

ST JOHN PAYNE



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# NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2025

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

# HEADTEACHERS COMMENTS



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



# HEADTEACHER'S COMMENTS

Dear St John Payne Community

It is always lovely to welcome the students back to school and to begin a new academic year.

We congratulate students on their success in their exams, with Year 13 progressing to university or apprenticeships, and many of last year's Year 11 remaining with us for sixth form. This year we are pleased also to welcome upwards of thirty students who join our sixth form from other schools. We offer prayers and warm wishes to all who have progressed to new ventures elsewhere.

Throughout October we have joined as a community to pray The Angelus daily at midday. We continue our weekly Form Masses in the chapel, so warmly served by our local parish priests - Fr Paul of The Blessed Sacrament, and Fr Martin & Fr Michael of St Augustine, Our Lady Immaculate & Holy Name, and by priests from across the Deanery.

We were delighted to welcome visitors to our prospective Year 7 & 12 open evenings and to the tours that have continued throughout October.

Following the joys of our performances of Alice just three weeks into the term, Aquinas hall is full of energy and excitement in the evenings as students rehearse for our main school show - Mary Poppins, with over 130 students performing.

We were especially blessed by the visit of Elma Walsh, who spoke to students about her son Donal, who was inspired by his cancer diagnosis at the age of sixteen to promote commitment to life and to prevent teenage suicide through his Live Life Foundation <http://donalwalshlivelife.org/>. Donal's family have promoted his legacy since he died in 2013.

We continue our tradition of charity fundraising and giving, with our harvest collection extending year round. Items can be left in Form rooms to be delivered to foodbanks. We continue to donate to CAFOD, Aid to the Church in Need, Cancer research, and Chess.

Yours in Christ.

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



# CHAPLAINCY & FAITH LIFE



*Lay chaplain : Katy Adams*

# CHAPLAINCY & FAITH LIFE



The faith life of the school is joyous with praise and glory to God.

On the first day back, the students in Years 7 & 12 enjoyed a beautiful Mass with the staff. Year 7 raised the roof with their amazing singing. Just as St Augustine says rightly, 'Singing is for one who loves'. We thank Fr Martin for bringing us Jesus!

Year 7 enjoyed their Community Mass in October with families and staff. The students were a credit to themselves, the singing and reverence was beautiful to witness. Fr Martin celebrated this with us, and it was a truly lovely occasion.

Every day starts and ends in prayer. During the month of October (Month of the Rosary), the whole school stops at 12 noon and prays The Angelus. This devotion to Our Lady is led by students.

We thank our wonderful deanery priests for bring us Jesus every week at the Eucharistic miracle in Mass, this term has seen Year 12 & 13 celebrate their form Mass on a Friday at 12 noon.

Every student in Year 7 have attended a retreat, the scripture was Light of the World, and indeed they are! A day of reflection, laughter, and leadership. A huge thank you to the students in Year 12 & 13 for leading by example in their servant leadership.

On Wednesday 1st & 2nd October – the student leadership went on retreat to Walsingham House. It was an absolute pleasure to witness all that is good in these incredible young people.

Chaplaincy clubs are thriving! For more details, speak to Katy. On a Thursday lunchtime we offer the Rosary & Adoration – this is led by the ladies from the legion of Mary. All are welcome!

The ever-popular Thursday morning Mass in the Chapel is well attended by students & staff. We thank Fr Martin & Fr Michael for your continued support and bringing us the blessed sacrament. This is a time to offer our day to God and ask for his guidance throughout the week.

On Thursday 2nd October, we welcomed Elma into our school. There really are no words that can be offered that with do justice to her emotive and hope filled message of how life is a gift. A special mention to Aoife and Freddie for assisting throughout the whole day. That same evening, 15 students attending the Cathedral for the jubilee Mass of the Year of Hope. Elma spoke again and mentioned her time with the SJP community and our very special welcome. During the evening Emillia was congratulated for having her art work chosen for the official prayer card of the diocese. Well done Emillia.

## **Going forward:**

On the 1st of November, all Catholics are encouraged to attend Mass for this special Holy day of Obligation. As this year it falls in the Half-term, you will need to check your parish newsletter for Mass times.

On **Friday 7th November 2025**, we will celebrate a Mass for the deceased in our community. This will be held within the school day so that all students wanting to attend will have the opportunity to do so. If any families wish to have their past loved ones prayed for, please email me on: [KAD@sjp.essex.sch.uk](mailto:KAD@sjp.essex.sch.uk)

We continue to enjoy Youth Mass at Brentwood Cathedral on the 1st Thursday of every month. Places on the minibus go quickly so please let me know asap if your child wants to travel with me on the school minibus.

During the season of Advent, every student will witness the scripture, prayers, and faith preparation for the coming of Christ with weekly gatherings of lighting the Advent Wreath and an Advent Service assembly. Our Catholic community will welcome all our deanery priests for the Holy Sacrament of Reconciliation.

