

ST JOHN PAYNE



AVITA PRO FIDE



# NEWSLETTER February 2025

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



## HEADTEACHER'S COMMENTS



Dear St John Payne Community

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 30th January a group of students represented the school at the city's Holocaust Memorial. Education must always strive to include, to welcome and to celebrate diversity of nation, heritage, culture and faith, and we must continue to stand against all forms of oppression and persecution.

Performances of Matilda were a wonderful culmination of months of hard work that showed our students' gifts & talents in great abundance. It is always lovely to welcome visitors for such occasions, and especially nice that hundreds of local primary school children were able to attend. We were delighted to also host the whole community from Columbus School & College.

The term continues with great activity, with Year 10 students participating in the Jack Petchey Speak Out, students representing the school at the inaugural Vibrant Voices celebration at the Civic Theatre, a Year 11 trip to Poetry Live, students in Years 8 & 10 leading a Panathlon, and Year 7 students leading the Primary Superstars Festival at Chelmsford Athletics Club.

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 - it is lovely to see growing numbers of students joining together with staff in witness through prayer and song.

On Friday 24th January we hosted the Diocese *Pilgrims of Hope* conference to launch the Jubilee Year, selected for the welcome we extended refugee and displaced students during recent and continuing humanitarian crises, with talks on *Young Vincentians* from the Director of the St Vincent de Paul society and *Love the Stranger* from the Director of Caritas Brentwood.

In Faith,

God Bless.

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



## CHAPLAINCY FAITH LIFE

This Half term, we have marked the Feast of Epiphany through Bible Reflection and the feast days of some of our school saints with Prayers on their Feast Day – St Thomas Aquinas, St Angela Merici, and St John Bosco.

The Tuesday prayer group in the chapel at lunchtime is ongoing and we invite all students to attend and pray the rosary with the legion of Mary. Adoration on a Thursday lunchtime will continue after the half term, we now have some younger students playing music to help us in our songs of praise.

We have been very pleased to welcome the local clergy in to celebrate Friday Form Masses – students and Form tutors have helped prepare the Masses. As always, we are so blessed and thankful to our deanery priests for bringing us Jesus in the sacrament of the Eucharist.

Youth Mass is always so well attended – if you want a place on the bus, please see Katy asap. The next date is Thursday 6th March, the minibus will be leaving at 5.15pm.

### **Upcoming Events:**

#### **Lent**

The Lenten Service will take place on Wednesday 2nd April at 6pm, with the whole school attending on the Friday morning.. All families are warmly invited to attend this service, followed by light refreshments.

If any students would like to take part in the Lenten Service by doing a reading, music, IT, drama, scene setting, creating prayer cards, please see Katy to put your name down. This year the service will focus the Catholic Jubilee year, Pilgrims of Hope.

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday** 5th March. We will have services for the whole school to mark this Holy Day, focussing on the Lent observances of Fasting, Penance and Prayer. Reconciliation – As part of our Lenten observances, students will also be invited to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in March. More details will follow on this.



# CHAPLAINCY FAITH LIFE

## Holocaust Memorial 2025

This month a group of students stood in solidarity together with members of the Jewish community to pray and remember the darkest times of the holocaust. Our students read and remembered the 6 million lives lost, by lighting candles in remembrance of the 80th year anniversary of the liberation of the death camp. Upon listening to the main speaker, we shared our tears and our hearts.



## Jubilee 2025 - Pilgrims of Hope

This half term, Heads of Year launched Jubilee 2025 with their year groups, inviting all students to respond to the call to be Pilgrims of Hope. This special year, proclaimed by Pope Francis, is a time of renewal, reflection, and action—encouraging us to walk together in faith, hope, and love.

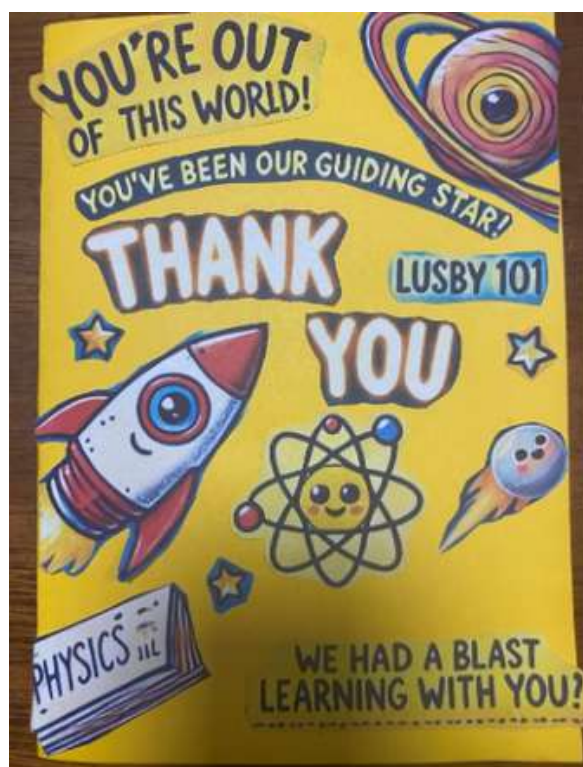
Throughout the Jubilee, students will have opportunities to explore what it truly means to be a Pilgrim of Hope in their daily lives and engage in meaningful activities that put Catholic Social Teaching into action.

