



Weekly Newsletter from the Headmaster

Dear Parents,

After quite an extensive break for Easter it was a great pleasure to welcome all students back on Wednesday.

Our older students have clearly been working very hard to ensure success in public examinations, and our IB Diploma students embark on study leave this Friday. If this seems like an early start, it is worth remembering that they will receive their results before the end of the Summer Term, enabling early access to University accommodation. Increasing numbers of students in the Sixth Form continue to look abroad to continue their education. Top universities in Ireland, the Netherlands and Germany offer university courses taught in English for considerably lower fees than UK universities. IB Diploma student Bennie Ben-Ovio has accepted an unconditional offer to read International and European Law at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands, a highly prestigious European university with a long history. Ben-Ovio is looking to pursue a career in international development and this is a great opportunity.

I greatly enjoyed our annual Praepostors' Dinner on Thursday when students were keen to share news of a range of excellent university offers for both IB Diploma and A Level students, and it is clear that they are all benefitting not just from excellent teaching, but also from a benign Higher Education environment with the best universities actively seeking to recruit the best students.

School fields look manicured and ready for a summer of cricket, tennis and athletics, with pupils enjoying extensive pre-season training during the holidays. Examinations notwithstanding, it is important that our students take time to relax and play sport; they really cannot be expected to revise every minute of every day, and I do expect commitment to teams throughout the summer, otherwise our excellent fixture lists will prove to be unsustainable. Mr Wignall, the Director of Sport, writes more extensively about this later in the newsletter, and it is important that we ensure support for his endeavours.

Reports about a range of trips and activities in holiday time have emphasised what pleasant company our students are when they participate in all these opportunities, and I understand that the two trips to Berlin and one to France gave all the students the opportunity to perform at the very top of their potential, with trip leaders sharing glowing reports about engagement and behaviour. Similarly, more robust CCF and Duke of Edinburgh's award activities were thoroughly enjoyed by teachers and pupils in better than usual Easter weather in the UK. Let us hope for more of the same this term!

We are looking forward very much to the junior production of "Peter Pan" this half term, and also, for cricket lovers, "In the Box" with Old Brentwood Ralph Dellor and his team of former Test players who should be able to inform and amuse us on Friday 12th May. That same weekend, a variety of teams will be trying to break the world marathon record time on the School running track on Sunday 14th May. If not participating, you are most welcome to come along to support.

Academic Enrichment Clubs

Our Academic Enrichment clubs start again next week and all students are warmly invited to attend either Junior Colloquium (for pupils in the First and Second Year) or JSABS (for pupils in the Third and Fourth Year). Sixth Former Eloise Mcilwraith will be presenting at both groups asking the question 'Should terrorists forfeit their human rights when they commit heinous crimes?' Junior Colloquium will meet as usual on Monday at 1.20pm in Old Big School and JSABS will meet at its usual time (1.20pm) and in its usual place (BAC Lecture Theatre) but will now be on a Tuesday. The programme of talks for this term can be found on the School website.

This term, pupils in the Second and Third Year will be invited to attend our annual Academic Enrichment trip to Leiston Abbey in Suffolk. This is a two day residential trip in the beautiful grounds of the Abbey and is a wonderful opportunity to extend learning and foster curiosity outside of the classroom. The trip will run from Wednesday 7th June until Friday 9th June. Places are strictly limited so please return the form as soon as possible if you would like your child to attend.

Pupils in the Second Year are reminded that they should now be working on the final challenges of the Headmaster's Award. The deadline for this to be given in is Monday 5th June.

UK Linguistics Olympiad

Many congratulations to those pupils who took part in this year's UK Linguistics Olympiad, at both Intermediate and Advanced levels. In the Intermediate level competition, special congratulations go to William Jones, Third Year, who receives a Silver Award. At Advanced Level, Julia König and Luke Cooper receive Bronze Awards and Georgia Hoggart and Thomas Woolterton both achieved Silver Awards. We are extremely proud of all those pupils taking part for their interest and efforts in taking part in such a challenging competition.

