensive push in the third quarter left Convent dominating and in the lead 5-4 at the end of the third quarter.

Unfortunately, Harris Academy pushed hard in the final part of the match and demonstrated some excellent shooting skills. This left the final score 8-5 to Harris Academy at the final whistle blow but the girls should be proud of the achievements they made along the way and the progress they are making towards their individual targets, well done.



Player of the match was Roula, congratulations!

Mrs Bailey

Student of the Month Award - December 2023

We are pleased to announce that the Student of the Month Awards for December 2023 have been chosen, and the awardees are as follows:



Year 7

Name	Award for:
Adriana Prasath	Computer Science
Jemima Ezenyi	English
Sophie Moore	Food
Alice Zmejavska	Geography
Emile Perskaudaite	History
Phoebe Bettis	Languages
Gabriele Simkute	Maths
Elizabeth Murray	PE
Stephanie Imowo	RE
Tashni Thalagune	Science



Year 10

Name	Award for:
Ama Sarpong-Duker	English
Poppy Adams	Food
Alyanna Diaz	French
Themis Aw	Geography
Poppy Adams	History
Oluwadimimu Ogunleye	Maths
Caomihe Copley	PE
Divine Okenwa	RE
Miruna Stanciu	Science
Erin Bettis	Spanish





Award for:	
Computer Science	
English	
Food	
French	
Geography	
History	
Maths	
PE	
RE	
Science	
Spanish	





Name	Award for:
Tianna Palmer-Alexander	Computer Science
Alyssa Merrell	English
Mary Manu-Kobeah	Food
Rianna Huci	French
Rianna Huci	Geography
Semi Tugbiyele	History
Sienna Campbell	Maths
Maeve Pitney	PE
Lily May Pegrum	RE
Rianna Huci	Science
Tianna Palmer-Alexander	Spanish

Year

Name	Award for:
Melissa Sturgess	Computer Science
Olivia Szczuka	English
Tofunni Jolaosho	Food
Amy Smith	French
Isabella Fagg	Geography
Fauste Bukyte	History
Nyasha Chara	Maths
Renesha Lewin	PE
Tumelo Mwiya	RE
Stacey Wangeri	Science
Arshi Islam	Spanish

All students are rewarded achievement points for being on or above target at each Progress Check.



Student of the Month Award - January 2024

We are pleased to announce that the Student of the Month Awards for January 2024 have been chosen, and the awardees are as follows:



Year 7

Name	Award for:	
Jada Collings-Dominique	Art	
Alara Nalcioglu	Computer Science	
Adeola Thompson	Drama	
Makayla Emuchay	English	
Ayesha Nadeem	Food	
Dhwiti Patel	Geography	
Kamile Pauloviciute	History	
Chiamaka Orokansi	Maths	
Ebere Nwachokor	PE	
Prabjot Kaur	RE	
Zara May	Science	
Daniella Marques Gomes Da Silva	Spanish	
Jiiva		





Name	Award for:
Imogen Rout	Art
Ayat Mustafa	Computer Science
Ava Boucaud	Drama
Isabella Hall	English
Sania Raza	Food
Muskan Tariq	French
Micha Banawa-Chu	Geography
Ore Kolawole	History
Mariam Abdeulyequeen	Maths
Eve Boateng	PE
Katherine Shane	RE
Molly Garner	Science
Oreoluwa Kolawole	Spanish



Year 9

Name	Award for:
Kyla Curno	Art
Haniya Rashid	Computer Science
Renesha Lewin	Drama
Jesutofunmi Ajayi	English
Adenike Bamiduro	Food
Sania Raza	French
Oluwademilade Abiade	Geography
Siyona Chandrawat	History
Aliyah Idowu	Maths
Chisom Lemeh	PE
Sania Raza	RE
Meena Amery	Science
Alice Dhannie	Spanish