We look forward to sharing their journey with you.



# NEW STAFF INTRODUCTIONS

Our Year 11 students created a thoughtful card to express their gratitude to Mr. Lusby, who has been teaching them Physics while covering maternity leave. We feel incredibly fortunate to have had Mr. Lusby as part of our team—his dedication and support have been invaluable. At the same time, we are delighted to welcome back the wonderful Dr. Kamel, who has returned this month. Both staff and students are thrilled to have her with us again.



Mr Lusby-  
Science Teacher

# STUDENT AWARDS



# Student Awards



	<b>Total Year Group Achievement Points</b>	<b>Highest Form Achievement points</b>	<b>Highest Achievement Points In the Year</b>
<b>Year 7</b>	<b>28,541</b>	<b>7C 7696</b>	<b>Eliza C 7C 377 Achievement Points</b>
<b>Year 8</b>	<b>15,557</b>	<b>8S 4635</b>	<b>Agastya D C 323 Achievement Points</b>
<b>Year 9</b>	<b>18,328</b>	<b>9F 4230</b>	<b>Rio G 9D 292 Achievement Points</b>
<b>Year 10</b>	<b>12,358</b>	<b>10A 2576</b>	<b>Freddie G 10S 288 Achievement Points</b>
<b>Year 11</b>	<b>6,105</b>	<b>11D 1287</b>	<b>Ariel O 11A 263 Achievement Points</b>

# Sporting Achievements



## CROSS COUNTRY

The Cross Country Season is slowly coming to an end, but as a school, we continue to perform excellently at the events we enter.

Most recently I had the privilege of going to Clements Hall Leisure Centre in Hockley to support both Jo Delaney and Jack Northwood compete for the Mid-Essex Team against other areas around the County. To gain selection for this is an achievement in itself and both the boys understood the level of competition they would be up against, including the fact they were running against athletes a year group above.

However, this did not deter them and they certainly ran their hearts out and stood their own in such a competitive field. Both Joe and Jack ran exceptionally, with Joe finishing in 10th place, potentially representing the County Team and Jack finishing in 23rd place. Absolutely outstanding!



## Panathlon Leadership event

As part of our role in the PE department and in conjunction with Panathlon, we aim to increase the amount of competitive sport and leadership opportunities for ALL young people at SJP. The newly enrolled sports captains for year 8 & 10 were invited to lead a Panathlon event on Friday 24th January at SJP (sports hall). These are valuable experiences for our students and can support their personal portfolios for future leadership roles, college or university applications. The students were outstanding in their efforts and commended by many visiting school staff.

**Rugby-** This half term has seen years 7 to 10 boys take part in a number of basketball fixtures. All of the year groups played in competitive matches in the district league. Our year 8 and 10 teams were the stand out performers with teamwork and a high level of skill being the key factors to their successes.

Year 7 and 8 boys took part in their third rugby waterfall tournament of the season at Great Baddow High School. Both teams played extremely well in tricky conditions due to the wet weather that we have been experiencing over the past few weeks. All of the pupils played with determination and despite the conditions every pupil enjoyed themselves. Year 11 competed in the district football competition this half term but unfortunately did not progress to the next round. The year group did extremely well in their time at SJP with the highlight being in year 9 when they were runners up in the league. Hopefully, they will be able to continue to contribute towards football success if they remain with us for sixth form.





# Sporting Achievements



Our year 7 and 8 athletes had the district indoor athletics finals on Monday and Tuesday this week.

The boys' teams had a great performance, with both the Year 7 and Year 8 teams securing first place on Monday.

The girls' team also did well, with the Year 7 team finishing in first place, while the Year 8 team came in a close second, just two points behind the winners.

As a result, both boys' teams and the Year 7 girls' team will represent Chelmsford District at the County Finals in Southend on March 18th.



## Superstars

This week a group of Year 7 girls were given the opportunity to represent the school as young leaders for a Primary Schools Superstars festival organised by Chelmsford School Sports Partnership. This event involved over 500-year 4 primary school pupils from 11 different local primary schools travelling to Chelmsford Sport and Athletics Centre to take part in a series of movement and sports skills-based tests and challenges. Our girls were charged with organising, running and officiating these events and performed with distinction. They worked in teams to run 1 event per team and were universally excellent, drawing praise both from the organisers and many of the visiting school's staff. They showed confidence to demonstrate and explain, efficiency to get through all pupils in the given time frame, energy and enthusiasm to give all pupils the same welcoming experience through a long session and initiative to devise and run quick games when they were waiting for the next rotation. A thoroughly enjoyable day, well done girls, it was a pleasure to watch you work and you were a credit to yourselves and the school.



# Sporting Achievements



**We have had a very successful half term of sport.**

## **Basketball**

In basketball this half term the girls have shown such determination and drive to win their games. St John Payne have shown an excellent skill level. The year 7 and 8 teams have been training particularly hard and attending training regularly. We have had a great turn out at training each week.

The year 7 team played recently against another local school in a very close game. We lost by just 4 points.

The girls did St John Payne proud and put their full effort and hard work into their game.



## **Netball**

The Under 14 netball team have performed well recently and are still in the Essex Cup Plate Netball competition, well done to everyone in the team for their great performances.

We have lots of netball matches still to come so please do remember to attend training. It is important to practice as a whole team for the best success.