Online Safety Talk, Wessex Auditorium, Tuesday 2nd May at 5.45pm

Parents of Prep pupils and First and Second Year pupils in the Senior School are warmly invited to attend a talk on online safety in the Wessex Auditorium on Tuesday 2nd May at 5.45pm. This essential presentation by Debbie Schofield, an ambassador for the Child Exploitation & Online Protection Centre, aims to bridge the gap of knowledge around new technology and offer parents advice on what they can do to avoid higher risk situations and how to cope if their children (or their children's friends) encounter them. Further details can be found in the First and Second Year Folders in the Letters Home area on the Parent Portal.

Topics covered include:

- The technologies children are using: explanation of different risks of technology and applications, including grooming, sexting, cyberbullying, inappropriate content, gaming and 'friends'
- Practical advice on what parents can do to help keep their children safe
- Top tips for parents and signposts to further information and resources
- Risks and benefits to children and young people of using internet technology

Confirmation in Chapel

Confirmation in the Church of England marks an important part of the Christian journey of faith. In Confirmation, we make a public declaration of the faith and promises that were made at our baptism and pledge to follow in the path of Jesus. Each year in Chapel, a number of students are prepared for Confirmation and Baptism which culminates in a service led by the Bishop. This year, Confirmation will take place on Wednesday 28th June at 7.30pm. Candidates for Confirmation and Baptism will follow a short course of preparation in School led by the Chaplain. Please be in touch with the Chaplain by email if you would like to explore Confirmation this year. Revd. Adrian McConaughie: awm@brentwood.essex.sch.uk

CCF Charity Lecture: "The Remembrance Image Project".

We are delighted to announce that the CCF will be hosting a lecture on Wednesday, 26th April at 7pm, presented by renowned professional photographer Simon Gregor who has been photographing WW1 sites along the former Western Front in France and Belgium for the centenary of the conflict. In this presentation, Simon will share some of his images and the stories behind them, as well as his experiences of trying to capture in images the drama and emotion of these poignant landscapes. A letter to book tickets is posted on the Portal.

Attempt to Beat the London Marathon World Record

On Sunday, 14th May, students, parents and staff are being given the opportunity to attempt to beat the London Marathon World Record. The event will start at 10.30am on the running track. The idea is that pupils join together in groups of between 6 and 26, with the overall aim of beating the London Marathon World Record of 2 hours and 3 minutes.

This opportunity is open to 26 teams on a first-come-first-served basis. Teams can be made up of pupils in any year groups and may even include staff and/or parents. Each group also requires an administrator/manager, ideally a parent or friend, to count the number of laps completed. Each pupil would run one 400-metre lap before passing the baton to the next person in their team. Each team would need to complete 105 laps and 200metres of the athletics track to complete the 26.2 mile course. In order to beat the World Record, the average lap time would need to be just under 1 minute and 10 seconds. The duration of the event will be 2 hours and 30 minutes, with groups unable to complete the course finishing at this time. If you are interested in taking part or helping out, please contact Mr Bigley: WTB@brentwood.essex.sch.uk

Nuffield Brentwood Hospital

We have been notified by the Hospital Director that our parents are using the Hospital's car park at peak pick up and drop off times which is limiting spaces for patients. We do not wish to jeopardise the good relationship we have with our neighbours so please do not use the hospital's car park unless you are visiting the hospital.

Brentwood Business Showcase

On Wednesday 1st November we will once again be hosting the annual Brentwood Business Showcase in conjunction with Brentwood Borough Council. They have asked us if any parents who are local entrepreneurs would like to speak at the event. You can find out more about last year's very successful Showcase and watch a video at <http://brentwoodbusinessshowcase.co.uk>. If you are interested please contact Commercial Manager Paul Morgan at morganp@brentwood.essex.sch.uk and he will pass on your name for the council to contact you.

