

ST JOHN PAYNE



AVITA PRO FIDE



# NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2026

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Headteacher: Mr Thomas Coen, BA (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH*

# HEADTEACHER'S COMMENTS



*Headteacher: Mr Thomas Coen, BA (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH*

# HEADTEACHER REPORT FEBRUARY 2026

Year 11 students recently attended our sixth form subject fair, with Key Stage 5 students presenting to their younger peers to inform their post-16 choices, whilst parents of Year 9 students joined our online presentation to help inform students' Key Stage 4 options.

On Thursday 29th January a group of students represented the school at the city's Holocaust Memorial. It remains vital that education always strive to include welcome and celebrate diversity of nation, heritage, culture and faith. We must continue to stand against all forms of oppression and persecution.

Performances of Mary Poppins were a wonderful culmination of months of hard work that showed our students' many gifts & talents. It is always lovely to welcome visitors for such occasions, extending to hundreds of local primary school children and the whole community from Columbus School & College.

We continue to be blessed by our Priests celebrating Mass each Thursday morning and Friday lunchtime, and by Adoration in the Chapel during Thursday lunchtimes.

Today many students and staff attended Callum's funeral at Brentwood Cathedral, a beautiful witness to his life and to the light he brought to our school community. Thank you for your sympathy and prayers.

*Eternal rest grant unto Callum, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.*

*God Bless.*

**Mr T. Coen**  
**Headteacher**





# IN LOVING MEMORY



## Callum Ernest Stone

25TH SEPTEMBER 2009 – 26TH JANUARY 2026

### PSALM

#### *Do Not Be Afraid*

*Do not be afraid,  
For I have redeemed you.  
I have called you by your name;  
You are mine.*

When you walk through the waters I'll be with you,  
You will never sink beneath the waves.

*Chorus*

When the fear of loneliness is looming,  
Then remember I am at your side.

*Chorus*

When you dwell in the exile of a stranger,  
Remember you are precious in my eyes.

*Chorus*

You are mine, O my child; I am your father,  
And I love you with a perfect love.

*Chorus*

# SIXTH FORM



# SIXTH FORM



## Criminology



This half term saw our Community Safety and Engagement Officers from Essex Police, PC Smith and PC Smith, visit our Year 12 Criminology students to discuss entry to the force, police powers, all the equipment at the disposal of officers and the skills required to be effective in the role. Learners also had the opportunity to hold equipment including handcuffs and the baton, as well as try on the tactical vest.

Criminology is offered at Key Stage 5 alongside other A Levels.

**Mr Matthews**  
**Head of Sociology and Criminology**

## Philosophy and Ethics



On Wednesday 11 February our year 12 Philosophy and Ethics students embarked on a voyage to the prestigious University of Cambridge to be immersed in the wisdom of some of the best scholars in the country. This served as an opportunity to hone their theological and ethical thinking skills, as well as experience a taste of university life. We are sure this will remain a memorable day and will contribute to their future academic endeavours and personal lives. They can now proudly add this to their UCAS applications!

**Mr Gowler**

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## Calling for Work Experience Hosts – Year 12

We are currently seeking support from our school community to help Year 12 students who are still struggling to secure a work experience placement. If you are a parent or guardian and are able to offer a short placement within your workplace, your help could make a real difference.

The Year 12 work experience program will run from **22 June to 26 June 2026**. Placements can be across a wide range of industries and roles, and provide students with valuable insight into the world of work while helping them build confidence and practical skills.

If you are able to assist, or would like more information about what hosting involves, please contact the school office. We greatly appreciate your support in helping our students succeed.





## Giving Back: Year 12 Making a Difference

We are proud to strongly encourage all Year 12 students to get involved in our Giving Back scheme, an initiative designed to support other students in our wider community. Through this scheme, students have the opportunity to develop valuable skills while making a real and positive impact on others. Examples of this include supporting lessons as teaching assistants, helping younger students build confidence in reading through the Sports Readers and Sparx Readers schemes, and assisting staff with after-school clubs.

Recently, Mr Coen and I were fortunate enough to visit a local Homework Club, where eight of our Year 12 students volunteer their time each week. They support younger students, ranging from infant school age through to secondary age, with their homework and learning. The club is wonderfully organised by Sister Margaret and Sister Moira, and it was inspiring to see our students showing such commitment, patience and care. Opportunities like these highlight the value of giving back—not only to those being supported, but also to the students who volunteer and grow through the experience.