The year 8 team have been very successful this half term. Mr Ryan has worked hard with the team to produce some excellent results. We have lots of basketball games still to come so please remember to come to basketball training.

Year 9-11 interform basketball will be coming soon.

Please look out for details to follow

## **Swimming update**

Annabel raced in the County Champs in Stratford in January. She achieved excellent personal best times. Her great performance lead to her gaining three silver medals in the 50, 100 and 200 metre breaststroke.



She also broke the 200 metre club record for Braintree swimming club, meaning she is the fastest swimmer in that age group for that distance. We wish Annabel the best of luck for the regional championships in May and we are looking forward to hearing how she gets on.

## **Football**

**Girls football training is back on again on Wednesdays after school. We would love to see you there at training. There will be more matches coming up.**

# Sports readers



This year's sports readers programme has been going on for around 4 months now, and I would say that everyone has enjoyed it so far. All the staff, sixth form and younger pupils enjoy reading together in the library every Wednesday and Thursday morning, and have made great relationships with one another. It's been great to see all the improvements the Year 7 and 8s have made to their reading!

Carys C- Year 12



# Year 11 Leadership



The Year 11 Leadership Sports Event for St Pius students in year 3 and 5 was a fantastic success. The event showcased the incredible teamwork, leadership, and enthusiasm of our students while providing primary school students with a fun and memorable experience!

The event, organized and led by our Year 11 students, included a series of games and activities designed to promote physical activity, teamwork, and friendly competition. From basketball games to obstacle courses, there was something for everyone, and it was wonderful to see the primary students excited to participate and cheer each other on.

Our Year 11 students not only demonstrated their leadership skills but also acted as fantastic role models, guiding the younger students through each activity and making sure everyone had a positive and inclusive experience. The energy and spirit were contagious, and it was clear that both the leaders and the participants thoroughly enjoyed the day.

A huge thank you to our Year 11 students for their dedication and effort in organising this event. We're already looking forward to next year's event. What a wonderful way to bring our school community together and celebrate the power of sports, leadership, and fun!



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT





# SJP Linguastars



## Term 2a 2024-25

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 2025 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
Greeshma R (7A)	Daniella O (8A)	Fatima H (8B)	Oskar U (9B)	Isabella C (9B)
Marco A (7B)	Robbie R (8D)	Shay M (8F)	Martin S (9F)	Lily P (9C)
Jenson B (7D)	Peggy W (8S)	Aayush B (8B)	Alex S (9A)	Ellie S (9F)
Mia W (7F)	Haylee S (8B)	Caelan A (8C)	Olivia I (9C)	Sienna W (9B)
Lily K (7S)	Charlotte S (8F)	Daniel M (8F)	Clara L (9s)	Filip J (9S)

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

**Laiba C (7C)** Having worked hard at home and interacted well in lessons, Laiba already hit her end of year target grade in November. Effort really does make a linguist! Superbe!

**Alex R (8C)** Exceptional focus in homework and classwork showing resilience to learn French present/past verbs and vocabulary. Très bien!

**Michelle B (8C)** has worked hard and has produced excellent written German this half term. Sehr gut gemacht!

**Lily P (9C)** Thanks to her 100% effort in homework and her inquisitiveness in lessons, Lily's translation and speaking skills in French and her written creativity in German are exceptional. Bereichernd! Génial!

**James L (9C)** Thanks to hard work at home and motivation and concentration in lessons, James wrote an accurate German text in 3 tenses. Tolle Arbeit!

**Honor M (10B)** Excellent inquisitiveness and effort in applying GCSE French vocabulary and verbs. A very good understanding of French conjugation of verbs in several tenses due to grit and resilience. Bravo et bonne continuation!

**Charlie A-M (10S)** Exceptional performance in GCSE French module 2 writing and reading assessments due to impressive vocabulary recall and autonomous tense practice at home. Incroyable!

**Timothy B (10B)** Excellent German writing thanks to effort in high-level vocabulary learning at home and participation in lessons. Prima!

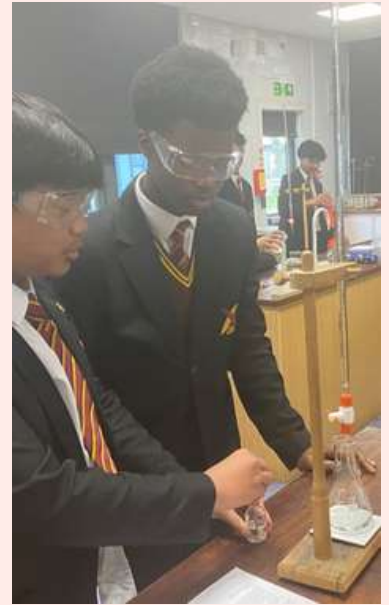
**Angie C (11C)** has shown great resilience despite sometimes finding GCSE French challenging. As a result she has made very good progress this term. Formidable!

**Henry A (11F)** has worked hard to incorporate all his advances in GCSE German grammatical structures into his own written and spoken work. Hervorragend!

**Lilla P (13S)** High level of French accuracy due to good use of study periods to consolidate verb endings and synonyms, and impressive well-thought out answers to literature essays. Chapeau!