Sport

Absence from Sport

Thank you to all parents and pupils for their continued support of School Sport. As I am sure you are aware representing the School on the sports field is a privilege and whilst we fully understand that absence from Saturday fixtures is occasionally inevitable, parents/pupils are reminded to email Mr Wignall, Director of

Sport (IAW@brentwood.essex.sch.uk) and their respective team manager if their child is unable to represent the School on a Saturday. Your support in ensuring our sports teams are as fully prepared as possible is much appreciated. Furthermore, all pupils and parents are reminded that unless prior approval has been agreed with Heads of Sport, School sport takes precedence over club sport during the summer season. Any queries should be directed to Mr I Wignall.

Equestrian

Over the Easter break our dressage team won a national qualifier at Wix Equestrian Centre. Imogen Pohl, Emma Philpot and Sophie Philpot rode superbly to ensure the team's progress. At Codham Park Equestrian Centre, the team of Niamh Mills, Emma and Sophie won the 75cm category - jumping with style to qualify for the Nationals in October. The same team also rode super rounds to be placed in the 85 cm. The 95cm team of Emma, Sophie and Imogen then rode exceptionally well to be placed third. Emma was placed 4th individually qualifying for the Plate Cup later in the year.

Fencing

In the last weekend of March, Matthew Goodwin and Maddy Gale represented England in the prestigious International Challenge Wroclaw in Wroclaw Poland. In the Under 15 Boys' Épée, Matthew fenced a strong first round where he won 4 out of 6 fights which earned him a bye to the second elimination round. He closely lost his second elimination fight to earn 82nd position out of over 200 athletes. Maddy also won four out of six fights directly qualifying for the third elimination round where she lost in a close match to finish 69th out of 170 fencers.

In early April, Matthew Goodwin, Ben Nagelkerke and Adam Hogarth took part in the National Elite Epee Under 17 event in Surrey. All boys did well to win fights in the first round and directly qualified for the third elimination round where they lost narrowly to finish 26th, 24th and 31st respectively.

Ian Ho finished seventh in the Leon Paul Junior Sabre Series London on 15th April, only losing to the eventual winner. We are also delighted to report that he won the Gold medal at the Junior Leon Paul Sabre Series in Durham.

Football

Congratulations to Jack and George Brown who attended the Indonesia Under 20 trials over a six day period during the Easter break. This in itself is a great achievement but made even better by the fact that George is Under 18 and Jack is currently an Under 15 player. Well done to the Brown brothers for this outstanding achievement. Another huge well done goes to Jacob Knightbridge, Fredrik Topel, Harrison Clayden, Cameron Bak, Jem Ozkocho and Josh Catterall who were all invited to attend the Shrewsbury Festival where they represented the Herts and Essex Regional ISFA team. This shows the incredible talent we have within this year group with six Brentwood School pupils making up a squad of sixteen.

Tennis lessons

If your son/daughter is interested in receiving tennis lessons, Ray Bradfield (PTR tennis coach) is running group tennis lessons for eight weeks starting on Monday 24th April. Girls' training nights will be on Monday after school from 4-5.15pm and Boys will be on a Tuesday after school from 4-5.15pm. Anyone wishing to attend needs to fill in the permission slip from the letter on the Parent Portal.

Squash lessons

There is an exciting opportunity to attend squash coaching, with experienced Level 2 coach, Jake Byrne. Anyone wishing to attend needs to fill in the permission slip from the letter on the Parent Portal.

These letters are located in the Letters Home area of the Parent Portal for which there is a link below for parental use:

Folder	Title	Uploaded
1st Year	17-04-21 Online Safety Talk First and Second Years	21/04/2017
2nd Year	17-04-21 Online Safety Talk First and Second Years	21/04/2017
3rd Year	17-04-21 3rd Year Academic Enrichment Leiston Abbey Trip	21/04/2017
3rd Year	17-04-21 JSABS Programme Trinity 2017	21/04/2017
5th Year	Romeo and Juliet Globe Theatre Trip May	20/04/2017
CCF	CCF S Gregor Lecture	21/04/2017
Co-Curricular	Squash Coaching Trinity Term	20/04/2017
Co -Curricular	Tennis Coaching	20/04/2017

> [Click here for the Parent Portal](#) 

Yours sincerely



Ian Davies
Headmaster