Year 10

Name	Award for:
Louise Haatrope	Fine Art
Alyanna Diaz	Computer Science
Isabelle Gardner	Drama
Chrystal Williams	English
Jessica Rout	Food
Charlotte Plumridge	French
Erin Bettis	Geography
Grace Mitchell	History
Kadie Bennett	Maths
Kiran Kaur	Media
Emily Petrea	PE
Gabriella Okwir	Photography
Shobita Sidhu	RE
Oluwadamiloju Ogunleye	Science
Poppy Adams	Spanish
Violet Simpson	Textiles

Year 11



Name	Award for:	
Keona Amanor	Fine Art	
Chloe Blankson	Computer Science	
Benita Okwudili	Drama	
Efia Sarpong-Duker	English	
Saule Vizgaudyte	Food	
Nashwa Noushad	French	
Paolo Ojo	Geography	
Asia Kamara	History	
Alyssa Merrell	Maths	
Tianna Palmer-Alexander	Media	
Taijah Ogunsanya	PE	
Shalom Kasambi	Photography	
Demilade Manu	RE	
Samanta Mustea	Science	
Paolo Ojo	Spanish	
Brianna Osagie	Textiles	

All students are rewarded achievement points for being on or above target at each Progress Check.



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 19

FOR YEAR 7	FOR YEAR 8	FOR YEAR 9	
determined	<mark>large</mark>	monometer	
develop	massive	dimeter	
dictionary	colossal	trimeter	
disastrous	gigantic	tetrameter	
embarrass	immense	pentameter	
environment	monumental	hexameter	
equip (-ped, -ment)	titanic	heptameter	
especially	substantial	octometer	
exaggerate	vast		
excellent	mammoth		
	sizeable		

For Year 8: Learn the words - Creative Writing: large

massive: large and heavy or solid. "a massive rampart of stone" colossal: extremely large or great. "a colossal amount of mail"

gigantic: of very great size or extent; huge or enormous. "a gigantic concrete tower" immense: extremely large or great, especially in scale or degree. "the cost of restoration has been immense"

monumental: great in importance, extent, or size. "it's been a monumental effort" titanic: of exceptional strength, size, or power. "a series of titanic explosions" substantial: of considerable importance, size, or worth. "a substantial amount of cash" vast: of very great extent or quantity; immense; "a vast plain full of orchards" mammoth: huge. "a mammoth corporation"

sizeable: fairly large. "a sizeable proportion of the population"

Poetry from other Cultures

For Year 9 – in detail. Learn these terms for analysing POETRY:

meter: The pattern of stressed (accented) and unstressed (unaccented) syllables established in a line of poetry.

TYPES OF METRICAL FEET:

iambic foot (u /): two syllable foot—unstressed, stressed trochaic foot (/ u): two syllable foot—stressed, unstressed

anapestic foot (u u /): three syllables—two unstressed and one stressed
dactylic foot (/ u u): three syllables—one stressed and two unstressed

spondaic foot (//): two syllables-both stressed

KINDS OF METRICAL LINES: RELATED TO THE TERMS ABOVE

monometer- one-foot line dimeter - two-foot line trimeter - three-foot line tetrameter - four-foot line pentameter - five-foot line hexameter - six-foot line heptameter - seven-foot line octometer- eight-foot line





Learn them to improve your spelling!!!

Miss Petrova

Year 11 Intervention 2023-2024

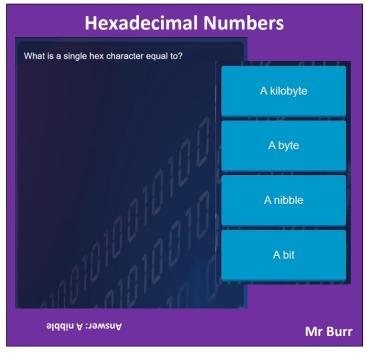
Y11 INTERVENTION 2023/24

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

	Week 2				
	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
	PE (Aiming higher)-KW		Math (SMA)	Math (PM)	
Lunch	PE (Making the grade)-SF		D&T		
After School	English (Set 4&6) - PJ	MFL (DPD)	Maths w/Nilesh RE (POH)	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





Maths



Maths Question of the Week

1.