On the last day the school term, the whole community will enjoy an uplifting Advent Carol Service. Our families and wider community will be warmly invited on Thursday 18th at 6pm to enjoy the Carol Service and refreshments after the event. After all, Christ is the reason for the season. I wish you all an enjoyable break and look forward to your return.

With prayers & thanks,

**Katy Adams**  
**Lay chaplain**



# CHAPLAINCY & FAITH LIFE



## Youth SVP Afternoon Tea

On Friday 11th July, the Youth SVP group hosted an afternoon tea for invited guests from our parish community. The event began with a warm welcome and opening prayer from Fr Damien, setting the tone for a joyful and meaningful afternoon.

Guests were served a delicious selection of sandwiches, cakes, and fresh fruit, followed by games of bingo with prizes, and a special performance from our talented Year 10 dance students. It was a real privilege for us to spend time chatting with our guests—sharing stories, experiences, and building a genuine sense of companionship across generations.

As the hot afternoon drew to a close, everyone enjoyed a much-needed ice lolly, bringing the event to a refreshing and cheerful end.

The afternoon was a great success, and we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the parents who supported us with generous donations, in addition to our own fundraising efforts. Your kindness helped create a memorable and meaningful experience for all involved.

Youth SVP



# THE ARTS SHOWCASE





# THE ARTS SHOWCASE



## **ALICE**

### **LOWER SCHOOL PLAY - SEPTEMBER 2025**

This year's Lower School production of Alice by Laura Wade was a moving and imaginative reimagining of the classic Alice in Wonderland tale, exploring themes of grief and resilience through a modern lens. We are incredibly proud of the 55 talented students who brought this powerful story to life, performing to over 800 audience members across two unforgettable days.

Despite a six-week postponement over the summer, the cast showed remarkable dedication and professionalism throughout the rehearsal process. A heartfelt thank you to all the families for your continued support—your encouragement makes these productions possible. We're already looking ahead with excitement to our next production, Mary Poppins Jr., and look forward to seeing many familiar faces from Alice in the cast. Tickets will be on sale soon!





# MEET THE STAFF



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We're thrilled to welcome the newest members of staff to St John Payne Catholic School this year. Each person brings their own unique talents and energy to our community, and we're excited for the contributions they'll make across all areas of school life.

Thank you for joining us. Here's to a fantastic year ahead!



**MRS A WILLIAMS**  
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER



**MRS A GOSLING**  
ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER



**MRS J MOORES**  
SCIENCE TEACHER



**MRS L MCNEILL**  
HUMANITIES TEACHER



**MISS L WATSON**  
RE TEACHER



**MISS T CHAPMAN**  
HOD & ENGLISH TEACHER



**MRS H ROBERTS**  
ART TEACHER



**MRS C HOFFMAN**  
EXAMS OFFICER



**MR S MOORES**  
DT & FT TECHNICIAN



# MEET THE STAFF



**MR S BRUCORRELI**  
PREMISES



**MR O SMITH**  
ASSISTANT CARETAKER



**MS L BURNS**  
PASTORAL MENTOR



**MRS K WELLS**  
LEARNING SUPPORT  
ASSISTANT



**MISS L O'DRISCOLL**  
OFFICE MANAGER



**MRS Y BACHUNSKA**  
PREMISES



**MR F DALY**  
INVIGILATOR



**MRS P RIZEA**  
PREMISES

# SIXTH FORM







## **Sixth Form: A Promising Start**

As Head of Sixth Form, I am delighted to share some encouraging news about our Year 12 and Year 13 students as they embark on this important stage of their educational journey.

Year 12 have made an impressive start to their sixth form experience. Their enthusiasm, commitment, and eagerness to embrace new challenges has been evident from day one. It's wonderful to see them engaging so positively with their studies, participating actively in lessons, and beginning to develop the independent learning skills that will be vital over the next two years. We are confident that this strong foundation will set them up for success in both their academic and personal growth.

Our Year 13 students have returned with a fantastic attitude and determination. Recognising that this is their final year of study, they have demonstrated remarkable focus and resilience. Their hard work is clear as they prepare diligently for upcoming exams, fully aware of the opportunities that lie ahead.

Both year groups have shown the kind of dedication and spirit that make our Sixth Form community so special. I look forward to seeing all they will achieve in the months to come.

Thank you to all the students, families, and staff for their continued support.

## **The UCAS Process Has Begun**

We are excited to announce that the UCAS application process is now officially underway for our students! Over the past few weeks, we have sent off the first few early entry applications, marking an important milestone in our students' journey toward higher education.

Our students have been working diligently to make thoughtful and informed choices about their future courses and universities. From researching options to narrowing down their preferences, the process of selecting the right path is well underway. Alongside this, many are busy writing their personal statements, an essential part of their applications where they showcase their academic passions and achievements.