**Lilli O (13F)** has made an excellent effort to learn new vocabulary in the A-Level German themes. Thanks to her effort in developing grammatical knowledge in her spoken and written work, Lilli is on target, stell dir vor!

# Science- Some of our scientists developing their practical skills.



# KEY SCHOOL EVENTS



# SJP Whole School Musical 2025



Over 1,500 people witnessed the magic of Matilda the Musical Jr. as 100+ St John Payne students from Years 7-13 delivered six stunning performances. From local primary schools to sold-out evening shows, audiences were captivated by this spectacular production, earning standing ovations each night. Based on the beloved Roald Dahl classic, Matilda's story of resilience and empowerment resonated with all. This record-breaking cast, the largest in St John Payne's history, dedicated countless hours to bring this magical tale to life, forging incredible bonds along the way. A huge thank you to the dedicated staff and supportive families who made this unforgettable experience possible.

This fantastic review comes from a local theatre critic who frequently attends London productions.


Photos courtesy of Ms. Squires and Mrs Beckett.





# SJP Whole School Musical 2025




 St John Payne Catholic School  
Presents

Wed 5<sup>th</sup>, Thurs 6<sup>th</sup>  
& Fri 7<sup>th</sup>  
February 2025

*Aquinas Hall*  
7pm

Tickets  
£7/£5

Available  
on ParentPay



ROALD DAHL  
**Matilda**  
THE MUSICAL JR.

Book by  
DENNIS KELLY

Music & Lyrics by  
TIM MINCHIN

Roald Dahl's *Matilda The Musical JR.* is presented through special arrangement with  
and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, New York, NY  
(212) 541-4684 mtishows.com





## Matilda's Magic Melts January Blues at St John Payne

A school hall can be a space filled with mixed memories, but St John Payne's production of Matilda the Musical Jr. transformed a potentially mundane setting into a vibrant hub of energy and excitement. The cast, brimming with talent and enthusiasm, ignited the hall with infectious laughter and dynamic performances. From the opening number, the audience was swept up in a whirlwind of sound and movement, a testament to the stunning ensemble work.

The junior version of Matilda presents unique challenges, with key narrative elements often condensed. Director and choreographer, Miss Nowlan, masterfully navigated these transitions, creating potent moments of comedy and ensuring a smooth flow. A beautifully nuanced Miss Honey and a truly terrifying Trunchbull anchored the classic good-versus-evil dynamic. The Matilda's themselves were wonderfully cast, embodying a sweet innocence that stood in stark contrast to the hilariously scheming Wormwood family. The Wormwood family's performances were a comedic tour-de-force, delivering some of the finest comedic acting. Special mention must be made of Michael; the actor's portrayal of this character's delightful inertia was a masterclass in comedic timing and a true highlight of the show.

The sheer power of the 100-strong cast was undeniable. Working seamlessly together, they created a performance that resonated with every audience member. Remarkably, no single performer outshone another, a testament to the production's strong sense of ensemble and community. This reviewer, though not a parent, was thoroughly impressed by every single member of the cast. They transformed a cold, stormy Friday night – a night that could easily have been spent at home – into an unforgettable theatrical experience. Overcoming technical hiccups and even the occasional toddler interjection, the students delivered an outstanding, ovation-worthy performance.

Essex, take note! St John Payne's young actors are a force to be reckoned with, and their production of Matilda proves they are capable of achieving anything. We eagerly anticipate their next production.

**G. Bloor - 7th February 2025**

***This fantastic review comes from a local theatre critic who frequently attends London productions.***



# Vibrant Voices at Chelmsford Civic Theatre: A Night to Remember



This February, the Civic Theatre in Chelmsford became a dynamic hub for talent, as it hosted the inaugural Vibrant Voices event. A celebration of music and performance, the event brought together an impressive array of young performers, including from SJP Year 11 GCSE Music students and members of our Matilda cast, alongside other schools from the region.

The stage was lit up with the energy and enthusiasm of these talented students, who showcased a diverse selection of music and drama, from contemporary pop hits to Romeo and Juliet. Our Year 11 GCSE Music students, whose hard work and dedication in the classroom were clearly evident in their seamless ensemble performances. Their ability to bring both passion and precision to their performance was greatly received in their rendition of a pop classic in a Jazz style. Adding an extra layer of excitement to the event, some of the cast members from our production of Matilda joined to perform two scenes. Their inclusion brought a touch of theatre magic to the evening. Well done to all of our students, once again they represented the Performing Arts department with professionalism and high quality performances, receiving many compliments from other schools and those working in the industry. The Vibrant Voices event not only provided an opportunity for students to perform on a professional stage, but it also emphasized the importance of arts education in nurturing young talent.

The energy from both the performers and the audience was electric, making it clear that events like this are vital for fostering creativity and a sense of community within the arts.





## St John Payne visits The University of Cambridge

Cambridge University Outreach Opportunity, designed to raise student aspiration for top universities in an inspiring effort to help students aim higher and navigate the application process for top universities, an outreach opportunity was recently held to raise aspirations and provide crucial tools for success.

A group of Year 12 students had the opportunity to attend this event, designed to guide students through the intricate journey of university applications, focused particularly on crafting compelling personal statements and how to prepare for university interviews — essential components of many competitive university admissions.

The day-long workshop was hosted by the University of Cambridge, Emmanuel College. The day's activities were structured to ensure that students not only learned about how the university applications system works but so they also left feeling empowered, confident, and motivated to pursue their dreams of attending top-tier universities.