Ali buys packs of balloons and boxes of pencils.

There are 30 balloons in each pack.

There are 24 pencils in each box.

Ali buys exactly the same number of balloons and pencils.

Work out how many packs of balloons and how many boxes of pencils she could have bought.

You must show all your working.

packs of balloons

boxes of pencils

2.

A company orders a large number of plates from a factory.

It would take 30 hours to make all the plates using 4 machines.

How many machines are needed to make all the plates in 6 hours?

Submit your answers on Monday 12th February 2024 at break time in Room 21, and win 5 Achievement points.

Answers to last week's questions are:

- 1. 21?
- 2. £35

Mr Amenze

RE

This year Ash Wednesday falls on St Valentine's Day, and it's the start of Lent.

During Lent we are encourage to think of Lenten promises. Often many will give up chocolate, video games or even social media!

Although fasting is a good option during Lent, we need to remember that the purpose of a Lenten promise is to commit yourself to something that will bring you closer to Jesus. You could do this by attending Stations of the Cross, reflecting on the Gospel of the Day, or even by allocating part of your day to pray.

I would like to suggest an alternative list of things to give up that might inspire you this Lent, written by an unknown author.

What Lenten promises will you consider?

REFOCUS FOR LENT

Give up complaining – focus on gratitude.

Give up harsh judgments – think kind thoughts.

Give up worry – trust God to provide.

Give up discouragement – be full of hope.

Give up bitterness – turn to forgiveness.

Give up hatred – return good for evil.

Give up anger – be more patient.

Give up pettiness – become mature.

Give up jealousy – pray for trust.

Give up gossiping – control your tongue.

Give up sin – turn to virtue.

Give up giving up – persevere.

-Author unknown

Mrs Wilsher

English

There will be a Splats performance of 'Romeo & Juliet' within school for all Year 10 on Tuesday 26th March 2024.

The cost of £5 is to be paid via ParentPay by Friday 22nd

March 2024.



Mrs Nyland

More Subject News...



MFL





Are you working hard with Ms Duque Mora in lessons?

If the answer is yes, you need to know that Ms Duque Mora is giving you a raffle ticket to win one of these teddy bears.

What you need to do to have a raffle ticket?

The more you work in lessons, the more tickets you can have.

If your effort is outstanding more tickets will be given.

What are you waiting for?

Show to Ms Duque Mora your amazing effort to learn Spanish or French in her lessons, because those teddy bears need to be re-homed as they are **feeling cold in room 6**



Let's work hard in languages!

Ms Duque Mora Head of Modern Foreign Languages



Come and see us!

Ms Duque Mora Head of Modern Foreign Languages Are you struggling In Spanish or French?

Something is not clear enough?

Do you want more help from your teachers?

I want to make all parents and students aware that we are offering additional support to our students for **Spanish** and **French.**

Students can find support on the following dates and times:

After school Homework Club 3:30-4:30 for:

Years 7-9 Every Wednesday Room 27 - Ms Duque Mora Years 10 -11 Every Monday Room 7 - Ms Paixao Years 10-11 Every Wednesday Room 7 - Ms Bathily

Interventions:

Spanish Every **Tuesday** after school 3:30-4:30 Room 6 Ms Duque Mora

French Thursday WEEK 1 Period 5 from 12:50-1:30 Ms Bathily

You don't have to attend for the full hour if you don't want to, but it is important that you ask for help if you need it.

Ash Wednesday - Come back to God





Ash Wednesday, 14th February

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the holy season of Lent which lasts for 40 days leading up to Easter. Jesus fasted in the desert for 40 days in order to give full attention to his Father in Heaven. Lent is a time for us to come back to God; to grow more like Jesus and deepen our friendship with him.

