



## Weekly Newsletter from **the Headmaster**

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Dear Parents,

A cloudless mid-summer sky heralds the end of term celebrations next week, and we look forward with relief to the end of public examinations. This evening we say farewell to our excellent Upper Sixth, and last night it was lovely to share reminiscences of the past fifteen years with parents and students who began their school careers in what we then called the 'Pre-Prep' in 2003. I explained to them what a privilege it had been to share their journey with them, and to see them develop into people of great integrity and considerable substance.

All of our First Year students were given the opportunity to perform in a thrilling series of plays this week, and on all three evenings we were entranced by the productions of each form. All who attended would agree that such high quality performances produced in a limited time requires teaching and coaching of the highest quality, and a huge amount of hard work by the students. With such a talented year group, the future of Drama in the School is secure!

Before the Upper Sixth Leavers' celebration this evening, we look forward to the annual Hardy Amies Design Centre Exhibition, which acts as a showcase for Art and Technology, in all its forms, in the school. I am full of awe and wonder at the creativity and thoughtfulness of our students, who often create challenging works of Art for us to mull over long after the event, I thoroughly recommend a visit.

Next week we look forward to two activity days, Track and Field Athletics, our evening for new parents and students and our Annual Promenade Concert before Speech Day and the Sixth Form Ball on Saturday.

I am delighted to announce the following promotions relating to the Head of School and Deputy Heads of School for the School Year 2018-2019. The process leading to these promotions involves extensive consultation and feedback from students and all teachers in the School, and several meetings with Senior Staff. This ensures that the new team always has the respect of their peers and those that teach them. As last year, as you can see below, each of the Deputy Heads of Year will have specific responsibility for a year group in the School.

**Head of School**

Victor Sarpong

**Deputy Heads of School**

Lucy Wilde  
Jaidaksh Anilkumar  
Alice Grundy  
Catriona Kadiramanathan  
Thomas Haward  
Chani Merrell

First Year  
Second Year  
Third Year  
Fourth Year  
Fifth Year  
Sixth Form and School Council

**Academic Endeavour Award**

I was delighted to award my final Academic Endeavour Award of this academic year to Kavinan Pathmanathan in the first year. Kavinan enjoys physics so much that he wrote his own book 'A Guide to Physics' in preparation for the Physics module in the first year science course. The book covered many principles of physics pertaining to forces, including air resistance, springs, friction and weight. The book also contains a glossary which defines all of the key words throughout. I was impressed by this extra commitment shown to his studies and know that it really helped him to achieve an excellent result in the First Year Physics test.



### Academic Enrichment

Last week fifty pupils from the Second and Third Year attended the annual Academic Enrichment trip to Leiston Abbey, in Suffolk. The trip included the opportunity to study a wide variety of subjects, including Fibonacci's golden ratio, gothic literature, linguistics, the nature of evil, forces of energy and the impact of the Reformation with the dissolution of the monasteries. They also chose to take part in an art, drama or music workshop and were encouraged to think about university choices and their future careers. Despite the full academic programme the sunny Suffolk weather was also enjoyed by all.

### House System Reform

**This year we have conducted a review of the House provision we offer at the School. As a result we will be making some changes to enhance the provision from September 2018. Each House will be divided internally into three equal sections, which will include boys and girls from all year groups. The three sections within the House will be led by a student 'Head of House' and overseen by the three members of House Staff, with a focus on the senior students in the house mentoring younger students and gaining valuable leadership experience. The year will start in the traditional fashion with the House Music competition and culminate with the House Track and Field Competition. During the remainder of the year, each House will be allocated a House week in which the students will run House events and raise awareness and money for a local charity of their choice.**

### Life Skills

First Year students had a day of Life Skills, Science and STEM on 21<sup>st</sup> June and have focussed on the following topics: Understanding and using symbols for using in a shield/crest; Creating rocket gliders and learning about birds, including birds of prey.

Third Year students had a day of Life Skills on 19<sup>th</sup> June and have focussed on the following topics: Bank accounts and ID Fraud; Discrimination and prejudice; Relationships and Sex Education (Skills, Personal Attributes and Factual knowledge); Eating disorders; Reality Road Show – road safety and The Law Making Process in the UK.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Rajani for her leadership of our Life Skills Programme for several years. Miss Choate, our Director of Wellbeing, will be leading this aspect of our Curriculum next year.

### School Shop – Embroidery Service

The School Shop is now able to offer an in-house embroidery service for all PE kit, bags and blazers. This will offer added security and ease of location if lost.

Please see the letter in the 'General Correspondence' folder under Letters Home on Google Drive.

### Summer Promenade Concert 2018 – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm

It is our tradition to end the year in style with the hugely popular Summer Promenade Concert. This concert celebrates the wealth of musical talent in the School and is a fitting tribute to the many talented pupils who have performed throughout the year; particularly those in the Upper Sixth who will be leaving us at the end of term. This year the concert takes place on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> June, the evening before Speech Day, and will showcase all of our musical ensembles, celebrating another magnificent and varied year of music making.