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## Year 11 Subject Fair Supports Informed Sixth Form Choices



Recently, we hosted a Year 11 Subject Fair designed to support students as they continue to consider their options for sixth form. The event provided Year 11 students with the opportunity to speak directly with current Year 12 and Year 13 students about the subjects they study, helping to bring each course to life beyond the classroom.

Throughout the fair, students asked thoughtful questions about entry requirements, subject content, workload, assessment styles, and how different subjects can support future pathways. Hearing first-hand experiences from older students allowed Year 11s to gain a clearer understanding of what studying each subject at sixth form level involves.

The Subject Fair forms an important part of our wider commitment to ensuring Year 11 students are well informed and confident when making their subject choices. By offering guidance, discussion, and real student perspectives, we aim to support every learner in choosing a pathway that best suits their interests, strengths, and future ambitions.

# STUDENT LEADERSHIP





# STUDENT LEADERSHIP



## SJP Form Captains Trained as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

A group of enthusiastic Year 7 and 8 form captains have taken their first steps toward becoming certified Anti-Bullying Ambassadors after participating in a dynamic training workshop delivered through The Diana Award's Anti-Bullying Ambassador Programme. The full-day session equipped students with the knowledge, confidence, and practical tools to make a positive impact within the school community.

The programme aims to empower young people to tackle bullying in all its forms and to help schools build a culture of kindness, inclusion, and respect.



### Building Skills, Leadership, and Confidence

During the workshop, our student leaders took part in interactive activities exploring:

- **Different types of bullying**, including online bullying and discriminatory behaviour
- **How to recognise vulnerable situations** and support students who may be affected
- **The importance of positive peer influence** and modelling respectful behaviour
- **Practical strategies** for reporting, preventing, and responding to bullying
- **Planning whole-school initiatives** and campaigns to support a culture of empathy

Trainers from The Diana Award guided students through real-life scenarios, teamwork challenges, and reflective discussions, encouraging them to think critically about how they can take active roles in shaping a safer school environment.



# STUDENT LEADERSHIP



## Students Ready to Lead Change

Staff praised the maturity, creativity, and commitment shown by the form captains throughout the session. Many students said they felt inspired by the training and ready to begin making a difference. Students will now consider how the following Catholic Social Teaching principles will now be applied as they work towards their first badge:

## Human Dignity

CST teaches that every person is made in the image and likeness of God and therefore deserves respect and protection. By learning how to challenge bullying and support those who feel isolated, our ambassadors are helping ensure that every student's dignity is upheld.

## Solidarity

The workshop encouraged students to stand with others, especially those who may feel vulnerable or alone. Acting in solidarity means recognising that we all belong to one human family—something our form captains committed to through their training.

## The Common Good

Anti-bullying work is not just about helping individuals; it's about shaping a community where everyone can flourish. Our students discussed how they can contribute to a peaceful and supportive school atmosphere, living out this important CST principle day by day.

## Next Steps: A Whole-School Approach

Over the coming months, the newly trained Anti-Bullying Ambassadors will begin working towards their next badge; inclusion, well-being or community. The students will complete five social action steps within school which may include awareness campaigns, lunchtime support initiatives, and peer-led activities designed to strengthen the school's commitment to wellbeing. They will work closely with staff to monitor progress and ensure students across all year groups feel supported. ~



We thank the staff and students at New Hall School for hosting this fantastic workshop and for their warm welcome. We are sure our newly trained ambassadors across both schools will have some exciting ideas to share with one another in the coming months as they work towards their first badge.



# STUDENT AWARDS





# STUDENT AWARDS



	Total Year Group Achievement Points	Highest Form Achievement points	Highest Achievement Points In the Year
Year 7	24,398	7C 5898 Achievement points	<b>Danilo C</b> <b>353 Achievement Points</b> <i>*Please note that Danilo was as the student with the highest AP last term</i>
Year 8	24,056	8B 4893 Achievement points	<b>Declan T</b> <b>403 Achievement Points</b>
Year 9	21,916	9S 4206 Achievement points	<b>Annaise W-W 9D</b> <b>429 Achievement Points</b>
Year 10	11,678	10S 2058 Achievement points	<b>William B 10D</b> <b>291 Achievement Points</b>
Year 11	7,714	11S 1508 Achievement points	<b>Freddie G 11S</b> <b>233 Achievement Points</b>



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



# THE ARTS SPOTLIGHT



Last week's production of **Mary Poppins Jr.** was a truly magical achievement for our school, with the cast performing to over 1,000 audience members across six shows in just three days. The energy, commitment, and joy of our performers shone in every performance, earning standing ovations and enthusiastic calls for more. Bringing together a record-breaking cast from across the school, this production was a wonderful celebration of teamwork, resilience, and creativity, and a testament to the incredible dedication of every student involved.