9M & 9E are preparing a special Service to which the whole school are warmly invited to come to receive ashes in the sign of the cross on our foreheads as a symbol of repentance. The ashes are made from the burnt palms used on Palm Sunday last year and mixed with holy water, which is a reminder of our Baptism; being cleansed from sin and receiving new life in Christ. The sign of the cross is the symbol of Christ's death and resurrection which frees us from sin. We do this because God formed Adam out of the dust of the earth and breathed life into him, so the ashes are a reminder that one day we will return to our loving Father God who created us. We will be called to give an account of how we have let His love flow through us, using our time and talents in service to others, for His glory.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE IN SCHOOL P4 AT 11.45

If your daughter in Year 7, 8, 10, 11, 9L, 9D would like to attend the Ash Wednesday Service, she needs to sign the list on the Chaplain's door near drama in order to be excused from her normal lesson at 11.45 on Ash Wednesday.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS is at 7pm in St Thomas of Canterbury Church



Jesus fasted in the desert for 40 days in order to give full attention to his Father in Heaven. Lent means **spring**; it is a time for us to come back to God; **to grow** more like Jesus, in love for God and our neighbour and to deepen our personal friendship with him.



On Ash Wednesday we receive ashes in the sign of the cross on our foreheads as a symbol of repentance.

The ashes are made from the burnt palms used on Palm Sunday last year, mixed with holy water, which is a reminder of our Baptism; being cleansed from sin and receiving new life in Christ.

The sign of the cross is the symbol of Christ's death and resurrection which frees us from sin.

We do this because God formed Adam out of the dust of the earth and breathed life into him; (Genesis 2:7) so the ashes are a reminder that one day we will return to our loving Father God who created us. We will be called to give an account of how we have let His love flow through us, using our time and talents in service to others, for His glory.

Prayer: Lord purify our hearts and melt and mould us into the loving image of Jesus your son. Help us to be channels of your love and peace in the world.

Lord we pray especially for peace in Israel, Palestine, Yemen and Ukraine. Please inspire all world leaders to resolve conflicts and grant peace to the world. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.



ラ·豪州 (東京) This Sunday 11th February is World Day of the Sick

and traditionally the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, Co Patron of our Diocese of Brentwood (except on Sundays of the Lord.)

Mary appeared to 14 Yr. old Bernadette in Lourdes, in France on 11th Feb 1858,

"Repent and pray for poor sinners." This means to turn back to Jesus, pray for one another, and as Mary said "Do whatever he tells you." (Jn.2:5)

The Lourdes water is a reminder of our Baptism; and Mary is reminding us of the promises that were made at our Baptism, to reject sin and follow Jesus, keeping his commandments of love.



Lourdes is like Heaven on earth, because it's where the Gospel message of Jesus is really lived; you see so much love in action. Young people give up their holidays to care for the sick, to pray with them and to entertain them in the evenings. People from all over the world are so caring and respectful to one another as brothers and sisters of our one Heavenly Father.

The sick people in wheel-chairs are treated like celebrities; because those who are weakest on earth will be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Mass and the holy Rosary are prayed in all the languages of the world and there is a great sense of joy and belonging.

Reflection:

We ask family and friends to pray for us when we've got exams or we're ill; we also ask Mary our heavenly mother to pray for us because God favours her. The Angel Gabriel said to Mary "You have found favour with God."



If you have any special prayer requests please email carsonc@graysconvent.thurrock.sch.uk God bless you,

When Jesus forgave sins, people were healed physically as well as spiritually. At the time when Mary appeared in Lourdes many blind and lame people were physically healed when they turned back to God and washed in the Lourdes water. Mary points us to Jesus.

There have been many physical healings there over the centuries, and still today, but the most important healing is having a change of







Crutches and walking sticks left behind, no longer needed.

Rfln. ctd. In a few moments of silence let us think of our loved ones and members of our school family who are ill and ask our Blessed Mother Mary to pray for them to her Divine Son, Jesus, to be healed.

PRAYER:

We ask Mary, Our Lady of Lourdes to pray for us to have a change of heart and be healed in our soul. We pray for all who are ill, suffering in heart, body, mind, soul or spirit. We pray for all who are burdened by fear, worries, sorrow or loneliness that the Lord will free them, and grant them healing and peace, in Jesus' name. Amen. Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen. (Prayer based on Saint Luke's Gospel)



Miss Carson

CAFOD School Family Fast Day - Friday 16th February 2024



AND DONATE **MONEY SAVED** TO CAFOD to help others in need.