Jonathan Akerman, ready to embark on his musical career with a coveted scholarship at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, will perform the virtuosic and under-performed Séjourné Marimba Concerto accompanied by our acclaimed String Orchestra. Following another prolific year, the Brentwood School Big Band will feature in an extended set performing, amongst other Big Band Classics, the Charles Mingus classic, 'Nostalgia in Times Square'. Vocals from Andrew Onwude and Bethany Sargood will be complemented by improvised solo features for Rodi Donhue-Hibberd, Karla Odendaal, Alfred Seaton, Jonathan Akerman, Charles Getting and Greg Harding.

The concert will provide a truly varied musical feast and we look forward to the ambitious and celebratory choral works of Mendelsohn and Stanford, as well as original choral arrangements by Maris Lam and Rebecca Hawkins. The concert will end with our Symphony Orchestra, led by Head of School, Mary Hirst, paying tribute to a 'Last Night of the Proms' atmosphere, featuring the superb Bernstein Aria 'Glitter and Be Gay' sung by Amelia Smith and culminating in a rousing performance of Elgar's Pomp and Circumstance and, of course, The School Song.

We do hope you will be able to join us; the venue is the Courage Hall, the starting time 7pm (music to be played by The Band from 6.30pm). Interval wine and strawberries will be served on the Main Field. Tickets are available at £10 per adult and £5 per non-participating student/child. Please click here for tickets.

All musicians are expected to attend the Promenade Concert rehearsal which takes place during the day on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June in the Courage Hall. A rehearsal schedule will be published shortly. We look forward to seeing you at the Prom!

### Confirmation Service

There will be a Confirmation service on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 3pm in Chapel. The service will be led by the Bishop of Colchester and there are two pupils and an Old Brentwood being confirmed, as well as some members from a local church. Please contact Revd. Dr. Adrian McConaughie; [awm@brentwood.essex.sch.uk](mailto:awm@brentwood.essex.sch.uk) if you are able to come to any of these services.

### Stage Crazy Summer School 2018 at Brentwood School

Stage Crazy, now in its 18<sup>th</sup> year at Brentwood School, is pleased to announce the dates of their Performing Arts Summer School. This is open to all students from 4-17 years old who have an interest in developing or exploring their hidden talents in acting, singing and dancing. This is a fantastic opportunity to work with their team of experienced professionals. The course will culminate with a show at the end of the week.

The course takes place from **Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Friday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018** 10-4pm daily. To enrol your child, please go to their website and download the application form at [www.stagecrazytheatreschool.co.uk](http://www.stagecrazytheatreschool.co.uk), contact them on 07591 208326 or by email: [accounts@stagecrazytheatreschool.co.uk](mailto:accounts@stagecrazytheatreschool.co.uk).

### Ultimate Activity Camps

A reminder that Ultimate Activity Camps are running their exciting multi-activity and adventurous survival (new) holiday camps at Brentwood School this summer for children aged 4 to 14 years. Visit their website for dates, details and to make bookings: [www.ultimateactivity.co.uk](http://www.ultimateactivity.co.uk) or call 0330 111 7077 (local rate)

### Sport

#### Orienteering

A full team of 17 took part in the final event of the season at Highwoods Country Park in Colchester on Sunday. Some excellent individual runs lead to points being added to the final score of the Essex and Suffolk Schools' League, and our team triumphed by winning the trophy as league winners over 23 participating schools. In addition, Janie Horton won a trophy as winner of the Year 7/8 girls' league, with Pranita Arun Prasadh achieving the bronze medal. Jake Horton (Prep) achieved the Silver medal for Year 5/6 boys, and Sam Lee the bronze for Year 9/10 boys. It was a successful end to a successful year for all our orienteers.

#### Athletics

It has proved a very busy yet successful week in the world of Brentwood School athletics. Following on from last week's article we are pleased to announce Brentwood School were crowned overall champions at the District Athletics Championships. Brentwood's winning margin of 286 points over their nearest rivals was mightily impressive and one of the highest winning margins recorded in recent times. Out of the eight team

trophies on offer Brentwood won six, winning both the First and Second Year Boys and Girls competitions while also winning the Third and Fourth Year Boys competitions. Well done to everyone who competed.

Following on from the success at District level all teams quickly turned their attention to the Regional Finals of the National Track and Field Schools Cup. First up were the Junior and Inter boys teams who competed in the B final at Watford's Woodside Stadium. There were some outstanding individual successes most notably Sebastian Clatworthy achieving a PB of 1.80 on the High Jump. In terms of team performances both teams performed admirably, with both finishing in 2nd position behind a strong Fitzwimarc School. A special mention must also go to the Junior Boys team who achieved a score of 448 points, this was the highest points score ever achieved by a Junior Boys team from Brentwood School.