*Below are some quotes from the students that attended the day.*

"After today, I have gained a greater insight into what the ingredients are for a competitive application for Oxbridge. We were informed about the importance of super-curriculars, especially wider reading. So, from this, I am going to deepen my knowledge on socio-political subjects, such as reading "A Room of One's Own" By Virginia Woolf, to not only aid my interview, but also for my own personal fulfilment".

"Visiting Cambridge today instilled the motivation in me, to progress through year 12 and 13 with grades that enable me to go to any university and not be held back".

"Overall, I found this trip to be very educational and gave me a deeper insight into what is required for the transition from sixth form to university".

"I learnt that the financial aspect of university shouldn't put me off where I want to go, and that the media make student loans seem an issue than it actually is not".

"From the trip, I got the opportunity to admire the gorgeous architecture of the buildings and appreciate the beauty of the library in addition to learning about the new format of the personal statement".

"Yesterdays trip helped me build a greater understanding of the university process especially with Russell group universities. It helped me to understand the new personal statement setup, what is required in a good personal statement and the interview process of specific universities. I found it incredibly beneficial and has showed me what I need to be doing to get into a good university".



## **Calling All Parents: Help Us Find Valuable Year 12 Work Experience Opportunities!**

Our year 12 students have the opportunity to take part in work experience for 5 days the week beginning 23rd June 2025. As I'm sure we are all aware, finding meaningful work experience is not always easy, and in certain industries it can be very difficult, unless you are fortunate enough to have a family member or family friend who works in that industry.

For that reason, we are reaching out to you, our valued parents, for your support in finding meaningful and enriching placement opportunities. These placements play a crucial role in providing our students with hands-on experience, insight into various industries, and the chance to develop professional skills that will be beneficial as our students transition into the next chapter of their lives.

## **Why Are Year 12 Placements Important?**

Year 12 placements offer students the opportunity to apply the theoretical knowledge they've gained in the classroom to real-world situations. Whether it's in a corporate environment, a healthcare setting, or a creative industry, these placements help students gain valuable insight into potential career paths and make informed decisions about their future. The hands-on experience also helps boost confidence, teamwork, and problem-solving skills—qualities that are essential for success beyond school.

## **How You Can Help**

We know that many of you work in a range of sectors, hold professional connections, or know someone who might be able to offer a valuable placement experience. Whether it's a small local business, a large corporation, or a specialized organisation, we are looking for diverse opportunities that reflect the interests and aspirations of our Year 12 students.

**We are asking for your assistance in suggesting placements in any industry. We value every connection you may be able to provide.**

If you know of any potential opportunities or have contacts who may be able to offer a placement, please reach out to me at [d.hewlett@sjp.essex.sch.uk](mailto:d.hewlett@sjp.essex.sch.uk). You can provide us with the name of the organisation, the nature of the placement, and any relevant details. By contributing in this way, you will help our students gain real-world experience and also make a positive impact on their future career prospects.

**UCAS Update** Over the past few months, our students have been working hard on their university applications, and we are delighted to share that we successfully submitted 94 applications before the UCAS deadline of 29th January 2025.

While the majority of these applications were from our current Year 13 students, we also had the pleasure of supporting some students from previous years who have decided to pursue higher education this year. Now that the UCAS applications have been submitted, our next focus will be supporting students in selecting their firm and insurance choices, which are crucial decisions to make in the coming weeks. We will continue to provide guidance and assistance as students weigh their options and prepare for the next stage of their journey. Additionally, we are fully committed to supporting those students who are exploring alternative routes after Sixth Form, such as apprenticeships or employment. Our careers team will be working closely with these students over the next few months to ensure they have the resources and advice they need to make informed decisions about their future.



## Apprenticeships – An Alternative to University

Information for parents and carers - CareerMap by Sharon Walpole



### Did you know?



University is not the right pathway for every child, but sometimes it takes courage to choose an alternative route. You may have heard a great deal about apprenticeships, but are not convinced they are a viable alternative for your young one. Doing your homework may change your mind.

#### What is an apprenticeship?

It is a real job where you learn as you earn, often at a college, university or with a training provider. You can start from the age of 16, but there are no age limits. It can take one to six years to complete, depending on the apprenticeship. There are hundreds of different apprenticeships across a wide range of industries.



### What can you do?

#### Deciding what to do

Before embarking on an apprenticeship, it is worth taking the time to talk to your young person about what interests them. Going to events such as WorldSkillsUK and Big Bang Fairs can open their eyes to a whole world of careers and jobs they may not even know exists. Getting inspired and being passionate is the key to success. You don't know what you don't know.

For many young people, going to university just does not appeal. Rather than falling in step, investigate what the options are. If it is inspiration you need, CareerMap publishes CareerMag with plenty of quality independent information about different careers and qualifications, dispelling many myths that exist.

And if wearing a cap and gown is important, consider a Degree Apprenticeship. A Degree Apprenticeship offers training on the job whilst gaining a full diploma, but without the debt. Once the apprenticeship is completed, most get a job straight away with their employers. Imagine competing for a job with up to six years' work experience with a degree and no debt! It will make your young person very employable in a competitive market.