Choose the Live Simply Lunch Option today.

We will be having our Simple Lunch Option of Soup & Roll for £1 in order to give the money saved that we would usually spend on lunch to CAFOD to help our brothers and sisters in need in other parts of the world. CAFOD is the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. They equip, train and help communities to provide for their families and thrive. Please encourage your daughter to choose the Simple Lunch on Friday 16th February.

Further information can be found on cafod.org.uk

Miss Carson

Pope Francis - Tweet of the Week



Pope Francis @ @Pontifex · 4h

. .

Saint Bakhita encourages us to open our eyes and ears to see those who go unseen and to hear those who have no voice, to acknowledge the dignity of each person and to fight trafficking and all forms of exploitation. #PrayAgainstTrafficking vatican.va/content/france...

Q 109

17 278

O 1.4K

11 96K

1

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.

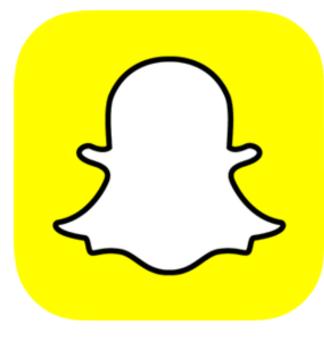
Worried about a child?

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 - Snapchat



How do I Block and Delete?









Blocking and Deleting friends

Blocking someone on Snapchat means they will be prevented from sending you Snaps, Chats or viewing your Stories. Deleting someone means they will no longer show up on your friends list, but your privacy settings determine whether or not they can still see your Snaps. To block or delete a contact:

- · Tap the username you want to block or delete in your 'My Friends' page.
- Tap the gear icon that appears next to their name.
- · Select 'Block' to prevent Snaps, Chats or from them viewing your Stories.
- Select 'Remove Friend' to remove them from your friends list.
- To block someone who isn't in your friends list, just swipe on their name on the Chat screen to open a Chat with them. Then tap the button in the top left corner to access their profile, where you can block them.

To unblock a user:

- Tap the ghost at the top of the Camera screen. Then tap the gear icon and scroll down to 'Account Actions' and tap 'Blocked.' You should see a list of Snapchatters who are currently blocked by you. Tap the X next to their name to unblock them.
- Depending on your privacy settings you may need to re-add each other as friends to send Snaps and Chats back and forth.

Mr Burr

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

WHAT ARE THE RISKS? Artificial intelligence – particularly in terms of how it generates natural language – has seen significant development over the last six months, with companies releasing new Al-based software or adding an Al element to existing apps (such as Snapchat, for example), one form of Al to become especially popular has been the 'Al friend' or chatbot, as children eagerly experiment with these new-found computer-generated companions. There are now numerous apps available with this virtual friend' functionality, with the likelihood of it being added to other successful platforms soon.

CONTENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

D@*#/

REDUCED SOCIAL

COGNITIVE



Advice for Parents & Carers

CHAT ABOUT CHATBOTS

child is already expressing an interest in a relaxed, natural chat should help you wer which ones they're aware of and how using them (or are planning to). Discuss these with your child and perhaps do your own h to ensure you think they re suitable. Once

CREATE A SAFE ENVIRONMENT

FIND A BALANCE

TAKE CONTROL

99

Meet Our Expert

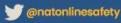


RECOGNISE THE RISKS

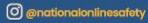




National #WakeUpWednesday









Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 21.06.2023

Extra-Curricular Sports Timetable: From: 3:30-4:30

Monday	<u>Tuesday</u>	Wednesday	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
XS3 Trampolining: SF / GS Y7 Netball: KW	Year 10 & Y11 Netball: SF KS3 (Y7-Y9) Football: GS	U16 (Y10& Y11) Football: MB KS4 Trampolining: SF All years Rugby: LG Year 7 Athletics	Y8 Netball: ZB Y9 Netball: GS All years Fitness: SF Year 7&8 Dance club LG	