**This fantastic review comes from a local theatre critic who frequently attends London productions. Photos courtesy of Ms. Squires and Mrs Beckett.**

## **Supercalifragilistic Excellence: St John Payne Raise the Roof with Mary Poppins**

Mary Poppins is one of those musicals that will always make you smile. When delivered well, it raises the spirits in a way few shows can - and the cast of St John Payne didn't just raise a smile, they raised the roof.

Tap-dancing chimney sweeps had me wanting to dust off my own tap shoes, while the polished, well-rehearsed vocals were reminiscent of classic Mackintosh productions. Add to this the fabulous characterisation, and once again this troupe proved they never fail to deliver.

A 97-strong cast flooded the stage at every opportunity, demonstrating a genuine understanding and love for this remarkable musical.

Mary Poppins herself was outstanding - even I, a regular mischief-maker, wouldn't have dared cross her. Bert expertly pushed the story along with true narrator flair, delivering laughs at just the right moments. Mrs Corry is certainly one to watch, giving a performance full of warmth, character, and joy - a future talent for sure. Miss Andrew, meanwhile, was a commanding presence on stage: brilliantly performed, utterly convincing, and terrifying in all the right ways.

I could list each cast member for their contribution to this lively, joyful evening of theatre, but there is never enough room. I can only lament those who missed out on such an awe-inspiring performance.

As the evening drew to a close, I was genuinely sad to see it end - but not before a student in a lead role delivered a rousing speech to the cast that perfectly captured the spirit of the performing arts: "It's easy to judge when you don't do it yourself, so ignore the haters and love what you do." What followed was a jubilant encore of the finale and a thoroughly deserved standing ovation for all.

Congratulations, troupe - as always, I'm already excited for my annual trip to Chelmsford in 2027!

**G. Bloor - 6th February 2026**



















## Sparx Reader Superstars

As we approach the half-way point of the school year, we congratulate those students at the top of our Sparx Reader leader board. The huge number of Sparx Reader points gained by these students so far this academic year shows their commitment to reading and their willingness to go above and beyond. Well done!



1	Gershon 7S	51,347 SRP
2	Annmiya 9B	45,239 SRP
3	Moreen 7B	44,573 SRP
4	Lirthika 7B	37,290 SRP
5	Ben 7B	26,252 SRP
6	Ada 7D	25,811 SRP
7	Janelle 8A	21,311 SRP
8	Autumn-Lily 7F	20,929 SRP
9	Gavin 8D	19,717 SRP
10	Dylan 9F	19,194 SRP
11	Israel 7C	18,998 SRP
12	Mia-Rose 8D	17,385 SRP
13	Clodagh 7S	17,072 SRP
14	Gabriel 8F	16,826 SRP
15	Dominic 7B	16,800 SRP

## The Brilliant Club Graduation Ceremony

A number of Y9 & Y10 students recently celebrated their success on The Brilliant Club's scholars project by attending a graduation ceremony at Jesus College, Cambridge University.

Students had the chance to tour the historic grounds, take part in an inspirational workshop and be presented with certificates for their hard work and dedication to the project. It has given them a chance to challenge themselves, develop new skills and explore the prospect of university life.

Well done, Scholars!





# SCIENCE SPOTLIGHT



## Biology Dissection Notice

Our students took part in heart dissection practicals, getting an up-close look at how this amazing organ works. The photos in this week's bulletin capture their enthusiasm and curiosity — but don't worry! We've covered up the actual hearts in the pictures for any squeamish viewers.

So you can bask in the smiles of **Millie T-G** and **Noah G** enjoying their lesson... without needing to look away at dinner time.