To support students in making the best decisions, we have actively encouraged them to attend university open days. These visits provide invaluable opportunities to explore campus life, meet current students and faculty, and get a real sense of the courses they are interested in. Engaging with universities firsthand helps students feel confident about their choices and excited about the next chapter.

We want to congratulate all students on their hard work so far and encourage them to keep up the great effort. With determination and careful planning, we are confident they will put forward strong applications that reflect their potential.

Stay tuned for more updates as we continue through this important phase of the academic year!

## **Sixth Form Open Evening**

Our recent Sixth Form Open Evening was a fantastic opportunity for prospective students and their families to explore the wide range of courses and extracurricular opportunities available. Attendees were able to meet teaching staff, tour the facilities, and gain valuable insight into life in our Sixth Form.

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all Year 11 families who joined us, we hope you found the evening both informative and helpful as you consider the next steps in your child's education. It was also wonderful to welcome many external families as well, reflecting the growing interest in our Sixth Form.

A special thanks must also go to our incredible Sixth Form helpers. Over 100 of our current students generously volunteered their time and energy to assist throughout the evening in numerous ways. Their enthusiasm and support were key to making the event such a success.

Thank you once again to everyone involved!

**Mr Hewlett**  
**Head of Sixth Form**



## Preparing to apply for an apprenticeship

Information for parents and carers

**PiXL6**  
partners in excellence



## Did you know?



There are a whole range of apprenticeships available, and some provide the opportunity to achieve a full degree. They are increasingly being viewed as a genuine, high-quality alternative to a traditional university degree.

Apprenticeships have undergone significant changes in recent years, extending to a wide range of professions. Entry points are more and more likely to be at 17+ and 18+ in the future.



## What can you do?

There are a number of apprenticeship levels:

- **Traineeships:** no formal qualifications
- **Intermediate Apprenticeships:** equivalent to five good GCSEs
- **Advanced Apprenticeships:** equivalent to A-levels
- **Higher Apprenticeships:** can lead to a HND, HNC or Foundation Degree
- **Degree Apprenticeships:** lead to a full undergraduate degree and include study at a university.

Sixth Forms/colleges tend to focus on applications to **Higher and Degree** apprenticeships. Both Higher and Degree apprenticeships offer salaries; they are proper jobs but provide training and qualifications.

**Higher Apprenticeships** can be accessed in a range of careers such as law, broadcasting, engineering, finance, IT. The list is constantly growing. For example, a five-year Higher Apprenticeship in Law can result in the position of a Chartered Legal Executive, equivalent to a lawyer. The BBC offers, amongst other things, a

Production Assistant Apprenticeship which involves working on live TV programmes, dramas, sport and radio.

**Degree Apprenticeships** can result in a wide range of professional careers, from a nuclear scientist to a solicitor. They are developed by employers, universities and professional bodies. Time is split between university and the workplace; the apprentice is fully salaried and, very importantly, pays no university fees.

### What can you do?

It is worth being aware of what is available and the following links may be of interest to you as you have the conversations with your son/daughter:

- [www.getingofar.gov.uk](http://www.getingofar.gov.uk)
- [www.noteingtouni.co.uk](http://www.noteingtouni.co.uk)
- A parent's guide to apprenticeship is also available on [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)
- There is a great deal of information also on the university applications website, [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)





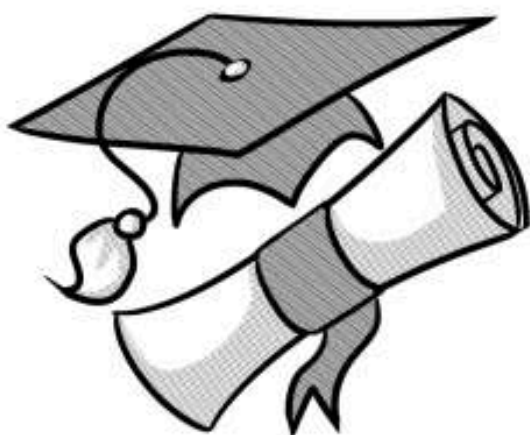
## Preparing for University Applications

Information for parents and carers

PiXL6  
partners in excellence



## Did you know?



Approximately 700,000 people apply for full-time undergraduate courses at over 380 universities and colleges across the UK each year.

The competition for places can be fierce so it is good for your son/daughter to be as prepared as possible.



## What can you do?

A key thing to remember is that preparation is **the key** for a successful university application – and that it isn't always just about the grades. Here are some of the things that university admissions tutors will be looking out for, and what we will be doing to help:

**A Strong Personal Statement:** A student's personal statement should show passion and enthusiasm for their chosen subject area and demonstrate the wider skills and experiences that will enable them to succeed at university. If you can, prompt them to think about things they could do to enhance their application - the sooner the better!