Key Dates and Events

Tuesday 13 th February	School Production – 7pm start	
Wednesday 14 th February	School Production – 7pm start	
Thursday 15 th February	Year 9 Parents' Evening	Year 9
Friday 16 th February	Students break for Half Term – 3:25pm finish	Whole School
Monday 19 th to Friday 23 rd February	Half Term	Whole School
Monday 26 th February	Students return to school – 8:25am start	Whole School

The Essex Autism Project

This month at the Essex Autism Project we are discussing privacy and safeguarding. To learn more about why we might need some of your information fill out our survey. This will also give you the chance to give us your opinions and suggestions on what is needed and how we can help you feel safe using the service.

Link to the privacy and safeguarding survey:

https://autismessex.kids.org.uk/privacy-and-safeguarding-survey/

We look forward to hearing from you.

The Essex Autism Team

Make Your 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!

Set 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

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 suppor the vote in your school, college or youth group. This will include printable tally sheets and explained 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.

PATT ADHD Support Group

For families with children and young people with ADHD and neurodiversity

Booking essential

If we need to cancel a session you will get notification via email

To book: www.patt.org.uk/adhdsupport or scan the QR Code below.

Facebook: PATT ADHD Support

First Wednesday of each month 6.30pm to 8.30pm

7th February 2024 Stanford Le-Hope Family Hub

6th March PATT Office

1st May Stanford Le-Hope Family Hub

5th June PATT Office

3rd July Stanford Le-Hope Family Hub

4th September PATT Office

2nd October Stanford Le-Hope Family Hub

6th November PATT Office 4th December PATT Office

3rd Friday of each month 9.30am—11.30am

PATT Office, 51 Lodge Lane, Grays, RM17 5RZ

19th January 2024 16th February 15th March 19th April 17th May 21st June 19th July 27th Septemb

19th July 27th September 25th October 29th November





Specialist Health Visitor Appointments with PATT SENDIASS via MS Teams

These appointments are for parents with children who have additional needs. It is an opportunity to meet with our team to discuss how our service may be able to assist. This may be signposting to other services, explaining processes, coordinating health care, referral, intervention, or support. It is also an opportunity to meet the PATT SENDIASS team and get advice and guidance on education and school issues.

To book a 15 minute, online appointment, visit www.patt.org.uk/booking-page Or scan the QR code below.

Please be assured that you will have the opportunity to speak with Caralyn or a member of her team in private during these sessions.

2023	Time	2024	Time
Thursday 21 st September	10.30am -12.30pm	Thursday 18th January	10.30am - 12.30pm
Wednesday 18th October	10am – 12pm	Wednesday 29th February	10am – 12pm
Thursday 16th November	10.30am - 12.30pm	Thursday 28th March	12.30pm - 2.30pm
Wednesday 13th December	10am – 12pm	Wednesday 17th April	10am - 12pm
		Thursday 16 th May	10.30am - 12.30pm
		Wednesday 19 th June	10am – 12pm
		Thursday 11th July	12:30pm - 2:30pm

Because of the nature of the roles in this team we may need to cancel at the last minute, if this happens, I will arrange to speak with you at a different time.







FREE School Uniform Events no referral needed! **Fridays** Saturdays 3 - 4.30pm

19th January 16th February 15th March 19th April 17th May 21st June



20th January 17th February 16th March 20th April 18th May 22nd June





Community Church Chadwell St Mary Defoe Parade (enter from Brentwood Road) **RM16 40R**

Save the planet (, and your pennies (**Hundreds of items in stock:**

- Polo shirts
- **Shirts & blouses**
- Skirts
- **Trousers**
- Socks
- Pinafore dresses
- · Jumpers & cardigans
- Blazers & ties
- PE kit incl football socks
- Plimsolls
- Black shoes
- Coats

Clean, good condition school uniform donations accepted when space allows. Please check our facebook page to see if we are currently collecting. Search facebook for "The 180 Project"

An event run by The 180 Project, part of Community Church Registered charity no. 1062301. Tel: 01375 484 101









YOUTH VOICE GROUP SUPPORTED 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

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

- Attend three times a year at Grangewaters in South Ockendon
- Lunch, drinks and an activity provided
- Meet new people (16-25 olds with additional needs)
- Collaborate with Thurrock Youth Cabinet members and staff
- Have your say and be listened to!