#### How do I find an apprenticeship opportunity?

The Government has set up the Register of Apprenticeship Training Providers to ensure universities, colleges and learning providers provide quality apprenticeship training. The full list of available apprenticeships available near you can be found at

[www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk](http://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk). You can either apply for Degree Apprenticeships on the UCAS website or direct with an employer or learning provider.

However, many parents and carers feel they would like much more information before applying straight away. Have a look at [www.careermap.co.uk](http://www.careermap.co.uk) for live apprenticeship vacancies with plenty of information to help make the right decision.

Careers are no longer a linear path. Our young people will typically have five or more careers in a lifetime. Whichever path your young person takes, the more experience and skills they gain along the way, the more successful future they will have.

#### LINKS

Careermap <https://careermap.co.uk/>  
CareerMag <https://careermap.co.uk/careermag-registration/>  
WorldSkillsUK <https://worldskillsuk.org>  
Big Bang Fairs <https://nearme.thebigbangfair.co.uk>  
[www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk](http://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk)

#### ABOUT SHARON WALPOLE

With over 10 years' experience leading in the careers sector, Sharon Walpole is a Director at CareerMap, Editor of CareerMag and Head of Friends and Partnerships. Her passion is to provide young people support and access to quality information about careers and qualifications to help with making the best decisions for their futures.



## Post-18 Pathways

Information for parents and carers



## Did you know?



Millennials are likely to have **TWELVE** jobs in their working lives. Jane Warren, CEO of Investec Click and Investec, said, "The days of having a job for life have long been over and our findings show that younger people are keen to take control of their careers by switching jobs to meet their objectives, despite the greater insecurity this brings."

The career path that our young people take at 18 may be the first of many.



## What can you do?

Deciding what you want to do or be in the future can be very daunting for young people, and also a milestone for you as you watch your child starting to think about becoming much more independent.

- It is important that you ask them to consider what they really like, and the things that they could do – they shouldn't rule anything out at this stage.
- Encourage them to do research. They can look at career videos and consider the facts and figures of careers they may be interested in.
- They could look at the range of apprenticeships that are available and where they can lead – they are a completely viable alternative to a traditional university route.
- Ask them if they are going to do work experience so they can gain more understanding of a potential career, or to help in the development of soft skills that will enhance their applications. You may have friends who are happy to have your son/daughter shadowing them for a couple of days in their holidays.
- Perhaps they could consider some volunteering opportunities that will serve to add to their experience, develop their soft skills and enhance their CVs.
- Have a look at some of the tools with your son or daughter that we will be using in the sixth form. For example: [www.careermap.co.uk](http://www.careermap.co.uk), the Careerometer from [www.lmiforall.org.uk](http://www.lmiforall.org.uk), information about apprenticeships and universities

# Library Lesson: Book Personality Quiz



## Library Lesson: Book Personality Quiz. What kind of reader are you?

In our recent library lesson, students took part in a fun Book Personality Quiz to discover their perfect reading match! Based on their answers, they received personalized genre recommendations. The results were then recorded in a tally chart, revealing the top three most popular genres among our students: Sport, Horror, and Adventure!

It's fantastic to see such a wide range of interests!

## Christmas Reading Competition Winner Announced!

Congratulations to Freddie G. (10S), the winner of this year's Christmas Reading Competition! Freddie impressed us with his fantastic photo of himself reading and a beautifully written book review that perfectly captured the festive spirit. As a reward for his effort and creativity, Freddie has earned 10 house points, a £10 book voucher, and an achievement certificate. Well done, Freddie!

Photos of other students and staff taking part in the Christmas Reading Challenge can be found below. Take a look to see the wonderful festive reading spirit shared by our school community!

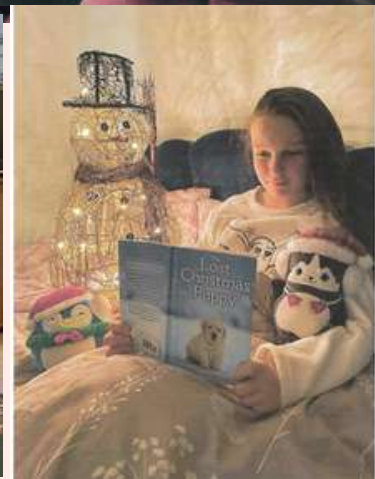


I read over  
this book in about  
10 days in the library  
in the city of  
London.

...and Mrs. Harrigan is said to die on the next  
Eventide day in exactly 12 years, but is then the first  
comes for her to die, she is saved by Jupiter North  
and brought to Severnside. My favourite part is when  
she faces the trials she has to be necessary to  
become a girl!



## Puzzle Enthusiasts Unite!





# We Remember



This image is of Freddie reading this extraordinary alternative Advent Calendar whilst at my parish Church (see Advent Candles in the Background, creating a very festive mood), after altar serving on the 2nd Sunday of Advent.



## Summary:

As stated on the front cover, this amazing book is “an advent calendar with a difference” which focuses on decreasing stress over the joyful, but often stressful, Christmas period. This uplifting and inspiring book offers an alternative way to approach this joyous season, with each of the 24 days giving a reflection and advice on how to make this celebratory season what it should be: one of joy; one of peace; one of relaxation (and stress-free living), focusing on Christ.