**A Passion for their Subject Area:** Encourage your child to complete extra reading, engage with TED talks, complete MOOCs (online courses), and think outside the restrictions of the exam specifications. Most of these things are free but could make a real difference to them.

**Character Development:** The kind of things that will make them stand out from other applicants are the LORIC attributes: Leadership, Organisation, Resilience,

Initiative and Communication. They often find it quite difficult to recognise their own strengths in these areas - it is helpful for you to remind them of their areas of strength.

**Work Experience:** Successful applications for some courses are enhanced by work experience. If you know anyone who would be willing to have them in to their work for a day or two, this can really help. It is also worth noting that the skills acquired through part-time paid and voluntary work are also valued by many universities; just make sure any part-time, 'small' job doesn't turn into one that distracts from their work.

**University visits:** Attending university Open Days is invaluable for a variety of reasons – and many are over the weekend so there's often no need to miss lessons. Students will be able to speak to course tutors, test the travel arrangements to and from home, look at the location, accommodation...a whole wealth of things that will ensure that they are making an informed choice. The universities often run sessions for parents at their Open Days.

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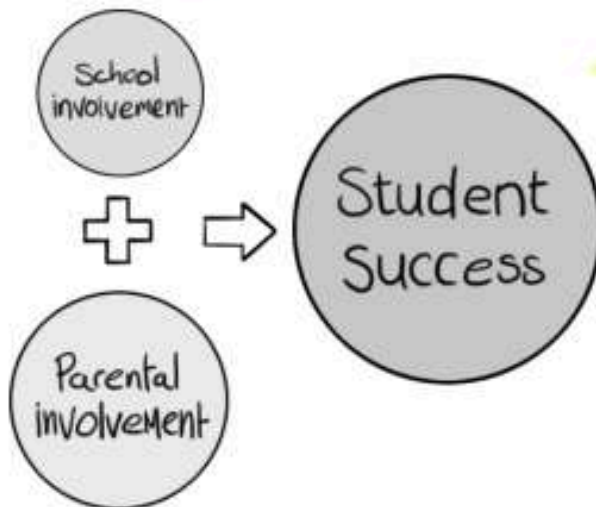


## Preparing for Post-16 Education

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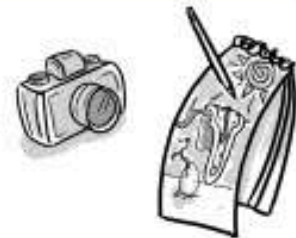
Information for parents and carers

## Did you know?



There is a significant difference between Year 11 and Year 12. The courses are more challenging in the sixth form, and the pressures on students are significant.

However, there are a number of ways in which students can prepare for this change and help to bridge the gap.



## What can you do?

Many colleges run a Post-16 Preparation Day soon after the completion of GCSEs and a number of things happen that will help to prepare your child for post-16 education. These may involve taster lessons or taster days where they can sample the lessons and routines of being in a more independent setting.

- The transition to being in post-16 education should start happening over the summer as students await results and prepare for starting courses. It is helpful if you can encourage them to do some background reading on their subject, or perhaps watch some TED talks or documentaries.
- Many schools give out summer work that needs to be completed for the first few weeks back – ask your child if they have this to complete.
- It would also be profitable if the summer break was used as an opportunity for them to widen their experience by visiting museums, the theatre – or absolutely anything that gets them involved more deeply in things that interest them and perhaps pushes them out of their comfort zone. Many museums and art galleries are free, and many others have a reduced student rate.
- Your child may come home telling you they have 'free periods' – most of the time these are actually 'study periods' or 'independent learning' periods where students should be doing wider reading, prescribed work or working independently. Check what the expectations are!
- Be prepared for a dip! The jump from KS4 to KS5 is a big one. Be prepared that your son or daughter may find the new level quite challenging at first, and it takes a few weeks to become comfortable with the new standard of work and expectations.
- If they have summer work, encourage them to do it in plenty of time rather than the panic and dash towards the end of the holidays.



# STUDENT AWARDS



# STUDENT AWARDS



	Total Year Group Achievement Points	Highest Form Achievement points	Highest Achievement Points In the Year
Year 7	10,014	7S 1972 Achievement points	Danilo C 7C 168 Achievement Points
Year 8	10,181	8B 2277 Achievement points	Declan T 8B 191 Achievement Points
Year 9	9,058	9D 1731 Achievement points	Aurana I 9B 171 Achievement Points
Year 10	5,074	10S 946 Achievement points	Xanaiyah R 10D 123 Achievement Points
Year 11	4,225	11S 841 Achievement points	Freddie G 11S 102 Achievement Points