To sign up or find out more, email today at youthvoice@thurrock.gov.uk



Take a plunge into the world of recycling like never before. It's not just about bins and bottles; it's about turning everyday items into extraordinary creations and give them a new lease on life.

We want to see your innovative minds at work, turning old items into mind-blowing masterpieces.

HOW TO ENTER

·Collect the items you want to recycle and transform these finds

into a mind-blowing creation.

Take a photo of your masterpiece, and in a paragraph, share the inspiration behind your creation while highlighting the materials you recycled.

Email it to <u>OASENDethurrock.gov.uk</u> Remember to include your name, age, year group and current school setting.



THINK ABOUT:

What message does your creation convey about recycling?

How did you recycle materials to create something new and exciting?

How can your creation inspire others to join the movement?



Autism Empowerment Webinar

This one-hour lunchtime webinar is a brief exploration of how Autism can present, the history of Autism, diagnosis as well as differences in communication and social interaction. We will also be looking at how the environment can impact on someone with sensory processing challenges.

The main aim of this webinar is to focus on the many strengths autistic individuals have and how we can increase understanding and Neuro-inclusivity through education and raising awareness.

Webinars are held on Zoom on the following dates:

Thursday 29th February 12:30 to 13:30

Friday 29th March 12:30 to 13:30

Friday 26th April 12:30 to 13:30

At the end of the webinar, you will receive a certificate of attendance that will be emailed to your given email address.

The cost of this one-hour webinar is only £5.50!

To book you place on the webinar please either scan the QR code below or go to: www.theautismtrainingnetwork.com/training

"For every person who understands Autism better, another Autistic person will be happier." Libby Scott, Autistic Author (at age 11)





Thameside Family Hub



Email: thamesidecc@thurrock.gov.uk Phone: 01375 387 89

thurrock.gov.uk

What's on in February 2024

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 12th, 19th and 26th February	0 to 12 Months	All welcome
9.30am	10.30am	Bring a Story to Life 12 th The Gruffalo 19 th We All Went on a Safari 26 th Super Worm	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	Let's Talk to Your Baby	0 to 12 Months	Book in advance
2:00pm	3:00pm	Stay and Play 12 th , 19 th and 26 th February	24 to 60 Months	All Welcome

9:30am	10:30am	Stay and Play 13th and 20th February	12 to 24 Months	All Welcome
10.00am	12.00pm	STOP – Parenting Programme for Parents of Teenagers		
11:00am	12:00pm	Fun with Sticking- 13th February Fun with Mark Making - 20th February	12 to 60 Months	All Welcome
2:00pm	3:00pm	Sensory Play 13 th - 0 to 12 months 20 th - 12 to 24 months		All Welcome

9:00am	4:00pm	Midwife	Ante Natal	Book in advance
9.30am	10.30am	Parents 1st Coffee Morning/Drop In 14th February	This is an opportunity for you to meet other expectant mums in your area and get information on local groups available to you.	All welcome
0:30am	11:30am	SEND - Just For You 14 th and 28 th February	0 to 60 Months	All welcome
11:00am	12:00pm	Stay and Play 14 th and 28 th February	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 – 14th February	12 to 60 Months	Book in advance
4.00pm	5.30pm	Young Carers		Referral only

Thursday	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 23rd February		Book in advance		
1.30pm	2.45pm	Baby Weighing Clinic- Drop In 1st, 15th, 22nd and 29th February	0 to 60 Months	All Welcome		
1.00pm	3.00pm	Triple P Baby Parenting Programme	Ante-natal or parents with a child aged 0-12 months	Book in advance		