## 'Superstars'

Our year 10 and year 7 sports leaders recently attended the '**Superstars**' events organised by the Chelmsford School Sport Partnership. They led various activities throughout the day for over 300 primary school students in the local area. All students were a credit to SJP and it was fantastic to see their confidence grow as they engaged with the younger students.



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## Year 11 girls leadership in sport

Year 11 girls have engaged in a leadership unit of work this half term whereby they have learnt how to ensure a session is safe, the attributes of a good leader and they have then designed and lead their own session to Year 7 and Year 9 class students. The cohort were exceptional and demonstrated a kind and nurturing disposition. Well done year 11.





# P.E SPOTLIGHT



## Sienna

Sienna has been selected to **represent Northern Ireland in the U17 European Netball Championships**, taking place in Aberdeen. This is an outstanding accomplishment and a testament to Sienna's dedication, talent, and commitment to her sport. What makes this achievement even more impressive is that she has been selected a year young. We are incredibly proud of Sienna and thrilled to see her hard work pay off.

## Jake

We are delighted to celebrate the fantastic success of Jake, who achieved an exceptional result at the London Games last weekend. Competing in the U17 Men's High Jump, Jake not only secured **1st place**, but also set a **new personal best of 1.94 metres**. This remarkable accomplishment reflects Jake's determination, focus, and consistent hard work in training. Clearing 1.94m is an impressive milestone at this level, and we are incredibly proud to see his commitment rewarded on such a competitive stage.



***Jake claiming 1<sup>st</sup> Place***

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## Annabel

Annabel's recent performances at the County Swimming Championships truly deserves celebration. She delivered a series of outstanding swims, recording fantastic times across her events. Her performance in the 50m breaststroke was particularly impressive, as she not only secured victory in her age group, but also posted a faster time than competitors in the two age groups above her. As a result, Annabel now proudly holds the title of **2026 Essex Champion – Girls 14 years, 50m Breaststroke**.

Congratulations to Annabel on her dedication, determination, and remarkable achievements.



***Annabel - 2026 Essex Champion***

# KEY SCHOOL EVENTS





# JACK PETCHEY - SPEAK OUT ✂

## Jack Petchey's "SPEAK OUT" Challenge!



On 29th January, St John Payne Catholic School welcomed Teresa from the Speaker's Trust to deliver the Jack Petchey Speak Out Challenge Workshop for 30 Year 10 students. The day consisted of engaging activities and exercises designed to help students improve their speech writing skills and boost their public speaking confidence.

By the end of the workshop, all students delivered their own speeches to the rest of the group on topics varying from the importance of young voices in UK Politics to simply 'being yourself'.

Well, done to our students selected to go through to the next round: Marho, Abigail, Zach, Oscar, Ivy, Joseph and Juliet who will deliver their speeches in class this week. Four students will then be selected to perform their speeches in a school assembly after half term. From there we will select our finalist and reserve to go on to represent the school in the Central Essex Regional finals on 19th March.

*'I had a great time taking part in the Jack Petchey Speak Out workshop. The lady who ran the session was extremely nice and supported us along the way. I really enjoyed the fun warm-up and ice-breaker games we played – my favourite was 'Splat!' I would most definitely recommend the workshop to anybody considering taking part and I would love to take part in other oracy activities in the future if the opportunity arose.'*

**Zach Y10**



### Welcoming our 2025-26 sports captains



YEAR 7



YEAR 8



YEAR 9



YEAR 10

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### Specialist coaching

This term we have had the pleasure of welcoming Chloe from Chelmsford Ladies Rugby Club. She has been into 8 classes from Year 7-9 giving them a taster into female rugby. Please see the website for more information on joining

<https://www.chelmsfordrugby.club/teams/228528>







### Table Tennis Club

We have also had our first ever table tennis club afterschool delivered by Chelmsford table tennis club. It has been very popular with **Year 7 boys** and we look to revamp it again for the winter term in September. Please see the website for more information on joining.



<https://www.holdsport.net/klub/chelmsford-ttc>

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### Boys' sports update

The **Year 9 boys football team** delivered an outstanding performance to secure their place in the Essex Cup quarterfinals. Showing impressive teamwork, determination, and skill throughout the competition, they battled through challenging fixtures and demonstrated real character on the pitch. Their hard work and commitment have paid off, and the whole PE department is proud of their achievement as they head into the next round.