# STUDENT AWARDS



## Achievement Points

Declan 8B 191  
Aurana 9B 171  
Danilo 7C 168  
Annaise 9D 165  
Ahana 8B 162  
Noah 7C 151  
Daniel 8B 150  
Sanya 9D 149  
Esme 8B 147  
Annmiya 9B 145  
Marco 8B 142  
Kamsi 8B 142  
Rylee 9B 142  
Kwemto 8B 138  
Zara 7C 137  
Aida 9F 137  
Louis 9D 135  
Ariana 8B 134  
Morayo 9D 134  
Dee 9D 134  
Gilly 7C 132  
Sebastian 9B 132  
Britney 9C 132  
Rose 9D 132  
Ava 9D 131  
Poppy 7C 130  
Maisie 8B 130  
Julia 8B 130  
Abigail 9B 130  
Aayush 9B 128  
Ava 7C 127  
Oliwia 8B 127  
Isaac 9D 127  
Louis 9D 127  
Scarlett 9B 126  
Isaac 8B 125  
Samuel 8B 125  
Xanaiyah 10D 123  
Zach 7C 123  
Estera 7S 123

# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT







## SJP Poet Laureates 2025/26

# Congratulations

for winning the poetry competition  
and being named

**SJP Poet Laureates 2025/2026**

**Aida P** (Key Stage 3)

**Freddie G** (Key Stage 4)

### **A huge thank you to all our poets!**

We'd like to say a massive thank you to all the students who submitted their poems to the National Poetry Competition on the theme of Play. Your creativity and imagination were a joy to read and we're proud of every single entry.

House points have been awarded to celebrate your contributions and all submitted poems are now proudly displayed in the library.

Keep writing and keep inspiring us all!





Aida - 9F

## The Art of Play

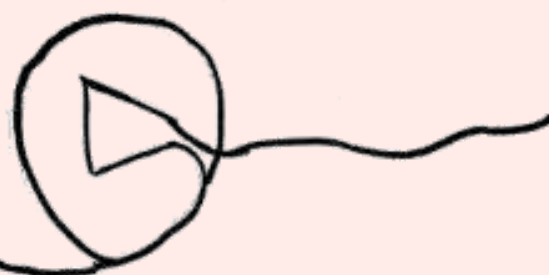
The world is small, but the world is vast,  
In the space where the rules are cast  
Aside, for a moment, the heavy need  
To toil and achieve, to plant a seed  
Of future success. Instead, just now  
A joyful release, a silent vow.

A child's wild chase, a skipping rope's blue,  
A whisper of stories, a gentle purr.  
Of pure invention, where sticks become swords,  
And cardboard boxes hold fabulous hords.

It's the rhythm of music, the dancer's free spin,  
The gambler's sweet risk, before they begin  
To count up the losses; it's drama & light  
A role you put on to shine in the night.

It's not just for children, this powerful grace,  
It's the way we unwind, to find our true place.  
To play is to learn, to connect, and to mend,  
A beautiful act that will never quite end.

So step from the serious, just for a while,  
And wear the bright garment of an innocent smile  
For in losing yourself to a game, you will find,  
The peace & the power of joyful mind.



Aida  
9F





## Freddie - 11S



### PLAY @ SJP

### Pray Learn Achieve Yield



By Freddie Gardham 11S

**P**raying and playing with purpose, hand in hand: this is where Christian kindness takes its stand: in the darkness, a living light ray,

Through volunteering at Columbus, joy becomes our gift as we serve the Servant King through play.

There's Charity week, and food donations we seek; our play makes Agape be seen so clearly – all from just giving, smiling, partaking in a gentle game –,

See: through play, dignity and unity boom so loud, our play honouring Jesus' giving name.

**L**earning through sport, where we play with a loving, burning passion, yet never just to win,

For from participating in these games, success does start, and understanding, teamwork, true strength grows from deep within.

On courts, on fields, in sun, in rain, we play, united as one with each pass, each leap, each cheer,

Discover: in this, our humble play, we find belonging and make our Christian Mission of oneness clear.

**A**chieving at Saint John Payne; to play is not to hide from intellect or to escape from studies, but it is a flint, helping the mind ignite,

Tremendous teachers demonstrating innovative ideas; fun, joy and play turn the grind of learning into wonder, into light.

In each playful, considered class, from Chemistry to Geography, from Religious Studies to Business Studies, play nurtures God's talents, sharpening what we know,

Perceive: where there's play, there blooms the will, the courage, the luxury to question, to seek, and to grow!

**Y**ielding also in arts, we play with colours so brilliantly bold, in which our stories of compassion, of joy, of peace are told,

Through the triumph of our school's play Alice, to the beauty of paint, and poetry nonetheless: the arts allow our lively and loving spirits of community to unfold.

The choir constantly complements the Catholic Calendar, whilst other talented students performed our magnificent musical Matilda

Know: it is clear as a crystal, that play, mind-developing, enriching, gifting play, creates the God given beauty of who we truly are...