Fridays				
9.00am	1.00pm	Speech and Language Drop- In 2 nd February		Referral Only
9:00am	1:00pm	Early Interaction Advice Sessions	24 to 60 Months	Referral Only
9.30am	10.30am	Fun, Food and Fitness	24 to 60 Months	Book in advance
10:00am	12:30pm	Job Club – Supported Families Employment Adviser		Book in advance 07776245301
10:00am	4:00pm	Inclusion Visions - Substance Misuse and Support - Drop in	18 + Years	Lorraine. G 07977 792 236
11.15am	12.15pm	Let's Talk to Your Baby	0 to 12 Months	Book in advance
1.30pm	2.30pm	Stay and Play 2 nd and 16 th February	0 to 12 Months	All welcome

BrighterFutures

Stifford Family Hub

In the grounds of) Belmont Castle Academy, Parker Road, Grays RM17 5YN



thurrock.gov.uk

What's on in February 2024

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
11.00am	12.00am	Bookstart Toddler 5th February	12 to 24 Months	Book in advance
12.30pm	2.30pm	Parents 1st Coffee Morning/Drop In 5th February	This is an opportunity for you to meet other expectant mums in your area and get information on local groups available to you.	All welcome
1.45pm	2.30pm	Bring a Story to Life 5th February – Goldilocks and the Three Bears	24 to 60 Months	All welcome

Tuesdays

9.30am	10.30am	Lets Talk To Your Baby	0 to 12 Months	Book in advance
9.30am	10.30am	Fun with Painting - 6 th February	12 to 60 Months	All welcome
11.00am	12.00pm	WellComm – Talk Together	24 to 48 Months	Referral only
1.30pm	2.30pm	Stay and Play 6th,13th and 20th February	0 to 12 Months	All welcome

Wednesdays

9.00am	12.00am	Local Area Co-Ordinator Donna Burnett - 7th February		Book in advance 07584 345 551	
9.30am	11.00am	Special Event Celebration of Cultures 21st February	0 to 11 Years	Book in advance 01375 652 653	
10.00am	12.00pm	pm EPEC - Living With a Teenager Parents/Care Parenting Group		Book in advance 01375 652 653	
10.00am	4.30pm	Inclusion Visions - Substance Misuse and Support - Drop in	18+ Years	Lorraine. G 07977 792 236	
1.00pm	2.30pm	Special Event Celebration of Cultures 21st February	0 to 11 Years	Book in advance 01375 652 653	
1.30pm	2.30pm	Stay and Play	24 to 60 Months	All welcome	
		14 th and 28 th February			

Thursdays

10.00am		Childminder Support Group – 22nd February		All Childminders welcome
10.00am		Job club – Supported Families Employment Advisor	Parents/Carers	Book in advance 07776 245 301
1.30pm	2.30pm	Play and Learn	24 to 60 Months	Book in advance

ridays

riidays								
9.30am	10.30am	Baby Massage	0 to 12 Months	Book in advance				
10.00am	11.30am	Baby Weighing Clinic	0 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	Parent Carer Panel		Referral only				
		8th February						

10.00am	1.30pm	Dads and Partners Antenatal	info@parents1st.org.uk	Book in advance				
		Group		01268 525 758				
		,		info@parents1st.org.uk				

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/thurrockschildrenscentres

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

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





My Health in Care Project

- > Are you a young person in care or have care experience?
- Are you aged 11-25?
- Want to have your say about health support for children in care?

If YES was your answer to these questions, then this is the project for you!

Help us to ensure young people are well supported with their physical and mental health whilst in care by sharing your views

Have your say whilst having some fun, food and drinks and bag yourself some freebies

Date: Monday 19th February 2024

Time: 10am - 3pm

Venue: Tilbury Youth Hub, Centenary House, Tilbury, RM18 8AF

SIGN UP HERE...

https://forms.office.com/e/s94CWDdtp0



Brighter Futures