This half term has been an exceptional one for **basketball** across **Years 8, 9, and 10**, with all three teams showcasing impressive skill, commitment, and competitive spirit in their fixtures. Their continued success reflects hard work both in training and on the court. Our **Year 7 and Year 11** players also deserve recognition for their dedication and effort; despite facing tough opposition, they have demonstrated resilience, enthusiasm, and real growth in their performances. Together, all year groups have contributed to a brilliant term of basketball at the school.

The **Year 8 rugby team** put in a fantastic showing at the local Waterfall Tournament, demonstrating real determination and teamwork throughout the Afternoon. Despite playing in tricky weather conditions, the boys adapted brilliantly, showing composure and smart decision making in every match. Their physicality in defence and creativity in attack continued to shine through, and they represented the school with great attitude and sportsmanship. It was an excellent effort from the whole squad and a performance they can be proud of.





## St John Payne Shines at Chelmsford District Indoor Athletics Championships

The Chelmsford School District kicked off the new year with its annual Indoor Athletics Championships, held this January at the Chelmsford Athletics Centre. Open to pupils in Years 7 and 8, the event brought together young athletes from across the district for a full day of competition, teamwork and outstanding sporting ability.

St John Payne students rose to the occasion with exceptional performances across all events. **The Year 8 boys' and girls' teams delivered a commanding display, earning enough points to be crowned District Champions.** Their consistency, determination and team spirit shone throughout the day, securing well-deserved victories in a highly competitive field.

The success didn't stop there. Our **Year 7 boys' team achieved an impressive 2nd place**, demonstrating strong potential and promising results for competitions to come. Their performance sets a solid foundation as they continue to develop their skills across the season.

These achievements position St John Payne's athletics squads strongly as they look ahead to the summer. With momentum already building, attention now turns to the upcoming ESAA Track and Field Cup, one of the key national competitions for school athletics.

Training for the summer season will begin immediately after the Easter break, with students eager to continue their progress and represent the school on an even larger stage.





Congratulations to parents and students who use  
the French and German Knowledge Organisers  
[www.sentencebuilders.com](http://www.sentencebuilders.com) and [www.linguascope.com](http://www.linguascope.com) and [activehub.pearson.com](http://activehub.pearson.com)

## Term 2a 2025-26

**There is nothing complicated about learning languages, but it takes hard work.**

These students have showed particular grit, resilience, curiosity and effort in embedding French/German knowledge into their long-term memory. They will have a very strong start to the start of 2026 in French and German because they have not given up and have continued to ask questions and check their memory week in, week out.

Year 7 French	Year 8 French	Year 8 German	Year 9 French	Year 9 German
Aiden SB (7A)	Marco A (8B)	Deji B (8B)	Annmiya D (9B)	Fatima H (9B)
Daniel D (7B)	Xavier K (8S)	Lydia B (8S)	Alyson H G (9F)	Emily H (9S)
William D (7D)	Dwayne M (8B)	Ava R (8A)	Eric RP (9B)	Oscar E (9B)
Michaela M (7F)	Hugo S (8C)	Thomas M (8C)	Sanya S (9D)	Christopher N (9C)
Constantine C (7S)	Dylan SJ (8F)	Gabriel S (8F)	Tyler J (9S)	Michael J (9F)

**Moreover, SJP Top Linguastars are chosen amongst all others for their excellence.**

**Malachy W (7C)** Always displaying a positive and can-do attitude with excellent contribution in lessons and grit at home.

**Moksh K (8C)** He always makes a positive contribution to our lessons, practising speaking at every moment, and working on vocabulary and grammar at home. GCSE French?

**Nathan W (8C)** Nathan always gives of his best. He has produced a high standard of written and spoken German thanks to his hidden hardwork in homework. GCSE German?

**Daniyal A (9D)** Languages come so easily to him, as he works hard at home, applies what he knows in lessons and engages naturally in all speaking tasks. An ideal GCSE French candidate!

**Charlotte F (9D)** Charlotte shows quiet determination in her work. Her written work has been of a very high standard. An ideal GCSE German candidate!

**Jessica D (10A)** A brilliant first half as year in GCSE French, as she shows interest, resilience, enthusiasm in spades and she is working very hard. A-Level French candidate?

**Clara F (10C)** Impressive calm engagement in lessons and resilience in homework showing grit and determination in vocabulary retrieval. A-Level German candidate?