"The city streets will be filled with boys and girls playing there."

- [Zechariah 8:5](#)



# KEY SCHOOL EVENTS





# MODERN LANGUAGES



## SJP Linguastars

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 1a 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 next half-term 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
Naet U (7B)	Amanda U (8B)	Mille C (8D)	Vaeh D (9B)	Vaeh D (9B)
Noah F (7C)	Regina L (8C)	Maxwell J (8S)	Chloe G (9C)	Annabel M (9C)
Amy R (7D)	Mia W (8F)	Isaac C (8B)	Kacper N (9S)	Kacper N (9S)
Julian G (7F)	Isla I (8B)	Thomas M (8C)	Eli M (9A)	Daniel M (9F)
Sam W (7S)	Mia Rose B (8D)	Dylan DJ (8F)	Harley H (9C)	Annalise W (9D)
	Lucas C (8F)	Millie C (8D)	Adam B (9S)	Vaeh D (9B)

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

<b>Elsie S (7A)</b> Excellent participation in class due to alertness to her need to optimise lesson time.
<b>Harley G (8A)</b> Much improved resilience and attitude to learning French thanks to his concentration and maturity.
<b>Janelle O (8A)</b> Great class participation due to awareness of her need to optimise lesson time.
<b>Eli M (9A)</b> Very good start to year 9 languages due to his great enthusiasm, which will massively improve his grades and enjoyment. GCSE French candidate?
<b>Abigail C (9B)</b> High-level achieving student due to her effort in homework and eagerness to optimise her time in lessons by participating and asking good questions. GCSE German candidate?
<b>Rio G (10D)</b> A brilliant start to GCSE French, as he shows interest, resilience, enthusiasm in spades and working very hard. A-Level French candidate?
<b>Aksa J (10D)</b> Due to her committed approach to GCSE German. 100% effort in lessons/homework and particular attention to detail in spellings/grammar. A-Level German candidate?
<b>James O (10F)</b> Due to his consolidation in homework, he is very quick to understand grammar. Thanks to good participation in lessons, he will achieve very well. A-Level German candidate?
<b>Leonor P (11D)</b> Great grades due to her committed approach to GCSE French vocabulary learning and grammar application in her writing and reading. 100% effort in lessons/homework. A-Level French candidate?
<b>Freya P (10D)</b> Highest grades in the class due to her committed approach to GCSE French vocabulary learning and grammar application in her writing and reading. 100% effort in lessons/homework. A-Level French candidate?
<b>Natalia L (11F)</b> A linguist who always gives 100% in lessons and at home, Natalia shows great enthusiasm. A-Level German candidate?
<b>Faye C (12F)</b> Outstanding pronunciation and start to adapting French to A-Level summaries and essay writing. Grappling with Present/Imperfect tenses and use of cultural facts and statistics. a degree in French?

# MODERN LANGUAGES



**Cologne (July 2025) - RBE / VWI / TCO / BGO / GSM / SWI**



"I had so much fun on the Germany trip. We had to get up really early to get to the bus, but the trip was definitely worth it. We went to the town centre, did some shopping, went on a boat trip, and went to the cathedral and the chocolate factory, which was great fun. On the second day we went to Phantasialand. I loved it there it was so much fun. The rides were so good and I definitely want to go back one day. The rooms were nice and big so we had lots of fun in them. Lastly this trip would not be possible without all the teachers that volunteered to arrange and take us on this amazing trip, which we are all really grateful for and I'm sure everyone has made loads of great memories because I definitely have".

**Beth Taylor – 9D**

Germany was an unforgettable trip and it has given everyone memories that will last forever. On this trip we did loads of great activities such as going to the town, shopping visiting the Cologne cathedral, going to a chocolate factory and finally going to Phantasialand. The nights after dinner were always fun because we all really bonded and played table football and even had a pillow fight; this was a trip we will never forget (even though the food wasn't the best) so thank you to all the teachers.

**Lydia Baker 9D**





# MODERN LANGUAGES



"I had eine sehr gute Zeit on our enrichment trip to Germany. One thing I noticed was how welcoming staff at the hostel in Köln were, who allowed us to use their entertainment room at night where we made so many fun memories from playing Uno and Dobble whilst listening to German songs with each other. Mr Bellworthy, Mr Acton, Mr Godfrey, Miss Winter, Mrs Williams and Miss Smart have truly made this trip very exciting and as fun filled as possible all whilst keeping us extremely safe with showing us things like Köln cathedral with a guided tour where we learnt things like the fact that the construction started on the 15th of August 1248 and that it is said to hold the relics of the 3 wisemen. We also had a trip to the Lindt chocolate museum where we got to experience how most of the chocolate is cooked. We learned many of the process and inside secrets. Another great thing was that we went to Phantasialand, the theme park. It had a great layout of rides and showings which you could attend at various hours of the day, particularly I noticed that it had a range of rides for everyone going from small rides which weren't scary to family rides where you got more of a thrill and then the big thriller rides that made you scream.