Who I would Recommend this book to:

I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys the Advent and Christmas seasons but is looking to feel more at peace during this time. Beautifully written by the Archbishop of York, the wonderful Christian insights scattered throughout this book (such as finding stillness in the presence of God) mean that I would also recommend this book to Christians or those with an interest in Christianity. As it is an uplifting approach to a stressful Advent, and doesn't contain chocolate, I would mainly recommend this book to adults!

## Words of Hope - Holocaust Memorial Day

Thank you to our wonderful students who helped to create this display in remembrance of Holocaust Memorial Day 27th Jan 2025. The theme was to bring light into a world of darkness and for the world to light a candle to symbolise hope.

# We Remember



17 million victims of a beast, driven blind by aggression and hate,  
Europe's over 40,000 concentration camps: the beast's weapon, their tragic fate.  
6 main extermination camps not just for Jews alone,  
But Romanis, the disabled, homosexuals: who, by prejudice, had their destinies already  
sown.

For the victims, we remember.

2025 marks 80 years since our globe was scarred with genocide, such ghastliness  
previously unknown,  
Though surely the victims' memories shall not be drowned out by the bitter walls of  
these work camps, left alone,  
Instead remembered rightfully, in the actions we take to keep the flame of change  
shown!

By our actions, we remember.

A minute of silence held for each of these unrighteously dead,  
Would mean eleven and a half years where nothing would be said.  
So, on this 27th of January, a day declared "For A Better Future",  
We must not allow antisemitism or hate to be of our human nature.  
Through silence, we remember.

A darkness that words cannot possibly retell, many the stories and books recounting  
the love lost in that earthly hell,  
From a Holocaust survivor, Elie Wiesel's reflection on this mass-murderous crime:  
"To forget the dead would be akin to killing them a second time."

With survivors, we remember.

"The deadliest poison of our time is indifference,"  
This, Saint Maximilian Kolbe's selfless sacrifice as a call to us all,  
To stand strong in Christ, an ancient Jew, against any new Holocaust, causing more  
innocent to fall.

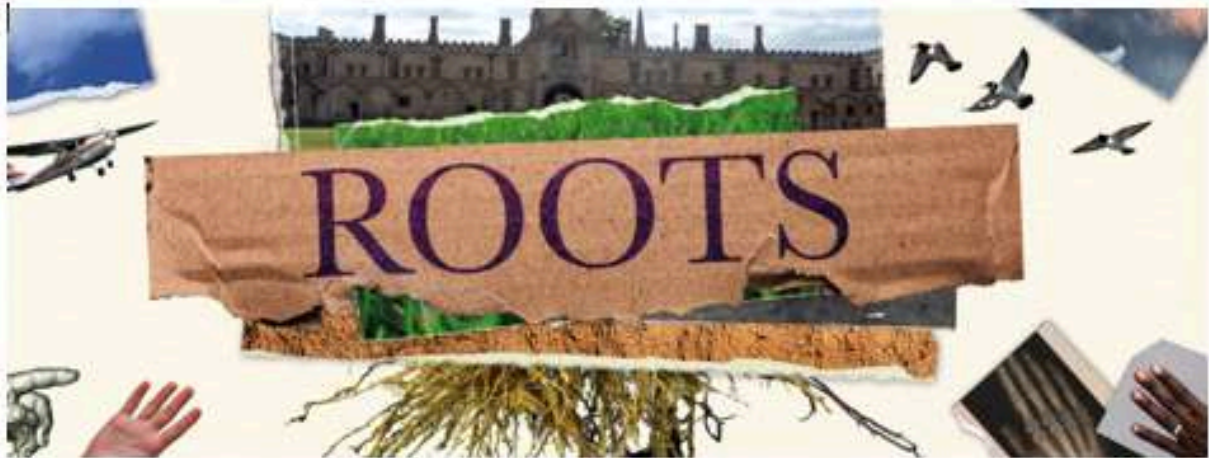
For change, we remember.

Yom HaShoah: with all its reverent ceremonies and services, is a mark of respect for the  
victims, from today,  
And to teach world leaders to never again be led astray,  
This Holocaust Day, we remember, we mourn, we pray.



We remember.