Finally, and as the saying goes, we must 'save the best until last'. Both Junior and Inter girls teams competed in the Regional A final at Chelmsford on Tuesday. The Inter Girls team unfortunately had to deal with some last minute injuries, however the whole team really did work together and after overcoming various challenges finished in a respectable 9th position. In terms of individual success, Freya Killilea continues to impress winning the Discus competition throwing 32.22m. Lastly a huge congratulations goes to the Junior girls team. With the team consisting of both First and Second Year students, all performed to their absolute very best scoring 415 points to finish in 3rd position. This score and position should now be enough to gain qualification to the National Final to be held in Gateshead on the 7<sup>th</sup> July. This is a tremendous achievement ranking the team in the top 12 teams nationally. Well done to all involved.

### Cricket

On Saturday we played 10 matches. The First XI were disappointing with the bat against Felsted being bowled out for 83 and this didn't allow the bowlers enough leverage to force a victory despite taking four wickets. The Second XI fell short in a daunting run chase of 252 at Felsted. Both the Under 15 A and B sides enjoyed really close finishes but just failed to achieve victories. The Under 14 A team set a target of 156 for victory, Aston Leaver top scored with 63\* and bowled Felsted out 22 runs short with Christian Mootoo taking 3-26 to earn a deserved win. The Under 14B team, also chasing 156 for victory, Rishal Narayan guided them home with 67\*. The junior sides enjoyed their games with University College School, winning three and losing one. Freddie Wise top scored in the Under 13A victory, while the Under 12A's continued their fine run of form. Alex Pine scored an unbeaten 50 in the Under 12B victory to complete another successful Saturday. This week has seen the junior teams show their talents. On Tuesday the Under 13 team beat Forest School in the quarter finals of the Essex Cup. Batting first, Brentwood batted well to set a challenging target of 123 in their twenty overs. Benjamin Mills top scored with a gritty 31 that held the team together. Tight bowling by Jack Ridgwell and Thinod Don Balage saw Forest need to take risks and Brentwood's fielding ensured that Forest wickets fell regularly leaving them 20 runs short of their target. On Wednesday the Under 12's also played Forest in the Semi-final of the Essex Cup. Brentwood batted first and scored a 101 on a worn pitch. William Howard carried his bat for 27 priceless runs. The Brentwood bowlers took advantage of the deteriorating pitch and Forest were 61 all out, with Freddie Abbott 3 for 7 from 4 overs, including an outstanding caught and bowled. Freddie Thorn added 2 for 10 from 4 overs to his 28 with the bat to complete a convincing victory.

### Equestrian

Claudia Moore continues to make fine progress this time at the Bolesworth International - she was placed 3rd riding Elando and 4th with Shamrock in the Pony European Team Trial. She also won the 138cm Pony Grand Prix aboard Dylan.

### Fencing

Last weekend the fencers of Brentwood School visited the England Youth Championships. In the Under 13 Boys' Foil Joshua Elsworth and Jacob Leslie did well to advance to the second elimination round where they lost to strong opponents. In the Under 15 Boys' Foil, Jack Elsworth won his first elimination fight but lost in the second round. In the Under 15 Boys' Sabre both Folayemi Akinyosoye and Matthias Milki managed to reach the second direct elimination. In the same event Ian Ho was fencing well but lost narrowly to finish in a well-deserved 9th place. In the Under 13 Boys' Epee Kavinan Pathmanathan, Callum Anderson and Jack

Leonard did very well in their first national championships to advance through the pool but lost their first elimination fight. In the same event Jacob Leslie was in great form to finish in 8th place out of over 60 fencers. Haliyah Alagbada also did well to make it past the preliminary stage in the Under 13 Girls' Sabre but sadly lost her first elimination fight. Amongst many highlights, Maddy Gale fenced superbly in the Under 15 Girls' foil to finish in bronze medal position.

### **Football**

After playing in the ISFA regional festival at Bisham Abbey on Sunday Millie Stacey has been selected to play up a year into the 2018/19 England ISFA U16 National representative team. This is an excellent achievement, well done Millie.

### **Swimming**

Congratulations to Amelia Moule who has qualified for the British and English Summer Nationals at Ponds Forge in Sheffield in July and August. Amelia will be aiming to follow on from her efforts last year, winning medals in the backstroke events. We wish her the very best of luck and look forward to the results.

### **Tennis**

This week, the School hosted the annual Mid-Essex tennis competition for the First to Fourth Year pupils. With over eighty pupils competing from competitor schools, both tournaments saw some fantastic tennis on display. Most notable performances came from our First Year girls; Evie Jarman and Grace Kingaby, who narrowly missed out on becoming crowned MESSA champions in a closely fought final (10-13). Similarly, Brentwood's Second Year girls pair consisting of; Olivia Hiller and Olivia Argent also lost narrowly in the final against Shenfield School (7-11), with both boys pairs resulting in third place overall. Congratulations to Joshua Argent and Louis Hardy who had an exceptional final against Sandon, closely losing 10-11. Well done to all who participated, closing the tennis season to a fantastic end.

Letters for parents are located in the Letters Home area on Google Drive for which this is the link. Please save it to your bookmarks!

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0Bx56Kfisy8PFOHR1YV9Jc183NzA>

Yours sincerely



Ian Davies, Headmaster



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