This was particularly good because it included everyone. During the second day we had a beautiful boat trip on the Rhine, which helped us to understand more about the old town of Köln before the 2nd world war where it got extremely damaged but miraculously they were able to rebuild it so it still stands today. Not only this but the views were unreal and really had everyone in awe. On the last night we even had a great factual quiz that entertained all of us hosted and carefully planned by Mr Acton. This trip has been a once in a lifetime time experience where we had the chance to experience a new country and make new friends that we would have never been able to make otherwise. We were also able to experience German attractions and street shops where we bought traditional German food such as Bratwurst and other restaurants/shops that are global which we don't have in the UK. I can personally guarantee that everyone on this trip to Köln has had the best time ever and will remember all the memories made from this trip forever, so I just want to say thank you to Mr Bellworthy, Mr Acton, Mr Godfrey, Miss Winter, Miss Smart and Mrs Williams who made this trip as special as possible".

**Clara L - 9S**

# BUSINESS & ECONOMICS



## Business and Economics

Since the return in September, the autumn term has been busy for Business and Economics students.

**On 9th September**, we welcomed Anne Corrigan from the Bank of England to speak to our Sixth Form Business and Economics students. Anne spoke to our students about Economics in practice and discussed her career journey into the Bank of England.

**On 3rd October**, our BTEC Level 3 Year 12 students welcomed Serena Dilworth, a business manager from NatWest. The students are currently working on the topic of **'Recruitment and Selection'**. This unit involves students researching a business of their choice and investigating the business' recruitment and selection process. In the next stage of this unit, students will be preparing documents for interview and participating in interviews. Serena spoke to the students about her role within recruiting and selecting candidates for NatWest's graduate programme and discussed the options for post-16 education at NatWest.

On 7th October, A-level Economic students participated in a zoom meeting hosted by Ian Marcouse on 'How to get growth going'. The meeting covered key macroeconomic topics, such as putting the optimists' and pessimists' case forward, and how and when success/failure can be measured.



### Panathlon Football Tournament

On Wednesday 8th October, I was lucky enough to be invited to take seven of our students to the Panathlon Football Tournament, where they took part in a range of exciting football-based challenges and skill events — including passing, shooting, dribbling, and a particular favourite, 'nutmegging'!

Competing against seven other schools around the area, our students demonstrated fantastic teamwork, enthusiasm, and determination throughout the morning. Their efforts were truly commendable, and it was wonderful to see them supporting one another in every event.

Thanks to their hard work and brilliant attitude, the team achieved an impressive 4th place overall — a result that reflects their commitment and positive spirit.

A huge well done to all the students involved for representing the school so proudly.



### Girls PE Update

We are delighted with the fantastic turnout at our after-school training sessions for both netball and basketball. The enthusiasm and commitment shown by our students has been truly inspiring.

Our basketball teams have celebrated success in the Essex Cup fixtures, showcasing skill and teamwork. Meanwhile, our netball squads have been actively competing in both the Essex Cup and the local round of the National Netball competition, demonstrating great determination and sportsmanship.

In addition to these achievements, our girls have represented the school in MESSSA fixtures across netball, basketball, and football, including a strong showing in the MESSSA 7-a-side Girls' Football Tournament.

The girls have been a credit to the school, both on and off the pitch, and we are incredibly proud of their efforts. We look forward to seeing their continued success and development throughout the season.







### Boys PE Update

It's been a fantastic half term for our school football teams, with 13 matches played in both MESSSA and Essex Cup competitions with a strong record of success across all year groups. The players have consistently demonstrated determination, teamwork, and a real passion for the game.

From thrilling late comebacks to solid defensive displays, every team has contributed to a brilliant start to the season. The commitment shown in training and matches has been outstanding, and the results reflect the hard work put in by the students.

We're proud of all those who have represented the school. Let's hope we have to more success after the half term break!



### Strong Turnout at Boys' Basketball Morning Clubs

The boys' basketball programme has made a confident start this term, with excellent attendance across all morning training sessions. Pupils have shown real commitment, arriving promptly and putting in focused effort ahead of the school day.

Morning basketball clubs take place in the **Sports Hall at 7:45am**, with sessions running as follows:

- **Year 7 Boys** – Tuesday mornings
- **Years 8 & 9** – Wednesday mornings
- **Years 10, 11 & Sixth Form** – Friday mornings

Year 7 boys have already played **two fixtures**, gaining valuable match experience and showing great promise for the season ahead. Staff have praised the players' attitude and teamwork and look forward to seeing continued progress across all age groups.