The 25th Christopher Tower Poetry  
Competition  
2025

**Write a poem on the theme of 'Roots'**

**1st prize £5000**

**2nd prize £3000**

**3rd prize £1,500**

**There will also be 10 commended awards of £500 each**

**Free entry**

Open to UK 16-18 year olds

**Competition closes:**

Noon, 20th February 2025

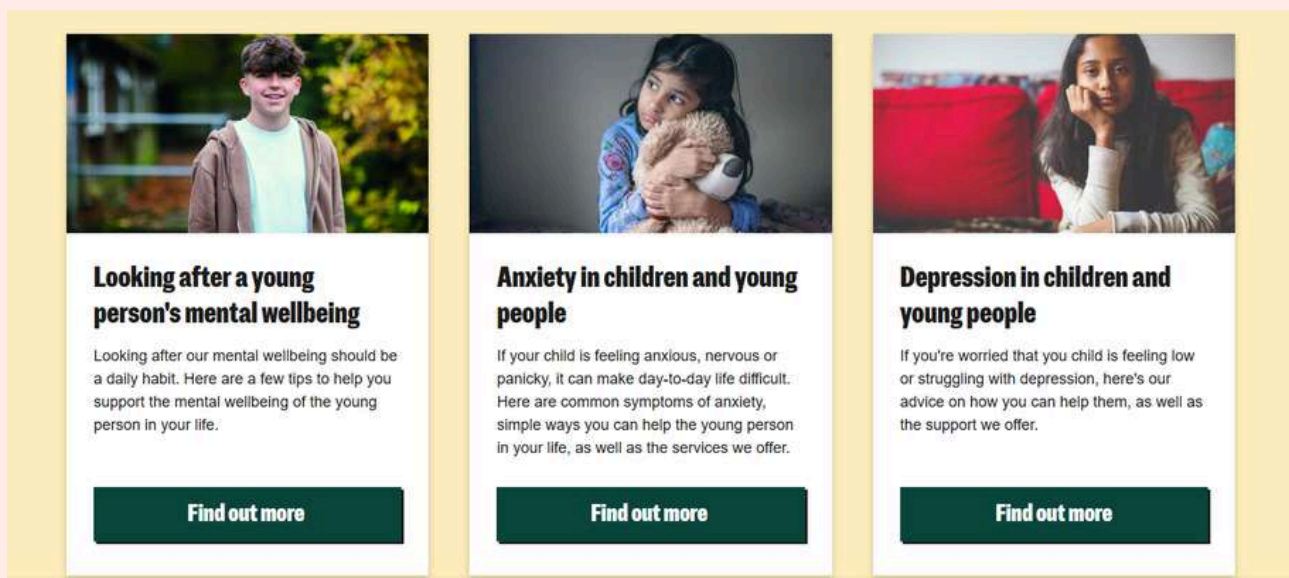
<https://www.chch.ox.ac.uk/tower-poetry/enter-tower-poetry-competition>

# PASTORAL CARE, MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING

Is your child struggling with difficult thoughts or feelings?  
Whether you're a parent, carer, or guardian, it's important that you're able to support the young person in your life – and we're here to help.

Here you will find expert advice and tips, as well as a summary of the mental health support we offer. Some support you may be able to ask to access yourself. This is called self-referral. Other times, a GP, teacher, or social worker will need to request this support for you.

<https://www.barnardos.org.uk/get-support/support-for-parents-and-carers/mental-health/supporting-your-child>



The image shows three informational cards arranged horizontally. Each card has a photograph at the top, a title, a short paragraph of text, and a 'Find out more' button at the bottom.

- Card 1:** Photograph of a young man smiling. Title: **Looking after a young person's mental wellbeing**. Text: "Looking after our mental wellbeing should be a daily habit. Here are a few tips to help you support the mental wellbeing of the young person in your life." Button: **Find out more**.
- Card 2:** Photograph of a young girl hugging a teddy bear. Title: **Anxiety in children and young people**. Text: "If your child is feeling anxious, nervous or panicky, it can make day-to-day life difficult. Here are common symptoms of anxiety, simple ways you can help the young person in your life, as well as the services we offer." Button: **Find out more**.
- Card 3:** Photograph of a young woman sitting at a desk. Title: **Depression in children and young people**. Text: "If you're worried that your child is feeling low or struggling with depression, here's our advice on how you can help them, as well as the support we offer." Button: **Find out more**.

## Useful numbers

Samaritans – 116  
123

NHS – 111

Mind – 0300  
1233393

Kooth – Text 85258  
Childline – 0800  
1111

Chelmsford Food  
bank – 07512  
574542

Papyrus – 0800  
0684141

We shouldn't just look after our mental wellbeing when we're struggling. It should be something we do all the time.

That's why it's an important habit to teach children and young people.

Here you can learn more about mental wellbeing, as well as tips and advice you can teach your children so they can become healthier and happier. On top of this, you can also see the services we offer in your area.


Some support you may be able to ask to access yourself. This is called self-referral. Other times, a GP, teacher, or social worker will need to request this support for you.





# E-SAFETY

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>




Online issues ▾ Guides and resources ▾ Training and events ▾ Safer Internet Day ▾ Blog Research About 🔍

Home • Guides and Resources • Parents and Carers








**Guides and resources**

## Parents and Carers



### Tips, advice, guides and resources to help keep your child safe online

As a parent or carer you play a key role in helping your child to stay safe online. You don't need to be an expert on the internet to help keep your child stay safe online. Our advice and resources are here to support you as you support your child to use the internet safely, responsibility and positively.

 <p><b>Phones</b></p> <p>Guide to phones including top tips and advice about safety tools.</p> <p>➔</p>	 <p><b>Laptops</b></p> <p>Looking for advice on how to support your child in using a laptop safely and responsibly? Read our guide and FAQs.</p> <p>➔</p>	 <p><b>Smart Speakers</b></p> <p>Looking for advice on how to support your child in using a smart speaker safely and responsibly? Read our guide and...</p> <p>➔</p>	 <p><b>Games Consoles</b></p> <p>Looking for advice on how to support your child in using a games console safely and responsibly? Read our guide and FAQs...</p> <p>➔</p>
 <p><b>Tablets</b></p> <p>Guide to tablets including top tips and advice about safety tools.</p>	 <p><b>Smart TVs</b></p> <p>Smart or connected TVs are televisions with integrated internet capabilities.</p>	 <p><b>Social media guides</b></p> <p>Find out more about the safety features available on popular social networks.</p>	



**-FEBRUARY-**

*Half-term*