**Leon S (10A)** Leon has produced both written and spoken German of a high standard thanks to his interest in Germanic culture and hard work at home. A-Level German candidate?

**Honor M (11B)** For always going the extra mile and asking for help when needed. Excellent contribution in the lesson. Great recent progress. Definitely an A-Level French candidate!

**Cheryll V (11D)** Model effort in succeeding to achieve well in the Higher tier mock with great resilience and pride in his work. Definitely an A-Level French candidate!

**Natalia L (11D)** Natalia is a very enthusiastic linguist who attends revision lessons every week. She participates well in class and so is definitely an A-Level language candidate!

**Thalia A-D (12B)** Impressive research presentation on music genres and resilience in vocabulary and conjugation recall.





## The National Year of Reading 2026

**GO  
ALL  
IN.**

We just wanted to share that the Government has announced **2026 as the National Year of Reading**. The campaign launches with the theme **Go All In**, which we are excited to share with students through school displays, assemblies, and additional resources.

**Go All In** encourages students to engage with reading by connecting it to their passions. With this in mind, we have prepared a list of recommended fiction books that will be displayed across departments. These books are linked to students' interests and favourite subjects, including **Art, Food Technology, Sport, Computing, Geography, History, Religious Education, Maths, Science, and PSHE**. The aim is to encourage students to try fiction connected to what they already enjoy.

The **Go All In** campaign video can be viewed here:  
<https://goallin.org.uk/>

We encourage students, staff, and families to watch the short promotional video, which captures the energy and purpose of the campaign and shows how everyone can get involved.

**Let's go all in on reading in 2026!**

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### **Christmas Reading & Baking Competition – Congratulations to all participants!**

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in this year's Christmas Reading and Baking Competition. Your creativity, enthusiasm, and impressive culinary skills truly shone through!

We are delighted to recognise the following students for their wonderful contributions:

- Isla N (7A)
- Danilo C (7C)
- Sam M (7C)
- Lilly M-A (7D)
- Lucas C (8S)
- Aida P (9F)
- Alyson G (9F)
- Freddie G (11S)



## **A special congratulations to our overall winner: Ayla K (9F)**

Each student received 10 house points and a certificate of participation in celebration of their effort and achievement. Well done to all! Your talent and dedication made this festive competition a great success!

Winning entry by Ayla K (9F) can be seen below:



### **Oranges In No Man's Land, by Elizabeth Laird**

Oranges in no man's land is a story set in the middle-eastern country of Lebanon, painting in detail the events of the devastating civil war. Our main character is just a young girl, 10-year-old Ayesha, driven out of her home city to reside in a shelter, overcrowded with the poor, war-stricken and destitute. There, she meets a kind companion, Samar, who- despite the already present struggles of war- also has to deal with being deaf. However, after Ayesha's grandmother fails to keep up with her medication and becomes ill to the point of potential death, this brave child must journey across the grey area of Lebanon, no man's land, to source medicine from the enemy side, before she loses her grandmother forever.

For me this tale isn't just a children's book, it carries deeper themes of loss, betrayal and empathy. And the oranges aren't just a fruit, they're a symbol. Whilst Ayesha is traversing the enemy city, a boy gifts her an orange, supplying her with the strength to push on and visit the doctor. This is a gorgeous symbol of how hate and prejudice is taught, not natural. The book dotes upon us to reflect upon the brutality of the past and wonder, have we really changed at all? And if we haven't, maybe we should strive to build a better world for us, and for all the authors who believed we could too.

**Ayla Koro, 9F**





## Student - led lunchtime clubs in the library

12:50 - 13:25

**EVERY DAY**



**PUZZLE  
CLUB**

**MONDAY**



**Dungeons &  
Dragons RPG**  
by Michael and Kaitlyn

**WEDNESDAY**



**CRAFT CLUB**

**THURSDAY**



**MANGA CLUB**  
by Sureya and Gabriel

**FRIDAY**



**Dungeons &  
Dragons RPG**  
by Michael and Kaitlyn

# And then... there was light.

By Freddie Gardham 11S

And then. Eleven. Million. so-innocent, so-true souls were sorely stolen,  
Auschwitz, Chelmno, Treblinka: towers of tyranny, many names discarded to ash, to air.  
Yet from the deep, the drowning darkness shines an eternal light... never broken,  
“Only love creates,” a Catholic voice set stern there in stone: a Creed, a prayer.