### National Multi events

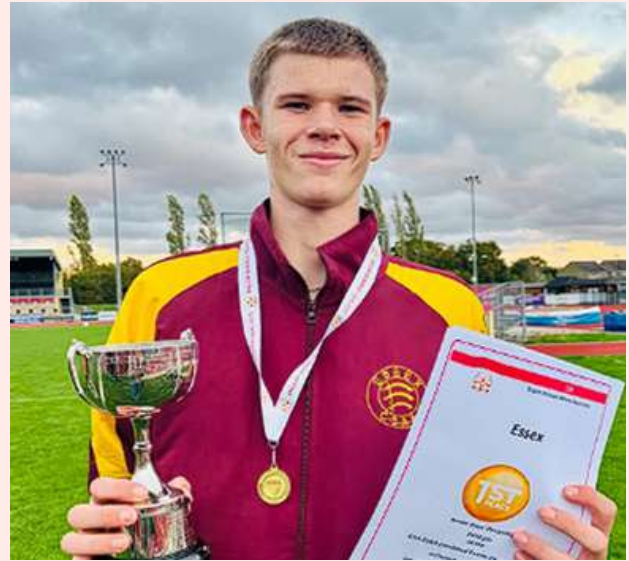
Congratulations to Jake and team Essex who competed in the National Multi events in September. Team Essex came 1st 🏆

Jake did amazing and led the Essex team to victory.

He gained 3 Personal Best's and won the high jump!!

- 80m hurdles - 11.94
- Shot 9.20m
- Long jump 5.76m
- High jump 1.86m
- 800m 2.12

**2933 points overall.** National standard is 2800!



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### BWAA Grand Prix

Congratulations to Natalia who competed in the BWAA Grand Prix at the weekend! Awesome PB!



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### Trip to Colchester University

Year 11 GCSE students recently visited Essex University for an exciting and educational fitness testing trip. The day provided a valuable opportunity to experience university-level sports science facilities and take part in a range of fitness assessments, including cardiovascular endurance, strength, and flexibility tests. Students gained insights into how data is collected and analysed in professional settings, helping them link theory to practice and deepen their understanding of physical education. It was a fun and inspiring day that gave everyone a taste of life at university and the science behind athletic performance.



# FOOD BANK COLLECTION



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to our recent **food bank collection**. Your generosity and community spirit have made a real difference to those in need.

We are proud to share that a significant number of items were donated, and we've received a certificate in recognition of the school's efforts – please see below.

Your support helps foster a culture of kindness and compassion within our school, and we are incredibly grateful for every contribution. Together, we continue to show how small acts can have a big impact.



Chelmsford Food Bank Collection - Form Totals								
	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	HOUSE TOTALS
Augustinians		23	10	72	18	8	15	146
Benedictines	27	57	21	16		38		159
Carmelites	69			25	36	20		150
Dominicans	27	1	55	60				143
Franciscans	21	58		20			5	104
Servites	30	28	11		22		22	113
YEAR TOTALS	174	144	87	193	58	58	27	741
Additional Staf 11 (7F)				9				



# 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







## What are the benefits and challenges of screen use?



### Screen time benefits

- Screen use provides a range of opportunities for creativity and learning – **70% of parents strongly agree that using devices is essential** for their child's development  
*Source: [Internet Matters Look both ways report](#)*
- Screens can be a great tool to allow children to **maintain relationships** with family and friends.
- **The internet can also be inspirational for children** with a certain passion in particular when discovering content and sharing their own content.



### Screen time challenges

- As most children at this age will have their own devices, for parents **it can become increasingly challenging** to stay on top of their screen use.
- As children become more active online, **there is an increased risk that they will be exposed to a range of online issues** such as cyberbullying or oversharing which may negatively impact their digital footprint.
- **Passive screen time** (i.e. bingeing on box sets) could have a physical effect on their development (i.e. eyes, brain), sleep cycle and behaviour.



## 5 top tips to balance screen time

### 1 Set boundaries to help them build good online habits

Children seek out rules to follow so its best these come from you and not their peers.

**Set up a family agreement that you all sign up to**, to manage expectations of what they should and shouldn't be doing online. These boundaries should help them prioritise sleep, face to face interactions and family time to strike a healthy balance.

### 2 Stay engaged in what they do online

**Take an interest in their digital world** to better guide them as they become more socially active online and start to draw from friends and online sources to build their identity.

Give them the space to be more independent and build their resilience online to ensure they make smart choices about how they use tech. The more you understand how your child interacts online

and check-in with them about their interest and challenges online, the easier it will be for them to come to you if they are concerned or worried about something.

### 3 Equip them with know-how to manage risks online

**Have regular conversations with them about ways to deal with a range of risks** that they may be exposed to such as seeing inappropriate content or being cyberbullied.

Make sure they know when and where to seek help if they need it and what tools they can use to deal with it. Try to reassure them that you won't overreact if they get something wrong.

### 4 Give them the space to become digitally resilient

As they get older and more confident in their digital world, it's important to