And then. Six. Million. Jews, pursued, so-called “exterminated” by one man’s cruel command,  
Majdanek, Sobibor, Belzec: fields of faith and loss where pain and sorrow became crowned  
with its name.

Beyond the heaps of robbed shoes, beyond the whispers, the memories dead, the forced  
labour of that innocent hand,  
A silent voice did not tremble but rose, a strong phantom, for justice. A friar stood aflame.  
Who? How?

And then. Two. Hundred. Thousand. with disabilities cast. Like Incense. Away  
Buchenwald, Lublin, Dachau: shadows of shame still stretched today across all land.  
Ten men were chosen, chosen to die: their sentence a chime of Hell. For the camp, just  
another day...  
A father’s tears, a family, a life, love, cut short; but another stepped forward. Calm. Valiant.  
Following a sacrifice, the Mother of the Most High. a tender, raising hand.

And then. Two. Million. Polish citizens cast back to dust, taken before their time,  
Sachsenhausen, Mauthausen, Sobibor: the bitter, ill-glowing jewels of Hitler’s hate.  
Yet burning, faithful hope wore then blue and white stripes, shone like his visions. red and  
shone white, a beacon bright in genocide, in the worst of our past, in history’s ghastly grime,  
Militia Immaculata founded, Niepokalonów raised, a man of faith fell with grace to his coffin’s  
gate.

And this man of faith. Prisoner. Number. 1.6.6.7.0. Saint Maximilian Kolbe, pray for us,  
From a missionary in Japan to sheltering the preyed. The Jews. in. Nineteen. Forties. A time  
so detested, though a time so weak, so current, so frail.  
At just. Forty. Seven. years, you laid down your blessed life, a true Marian devotee to your  
murder, a mirror for us. Luminous. Sacrifice. Servanthood. Trust.  
“Hatred is not creative.” Your wonderful, warm words. Still, our war-chained world needs  
your Agape. Needs that moment in that camp. to prevail.

And what still radiates through the dark, through the death of those days, that are like these  
days, our days, we still fear?  
Light, never overcome, needed then, needed now... the futile, destructive, devastating fire,  
not of Auschwitz’s Hell, but of Heaven that will not flee:  
The flame of Christ, the flame of fellowship, your flame, burning bright, shining clear,  
Your life, a true pilgrim, a path of love made flesh: yes, you, Saint Maximilian Kolbe.

“A single act of love makes the soul return to life.”

SaintMaximilianKolbe(1894-1941)



# PASTORAL CARE, MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING





## The Educational Psychology (EP) Helpline for Parents

We know that you might have questions regarding supporting your child through school.

This helpline is here to give you advice, support and signposting. This is a confidential, private and safe service for parents and carers. You don't need a referral—just book an appointment. We're here to help you support your child's unique needs.

You might want help with:

- Supporting your child at home.
- Understanding their needs in school.
- Finding out what extra help is available.

Our team of qualified educational psychologists are here to listen and guide you. The helpline:

- is confidential and personal details will not be recorded and nor will information be passed onto other sources
- is staffed by qualified educational psychologists who listen to parents' concerns and work with them to find a positive way forward
- consists of a discrete piece of work with no follow up

It does not:

- fast-track a visit for your child in school
- make a referral to the EP or any other LA service
- obtain an EP assessment or to diagnose a condition
- accelerate EP involvement with the child
- substitute for an EP working directly with the child

New Now Easier to Access: The booking is designed to provide an easier and more convenient experience.

- Available on alternating Mondays and Tuesdays
- 1:00pm – 5:00pm
- 25-minute appointments bookable via MS Teams
- No more waiting – instant booking confirmation

For booking details and further information, please visit [EP-Parent-Helpline](#)

Information will also be available on the **Essex County Council Local Offer** Pages

<https://schools.essex.gov.uk/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send/send-services-and-support/essex-local-offer-website>





# E-SAFETY



# SJP Social Media



We're thrilled to announce the relaunch of our official Facebook and Instagram pages in 2026! These platforms will be your go-to destination for the latest school news, celebrating student achievements, showcasing events and activities, and sharing helpful resources for parents and students.

**Follow us to stay connected and be part of our vibrant school community.**

Let's make 2026 a year of connection, celebration, and community spirit! Find us on Facebook and Instagram and join the conversation today.

